

**KIMBERLY'S 15TH ANNUAL HOLIDAY  
GIVE AWAY!!!**

Although 2020 has been unique in so many ways it is important to still acknowledge that charity is necessary. This year many of my typical donation sites are unable to accept donations due to the pandemic. I will still be collecting clothing on **January 2 and 3** at Holy Angels Church, but this year **only from 12:00 to 2:00 PM** each day. I will be in the parking lot, strictly accepting children's clothing for Catie's Closet, through contactless delivery. For all other donations, Ruth's House is still accepting goods, including gently used clothing and housing items on Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM and on Saturdays from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM (111 Lafayette Square, Haverhill, MA).

If you have larger items, including furniture, that Ruth's House may not be able to accept you can make an appointment to deliver to: The Wish Project (866) 947-4360, 166 Middlesex St, North Chelmsford, MA.

For any and all donations that you would like to be added to "Kimberly's Holiday Give Away's" Annual Total, please notify me at: [kimberly-andrade@comcast.net](mailto:kimberly-andrade@comcast.net). Thank you so much for your continued support throughout the years. I look forward to next year, hoping that things may be closer to normal. May God continue to bless you all, and I wish you and your families a safe and healthy holiday season.

Kimberly Clenord

**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/>.



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!

**December 20, 2020**

<b>Offertory</b>	<b>\$5,905.46</b>
<b>Retired Religious Fund</b>	<b>\$1,266.40</b>



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**

January 3	Property Management
January 10	Seminarian Fund
January 17	Fuel
January 24	No Second Collection
January 31	No Second Collection

**Suggested Weekly Contribution  
Based on Income**

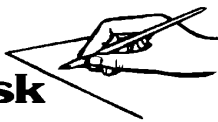
Annual Income	5% Commitment annually/ weekly	3% Commitment annually/ weekly
\$100,000	\$5,000/ <b>\$100</b>	\$3,000/ <b>\$60</b>
\$75,000	\$3,750/ <b>\$75</b>	\$2,250/ <b>\$45</b>
\$60,000	\$3,000/ <b>\$60</b>	\$1,800/ <b>\$36</b>
\$50,000	\$2,500/ <b>\$50</b>	\$1,500/ <b>\$30</b>
\$40,000	\$2,000/ 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

**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

Thanks to all who took ornaments from the Giving Tree this year. You have helped to make the Christmas season brighter for children of the community and for many people who are struggling to make ends meet. Your generosity is truly appreciated!

#### EVENING PRAYER

Join us on Sunday evenings of the Christmas season for sung Evening Prayer at 6:00 PM at Mary, Mother of the Church in Newton.



#### 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.



**FEED THE  
HUNGRY**

#### **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.**

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.**

#### **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](http://catholictv.org)

Sunday Mass from Notre Dame

[catholictv.org/masses/notre-dame-mass](http://catholictv.org/masses/notre-dame-mass)

Salt & Light TV

[saltandlighttv.org](http://saltandlighttv.org)

Eternal Word Television

[ewtn.com](http://ewtn.com)

#### **WHILE AWAY THIS WINTER...**

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

## EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

### ❖ WEEKLY CALENDAR ❖

<u><b>Sunday, January 3</b></u>		
6:00 PM	Vespers	Newton
<u><b>Monday, January 4</b></u>		
7:00 PM	Knights of Columbus	Plaistow
<u><b>Wednesday, January 6</b></u>		
Holy Angels Church Plaistow open for private prayer all day		
<u><b>Thursday, January 7</b></u>		
8:30 AM – 8:30 PM	Eucharistic Adoration	Newton
<u><b>Saturday, January 9</b></u>		
3:00 PM	Sacrament of Reconciliation	Plaistow
<u><b>Sunday, January 10</b></u>		
6:00 PM	Vespers	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 **3<sup>rd</sup> 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](mailto: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](http://www.amazon.com). For questions, please call the Parish Office at 603-382-8324. Be sure to choose:

**St Luke the Evangelist Parish, Plaistow.**

### ❖ MASS INTENTIONS ❖

#### **Saturday, January 2 ~ Vigil / Epiphany of the Lord**

*Is 60:1-6; Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6; Mt 2:1-12 (Vigil)*

4:00 PM Lena Dionne (1<sup>st</sup> Anniversary) by her family  
**Plaistow**

#### **Sunday, January 3 ~ Epiphany of the Lord**

*Is 60:1-6; Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6; Mt 2:1-12*

8:00 AM Francis Antczak by the Burge family  
**Newton**

10:00 AM John & Lillian Murphy and Karen Murphy by Carole Lueders  
**Plaistow**

#### **Monday, January 4 ~ Elizabeth Ann Seton, Religious**

*1 Jn 3:22—4:6; Mt 4:12-17, 23-25*

8:00 AM Mary Kate Morrill by Tim and Peggy Morrill  
**Newton**

#### **Tuesday, January 5 ~ John Neumann, Bishop**

*1 Jn 4:7-10; Mk 6:34-44*

8:00 AM Gail (daughter) and Molly, Ryan and Sarah (grandchildren) by Kay Fitzpatrick  
**Plaistow**

#### **Wednesday, January 6 ~ André Bessette, Religious**

*1 Jn 4:11-18; Mk 6:45-52*

6:30 PM Albert Depetrillo (Month's Mind)  
**Plaistow**

#### **Thursday, January 7 ~ Raymond of Peñafort, Priest**

*1 Jn 4:19—5:4; Lk 4:14-22*

8:00 AM People of the Parish  
**Newton**

#### **Friday, January 8 ~ Christmas Weekday**

*1 Jn 5:5-13; Lk 5:12-16*

**No Mass**

#### **Saturday, January 9 ~ Christmas Weekday**

*1 Jn 5:14-21; Jn 3:22-30 (Day)*

*Is 55:1-11; 1 Jn 5:1-9; Mk 1:7-11 (Vigil)*

4:00 PM Paul F. O'Leary and Mark Hammond by their family  
**Plaistow**

#### **Sunday, January 10 ~ Baptism of the Lord**

*Is 55:1-11; 1 Jn 5:1-9; Mk 1:7-11*

8:00 AM Lance Dixon by Mary Anne Downs  
**Newton**

10:00 AM Bill Lueders by his wife, Carole  
**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](mailto: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](https://messyfamily.eventbrite.com). To register, visit <https://messyfamily.eventbrite.com>.



### 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](mailto:CreightonFertility@yahoo.com).



St. Luke the Evangelist is now on Facebook! Go to [www.facebook.com/stlukenh.org/](http://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](mailto: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](mailto: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	<a href="mailto:fr.albert@stluketheevangelist.net">fr.albert@stluketheevangelist.net</a>
Cathy Smith	<a href="mailto:csmith@stluketheevangelist.net">csmith@stluketheevangelist.net</a>
Joyce Szapa	<a href="mailto:jszczapa@stluketheevangelist.net">jszczapa@stluketheevangelist.net</a>
Jackie Tremblay	<a href="mailto:jtremblay@stluketheevangelist.net">jtremblay@stluketheevangelist.net</a>
Val Barczak	<a href="mailto:mvmbarczak@comcast.net">mvmbarczak@comcast.net</a>
Parish Council	<a href="mailto:parishcouncil@stluketheevangelist.net">parishcouncil@stluketheevangelist.net</a>



❖ Parish News ~ Youth News ~ Around The Diocese ❖



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

The Knights of Columbus would like to wish our parish brothers and sisters a Merry Christmas.

During this Christmas season

May you be blessed

With the spirit of the season,

Which is PEACE

The gladness of the season,

Which is HOPE

And the heart of the Season,

Which is LOVE.

**FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTION STATEMENT**

If you would like an "end of year" financial statement of your contribution to the parish for 2020, please call Jackie at the Parish Office at 382-8324. **Financial Statements are issued on a request only basis.**

**ONLINE BEREAVEMENT GROUP  
CATHOLIC CHARITIES NH**

Have you recently lost a spouse, family member or friends, and are struggling with grief and loss? Catholic Charities NH will be hosting its next online support group, **"Bereavement – Experiencing Loss, Being Lost, and Finding Your Way Again."** This is a six-part series helping participants learn about the dynamics of grief, discover new ways to cope while healing, and gain the opportunity to be supported and support others also sharing a painful journey. Sessions will be held on **Thursdays (January 28 to March 4) from 3:30 to 4:30 PM.** To register, visit [www.cc-nh.org/beravement](http://www.cc-nh.org/beravement) or call 603-752-1325.

**ST. JOSEPH REGIONAL CATHOLIC SCHOOL  
ONLINE REGISTRATION**

St. Joseph Regional Catholic School is moving to an online registration system for the 2021-2022 school year. If you are seeking a traditional curriculum, rooted in the Catholic faith, in a supportive environment with comfortable class sizes, contact us today for more information. Enjoy our virtual tour online at [www.stjosepheagles.org](http://www.stjosepheagles.org). Contact Mrs. Latino at 893-6811 x 19 or at [clatino@sjrcs.com](mailto:clatino@sjrcs.com).

**WINTER WEATHER CLOSINGS**

Saint Luke the Evangelist Parish Office, Holy Angels Cemetery Office, Saint Luke Food Pantry and the Parish Liturgical schedule complies with the longstanding inclement weather policy of Saint Luke Religious Education Program and Holy Angels Pre-School-Kindergarten: **If the Timberlane and/or Sanborn regional school districts close because of inclement weather, ALL Parish Offices and Parish programs will be closed or suspended. All activities by any Parish or non-Parish groups will be cancelled for that day/evening on both campuses.** In the event of a weather related closing, the scheduled weekday Liturgy will not be held and the intention (if any) will be moved to a conveniently available date. **Sunday (or Saturday evening) liturgies can never be cancelled, but all are advised to use prudence when deciding to travel to Church during winter storms.**

The Sanctuary Candle in Holy Angels Church will burn this week in loving memory of

**Paul F. O'Leary and  
Mark Hammond**  
by their family



**VIGIL LIGHT**

The Vigil Light in front of the Blessed Mother Icon at Mary Mother of the Church will burn in loving memory of **Francis Antczak** by the Burge family

**COVID VACCINE CONCERNS**

Beware of fake news! There are reports that call into question the moral and ethical validity of Covid-19 vaccines. Do not be misled. **Right click** on the following tab and **open** the hyperlink to read what the Bishops of the United States are saying about the moral permissibility of the current Covid-19 vaccines: [Click Here for the Memo](#)

**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.

# The Gospel at Home

## Christmas and Epiphany Gospels: Luke 2:1-14 and Matthew 2:1-12

Christmas celebrates God becoming one of us and one with us. Jesus comes as an infant, placed in the care of a struggling but loving family. The Solemnity of the Epiphany celebrates Jesus as the Messiah of Israel and the Son of God. On Epiphany, a word that means “manifestation,” Jesus was revealed as far more than the king of the Jews. Matthew’s story of the visit of the Magi from the East makes it clear that Jesus came for all people who seek God.

### Exploring the Gospel Message

**Seeds (Preschool):** Even though your child is very young, he or she is now very aware that Christmas celebrates Jesus’ birth. Make sure you visit the Nativity scene in your parish church during the time between Christmas and the Epiphany. Let your young child tell you about all the figures in the scene and what he or she knows about each. It is best to visit the Nativity scene when you can spend some time there with your child. Then retell the stories of Christmas and Epiphany at home using the lesson’s stick puppets.

**Promise (Grades K–1):** Make a ceremony of setting up the simple Nativity scene made from this week’s lesson. Don’t forget to add the Magi from last week’s lesson. Before you set it up, share the Christmas story that is on the back of the booklet or tell the story in your own words. Ask your child to tell the story that was shared by the cat who lived in the stable on the first Christmas night.

**Good News (Grades 2–3):** The lesson for the week covers both Christmas and the Solemnity of the Epiphany. Your family will be celebrating all the joys and wonders of the Christmas season. In addition to family attendance at

Christmas Mass and Mass on the Feast of the Holy Family (the Sunday after Christmas), set aside some time to talk about what Jesus’ coming means to your family. Ask your child to tell your family the story of the Magi following the star.

**Venture (Grades 4–6):** Because Christmas can be busy it may be difficult to find time to share as a family. Make an extra effort to talk about the Christmas story as a family. Be sure your child understands that Jesus Christ is the whole reason there is a Christmas feast. Talk about the journey to Bethlehem, the vision of the angels, the shepherds at the manger, the great star, and the visit of the Magi. Ask your child to share the story of “The Three Skaters” with the family. The story expresses the meaning of the Solemnity of the Epiphany.

**Visions (Grades 7–9):** Your teen learned how to “be Christmas” throughout the Christmas break and into 2021 by being a prophet, an angel, a shepherd, a wise person, and a disciple. Ask your son or daughter to share the commitments he or she made in class. Talk about ways each of the members of your family can “be Christmas” for others.

### Pray Together

Pick one of the feast days during the Christmas season to attend Mass together as a family. Use the opportunity to pay a visit to the Nativity scene at your parish church and pray that you will always bring the Good News to others and reveal the love God has for all people.





## **Why don't you think about it too?**

**Parish Giving is a simple,  
secure and convenient way to  
manage your stewardship  
without weekly envelopes and  
without worries.**

- Parish Giving allows you to select contribution amounts and special collections right from your own computer or smartphone
- You can be a good steward for the Parish even when you are away from the area on a weekend
- Parish Giving allows you to print out a report detailing your contributions for the year.
- Log on to the St. Luke the Evangelist Parish website <http://stlukenh.org>, click on the Parish Giving logo and follow the easy registration instructions.

*Parish Giving*



The Knights of Columbus, Council #6617  
Congratulations to the winners of our  
Keep Christ in Christmas Poster Contest

Both young ladies will receive a \$25 gift card from Walmart for their beautiful and meaningful posters.



Riley

Age 5-7 Division




Lizzy

Age 8 - 10 Division

Through the eyes and innocence of a child, faith  
and family is at the forefront of their little lives.





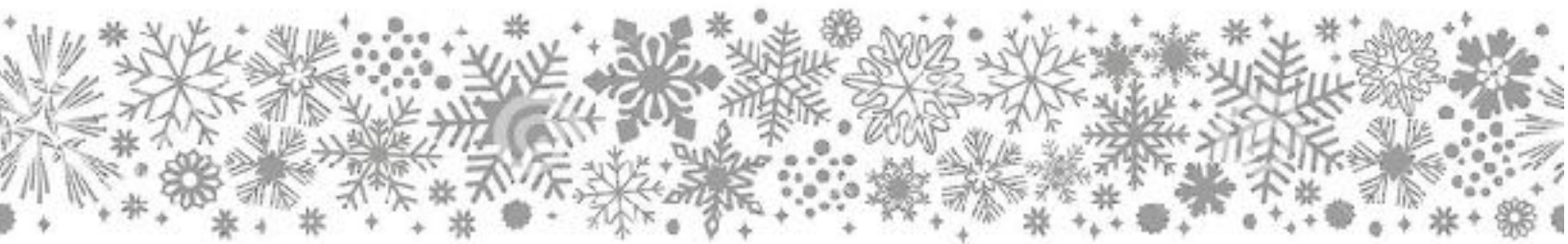
The Covid 19 Pandemic could not stop the Knights of Columbus, Council #6617 from helping our neighbors in need in 2020. Even though we were not able to hold our signature and very popular St. Patrick's or Italian Night Dinners or the Tootsie Roll Drive, we found ways to assist our brothers, sisters and their families in need.

Here's what we did in 2020:

- Provided a financial contribution of \$2000 to three seminarians and one local postulate.
- Giving Tree - Adopted 4 families with a total of 14 children and provided clothes, toys/games and gift cards.
- Provided Gift Baskets at Easter, Thanksgiving and Christmas to the Food Pantry
- Provided a financial contribution of \$1300 to the Food Pantry
- Donated 30 Christmas trees to the Food Pantry to distribute to the families they serve.
- Provided \$500 scholarships to two local students.
- Hosted a Red Cross Blood Drive in November, collecting 32 pints of much needed blood.
- A financial contribution of \$800 was provided to Birthright of Derry and the Haverhill Pregnancy Center
- Donated several baskets full of baby goods to NH Pregnancy Centers.
- Hosted weekly rosaries at Mary Mother of the Church in Newton, Thursday evenings to ask Our Lady for an end to the pandemic and the Knights and Parish intentions.
- Through our People Helping People Program, the Knights assisted local individuals and families with small projects and household tasks.
  - Cleared and beautified a neighbor's yard of overgrown brush.
  - Halloween Trick or Trunk and food donation to support the Food Pantry.
  - Repaired the handrail at Mary, Mother of the Church.
  - Built a service ramp to allow a parish member to have easier access to their home.
- Sponsored a Keep Christ In Christmas Poster Contest for the youth of our parish. Winners received \$25 Gift Cards.
- Hosted two half day Spiritual Reflections for the parish.
- The Knights also serve our parish as ushers, lectors, ministers, altar servers and on the Finance Community and Pastoral Council.
- 25th Annual St Jude Open Golf Tournament

This is our biggest fund raiser this year. Held in September, proceeds raised are helping a young man and his family as he struggles with major medical issues. The golf tournament was a complete sell out, 144 golfers and a record number of sponsors.

Want to help and be part of a group whose focus is giving to those in need? Consider joining the Knights of Columbus. Joining is simple – talk to a brother Knight, contact Dan Sullivan at 603-770-4803, email him at [dans49@comcast.net](mailto:dans49@comcast.net) or you can now join on-line - [www.kofc.org/joinus](http://www.kofc.org/joinus).





# Bringing Home the Word

*The Epiphany of the Lord (B)*

January 3, 2021

## Reaching Far and Wide

By Fr. Mark Haydu, LC

In Vincent Malo's painting, *The Adoration of the Magi*, a mysterious scene barely comes to light before us. Are we inside or outside of a Roman portico? What is going on in the background? The central scene clearly shows the Child Jesus perched in the Virgin's arms and surrounded by swaddling clothes. A glow emanates from the Child that enlightens the three Wise Men processing toward Jesus. Their whole caravan chaotically crowds around and strains to see the king they have come to worship.

A dalmatian wanders behind while a camel appears in the backlighting with a knowing smirk. The Ethiopian

sage sympathetically stares out from the center of the painting and seemingly asks us if we understand the significance of their travels.

The arrival of these astronomers from the East sends a very important message for all of us at Mass today. Jesus is the light of the whole world, and all peoples—no matter how far or how lost—are invited by his attractive and saving light. This light came to the Chosen People and will be fully consumed in Jerusalem as Isaiah prophesies. Yet he will proclaim that all peoples are invited to be members of the same family and coheirs to the treasures of God's love and mercy. Faith in him and acceptance of his gospel truth is all he asks. So, no matter how far you or anyone you know seems from Jesus and his truth, he loves them and wants them around his table to experience his love. +

## Sunday Readings

### Isaiah 60:1–6

Arise! Shine, for your light has come, the glory of the LORD has dawned upon you.

### Ephesians 3:2–3a, 5–6

The Gentiles are coheirs, members of the same body, and copartners in the promise in Christ Jesus.

### Matthew 2:1–12

They opened their treasures and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

*Jesus is the light of the whole world, and to all peoples—no matter how far away or how lost.*

## A Word from Pope Francis

As we begin the New Year, may we discover anew that faith demands worship.... For worship involves making an exodus from the greatest form of bondage: slavery to oneself. Worship means putting the Lord at the center, not ourselves.

—Epiphany Homily, January 6, 2020



## REFLECTION QUESTIONS

### QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

- Do you trust that Jesus wants to and can reach any soul, no matter how far away?
- Will you renew your prayer and gentle testimony to invite those who are still searching?

# Resolutions of Faith

By Kathleen M. Basi

**I**t's a new year. What will you do to live your faith in 2021?

New Year's seems tailor-made for changing for the better. Sometimes it's weight loss or exercise; at other times, we look to our spiritual life, vowing to set aside daily prayer time or regularly go to reconciliation. But goals are fleeting; as motivation falters, good intentions fall by the wayside. Some people have become so jaded they don't even bother anymore.

Resolutions require us to abandon old patterns and institute new ones—to turn our backs on our former ways and seek renewal. If that sounds like spiritual exercise, that's because it is. Actions become habits for a reason. To undo them requires ongoing sacrifice, and for that we need God's help. But it seems so trivial to call in God to help us lose weight. Diet and exercise have nothing to do with faith, right?

Not so fast. The central truth behind St. John Paul II's theology of the body is that as beings with both a body and a soul, our divine purpose is to reflect God's love for the world in the way we use our bodies. In our work, in the way we treat our bodies, even in our most intimate relationships, we are called to love as God loves—fully and sacrificially. Otherwise, we're not really living our faith. We're just playing pretend.

To go to daily Mass is good; to take what we learn there and do something with it is better. To read Scripture every



morning is good; to allow the word to burrow down and needle our souls until we have to get up and act on it is better. Even a diet can be a spiritual exercise, if it's undertaken out of respect for the gift of the body we've been given.

None of us can change for the better on the strength of our own will. We need God walking hand in hand with us, holding us accountable and reminding us why it matters. When we're used to turning to God again and again throughout the day—even for something as trivial as a diet—it bleeds into other areas of our life too. The sacred fuses with the secular, and we truly become beings who (as the *Baltimore Catechism*

said) show God's goodness by knowing, loving, and serving him in this world.

It's a new year. What will you do to live your faith? +

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## PRAYER

*Lord, your light gives us strength and shows us the way to God. Remove my blindness that I may see the light of goodness, peace, and love within myself and 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

January 4–9

**Monday**, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton:  
1 Jn 3:22–4:6 / Mt 4:12–17, 23–25


**Tuesday**, St. John Neumann:  
1 Jn 4:7–10 / Mk 6:34–44

**Wednesday**, Christmas Weekday:  
1 Jn 4:11–18 / Mk 6:45–52

**Thursday**, Christmas Weekday:  
1 Jn 4:19–5:4 / Lk 4:14–22

**Friday**, Christmas Weekday:  
1 Jn 5:5–13 / Lk 5:12–16

**Saturday**, Christmas Weekday:  
1 Jn 5:14–21 / Jn 3:22–30

Bringing Home  
the **Word**   
January 3, 2021

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