

### 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.

### 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.**

### **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://wwmema.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!

<u>December 25, 2020</u>	
Christmas	\$5,987.00
<u>December 27, 2020</u>	
Offertory	\$6,838.43
<u>January 1, 2021</u>	
Solemnity of Mary	\$1,022.00
<u>January 3, 2021</u>	
Offertory	\$18,273.75
Property Management	\$ 1,218.30



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 10	Seminarian Fund
January 17	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.

#### 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.

#### 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.

## BAPTISM OF THE LORD

### ✠ WEEKLY CALENDAR ✠

**Sunday, January 10**  
6:00 PM Vespers Newton

**Wednesday, January 13**  
Holy Angels Church Plaistow open for private prayer all day

**Thursday, January 14**  
8:30 AM – 8:30 PM Eucharistic Adoration Newton

**Saturday, January 16**  
3:00 PM Sacrament of Reconciliation Plaistow

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

### PARISH OFFICE CLOSED

In observance of the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday, the Parish Office will be **closed on Monday, January 18**. The Office will reopen on Tuesday, January 19 at 8:30 AM.



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/smile](http://www.amazon.com/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, January 9 ~ Vigil / Baptism of the Lord**

*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**

#### **Monday, January 11 ~ Weekday**

*Heb 1:1-6; Mk 1:14-20*

8:00 AM Robert Sansom by Don and Liz Carcieri  
**Newton**

#### **Tuesday, January 12 ~ Weekday**

*Heb 2:5-12; Mk 1:21-28*

8:00 AM The Intentions of Eleanor Martin  
by Ed and Susan Martin  
**Plaistow**

#### **Wednesday, January 13 ~ Hilary, Bishop and Doctor of the Church**

*Heb 2:14-18; Mk 1:29-39*

6:30 PM Amy Soo Verge Klopotoski  
by Bill & Carol and Kevin & Sarah Verge  
**Plaistow**

#### **Thursday, January 14 ~ Weekday**

*Heb 3:7-14; Mk 1:40-45*

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

#### **Friday, January 15 ~ Weekday**

*Heb 4:1-5, 11; Mk 2:1-12*

**No Mass**

#### **Saturday, January 16 ~ Weekday**

*Heb 4:12-16; Mk 2:13-17 (Day)*

*1 Sm 3:3b-10, 19; 1 Cor 6:13c-15a; 17-20; Jn 1:35-42 (Vigil)*

4:00 PM Mark Hammond by the Brotz family  
**Plaistow**

#### **Sunday, January 17 ~ Second Sunday in Ordinary Time**

*1 Sm 3:3b-10, 19; 1 Cor 6:13c-15a; 17-20; Jn 1:35-42*

8:00 AM Margaret Levitt by Mary Anne Downs  
**Newton**

10:00 AM Christopher Butcher by John and Goldie Morrow  
**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 are a vital and vibrant part of the St Luke the Evangelist Parish. We welcome any practicing Catholic man 18 or older to join the Knights, whose main purpose is charitable works in support of our parish and community. Joining is simple – talk to a brother Knight or you can now join on-line. Go to [www.kofc.org/joinus](http://www.kofc.org/joinus). Your Council is involved in many activities from collecting money for people with intellectual disabilities through the Tootsie Roll Drive to the annual St Jude Golf Open which raises money for parish families in need. The list is as long as you want it to be. Do you have a certain passion you would like to get involved in? Come join us and make it a reality! We are Catholic men. We live by principles informed by faith. We are sons, fathers, husbands, and grandfathers. Join us on life's greatest adventure to discover the man God calls you to be. Feel free to call Dan Sullivan at 603-770-4803, email him at [dans49@comcast.net](mailto:dans49@comcast.net), or catch him at the 8:00 AM Sunday Mass in Newton. For more information about the Knights, go to [www.kofc.org/un/en/todays-knights/what-we-do.html](http://www.kofc.org/un/en/todays-knights/what-we-do.html)

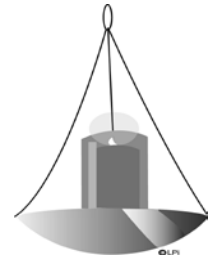
**FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTION STATEMENT**

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.**

**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).

The Sanctuary Candle in  
Holy Angels Church  
will burn this week  
in loving memory of  
**Moses and Ellen Tucker**  
by William Tucker



**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/berereavement](http://www.cc-nh.org/berereavement).

**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 [jtremlay@stluketheevangelist.net](mailto:jtremlay@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>.

**CAMP BERNADETTE AND CAMP FATIMA**

Camp Bernadette for girls and Camp Fatima for boys is a joyful Catholic community offering a fun and active camping experience with a sense of belonging for all! The two camps have canoeing, tubing, archery, rock climbing, team sports, arts and crafts to spark imagination, camp life that builds faith, confidence and friendship, and more! To register, go to [www.BFCAMP.com](http://www.BFCAMP.com).

Currently, Camp Bernadette for girls is sold out, but please register for the waiting list online.

**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.



## **Flower Donations Were Made In Loving Memory Or Honor Of:**

*Mark Hammond  
Daniel O'Leary  
Paul O'Leary  
Mary Coltin  
Richard LaChance  
Marie Ferrandi  
Matthew Lamothe  
Joseph Fitzpatrick and Family  
John O'Shea & Family  
Gail Sanford  
Molly Perin  
Sarah McCarthy  
Ryan Fitzpatrick  
Raymond and Anne Lynch  
Roy Lajoie  
Our Special Angel  
Mr. & Mrs. Roland Chabot  
Krystyna Smardz  
Stansilaw Smardz*

*Donald P. King  
Gaudreau Family  
DeSimone Family  
Solari Family  
Aloia Family  
The Harper Family  
The Sorriento Family  
Willy Bergeron  
James Tremblay  
Mildred Tremblay  
Ma and Dad Bergeron  
Vinnny Berthiaume  
The Polese and Daly Families  
John Marcinkowski  
Irene and Rene Bourgault  
Richard Sullivan  
The Sullivan and Kelly Families  
Lea M. Roberts  
George and Althea Rainville*

*Edwin and Evelyn Sadowski  
Vincent and Anne Marie  
Zamierowski  
Joe Consentino  
Mr. & Mrs. Francois Fortin  
Mr. & Mrs. Julius Zamierowski  
John and Louise Szematawicz  
Karl and Mary Brotz  
Joan and Paul Brotz  
Lillian Wagner  
Richard and Rita Jarnot  
Margaret and Leon Cote  
Robert and Eleanora Davidson  
Norman L. Cote  
Paul D. Cote  
Jesse and Regina Cote  
Robert and Theresa Viens  
Agnes Massei  
Mr. & Mrs. John Murphy  
Patricia Dolan  
Jack Murphy  
Leo Massei  
Peter and Florence Jones  
Mike and Rose DeSantis  
Elizabeth Fritsche  
Deceased Members of the  
DeSantis Family  
Bill Phelps  
Betty Pence  
Pat Moore  
Ann Sullivan  
The Santos Family  
Robert Girard  
Barbara Girard  
William Poist  
William Esposito  
Dorothy Zahar  
Gerard and Monique Provost  
William and June Goodwin  
Simone Boulet  
Raymond Fournier  
Harold Lloyd  
The Krajewski and Viles Families  
John and Mildred Healey  
Daniel and Margurite Driscoll*

*Johnnie and Emily Driscoll  
Bobby Driscoll  
Jack Flaherty  
John Holleran  
The Bettencourt Family  
The Ducharme Family  
The Halko Family  
John W. Rogers  
Peter A. Teague  
Robert B. Tremblay, Sr.  
Joe Thompson  
Our Grampy, Roy J. Lajoie  
Mr. & Mrs. Bernard Lajoie  
Deceased Members of the  
Ronan, O'Leary, Doherty, and  
Ballou Families and Friends  
The Cotter Family  
Albert and Anna Marcelonis  
Louis and Robert Caron  
Deceased Members and Friends  
Of the Zakiewicz Family  
Kevin Gallant  
Margaret Gallant  
Fred Gallant  
Mary Wentworth  
James Wentworth  
Deceased Members of the  
O'Hara Family  
Johana Power  
Mr. & Mrs. Eugene Vadar  
Michelle Grimes  
Mrs. Nora O'Hara  
James Harb  
Stella Harb  
Jennie Mestugrates  
Leo LaRochelle  
Harvey and Irene Lee  
Sr. Elizabeth Anne Lee  
Deceased Members of the  
Lee and Kirkpatrick Families  
Margie Schwenk  
John Marciano  
The Marciano  
The Muscianesi Family  
Timothy Hercules*

*Mr. & Mrs. Joseph DeMonaco*  
*Mr. & Mrs. Archie Desrosier*  
*James Holland*  
*Timothy Holland*  
*The Murphy Family*  
*The Lueders*  
*Cornelius and Catherine Ahearn*  
*Joseph and Flora Pignatiello*  
*Mary E. Guilmette*  
*Roland J. Guilmette*  
*Simone G. Matson*  
*Richard K. Matson*  
*Francis M. Bahl*  
*John D. Troy*  
*The Stark Family*  
*Doreen Daniels*  
*Helen Gillette*  
*Phillip and Natalie Gagnon*  
*Louis and Marguerite Lanseigne*  
*Dennis and Geraldine Miele*  
*Lorraine Emerson*  
*Deceased Members of the*  
*Sheehan and Hofbauer Families*  
*Ray and Muriel Giguere*  
*John Meuse*  
*Elaine Wilson*  
*Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Lozeau*  
*Paul Antkowiak*  
*Ella Tomaselli*  
*Peter Tomaselli*  
*Sophie Bengtson*  
*Stephan Antkowiak*  
*Vincenzo DeNovellis*  
*Flavio DeNovellis*  
*Deceased Members of the*  
*Richards and Souza Families*  
*Deceased Members of the*  
*Ayers and Obert Families*  
*Paul F. Stefanski*  
*Lisa M. Sliviak*  
*Joseph, Nancy, & Paul Murach*  
*John and Faith*  
*Francis Gagne*  
*Walter and Mary Wozack*  
*Ted & Lillian Karavedes*

*Billy Whitkom*





## **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.



# WINTER ORDINARY TIME

What do the words Ordinary Time mean? Dorothy Day said, “The words ‘Ordinary Time’ in our prayer books put me in a state of confusion and irritation. To me, no time is *ordinary*.” She was right.

The Ordinary in Ordinary Time refers to ordinal—counted—time, not to a lack of something to celebrate. The Church document, *General Norms for the Liturgical Year and Calendar*, says: “Apart from those seasons having their own distinctive character [Advent, Christmastime, Lent, Triduum and Eastertime], 33 or 34 weeks remain in the yearly cycle that do not celebrate a specific aspect of the mystery of Christ. Rather, especially on the Sundays, they are devoted to the mystery of Christ in all its aspects.” (#43)

How do we celebrate “the mystery of Christ in all its aspects”? We gather every Sunday. Sunday is our original feast day. Christians have gathered every Sunday—the day of Christ’s resurrection, the first day of the week—ever since there were Christians.

Each year there are two blocks of Ordinary Time, one in the winter between Christmastime and Lent, and the other in summer and fall, from Pentecost through Christ the King. When we gather on Sundays in Ordinary Time, as always, we hear the scriptures proclaimed. We systematically read through the Gospels. The first readings from the first testament of the Bible were chosen for their relationship to the Gospel passages. The second readings come from the various letters of the second testament of the Bible. The mystery of Christ “in all its aspects” unfolds.

What is the heart of our Sunday celebration? We do our eucharist; that is, we do our thanksgiving. We praise and thank God for all creation; we pray for the whole world, as we remember Christ’s life, death and resurrection. We share the bread and wine, the body and blood. We are sent forth to be the body and blood of Christ in our homes, our workplaces, our neighborhoods, our towns, our cities, our country, our world.

“What happens in our churches every Sunday is the fruit of our week. What happens as the fruit of the week past is the beginning of the week to come. Sunday is simultaneously a point of arrival and departure for Christians on their way to the fullness of the kingdom. This is not ordinary at all. This is the fabric of Christian living.”

(Saint Andrew Bible Missal [Brooklyn: William J. Hirten Co., 1982.]) © 1997, Archdiocese of Chicago. Liturgy Training Publications, 1800 North Hermitage Avenue, Chicago IL 60622-1101; 1-800-933-1800.  
Text by G. Thomas Ryan.

# The Gospel at Home

## This Sunday's Gospel: Mark 1:7-11

In this Sunday's Gospel, John the Baptist points to Jesus as one who is coming after him and who is much greater than him. Of Jesus, John said, "I am not worthy to bend down and untie his sandals." Jesus comes to John to be baptized in the Jordan River. When he comes up out of the water, the Holy Spirit descends in the form of a dove and the Father speaks from Heaven. God the Father is pleased with his beloved Son.

## Exploring the Gospel Message

**Seeds (Preschool):** In this week's lesson, your child learned that Jesus is God's Son. He or she also explored the Sacrament of Baptism. Ask your child what happens during Baptism. What does it mean to say we are children of God? Share some stories from family Baptisms over the years.

**Promise (Grades K-1):** This week, your child learned how Baptism is the sacrament that welcomes us into God's family. Consider displaying the picture he or she colored of the baptism of Jesus. The class also learned the Sign of the Cross, so practice making it before and after prayers this week. Talk about some of the things you might see at a Baptism.

**Good News (Grades 2-3):** This week, your child learned about the Sacrament of Baptism. Discuss how Baptism is one of the three Sacraments of Initiation. Through these sacraments, we become members of God's family. Answer questions about the Sacraments of Confirmation and Eucharist. Share stories about when members of the family experienced these sacraments. Discuss, too, what happened at Jesus' baptism.

**Venture (Grades 4-6):** The class learned that Baptism has responsibilities for our parents as well as ourselves. Talk with your child about how you have undertaken your responsibility of raising him or her in the faith. Ask your child how he or she keeps God's Commandments. Ask your son or daughter what actions show love for God and others. Your child can tell you the story of Jesus' baptism. Talk about questions your child has about faith.

**Visions (Grades 7-9):** This week's lesson focused on the Sacrament of Baptism and what took place when Jesus was baptized by John in the Jordan River. Ask your young person how the Holy Trinity is present at Jesus' baptism. What are some of the signs we use in Baptism? Talk about your teen's own Baptism. Hold a family discussion on how Baptism calls us to live like Jesus, then pray for help to do just that.

## Pray Together

When you complete your conversation about the week's Gospel lesson, try to join in a morning prayer or an evening prayer together each day for a week. The prayer does not have to be formal or structured, and it certainly does not need to be long. Pray together in your own words, too, that God will help your family to live out the call of Baptism to live as Jesus taught us.





# Bringing Home the Word

**Baptism of the Lord (B)**

**January 10, 2021**

## Stories as Windows into the Past

By Mary Katharine Deeley

When we were growing up, my siblings and I would often ask our grandmother to tell us stories about our mother when she was young. We liked listening to our mother tell those same stories from her perspective. The stories varied in some details, but it always felt like a veil was lifted on the past and we had some sense of where we came from along with some insight about our mother's personality.

She, of course, did the same thing for my daughters, making them giggle

at the story of my getting into her perfume bottle when I was three. Such stories connect us with the people we know. Old friends trade stories of shared experiences; young companions learn about the world from the stories of their elders and even from the stories their friends tell them about their lives.

In Acts, Peter appeals to his listeners by telling the story they know so well. He even appeals to their shared experience as he says, "You know..." (v. 36). Stories connect us to one another, opening the door to understanding each other a little more and a little better. In his story, Peter marks the baptism of Jesus as the beginning of his ministry. Our story in the Christian community begins with baptism as well. Peter records that Jesus went on "doing good and healing all those oppressed by the devil, for God was with him" (v. 38). What would the story of our lives after baptism tell people about us? Would someone like Peter tell people that we went about doing good and loving God and neighbor? +

*Stories connect us, opening the door to understanding each other a little more and a little better.*

## A Word from Pope Francis

To baptize a child is an act of justice toward them. Why? Because at baptism we offer a treasure, at baptism we offer a pledge: the Holy Spirit. Baptism endows the child with the strength of the Holy Spirit: the Spirit that will defend and assist each of them throughout life.

—Feast of the Baptism of the Lord,  
January 12, 2020



## Sunday Readings

**Isaiah 42:1–4, 6–7 or  
Isaiah 55:1–11**

Here is my servant whom I uphold,  
my chosen one with whom I am  
pleased.

**Acts 10:34–38 or John 5:1–9**

He went about doing good and  
healing all those oppressed by  
the devil.

**Mark 1:7–11**

[John the Baptist] proclaimed:  
"One mightier than I is coming after  
me. I am not worthy to stoop and  
loosen the thongs of his sandals."

## REFLECTION QUESTIONS

ONE QUESTION  
REFLECTION

- Do you tell children you know stories about your life that teach moral lessons?
- Do you look back on your life stories, and use lessons learned to draw closer to God?



# Our Great Mosaic

By Johan van Parys

A few years ago, our church hosted an exhibit of contemporary art. Some considered the art beautiful and engaging; others thought it ugly and offensive. Though acceptable for a gallery, contemporary art was deemed unfitting for our historic church. I was told a classical building should be adorned with classical art, not abstract.

I remembered the many churches I'd visited throughout Europe. Most had been built and rebuilt over the course of many centuries, with each century leaving its own distinctive mark. As a result, it isn't unusual for a church to have a Romanesque nave, Gothic adornments, a Renaissance facade, Baroque side altars, abstract windows, and contemporary appointments such as the altar and ambo. Regardless of their stylistic complexity, they evoke a sense of perfect unity and harmony. Often it takes a guide to remind a visitor that the building is the result of hundreds of years of labor and love.

I have often wished for a similar guide to point out that, similar to its buildings' art and architecture, the Church itself is complex and diverse and was not created all at once. But unlike a tour guide who easily elicits repeated oohs and ahs, someone pointing out the diversity in our Church may not experience the same reception. Many of us probably wish for a kind of cookie-cutter Catholic Church. Wouldn't things be easier if everyone believed and prayed exactly the same and



preferred the same art and architecture? In our search for ecclesiastical safety and security, do we readily confuse unity with uniformity and create a false notion of what it means to be a "true" Catholic?

The fundamental unity of the Church, after all, is not based on superficial uniformity. Rather, it is rooted in our shared belonging to the body of Christ, in which there are many different parts. Like its architecture, art, and music, for example, the Church has evolved and grown for more than twenty centuries into a complex and diverse reality while enjoying harmony and unity within its rich diversity. And as is the case with architecture and art, the differences between the many members of the

Church do not detract from the unity of the Church, but rather enrich, enhance, and strengthen our bond.

Addressing new metropolitan archbishops, Pope Francis said this about unity in our diversity: "In the Church, variety, which is itself a great treasure, is always grounded in the harmony of unity, like a great mosaic in which every small piece joins with others as part of God's one great plan. United in our differences—there is no other Catholic way to be united. This is the Catholic spirit, the Christian spirit: to be united in our differences. This is the way of Jesus!" +

***The Church is the result of centuries of labor and love.***



*Lord, help me to discern my gifts and talents and use them for the common good of all people.*

—From *Peaceful Meditations for Every Day in Ordinary Time*, Rev. Warren J. Savage and Mary Ann McSweeney

## WEEKDAY READINGS

January 11–16

**Monday, Weekday:**  
Heb 1:1–6 / Mk 1:14–20

**Tuesday, Weekday:**  
Heb 2:5–12 / Mk 1:21–28

**Wednesday, Weekday:**  
Heb 2:14–18 / Mk 1:29–39

**Thursday, Weekday:**  
Heb 3:7–14 / Mk 1:40–45

**Friday, Weekday:**  
Heb 4:1–5, 11 / Mk 2:1–12

**Saturday, Weekday:**  
Heb 4:12–16 / Mk 2:13–17