

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://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!

**OFFERTORY AMOUNTS FOR
JANUARY 17, 2021
WILL APPEAR IN NEXT WEEK'S BULLETIN**



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 24	No Second Collection
January 31	No Second Collection
February 7	Property Management
February 14	Catholic Schools
February 17	Aid to Churches-East. Europe
February 21	Fuel
February 28	Easter Flowers

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.

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 Unites States are saying about the moral permissibility of the current Covid-19 vaccines: [Click Here for the Memo](#)

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 catholicstv.org

Sunday Mass from Notre Dame

catholicstv.org/masses/notre-dame-mass

Salt & Light TV

saltandlighttv.org

Eternal Word Television

ewtn.com



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.**

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.

THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

✠ WEEKLY CALENDAR ✠

Wednesday, January 27
Holy Angels Church Plaistow open for
private prayer all day

Thursday, January 28
8:30 AM – 8:30 PM Eucharistic Adoration *Newton*

Saturday, January 30
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.

BLESSING OF COUPLES

There will be a special blessing of couples at the conclusion of all Liturgies on the weekend of **February 13-14**. Please pray for those married among us and remember those preparing to be married as well.



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. 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 23 ~ Vigil / 3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time
Jon 3:1-5, 10; 1 Cor 7:29-31; Mk 1:14-20 (Vigil)

4:00 PM Michael Sullivan by Talia
Plaistow

Sunday, January 24 ~ Third Sunday in Ordinary Time
Jon 3:1-5, 10; 1 Cor 7:29-31; Mk 1:14-20

8:00 AM The Intentions of Paul Fournier
by Edith Fournier
Newton

10:00 AM Mary Morrill by the Parish
Plaistow

Monday, January 25 ~ Conversion of Paul, Apostle
Acts 23:3-16 or Acts 9:1-22; Mk 16:15-18

8:00 AM People of the Parish
Newton

Tuesday, January 26 ~ Timothy and Titus, Bishops
2 Tim 1:1-8 or Ti 1:1-5; Mk 3:31-35

8:00 AM People of the Parish
Plaistow

Wednesday, January 27 ~ Angela Merici, Virgin and Religious Founder

Heb 10:11-18; Mk 4:1-20
6:30 PM Marilyn Ferguson by Grace Bukowski
Plaistow

Thursday, January 28 ~ Thomas Aquinas, Priest and Doctor of the Church

Heb 10:19-25; Mk 4:21-25
8:00 AM For Michael and his recovery
Newton

Friday, January 29 ~ Weekday

Heb 10:32-39; Mk 4:26-34
No Mass

Saturday, January 30 ~ Weekday

Heb 11:1-2, 8-19; Mk 4:35-41 (Day)
Dt 18:15-20; 1 Cor 7:32-35; Mk 1:21-28 (Vigil)
4:00 PM Alisha Harrison by Talia
Plaistow

Sunday, January 31 ~ Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Dt 18:15-20; 1 Cor 7:32-35; Mk 1:21-28

8:00 AM The Intentions of Paul Fournier
by Edith Fournier
Newton
10:00 AM Frances Blinn by Patricia Morrill
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 ✠

VIRTUAL MARDI GRAS TO BENEFIT CATHOLIC CHARITIES NH

You are invited to be a part of the Virtual Mardi Gras Celebration! This annual signature event benefits Catholic Charities NH and the hundreds of individuals and families in need that they support. And being online this year, it's easier to join in on the fun. Register today at www.cc-nh.org/mardigras for a chance to win prizes, bid on auction items, and more. The event will be streamed on **February 16** (Fat Tuesday) on www.cc-nh.org. Call Rosemary at 603-663-0249 with any questions.



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.



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**



LOOKING FOR GOOD MEN

The Knights of Columbus are a vital and vibrant part of St Luke the Evangelist Parish. We welcome any practicing Catholic man, 18 or older to join the Knights.

We are sons, fathers, husbands and grandfathers, whose main purpose is charitable works in support of our parish and community.

Where there is a need, there is a Knight.

Joining is simple – talk to a brother Knight, contact Dan Sullivan at 603-770-4803, email him at dans49@comcast.com or you can now join on-line - www.kofc.org/joinus



**ONLINE BEREAVEMENT GROUP
CATHOLIC CHARITIES NH**

For those still struggling to manage daily life with the COVID-19 crisis, Catholic Charities NH is hosting another "Coping with COVID" online support group for parishioners across the Diocese. The free five-session program, held on Zoom, provides key information and coping strategies to help you navigate these challenging and uncertain times. You'll connect with members of the medical and mental health communities and gain valuable relaxation techniques, among other forms of support. Sessions will be held on **Wednesdays (2:00 to 3:00 PM) starting February 3 through March 3**. To register, visit www.cc-nh.org/berereavement.



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

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.**

FROM THE PARISH FOOD PANTRY:

So many thanks, so much gratitude! Going into this Christmas season, we were not sure what to expect for requests for help from families for food, for gifts or what we would be able to do during this strained and stressful COVID time. On the negative side of COVID, more people are out of work, underemployed, and unemployed causing budgets to be strained and more families depending on the pantry resources for food and gifts. On the positive side, our parish and community stepped up and responded with much compassion and generosity. Joe and I, and our incredibly dedicated group of volunteers, are so very grateful for your support. I have a favorite quote, "Where God guides, He provides." And provide He did! Through the pantry, we provided 191 families and seniors with dinners and/or a Christmas meal. With your help and the help of others who helped to fill gift requests, we were able to provide 119 kids with gifts for Christmas. The families were very grateful and appreciative for the help they were able to receive.

A special thank you for the generous help we received in filling the gift requests goes to the people in our community who dropped by and offered to help, the parishioners of St Luke the Evangelist Parish, the Atkinson Congregational Church and the ROCK Church in Plaistow, Sweet Hill Farms in Plaistow, the Knights of Columbus #6617, and the Atkinson Lions Club who took tags or gift lists to fill. To our many volunteers who work with us every week and at the holidays to sort, pack and distribute food orders so that we can have a COVID safe no contact food distribution, student volunteers from Central Catholic High School in Lawrence who come to us as extra helpers during the holiday seasons, to Matt Matson who spent many hours on the phone contacting all of the families to set up an organized pickup and delivery schedule, to the Plaistow and Atkinson Lions who helped deliver the food baskets to families who could not get to us, and to all those who so generously donated money and food to our pantry during the holiday seasons and throughout this COVID crisis, a sincere thank you. We are truly very blessed. "Together we can make a Difference!"

Joe and Marie Farren
St Luke's Food Pantry

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.

Do Something for Lent. Renew your faith.

What is the **Lenten Journey** all about? Prayer, fasting and almsgiving are called the “three pillars” of the Christian way of life. They help support a full and healthy life of discipleship. During Lent we try to repair and strengthen these three pillars, which also are called the “three disciplines” because they help people become better disciples of the Lord.

The Lenten Journey is about PRAYER.

Prayer is conversation with God. Make a good habit of daily prayer. Read the Psalms; and each Lent try and learn one or two by heart. Try to sing your prayer at home, and make every effort to sing well when you worship with others.



The Lenten Journey is about FASTING. To prepare himself for his life's work, Jesus fasted in the wilderness. As Christians grow up, they need to learn traditional, healthy ways to fast. When we fast, we deny ourselves some food or other good things. We remind ourselves of how dependent we are on God's gifts, which always must be shared fairly and never taken for granted.

The Lenten Journey is about GIVING. Almsgiving means “sharing compassion.” Almsgiving means more than giving away the things we don't need. It means giving away some of the things we do need because someone else also needs them. It means giving of ourselves.

Our **Lenten Journey** is about faith sharing during the Lenten season. It is a way to learn more about your faith and grow as a disciple of the Lord; it is a way to meet fellow parishioners, and to contribute to the life of our Parish.

All are welcome!

What to do?

Today we invite sign-ups for small group Scripture sharing during Lent. We continue to pray together as our 2021 **Lenten Journey** gets underway. Ask for the Spirit's guidance as you consider your involvement; pray that our Parish's **Lenten Journey** be blessed.

Join a small group! Groups meet six times during the Lenten season to discuss the upcoming Sunday Lectionary readings. You will learn more about Scripture through the resources provided, participate in interesting discussions, meet some wonderful people, and have the opportunity to build up the Body of Christ.

You will have the opportunity to sign-up by filling out the registration form in this bulletin today and in the coming weeks, or call the Parish Office at 382-8324.

What else? During Lent, special *Paschal Mission* inserts in the weekly bulletin will focus on the Lenten Scriptures and on discipleship in the real world. Sunday Homilies will touch on living Jesus' Gospel and on the questions discussed at Group meetings.

Evangelization – spreading the “Good News” is something everyone can do!

Family and Teen Downloads: www.disciplesonthejourney.org

**Group Meetings begin the week of February 14!
Meetings will take place in person in the church hall,
and one meeting will also be virtual on ZOOM.**

**Masks must be worn at all times; social distancing policies
will be observed.**

DISCIPLES ON THE JOURNEY REGISTRATION FORM



Name _____

Address _____

Telephone _____

E-Mail _____ Cell Phone _____

Please check the time and day you prefer

Wednesday Afternoons in the Church Hall at 4:00 p.m. ____
(February 17 – March 24)

Wednesday Evenings in the Church Hall at 7:00 p.m. ____
(February 17 – March 24)

Thursday Afternoons in the Church Hall at 1:30 p.m. ____
(February 18 – March 25)

Thursday Afternoons at 1:30 p.m. virtual on ZOOM ____
(February 18 – March 25)

Group meetings begin the week of February 14

**Masks must be worn at all times; social distancing
policies will be observed**

**(Please return this form in the collection basket or bring to the
parish office)**

The Gospel at Home

This Sunday's Gospel: Mark 1:14-20

In this Sunday's Gospel, Jesus calls four fishermen to become fishers of people. They respond quickly and follow Jesus. They share in his work of spreading the Good News of God's love. This is a call that comes to all on this Sunday, and we need to respond with the same joy and enthusiasm as the first disciples.

Exploring the Gospel Message

Seeds (Preschool): Your child learned that Jesus calls people to belong to his family. We all follow Jesus by fulfilling our responsibilities in daily life. Talk to your child about ways to be loving or forgiving, and point out times when your child acts as a member of God's loving family.

Promise (Grades K-1): Your child learned about listening to God's Word and to others. Ask your child to share the story, "Listening to Emma," with the family. Be sure to listen carefully and to encourage your child to share details. Discuss ways to make sure you are listening to one another.

Good News (Grades 2-3): Your child learned about being sent by Jesus to share his Good News with others. Talk about ways your family can share Jesus' message with others during Lent. Remember that actions will always speak louder than words when it comes to bringing the Good News to others. Discuss, too, what vocation is.

Venture (Grades 4-6): Ask your youngster to share with the family what he or she learned about the Gospel of Mark. The class also acted out a play about the Prophet Jonah, who was called by God but really, at first, did not want to answer yes. Talk about the experiences Jonah had in the story. Discuss ways that your family can answer God's call to follow Jesus and bring the Good News to the people you meet. Ask your young person about the relationship between Saint Monica and Saint Augustine.

Visions (Grades 7-9): The class this week explored how Christians discover their vocations. Ask your son or daughter to share with the family the story, "God Changed My Mind." Talk a bit about the example of Pope Francis and how he discovered his vocation. The class also studied the Eucharistic Prayer from the Mass. This is a good opportunity to share as a family how important the Mass is to you and how important it is to attend Mass every Sunday. The class also explored the Gospel of Mark to find out who Jesus is. Ask your son or daughter to describe what he or she learned.

Pray Together

Sometimes God's call is discovered in silence. When you complete your conversation about Sunday's Gospel lesson, invite all the members of your family to share a few moments of silent prayer. You can all hold hands or just sit quietly together. An adult can remind the family that Jesus calls all of you to follow him. End by praying together the Sign of the Cross.





Bringing Home the Word

Third Sunday in Ordinary Time (B)

January 24, 2021

God's Patient Call

By Fr. Mark Haydu, LC

The Sistine Chapel fresco, *The Prophet Jonah*, is directly above *The Last Judgment*. Michelangelo chooses to depict Jonah for his theological connection to Jesus, who said, "Just as Jonah was in the belly of the whale three days and three nights, so will the Son of Man be in the heart of the earth three days and three nights" (Matthew 18:40).

Unlike Jesus, Jonah initially balks at God's call until he grudgingly accepts and preaches to the city of Nineveh. In his rebellion, he gets in a boat and goes the opposite direction from where God was calling. Eventually he was thrown

overboard and swallowed by the fish, seen painted at his side. After a three-night stomachache, the fish spewed Jonah up on the shore, back where he had started.

Jonah looks up to heaven with a weary longing, which might denote his melancholy personality. The fig tree further reinforces his weakness because it recalls the episode when Jonah lay under the fig tree in depression and lethargy.

Like Peter and Andrew, James and John, God entered Jonah's life and called him. Unlike the apostles, it took him a while to say yes. We can also be slow to respond to the invitation of God in our soul, whether in big or small things. Perhaps the attraction of the world or fear of sacrifice keeps us from saying yes. Yet his voice is constant and persistent.

Michelangelo paints Jonah dangling above *The Last Judgment* as if to subtly say, you are cordially invited to say yes to God's patient callings...while you still have time. +

Sunday Readings

Jonah 3:1-5, 10

The people of Nineveh believed God; they proclaimed a fast and all of them, great and small, put on sackcloth.

1 Corinthians 7:29-31

I tell you, brothers, the time is running out....For the world in its present form is passing away.

Mark 1:14-20

Jesus said to them, "Come after me, and I will make you fishers of men." Then they abandoned their nets and followed him.

We can be slow to respond to the invitation of God in our soul, whether in big or small things.

A Word from Pope Francis

In these, our troubled times, rent by the tragedies of war and menaced by the baneful tendency to accentuate differences and to incite conflict, may the Good News that in Jesus forgiveness triumphs over sin, life defeats death, and love conquers fear, be proclaimed to the world with renewed fervor.

—Letter recognizing missionary work, October 22, 2017



REFLECTION QUESTIONS



- What has God been calling me to do?
- Do I understand that putting off his voice is also putting off God's joy and goodness?

Being Authentic to God

By Kathleen M. Basi

I have a theory about nurturing faith in the family. It goes like this: If a child's faith is an integral part of his or her everyday life—not just the overtly religious parts—it will become so central to that person's identity that he or she could never leave the Church because it would mean an abandoning of self. The question is, how do you accomplish that goal?

I believe the answer is twofold: authenticity and practicality.

First Corinthians 12 exhorts us to remember that our gifts are uniquely given by God and so is our calling. In my family, nurturing the faith in an authentic and practical way means leading a choir at Mass and teaching natural family planning with the kids sitting in the room with us. It means letting them watch the news and having no-question-off-limits discussions of what they see there. It means carrying snacks in the car to give to homeless men and women, digging into piggy banks to contribute to the family's Christmas charity, and regarding conservation and recycling as signs of Godly stewardship, not just civic responsibility.

In your family, an authentic, practical application of the faith might look quite different. It's not about doing what everyone else does. It's about being authentic to the gifts residing within individual households. It's about applying the faith to every moment of every day.



This isn't just for the kids, either. Adults cannot nurture in our children what we do not possess ourselves. Conversion is a lifelong process. When Pope Francis visited the United States, for instance, he challenged Catholics as well as nonbelievers. Did we listen? Did we revisit dearly held opinions in light of our identity as Catholic Christians?

Our children need to see us engaged in an authentic search for God, one that doesn't profess to have all the answers but instead constantly seeks his will over our own limited understanding of the world. They need to see us wrestling with concepts like forgiveness and "do unto others" in the mundane interactions that

make up the vast majority of life.

In this, they mirror the adult world. The Church suffers when its members pass judgment on others while failing to recognize the ways in which our worldly biases lead us away from the Gospel. The good news is that an authentic and practical application of the faith is the key not only to the next generation of the Church but also to evangelizing the world. +

Our children need to see us engaged in a genuine search for God.

PRAYER

Lord, you call me to do the work of God in the world. Help me to say yes to your work of peace and reconciliation.


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

WEEKDAY READINGS

January 25–30

Monday, Conversion of St. Paul:
Acts 22:3–16 or Acts 9:1–22 / Mk 16:15–18
Tuesday, Sts. Timothy and Titus:
2 Tm 1:1–8 or Ti 1:1–5 / Mk 3:31–35
Wednesday, Weekday:
Heb 10:11–18 / Mk 4:1–20

Thursday, St. Thomas Aquinas:
Heb 10:19–25 / Mk 4:21–25
Friday, Weekday:
Heb 10:32–39 / Mk 4:26–34
Saturday, Weekday:
Heb 11:1–2, 8–19 / Mk 4:35–41

Bringing Home
the Word 
January 24, 2021

© 2021 Liguori Publications, a ministry of the Redemptorists. One Liguori Drive, Liguori, MO 63057. Scripture quotations in this publication are from the *New American Bible*, revised edition, © 2010, 1991, 1986, 1970 Confraternity of Christian Doctrine, Washington, DC. The Pope Francis quotation is used with permission and copyright © 2020 *Libreria Editrice Vaticana*. All rights reserved. 1-800-325-9521. Liguori.org.