

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!

January 17, 2021

Offertory	\$9,853.91
Fuel	\$1,329.40

January 24, 2021

Offertory	\$6,187.69
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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 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

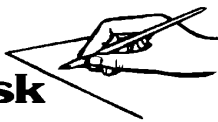
Annual Income	5% Commitment annually/ weekly	3% Commitment annually/ weekly
\$100,000	\$5,000/ \$100	\$3,000/ \$60
\$75,000	\$3,750/ \$75	\$2,250/ \$45
\$60,000	\$3,000/ \$60	\$1,800/ \$36
\$50,000	\$2,500/ \$50	\$1,500/ \$30
\$40,000	\$2,000/ \$40	\$1,200/ \$24
\$30,000	\$1,500/ \$30	\$900/ \$18
\$25,000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

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](#)

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.

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.

FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

✠ WEEKLY CALENDAR ✠

Monday, February 1
7:00 PM Knights of Columbus *Plaistow*

Wednesday, February 3
Holy Angels Church Plaistow open for private prayer all day

Thursday, February 4
8:30 AM – 8:30 PM Eucharistic Adoration *Newton*

Saturday, February 6
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 30 ~ Vigil / 4th Sunday in Ordinary Time
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

Monday, February 1 ~ Weekday
Heb 11:32-40; Mk 5:1-20

8:00 AM Jack Ronan by Cathy Smith
Newton

Tuesday, February 2 ~ Presentation of the Lord
Mal 3:1-4; Heb 2:14-18; Lk 2:22-40

8:00 AM Mary Kate Morrill by Tim and Peggy Morrill
Plaistow

Wednesday, February 3 ~ Blaise, Bishop and Martyr:
Ansgar, Bishop

Heb 12:4-7, 11-15; Mk 6:1-6
6:30 PM Peter Boniface (Month's Mind)
Plaistow

Thursday, February 4 ~ Weekday
Heb 12:18-19, 21-24; Mk 6:7-13

8:00 AM People of the Parish
Newton

Friday, February 5 ~ Agatha, Virgin and Martyr
Heb 13:1-8; Mk 6:14-29

No Mass

Saturday, February 6 ~ Paul Miki and Companions,
Martyrs

Heb 13:15-17, 20-21; Mk 6:30-34 (Day)
Jb 7:1-4, 6-7; 1 Cor 9:16-19, 22-23; Mk 1:29-39 (Vigil)
4:00 PM Nicholas J. Cedrone by Ed and Susan Martin
Plaistow

Sunday, February 7 ~ Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Jb 7:1-4, 6-7; 1 Cor 9:16-19, 22-23; Mk 1:29-39

8:00 AM Jack Ronan by Janice Bettencourt
Newton

10:00 AM Carl Jesionowski by his family
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.

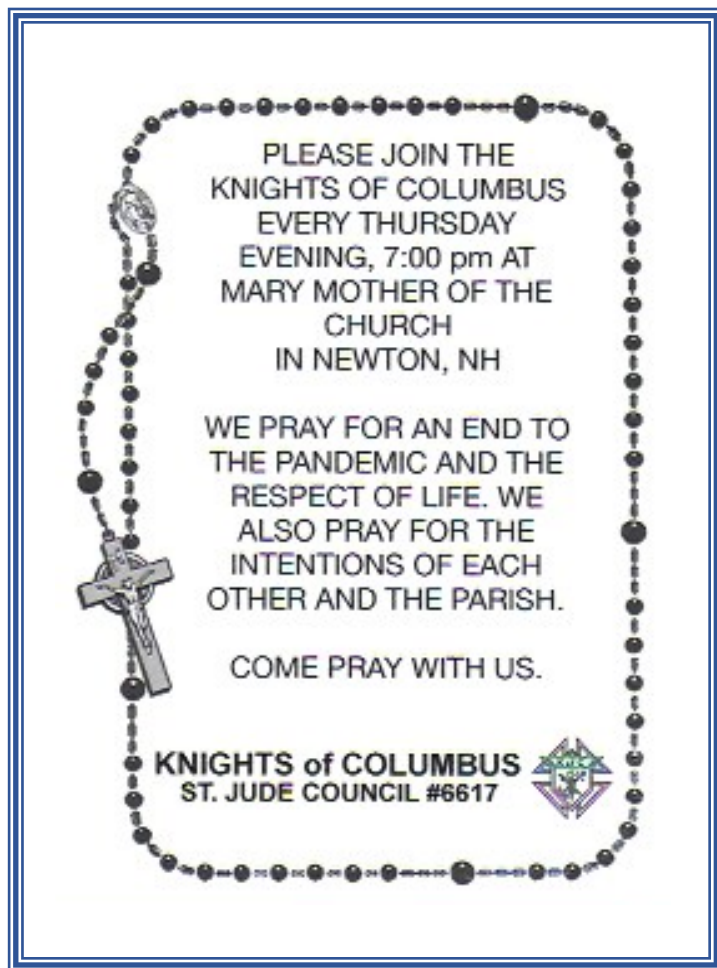
**The Church in Plaistow is open all day on
Wednesdays for people to stop by and pray
before the presence of Jesus in the tabernacle.**

✠ 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** ✠



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
Mary, Mother of the 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.

Celebrating The Culture Of Life

Join the Knights of Columbus
St Jude Council #6617 on
Saturday February 6th, 1:00PM-3:00PM at the Plaistow Church Hall
For a two hour uplifting and inspirational virtual webinar
Celebrating The Culture Of Life.

Speakers on the virtual webinar include:

- Fr. Christian Tutor of New Hampshire Right to Life
- Beth Gaby: Director of Concord 40 Days For Life
- Angel Marshall: Director of Pathways Pregnancy Center
- Lindsay Hyvonen: Director of real Options Pregnancy Centers

At the conclusion of the webinar there will be a time of fellowship and discussion

Due to Covid Restrictions no refreshments will be served and social distancing will be in effect with a maximum of 25 attendees. To reserve your spot please call or email Dan Sullivan at 603-770-4803 or dans49@comcast.net



**Knights of
Columbus®**





Knights of Columbus

St Jude Council #6617

26th ANNUAL

ST. JUDE GOLF TOURNAMENT

APPLE HILL GOLF COURSE - EAST KINGSTON NH



The Knights of Columbus - St. Jude Council #6617, again this year be hosting the 26th Annual St. Jude Open Golf Tournament at AppleHill Golf Course in East Kingston, NH. It will be a day for a great round of golf, lunch, giveaways, award presentations, but most importantly knowing we will be helping our neighbors in need. This year all proceeds generated by the St. Jude Open Golf Tournament will be assisting two families that desperately need our help. Be on the outlook for more information to register to participate.



The Knights of Columbus, St Jude Council #6617 of St Luke Parish, would like to invite the men of our parish to faithfully consider joining our ministry. Our mission is to serve and to attend to the needs of others through the sharing of our FAITH, TIME, TALENTS and TREASURE.



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

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. 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.

What to do?

Today we continue to welcome 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 Lenten 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.

Take the opportunity to sign-up by filling out the registration form on the back and dropping it in the collection basket next week, drop it off at the parish office, or call the Parish Offices at 382-8324.

**FAMILY @ TEEN DOWNLOADS:
www.disciplesonthejourney.org**

**Groups begin meeting the week of
February 14**

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 1:21-28

In Sunday's Gospel, Jesus shows his power and authority over evil. His teaching during Sabbath worship amazes his audience. Jesus teaches as one with authority. In his healing and his teaching, Jesus is fueled by the Holy Spirit and driven by God's love.

Exploring the Gospel Message

Seeds (Preschool): Your child learned about the peace that only Jesus can offer. Talk about "Pippa's Problem and Her Peaceful Path." Be sure to point out actions that are peaceful and those that are not. Remind your child that we experience Jesus' peace through the Holy Spirit when we follow God's example of love.

Promise (Grades K-1): In class, your child talked about all the people who are teachers in his or her life. Talk as a family about teachers who taught you important things, such as tying shoes, singing, reading, crossing the street, and the like. Ask your child to tell you about Sister Thea from this week's lesson.

Good News (Grades 2-3): Your child learned that good actions are powerful. Ask your child to share with the family the "power lantern" he or she made in class. Talk about the words on the lantern and what kind of power these words show. Hang the lantern in a prominent place in your home as a reminder of the week's Gospel and its lesson.

Venture (Grades 4-6): This week begins Black History Month, so the class learned about some important black Catholics in America. The class also discussed ways to live Jesus' teachings. As a family, discuss ways your family is living out the Good News of the Gospel in your home. There was also a section in class about saints from Africa. Ask your youngster what he or she learned about these faithful people.

Visions (Grades 7-9): During this week's class, your son or daughter learned about black Catholic saints as well as Claudette Colvin and Rosa Parks. The lesson also explored Jesus' authority and his home territory—Galilee. The class also discussed how people can be affected by advertising and can make bad judgments as a result. Ask your young person to share with the family three ways to handle all the advertising that is part of life today. Talk about how advertising affects your family. Ask your son or daughter to share what Misericordia is.

Pray Together

When you complete your conversation about Sunday's Gospel lesson, gather in a comfortable spot in your home. Let each person in the family pray in his or her own words that God will help bring healing and kindness to everyone you meet. After each person has a say, all can respond with the words, "Jesus, help us show your healing to all we meet."



✠ AROUND THE DIOCESE ✠



MARRIAGE IN THE CHURCH Did you know that ALL Catholics are required to be married in the Church as a condition of the validity of their marriage?

Any Catholic married in a civil ceremony (JP) or in any religious ceremony other than a Catholic one (unless specifically excepted by the Bishop) is not living out the Sacrament of Marriage in its fullness according to the teaching of the Church. Contact Father Albert at the parish office for more information.



STAY INFORMED WITH FAITHFUL CITIZENSHIP NEWS

The Diocese of Manchester wants to inform Catholics about important public policy matters facing our elected officials. Faithful Citizenship News provides briefs on legislation as well as information about Catholic social teaching on some of today's pressing issues. To read the current issue of Faithful Citizenship News and to subscribe, visit www.catholicnh.org/fcnews.

CATHOLIC CHARITIES COUNSELING

New Hampshire Catholic Charities provides individual, marital, family, and couples' counseling, helping people with a variety of personal difficulties, including: Depression, Stress, Family Conflicts, Relationship Problems, Anxiety, Substance Abuse, Life Adjustment Issues, Grief and Loss. Counseling also helps individuals and families strengthen communication skills in order to build and sustain healthy relationships and live more satisfying lives. A sliding scale fee is offered. Contact Arlene Dody, LCMHC in Salem at 603-893-1971 for more information.

HOW TO MAKE A REPORT OF SEXUAL ABUSE

Child sexual abuse is a crime in the State of New Hampshire and the Church. New Hampshire law requires that anyone who has reason to suspect that a child is being or has been abused or neglected must make a report to the Division for Children, Youth & Families ("DCYF") of the State of New Hampshire, 1-800-894-5533. Any person who suspects or alleges child abuse on the part of a priest, deacon, employee, or volunteer of a parish, school, or institution of the diocese of Manchester is also encouraged to make a report to the Office for Ministerial Conduct, 603-669-3100. Church personnel – clergy, paid employees, and volunteers – have additional reporting requirements if they believe that Church personnel have sexually abused a child. You can learn more about these reporting requirements on the diocesan website at www.catholicnh.org or by speaking with our Parish Safe Environment Coordinator, Cathy Smith at 382-8324.

The Pregnancy Care Center

The Pregnancy Care Center is a non-profit organization that offers its confidential services at no cost to its clients. We are committed to promoting the culture of life by assisting expectant parents in the birth and subsequent development of their child during his or her first year of life. We are also committed to helping young people embrace the virtues of chastity and continence as a sign of their Christian dignity.

Main Center

496 Main St., Haverhill, MA (978-373-5700)

www.pccnortheast.org

Helpline: 866-254-4440



MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER

Don't you and your spouse deserve a beautiful, romantic weekend away together? Get away from all those worldly anxieties and take time to just focus on each other by making a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend. Deepen your communication, strengthen your relationship, rekindle your romance, and renew your sacrament by attending the next Worldwide Marriage Encounter weekend in New England. For more information, call Ralph & Jane Becker at 1-800-710-9963 or visit www.wwme.org.

NH COUPLE ENRICHMENT CIRCLE

Have you attended a Marriage Encounter Weekend? If your answer is yes, you are invited to participate in the NH Couple Enrichment Circle to continue to strengthen your marriage relationship. For more information, contact David and Karen Demers at 617-480-9989 or ddemers@aviconpartners.com.

RETRouvaille...A Lifeline

Rediscover a loving marriage with a Retrouvaille weekend. If your marriage is tearing the two of you apart, if there is little or no meaningful communication, if you are considering separation or divorce, we believe Retrouvaille can help you. For more information, call 1-800-470-2230 or visit www.HelpOurMarriage.com.



SUPPORT FOR DIVORCED AND SEPARATED

Divorce and separation can be painful experiences. Support groups are available to those who are seeking healing, comfort, and empowerment. Visit www.catholicnh.org/support for a listing of groups.





Bringing Home the Word

Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time (B)

January 31, 2021

Progress Isn't Always Easy

By Fr. Mark Haydu, LC

Jesus' miracles and preaching were part of what convinced people that he was the Son of God. He spoke like no other and then backed up his words with amazing and wonderful actions. For example, he confronted evil spirits and cast them out. The people were amazed and saw this as evidence of his divinity, because no one had absolute power over evil—except God himself. This is a power the Church continues to practice today through the ministry of healing and exorcism.

Jesus did not want to see people suffer under the power of Satan but rather wanted them to live full and happy

lives. "I came that they might have life and have it abundantly," Jesus said in John 10:10. This strong desire of Jesus to heal and save drove him to tirelessly preach and do good. And because of this combination of goodness and power in his person, his fame spread. Yet the message he preached was challenging and demanding. Eventually many preferred to silence that good, powerful, but demanding voice.

Today, like Jesus, the Church still longs for nothing less than humanity's complete health and happiness. Yet, at times, the path to that human progress is not the easiest. Like temperamental children are chided by loving parents to eat healthy food rather than just what they like, so the good and powerful voice and actions of the Church are challenged.

We find our full flourishing as human beings and as Catholics by embracing Jesus' words and desires for us. +

Sunday Readings

Deuteronomy 18:15–20

If a prophet presumes to speak a word in my name that I have not commanded, or speaks in the name of other gods, that prophet shall die.

1 Corinthians 7:32–35

I should like you to be free of anxieties.

Mark 1:21–28

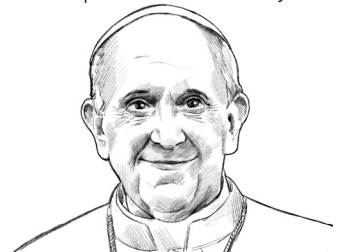
Jesus...said, "Quiet! Come out of him!"...He commands even the unclean spirits and they obey him.

Today, like Jesus, the Church still longs for nothing less than humanity's complete health and happiness.

A Word from Pope Francis

We must never forget that true power, at any level, is service, whose bright summit is upon the cross.... Although man frequently equates authority with control, dominion, success, for God authority is always synonymous with service, humility, love. It means entering the logic of Jesus who kneels to wash the Apostles' feet.

—Address to International Union of Superiors General, May 8, 2013



REFLECTION QUESTIONS



- Have I ever been tricked into eating spiritually unhealthy "moral junk food"?
- Have I thanked God for times of health and happiness?

Beautiful Diversity

By Kathleen M. Basi

"...Grant that we, who are nourished by the Body and Blood of your Son and filled with his Holy Spirit, may become one body, one spirit in Christ" (from Eucharistic Prayer III).

The term "relativism" gets a lot of attention in Catholic circles these days. The idea of not drawing a distinct line between right and wrong contradicts everything we believe as Christians. It's a dangerous threat.

But equally dangerous is the opposite: fundamentalism. We are often tempted to view every issue, conflict, and situation in black-and-white, defining right and wrong in circumstances where there is more than one right answer.

The beauty of the Catholic faith is its depth, complexity, and nuance. These characteristics make it possible for a richly diverse collection of humanity to unite under one Creed. But unity doesn't necessarily require strict uniformity. All too often, we try to apply fundamentalist principles to things that are not critical to the faith and, in so doing, create division instead of unity within the body of Christ.

Perhaps the clearest example is what is sometimes referred to as the "liturgy wars." Mostly they seem to swirl around music choices. The organ-and-chant crowd insists that guitars and drums are unfit for Catholic worship. Meanwhile, the guitar-and-drum group dismisses centuries of tradition out of hand.



Neither position acknowledges the fact that the diversity of the Church accepts, and indeed needs, both tradition and enculturation.

If you attend Mass in a place where everybody looks basically like you, it's easy to forget that we are a Church whose members span every race, language, and culture on the planet. Within that rich tapestry springs diversity even more beautiful and complex. Each of us is shaped by our nature and by life experiences too numerous to count. We all have our own job to do in God's plan, for which we are uniquely qualified by virtue of who we are, what we've learned, and what we've experienced.

When we consider all this, it should

be obvious that it's neither necessary nor desirable to try to force the entire body of Christ to walk in the exact same footprints. Yes, there are fundamentals that cannot be compromised. Yes, relativism is a threat we cannot afford to underestimate in our Church and, especially, in our hearts. But so is the opposite extreme. If we truly hope to "become one body, one Spirit in Christ," as the third Eucharistic Prayer says, we have to embrace not only what unites us, but also what makes us unique. +

***We must create unity,
not division within
the body of Christ.***

PRAYER

***Lord, you created me to live
in the freedom of your love.
Give me the courage to share
your love with all people.***

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

WEEKDAY READINGS

February 1–6

Monday, Weekday:

Heb 11:32–40 / Mk 5:1–20

Tuesday, Presentation of the Lord: Mal 3:1–4 /

Heb 2:14–18 / Lk 2:22–40 or 2:22–32

Wednesday, Weekday:

Heb 12:4–7, 11–15 / Mk 6:1–6

Thursday, Weekday:


Heb 12:18–19, 21–24 / Mk 6:7–13

Friday, St. Agatha:

Heb 13:1–8 / Mk 6:14–29

Saturday, St. Paul Miki and Companions:

Heb 13:15–17, 20–21 / Mk 6:30–34

Bringing Home
the **Word** 
January 31, 2021

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