



MUSIC FOR THE LITURGY

Sunday, December 6, 2020

Second Sunday of Advent

4:00 PM
8:00 AM
10:00 AM

Gathering: Come, Come Emmanuel

Responsorial Psalm (Psalm 85)

Show us your kindness, O God; Show us your kindness, O God.

Preparation A Voice Cries Out

Mass Parts Mass of Christ the Savior

Communion Song Of The Body Of Christ
I Received The Living God

Recessional: Ready The Way

Worldwide Marriage Encounter has gone "Virtual"!

To support married couples during this time of social distancing, Worldwide Marriage Encounter is sponsoring a virtual marriage experience called **Restore – Rekindle – Renew**. This Enrichment Experience meets via Zoom. For more information or to apply, call John and Toni Torio at 718-344-3700 or visit them at <https://www.mema.org/>.

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

The feast of the Immaculate Conception is a holy day of obligation. Liturgies will be celebrated as follows:

Monday, December 7 at 6:30 in Plaistow
Tuesday, December 8 at 8:00 AM in Newton

There will be NO morning Mass in Newton that Monday or in Plaistow that Tuesday.



Out of respect for the Lord and in consideration of fellow parishioners, please remember to silence or turn off your cell phones during Mass. Thank you!

✠ PARISH TITHING ✠

Our Parish needs to take in **\$9700.00 each week in order to make ends meet**. This amount represents an adjusted budget offertory of \$8500.00 per week plus the combination of budgeted Property and Fuel second collections (\$4800.00 per month divided into 4 weeks or \$1200.00 weekly). Your weekly contribution helps ensure that the Parish remains a vibrant community. Please remember to submit your weekly gift even if you will be away. Consider signing up for electronic giving (see below). Especially in these trying times, your Parish depends on your responsible stewardship and support!

November 22, 2020

Offertory \$6,230.36
Christmas Flowers \$1,884.50

November 29, 2020

Offertory \$8,077.63



Saint Luke the Evangelist Parish uses **Parish Giving** to provide parishioners with an opportunity to make your offertory and other contributions through Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT). Parish Giving is a simple, secure, and convenient way to manage your stewardship without weekly envelopes and without worries. This program is available to parishioners at no cost. Log on to the St. Luke the Evangelist Parish website at <http://stlukenh.org>, click on the Parish Giving logo, and follow the easy registration instructions.

UPCOMING SECOND & SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

December 6	Property Management
December 8	Immaculate Conception
December 13	Fuel

Suggested Weekly Contribution Based on Income

Annual Income	5% Commitment annually/ weekly	3% Commitment annually/ weekly
\$100,000	\$5,000/\$100	\$3,000/\$60
\$75,000	\$3,750/\$75	\$2,250/\$45
\$60,000	\$3,000/\$60	\$1,800/\$36
\$50,000	\$2,500/\$50	\$1,500/\$30
\$40,000	\$2,000/\$40	\$1,200/\$24
\$30,000	\$1,500/\$30	\$900/\$18
\$25,000	\$1,250/\$25	\$750/\$15
\$15,000	\$750/\$15	\$450/\$9

Suggested Weekly Contribution Based on a Percentage Increase

Your Current Offertory Contribution	25% Increase	30% Increase	40% Increase
\$75.00	\$93.75	\$97.50	\$105.00
\$50.00	\$62.50	\$65.00	\$70.00
\$40.00	\$50.00	\$52.00	\$56.00
\$35.00	\$43.75	\$45.50	\$49.00
\$30.00	\$37.50	\$39.00	\$42.00
\$25.00	\$31.25	\$32.50	\$35.00
\$20.00	\$25.00	\$26.00	\$28.00
\$15.00	\$18.75	\$19.50	\$21.00
\$10.00	\$12.50	\$13.00	\$14.00
\$5.00	\$6.25	\$6.50	\$7.00

✠ PARISH NEWS ✠

From the Pastor's Desk



HOLY ANGELS CEMETERY CLOSING

With the end of the Fall season and the coming of the Winter months, **Holy Angels Cemetery in Plaistow is closed from December 1, 2020 until Spring 2021.** This decision comes as result of the real dangers of snow and ice in the Cemetery and the costs to Parishioners to inter during the winter months. Please contact the Parish Office with any questions.



GIVING TREES

Giving Trees are located in the back of both churches. Please take an ornament, buy the item(s) listed, and return it - **with the ornament attached** - to the church or the parish office **no later than December 14-15** (the Third Sunday of Advent).

ADVENT EVENING PRAYER

Join us on Sunday evenings of the Advent season for sung Evening Prayer at 6:00 PM at Mary, Mother of the Church in Newton. The Sacrament of Reconciliation will be available following Evening Prayer.



STOVE TO A GOOD HOME

Available: **ESA gas cast iron stove heater unit**, complete with remote and gas line. Currently in the garage at the house in Newton. Contact Father Albert for information.

COVID-19 IS STILL AROUND!

The obligation to attend Sunday Liturgy remains suspended in the Diocese of Manchester for all who are health compromised. No person who has been ill or exposed to someone who is ill should be attending Liturgy.

Anyone who has had recent symptoms of fever, any respiratory symptoms (runny nose, nasal congestion, sore throat, cough, shortness of breath), chills, severe fatigue or changes in sense of smell or taste may have been exposed to COVID-19. Testing is encouraged. Please refrain from attending any liturgical service.

Liturgy online or on TV...

Boston Catholic Television catholictv.org

Sunday Mass from Notre Dame

catholictv.org/masses/notre-dame-mass

Salt & Light TV

saltandlighttv.org

Eternal Word Television

ewtn.com

ST. LUKE THE EVANGELIST FOOD PANTRY

Thank you for your generosity towards the hungry of our area!

Non-perishable food or personal care items are always needed – donations can be dropped off at Church or are welcome at the Parish Office during regular business hours.



**FEED THE
HUNGRY**

Cash donations for food are always welcome – make checks payable to **St. Luke the Evangelist Food Pantry**. All donations to the Food Pantry go toward helping the needy of our communities. **Call the Pantry at 819-4949 for more information.**

WHILE AWAY THIS FALL / WINTER...

We appreciate all of you who remember to send in your Parish Offertory during the Fall / Winter even when on vacation or visiting other parishes. Thank you for remembering that our expenses also continue through the Fall / Winter months. We invite others to consider doing the same before or even after you return home.

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

❖ WEEKLY CALENDAR ❖

Sunday, December 6

6:00 PM Vespers Newton
6:30 PM Sacrament of Reconciliation Newton

Monday, December 7

7:00 PM Knights of Columbus Plaistow

Wednesday, December 9

Holy Angels Church Plaistow open for
private prayer all day

Thursday, December 10

8:30 AM – 8:30 PM Eucharistic Adoration Newton
1:30 PM Adult Faith Formation Plaistow

Saturday, December 12

9:00 AM K of C – Day of Reflection Plaistow
3:00 PM Sacrament of Reconciliation Plaistow

Sunday, December 13

GIVING TREE GIFTS DUE BACK

6:00 PM Vespers Newton
6:30 PM Sacrament of Reconciliation Newton

Because of COVID restrictions, many Parish events and groups are currently cancelled. We will begin more Parish programs, with all precautions, as restrictions ease.



We're looking for new members! Have you ever wondered what the St. Vincent de Paul Society is all about? Our meetings are held on the **3rd Wednesday at 7 PM of each month**. New members are always welcome. We look forward to meeting you and answering

any questions you may have. Please contact SVdP Secretary, Jim Edwards, at (603) 642-5236 or jimmy69180@hotmail.com to find out if our meeting is live at the church hall or virtual on ZOOM.) If you seek assistance or need information about the Society, call (603) 382-8324, ext.315. Visit us on our Facebook page at <http://www.facebook.com/pg/SVDPSL>

AMAZON SMILE

AmazonSmile.com is the same market platform as Amazon.com, but with the added benefit of allowing customers to donate 0.5% of the price of items purchased to a charitable organization. Please register today to start shopping and donating at www.amazon.com/amazon-smile. For questions, please call the Parish Office at 603-382-8324. Be sure to choose:

St Luke the Evangelist Parish, Plaistow.

❖ MASS INTENTIONS ❖

Saturday, December 5 ~ Vigil / Second Sunday of Advent

Is 40:1-5, 9-11; 2 Pt 3:8-14; Mk 1:1-8 (Vigil)

4:00 PM Martin & Florence Fogel and Frank Kelcourse
by Elaine Kelcourse
Plaistow

Sunday, December 6 ~ Second Sunday of Advent

Is 40:1-5, 9-11; 2 Pt 3:8-14; Mk 1:1-8

8:00 AM Esther and Robert Cote
by Wayne and Christine Cote
Newton

10:00 AM Jesselyn Driscoll by her family
Plaistow

Monday, December 7 ~ Ambrose, Bishop and Doctor of the Church

Is 35:1-10; Lk 5:17-26 (Day)

Gn 3:9-15, 20; Eph 1:3-6, 11-12; Lk 1:26-38 (Vigil)

6:30 PM People of the Parish
Plaistow

Tuesday, December 8 ~ Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Gn 3:9-15, 20; Eph 1:3-6, 11-12; Lk 1:26-38

8:00 AM Intentions of the Graziano family
by the Graziano family
Newton

Wednesday, December 9 ~ Juan Diego Cuauhtlatotzin

Is 40:25-31; Mt 11:28-30

6:30 PM Intentions of Mary Walsh by Grace Bukowski
Plaistow

Thursday, December 10 ~ Advent Weekday

Is 41:13-20; Mt 11:11-15

8:00 AM Arlene Collier
by the Little Sisters of St. Francis
Newton

Friday, December 11 ~ Damasus I, Pope

Is 48:17-19; Mt 11:16-19

No Mass

Saturday, December 12 ~ Our Lady of Guadalupe

Zec 2:14-17; Lk 1:26-38 or Lk 1:39-47 (Day)

Is 61:1-2a, 10-11; 1 Thes 5:16-24; Jn 1:6-8, 19-28 (Vigil)

4:00 PM Gertrude & Frank DeCrescenzo
by Pat Zakiewicz
Plaistow

Sunday, December 13 ~ Third Sunday of Advent

Is 61:1-2a, 10-11; 1 Thes 5:16-24; Jn 1:6-8, 19-28

8:00 AM Peter Teague by Grace Bukowski
Newton

10:00 AM Don Nadeau by Bob and Sandy Nadeau
Plaistow

PRAYER LINE

St. Luke's offers a prayer line as a resource for those seeking prayer assistance. To submit your prayer request please call Cathy Smith at 603-382-8324, ext. 314 or email her at csmith@stluketheevangelist.net.

✧ FAITH FORMATION & PARISH INFORMATION ✧

DIOCESE OF MANCHESTER FAMILY AND FAITH IN THE HOME WEBINAR SERIES

Please join Mike and Alicia Hernon of the Messy Family Project in a three-part, interactive webinar series, "Family & Faith in the Home", sponsored by the Diocese of Manchester. Each session will focus on introducing basic concepts of fostering strong marriage and family life. For more information about the webinar series **beginning January 13, 2021**, please [download this flyer](#). To register, visit <https://messyfamily.eventbrite.com>.



ADVENT AT THE INTERSECTIONS An Evening of Reflection for Young Adults December 11, 2020

Advent is a season of so many intersections: of the human with the Divine, of anticipation with assurance, of dark with light. This year we are also experiencing the intersection of the togetherness of the holidays with the isolation of a global pandemic.

Join Cindy Cheshire, Campus Minister at the Newman Center in Keene, for a night of exploring Advent at all of these intersections and more! You'll dive into Scripture, share some traditions of the season, and discover how God arrives at the intersections of our own lives. Bring a candle if you can.

There is no fee, but you must register to participate. To register, or for more information, please contact Alyse Hlasny at ahlasny@rcbm.org or (603) 663-0108.



St. Luke the Evangelist is now on Facebook! Go to www.facebook.com/stlukenh.org/ or **St. Luke the Evangelist Parish – Newton/Plaistow** and give us a Like! Please invite fellow parishioners & friends to do the same.



The **Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults** is the process by which people become members of the Roman Catholic Church. Be a good agent of welcome and evangelization! If you or someone you know is interested in inquiring about becoming a member of the Roman Catholic Church, contact Cathy Smith in the Parish Office.

ADULT CONFIRMATION

Are you an adult who has been Baptized and received Eucharist, but has not celebrated the sacrament of Confirmation? The adult Confirmation process is an opportunity to complete the Sacraments of Initiation. If you would like to prepare for Confirmation, or if you have questions, call Cathy Smith at 603-382-8324, ext. 305 or call Cathy Smith at 603-382-8324, ext. 305 or email her at

csmith@stluketheevangelist.net.

ADORATION

We are truly blessed to have times for Adoration of Our Lord in our Parish. This time of prayer and intercession is not only a source of great grace for the individual, but it is a great source of grace for us as a parish family, as well.

We have many who have made the commitment to spend an hour each week with our Eucharistic Lord, **but** we need more people so there will be at least two people at each hour. We are also looking for people who would be able to substitute.

**Newton – Thursday
8:30 AM – 8:30 PM**

If you can commit to one hour a week in Adoration of our Lord, or if you can be a substitute, please contact Cathy Smith at 603-382-8324, ext. 305 or email her at csmith@stluketheevangelist.net.

**The Church in Plaistow is open all day on
Wednesdays for people to stop by and pray
before the presence of Jesus in the tabernacle.**

✧ PARISH DIRECTORY ✧

Parish Office	603-382-8324
Parish Prayer Line	603-382-8324 x 314
St. Vincent de Paul Society	603-382-8324 x 315
St. Luke's Food Pantry	603-819-4949
Preschool	603-382-9783
Presentation of Mary Convent	603-382-2744

Fr. Albert Tremblay	fr.albert@stluketheevangelist.net
Cathy Smith	csmith@stluketheevangelist.net
Joyce Szapa	jszczapa@stluketheevangelist.net
Jackie Tremblay	jtremblay@stluketheevangelist.net
Val Barczak	mvmbarczak@comcast.net
Parish Council	parishcouncil@stluketheevangelist.net

✠ Parish News ~ Youth News ~ Around The Diocese ✠

**KNIGHTS of COLUMBUS
ST. JUDE COUNCIL #6617**

**CROSSES AND CRUCIFIXES
WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE?**



The Knights of Columbus, Council #6617 invites parish members to join them in unraveling the differences, similarities and significances between crosses and crucifixes. Various crosses and crucifixes will be examined and aspects explained. Bring your own cross or crucifix to share with the group.

The presentation and discussion will be held on **Saturday, December 12 from 9:15 AM to 12:30 PM** at the Parish Hall or via Zoom with a break for lunch and continuing with Mass at 4:00 PM. Due to COVID restrictions there is a maximum of 30 people allowed to participate in person. In addition, no food is allowed or will be served. Individual drinks will be provided.

Contact Jim Edwards for a reservation or Zoom instructions at jimmy69180@hotmail.com or call him at 603-642-5236.

The Sanctuary Candle in Holy Angels Church will burn this week in loving memory of **Marcia Gallant** by William Tucker



ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

A Men's AA Step Meeting is being held on Sunday mornings from 7:00 to 8:00 AM at the St. Luke the Evangelist Parish Hall (Holy Angels). Masks are required. Bring your own coffee. For more information, call Joe at 617-921-9899.

CREIGHTON FERTILITYCARE SYSTEM

The Creighton FertilityCare System is a highly effective and morally acceptable natural method of family planning. It is healthy and strengthens marriage. It is used to achieve a pregnancy or avoid a pregnancy and can be useful in the diagnosis and treatment of reproductive disease. Online introductory classes will be held on the first Wednesday and third Thursday of each month at 7:00 PM. For more information, contact Mary Menendez, CFCP, St. Gerard Majella FertilityCare Services, at 603-642-8050 or CreightonFertility@yahoo.com.

FOR OUR RECORDS

We need your help to keep our records current. If there are any births, deaths, marriages, moves, or address changes in your family, please notify the Parish Office at 603-382-8324 or by email at jtremblay@stluketheevangelist.net. If you are new to our parish, registration forms are available at the entrances of both churches. You can also find a registration form on our website at <http://stlukenh.org>.



EARLY BULLETIN DEADLINES

With the holiday season upon us, we also have several early bulletin deadlines:

Deadline for the December 20 bulletin is **Monday, December 7 at 12:00 Noon**

Deadline for the December 27 bulletin is **Monday, December 14 at 12:00 Noon**

Deadline for the January 3 bulletin is **Monday, December 14 at 12:00 Noon.**

SANCTUARY CANDLES

The Sanctuary Candles in both Newton and Plaistow may be offered in memory or honor of a loved one. The suggested offering for each is \$10.00. Please call the Parish Office at 382-8324.

VIGIL LIGHT

The Vigil Light in front of the Blessed Mother Icon in Newton may be offered in memory or honor of a loved one. The suggested offering for each is \$10.00.

TAI CHI RETURNS!

The Parish is once again offering Tai Chi classes on **Thursdays at 3:00 PM and at 7:00 PM**. A minimum of three (3) students per class will be needed to hold the class. Social distancing and all COVID-19 protocols, including masks, are required. Contact the Parish Office to register. Tai Chi is the ancient Chinese martial art that is used for meditation, exercise, balance, and mind and body wellness. St. Luke the Evangelist Parish is offering this form of graceful, slow movement to help parishioners to gain strength, to improve their balance, flexibility, and range-of-motion, and to relieve stress. Classes are taught by members of the Oriental Healing Arts Association – a Senior Friendly and Senior Safe Tai Chi Program with the purpose of bringing Tai Chi to all age groups.

CHRISTMAS 2020

With COVID cases still on the rise, this will be a Christmas season like no other. All precautions remain in effect: 6' social distancing, masks in church at all times, reduced capacity in the churches (Plaistow =100, Newton =75). To accommodate all who wish to attend Christmas Liturgies please note the schedule and procedures:

Thursday, December 24

Christmas Vigil at Plaistow 4:00 PM

Christmas Vigil at Newton 6:30 PM

Friday, December 25

Christmas Day at Newton 8:00 am

Christmas Day at Plaistow 10:00 am



**Attendance at Christmas Liturgies on December 24-25
will be by reservation only!**

On December 5-6, we will have a sign-up for all Christmas Liturgies to accommodate as many as possible.

1. Parishioners are welcome to sign up to attend Christmas Liturgies on December 5-6
2. All parishioners planning to attend must be identified by name
3. Outside guests who are not parishioners are limited to 2 per family and must be identified by name and include phone contact information

THERE ARE ABSOLUTELY NO EXCEPTIONS TO THESE REQUIREMENTS.

On December 7, any unfilled spaces for Christmas Liturgies will be assigned to an on-line reservation system. Parishioners and guests will access the on-line system to reserve spaces for Christmas Liturgies. If no spaces are available, or if the available spaces are filled, the on-line system will not allow for any "extra" reservations. Information about the on-line reservation system will be available in the Bulletin and on the Parish website on the weekend of December 5-6.

Thanks for your understanding and cooperation. Remember that the Liturgies on December 24-25 are the only ones that will require reservations. All other scheduled Liturgies remain at reduced capacity with all COVID precautions in place. The Sunday / Holy Day obligation remains suspended in the Diocese of Manchester.

SAINT LUKE THE EVANGELIST PARISH
LITURGICAL CALENDAR ADVENT-CHRISTMAS, 2020-21

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT -

Christmas Liturgy schedule signups for all ministers
 Giving Tree tags available - all gifts due December 13

COVID PROCEDURES
 6' SOCIAL DISTANCING & MASKS REQUIRED
 CAPACITY LIMIT AT PLAISTOW CHURCH IS 100
 CAPACITY LIMIT AT NEWTON CHURCH IS 75

Sunday, November 29	Regular weekend schedule 6:00 PM Advent Evening Prayer (Newton) 6:30 PM Sacrament of Reconciliation (Newton)
Sunday, December 6	Regular weekend schedule 6:00 PM Advent Evening Prayer (Newton) 6:30 PM Sacrament of Reconciliation (Newton)
Monday, December 7	6:30 PM Vigil Holy Day Liturgy (Plaistow) Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the BVM
Tuesday, December 8	Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the BVM Holy Day Liturgy 8:00 AM (Newton)
Sunday, December 13	Regular weekend schedule 6:00 PM Advent Evening Prayer (Newton) 6:30 PM Sacrament of Reconciliation (Newton)
Monday, December 14	LAST DAY TO RETURN GIVING TREE GIFTS AT PARISH OFFICE
Sunday, December 20	Regular weekend schedule 6:00 PM Advent Evening Prayer (Newton) 6:30 PM Sacrament of Reconciliation (Newton)
Thursday, December 24	No 8 am Liturgy or Adoration in Newton

CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE
(A Holy Day of Obligation)

ALL LITURGIES ARE BY RESERVATION ONLY.

Thursday, December 24	VIGIL OF THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD 4:00 PM Liturgy (Plaistow) 6:30 PM Liturgy (Newton)
Friday, December 25	SOLEMNITY OF THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD 8:00 am Liturgy (Newton) 10:00 am Liturgy (Plaistow)
Saturday, December 26	3:00 PM Sacrament of Reconciliation (Plaistow) 4:00 PM Vigil Liturgy, Feast of the Holy Family (Plaistow)
Sunday, December 27	8:00 am Liturgy, Feast of the Holy Family (Newton) 10:00 am Liturgy, Feast of the Holy Family (Plaistow) 6:00 PM Christmas Evening Prayer, Newton
Thursday, December 31	No 8 am Liturgy or Adoration at Newton 4:00 PM Vigil Liturgy, SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD OCTAVE OF CHRISTMAS <i>(A Holy Day of Obligation)</i> (Plaistow)
Wednesday, January 1	9:00 am Liturgy SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD OCTAVE OF CHRISTMAS <i>(A Holy Day of Obligation)</i> (Newton)
Saturday, January 2	3:00 PM Sacrament of Reconciliation (Plaistow) 4:00 PM Vigil - THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD (Plaistow)
Sunday, January 3	8:00 am Liturgy, THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD (Newton) 10:00 am Liturgy, THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD (Plaistow) 6:00 PM Christmas Evening Prayer (Newton)
Saturday, January 9	3:00 PM Sacrament of Reconciliation (Plaistow) 4:00 PM Vigil - BAPTISM OF THE LORD (Plaistow)
Sunday, January 10	8:00 am Liturgy, BAPTISM OF THE LORD (Newton) 10:00 am Liturgy, BAPTISM OF THE LORD (Plaistow) 6:00 PM Christmas Evening Prayer (Newton)

**PARISH OFFICES CLOSED: DEC. 23 (NOON), 24-27, 30 (NOON), 31
 AND JAN. 1. PARISH OFFICE RESUMES HOURS AS OF JAN 4**

XMAS MASS SIGN
UPS TODAY

Giving Tree gifts due today!



Besides sharing Christmas joy through the Giving Tree, our Saint Luke the Evangelist Parish Food Pantry provides Christmas Dinners to needy families in our area. The cost of purchasing items for the baskets typically runs to well over \$2000.00, and with hard times facing so many, we anticipate the need to be even greater than previous years.

If you would like to contribute towards the cost of CHRISTMAS DINNER BASKETS, please place your contribution in an envelope marked *“Christmas dinner baskets,”* and place it in the offering basket. You may also visit the Parish Office or Food Pantry and make a contribution in person.

Thank you for your support of the poor among us.

The Gospel at Home

This Sunday's Gospel: Mark 1:1-8

In Sunday's Gospel, John the Baptist urges people to prepare a smooth, straight road on which God can come to us. Isaiah's words of comfort to the exiled Israelites assure them and us that we can count on God's forgiveness. Jesus' words call for us to turn our lives around and make sure that we have an open path for God to enter our hearts. **Note:** Tuesday is the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, a holyday of obligation. Saturday is the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, another chance to celebrate Mary our Mother.

Exploring the Gospel Message

Seeds (Preschool): Advent and Christmas send the message that Jesus is the Son of God who chose to live among us as one of us. Your child learned about John the Baptist, who helped people prepare for Jesus. Ask your child to tell you the story about Juan Diego meeting Jesus' mother—Our Lady of Guadalupe, whose feast day is December 12.

Promise (Grades K–1): Your child is very aware of growth and change in his or her own body—and is growing as a Christian too. Be sure to praise your child for the ways he or she shares with others. Ask your child to tell you the story of Our Lady of Guadalupe and share with you the little booklet he or she made in class.

Good News (Grades 2–3): This week, your child learned the words of John the Baptist, who told people to prepare for the coming of the Lord. Talk about the ways your family is preparing for Christmas. Are you thinking and praying about the birth of Jesus, or are you thinking about toys and gifts? Ask your child to tell the family the story of "A Boy Named John" from this week's lesson.

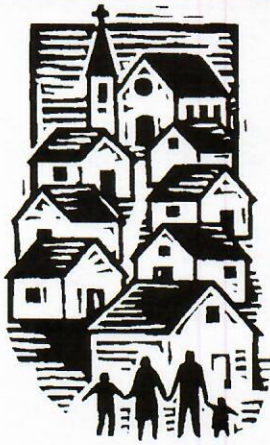
Venture (Grades 4–6): This week, your child prepared for the Christmas feast by learning about the prophet Isaiah and John the Baptist, two biblical characters who preceded Jesus. Your child also learned the importance of forgiving and seeking forgiveness as part of making a straight path for the Lord's arrival. Make sure that your family celebrates the Sacrament of Reconciliation at your parish during the Advent season. Ask your child to share the story of Saint Juan Diego with you.

Visions (Grades 7–9): Gift-giving has long been a part of the Christmas celebration. In class, your teen explored his or her own attitudes about giving presents at Christmas. He or she also explored how to give of him- or herself in the gifts that he or she gives. Talk about the way your family approaches giving gifts at Christmas time. Think of ways you can give of yourself to the people you give presents. Also ask your son or daughter to share with the family what he or she learned about God's actions in history.

Pray Together

To celebrate the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe (December 12), add praying the Hail Mary to your Advent wreath prayer this week. You may even want to place a statue or picture of Mary near your wreath.





Bringing Home the Word +

Second Sunday of Advent (B)

December 6, 2020

Waiting Expectantly

By Fr. Mark Haydu, LC

Most of us are not good at waiting. We want things right away and would rather arrive just on time than stand around uselessly. Few things are as annoying as waiting in a doctor's office, a government office, or being stuck in traffic.

Yet waiting can also be an exciting and busy time, like a bride and groom preparing for their wedding. There is no time to waste, since the date is approaching and there is so much to do in order for everything to be prepared perfectly. Advent waiting should be more like this expectant waiting.

Sunday Readings

Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11

Go up onto a high mountain,
Zion, herald of good news!

2 Peter 3:8-14

The Lord...is patient with you, not wishing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.

Mark 1:1-8

"Behold, I am sending my messenger ahead of you; / he will prepare your way."

John the Baptist was sent to point toward Christ and invite the people to their wedding with God. The divine spouse was coming back to his beloved and sent the groom ahead to let everyone know he was coming.

Thus, John preached preparation, conversion, and setting aside everything that would distract people from getting the heart ready for Jesus. Loving, active planning was as necessary for those who listened to John the Baptist as it is for us.

This means going up the mountain and into the desert. Set aside normal distractions and dedicate more time to think about Christ, preparing our hearts and minds for the big day of his arrival.

Advent isn't a nervous time of sitting around and hoping the line goes quickly. It is an active, engaged, and hopeful anticipation of one we eagerly await. +

*John preached preparation,
conversion, and
setting aside everything
that would distract people
from getting ready for Jesus.*

A Word from Pope Francis

How beautiful it is to think of ourselves as proclaimers of the resurrection of Jesus, not only in words, but also in our conduct and testimony of life! Jesus does not want disciples who are merely able to repeat memorized formulas. He wants witnesses: people who spread hope with their way of welcoming, smiling, and loving.

—General Audience, October 4, 2017



REFLECTION QUESTIONS

ONE QUESTION REFLECTION

- What distractions am I setting aside to make this Advent special?
- How is this time of repentance, fasting, and almsgiving going?

Our Celestial Company

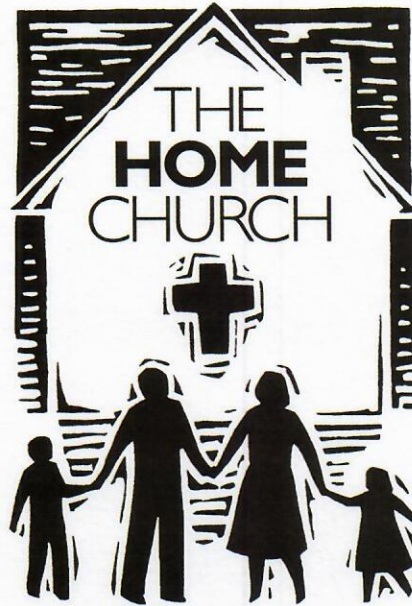
By Kathryn Gniadek

Although I was so little I cannot remember my exact age, I will never forget the picture in my bedroom of a fabulously huge-winged benevolent angel guarding a little boy and girl crossing a bridge. My mother told me this was a picture of my very own guardian angel, who watched over my brother and me as we played. I studied the details of the picture every night, and then I would gaze out my window into the starry sky and wonder if my angel would fly into my room for a visit. The Guardian Angel Prayer was in my heart and on my lips every night as a child:

*Angel of God, my guardian dear,
To whom God's love commits me here,
Ever this day be at my side,
To light and guard, rule and guide.*

People have seen angels in cloud formations and heard timely messages of love and support in a song, a television program, a sermon, or a conversation with a friend. When we consider angels in relation to our faith, it's crucial to understand that, as Catholics, we believe that angels are by nature all spirit and servants of the Most High on our behalf. Hebrews 1:14 says angels are "ministering spirits sent forth to serve for the sake of those who are to obtain salvation."

Beside each believer, from the moment of conception until death, the watchful care and intercession of our angel is present to us. In God's infinite



wisdom and goodness, he has lovingly provided for us as we journey home to him. There are so many temptations and lies supplied by the evil one to ensnare us and destroy our souls. Yet, as St. Thomas said in his *Summa Theologica*, "The angels work together for the benefit of us all" (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 350).

Angels are messengers of peace, love, and the will of God as well as the guardians of our souls. In my own life, the presence of my guardian angel is amplified in moments of grave struggle. After my best friend died, I was praying in church, feeling quite distraught over the unexpected loss. As I looked down, I saw a shiny dime on the floor near my pew. Since that moment, when I have

needed angelic comfort the most, I have found dimes everywhere—in the lint trap of my dryer, in the sink drain after doing the dishes, and in the soles of my sneakers as I prepared to lace up for a workout. In that instant I was assured that, always, my angel was "at my side, to light and guard, rule and guide." Finding a dime prompts me to acknowledge and welcome the presence of my guardian angel. When I do so, I always feel closer to the love of God. In those moments, the peace-filled, loving spirit of my guardian angel feels closer to me than my own breath.

Invoke the loving care and concern of your angel, and you will know you are truly loved and never alone. Your angel will guide you to the loving arms of our Creator and Lord, he who is above all things. As we journey toward heaven, we have blessed company. Moreover, when we take our last breaths, our guardian angel will be there to guide us safely to our Father's house. +

PRAYER

*Lord, you are the compassion
of God in the world. You never
forget any of your people.
Give me the courage to be the
compassion of God for others.*

—From *Joyful Meditations for Every Day of Advent
and the 12 Days of Christmas*,
Rev. Warren J. Savage and Mary Ann McSweeney

WEEKDAY READINGS

December 7–12

Monday, St. Ambrose:
Is 35:1–10 / Lk 5:17–26

Tuesday, Immaculate Conception of the
Blessed Virgin Mary: Gn 3:9–15, 20 /
Eph 1:3–6, 11–12 / Lk 1:26–38

Wednesday, Advent Weekday:
Is 40:25–31 / Mt 11:28–30

Thursday, Advent Weekday:
Is 41:13–20 / Mt 11:11–15

Friday, Advent Weekday:
Is 48:17–19 / Mt 11:16–19

Saturday, Our Lady of Guadalupe:
Zec 2:14–17 or Rv 11:19a; 12:1–6a, 10ab /
Lk 1:26–38 or 1:39–47

Bringing Home
the Word 
December 6, 2020

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