

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

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](#)

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.



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!

April 11, 2021

Offertory	\$5,906.31
Property Mgmt	\$1,234.00

April 18, 2021

Offertory	\$6,651.96
Fuel	\$1,370.50



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). 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

April 25	No Second Collection
May 2	Catholic Charities

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.**

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 ✠

FOR OUR RECORDS

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



BLESSING OF MOTHERS

A special blessing of mothers will be given at all Masses on the weekend of **Mother's Day, May 9, 2021.**

THANK YOU ~ THANK YOU ~ THANK YOU!

The St. Vincent de Paul Society thanks you all for your generosity in supporting its Easter Lily Fundraiser. It was a complete success as they sold out! This has been an extremely tough year for us all and we so much appreciate your kindness in supporting the St. Vincent de Paul Society's good works!

SUPPORT OUR ADVERTISERS!

We appreciate the gracious support of our bulletin by our Advertisers! Please be sure to support our advertisers by calling them first. If you have a business and would like to place an ad, call 1-800-333-3166, ext. 161.

CREMATION & THE CHURCH

On October 25, 2016, the Vatican Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith published a new instruction on the burial of the dead and on the conservation of the ashes in cases of cremation. The instruction reiterated the long held view that the Church is not opposed to the practice of cremation, though it continues to recommend that the bodies of the deceased be buried in cemeteries or other sacred places. **However, the new document insists that ashes should not be kept in private homes and that the scattering of ashes in the air, on land, or at sea is not permitted.** The instruction also insisted that cremains may not be divided among various family members, nor may they be preserved in mementos, pieces of jewelry, or other objects. Please contact Father Albert in the Parish Office with any questions. Brochures about the Rite of Christian Funerals are available at the Church entrances.

SUPPORT CATHOLIC CHARITIES NH

On the weekend of May 2, we will hold our Annual Appeal for Catholic Charities NH. Father Albert will speak about how your support allows Catholic Charities NH to continue to help hundreds of New Hampshire residents and families overcome hardship and create better paths forward. In a year unlike any other, every gift matters. To bring more positive, lasting change to your New Hampshire neighbors in need, visit www.cc-nh.org/everything. Catholic Charities NH thanks you in advance for your prayerful gifts!

EVICTED & EMERGENCY RENTAL ASSISTANCE

If you or someone you know are facing eviction or need emergency rental assistance, help is available. Please call Catholic Charities at 603-889-9431.

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.

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.amazonsmile.com. For questions, please call the Parish Office at 603-382-8324. Be sure to choose:

St Luke the Evangelist Parish, Plaistow.

WHILE AWAY THIS SPRING...

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

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

✠ WEEKLY CALENDAR ✠

Sunday, April 25
12:00 PM Parish Pastoral Council Meeting *Plaistow*

Wednesday, April 28
Holy Angels Church Plaistow open for
private prayer all day

Thursday, April 29
8:30 AM – 8:30 PM Eucharistic Adoration *Newton*

Saturday, May 1
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.

RESTROOM BREAKS DURING MASS

Attention Parents

Please be sure to accompany your young children when they need to use the restroom during Mass. This is for their safety and your peace of mind!

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.



ST. LUKE THE EVANGELIST FOOD PANTRY

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

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

FEED THE
HUNGRY

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

✠ MASS INTENTIONS ✠

Saturday, April 24 ~ Fourth Sunday of Easter
Acts 4:8-12; 1 Jn 3:1-2; Jn 10:11-18

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

Sunday, April 25 ~ Fourth Sunday of Easter
Acts 4:8-12; 1 Jn 3:1-2; Jn 10:11-18

8:00 AM Jane Taylor by the Madore family
Newton

10:00 AM Jack Ronan by the Knights of Columbus,
St. Jude Council #6617
Plaistow

Monday, April 26 ~ Easter Weekday
Acts 11:1-18; Jn 10:1-10

8:00 AM People of the Parish
Newton

Tuesday, April 27 ~ Easter Weekday
Acts 11:19-26; Jn 10:22-30

8:00 AM Maria Lafleur by Frank Lafleur
Plaistow

**Wednesday, April 28 ~ Peter Chanel, Priest and Martyr;
Louis Grignon de Montfort, Priest**

Acts 12:24—13:5a; Jn 12:44-50
6:30 PM Elmer Brotz by the Brotz family
Plaistow

**Thursday, April 29 ~ Catherine of Siena, Virgin and
Doctor of the Church**

Acts 13:13-25; Jn 13:16-20
8:00 AM People of the Parish
Newton

Friday, April 30 ~ Pius V, Pope
Acts 13:26-33; Jn 14:1-6

No Mass

Saturday, May 1 ~ Joseph the Worker
Acts 13:44-52; Jn 14:7-14 (Day)

Acts 9:26-31; 1 Jn 3:18-24; Jn 15:1-8
4:00 PM Nancy Raymond by Pat Zakiewicz
Plaistow

Sunday, May 2 ~ Fifth Sunday of Easter
Acts 9:26-31; 1 Jn 3:18-24; Jn 15:1-8

8:00 AM Beryl Wright and Dolly Green
by the Madore family
Newton

10:00 AM Carl Jesionowski by his family
Plaistow



✠ FAITH FORMATION & PARISH INFORMATION ✠



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

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>

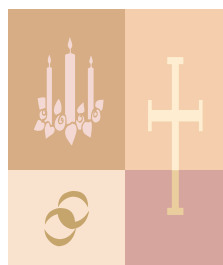


The **Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults** is the process by which people become members of the Roman Catholic Church. Be a good agent of welcome and evangelization! If you or someone you know is interested in inquiring about becoming a member of the Roman Catholic Church, contact Cathy Smith in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



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 in the Parish Office for more information and assistance – there are ways in which your situation might be resolved!



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.

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.

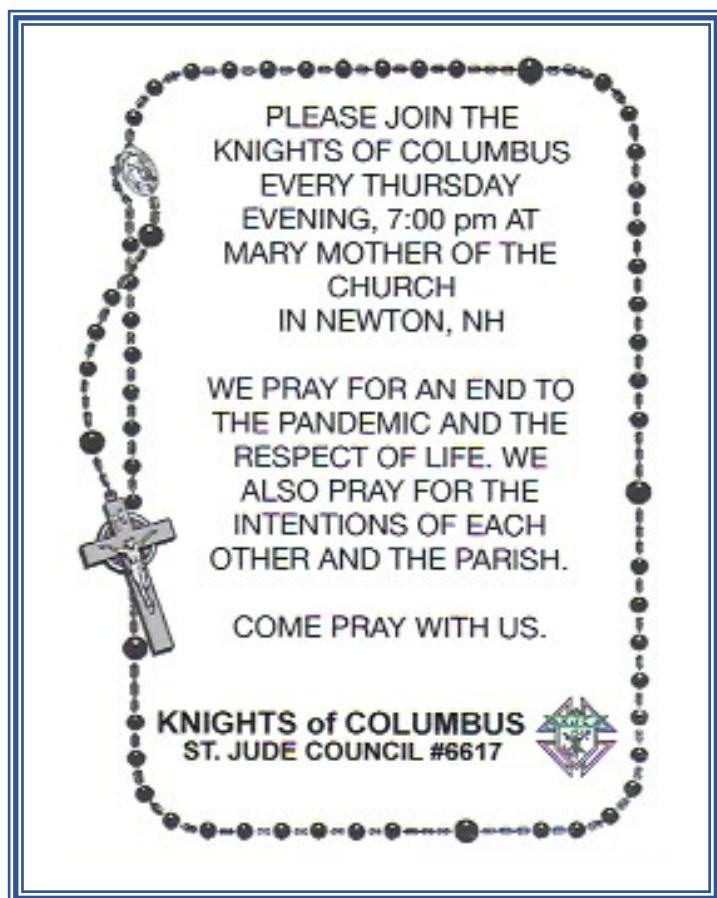
The Church in Plaistow is open all day on Wednesdays for people to stop by and pray before the presence of Jesus in the tabernacle.

✠ 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 ✠



CATHOLIC CHARITIES NH OFFERS SUPPORT PROGRAMS IN SPITE OF THE PANDEMIC...

Here are some resources:

Catholic Charities continues to offer Adoption and Maternity Services (669-3030), Immigration Legal Services (889-9431), and Mental Health Counseling (some on-line - 669-3030). Our Healthcare Service facilities are located throughout the state (call 669-3030 or see our website for a facility close to you). Our Place continues parent education services from pregnancy through the first three years of a child's life (647-2244). St Charles School continues to provide academic, social, emotional and behavioral services to children in grades K-8 (332-4768). And The Food Bank continues to provide food supplies to most food pantries throughout the state.

You may not be aware that Liberty House supports vulnerable veterans with recovery, job placement and wellness programs (669-0761). Monadnock at Home supports seniors in the Monadnock area allowing them to stay independent and remain in their homes (371-0809). Our Caregivers program lends support to homebound seniors and the disabled in the greater Manchester and Nashua areas (622-4948).



DIOCESAN EASTER SERIES

The Diocese of Manchester invites all to join in an Easter Series, "The Resurrection and the Church's Mission in the Public Square." This series is offered to help New Hampshire Catholics reflect more deeply on the Easter message and its meaning today for our state, our country, and the whole world. The full series is available in a free-eBook at catholicnh.org/Easter that contains brief written offerings and short excerpts from various church writings on the topics that are covered for each week of the Easter Season.

SUMMER FUN AND ST. JOE'S

St. Joseph Regional Catholic School is offering "Summer Fun at St. Joe's", a six-week program open to children ages 4 to 8, beginning **June 21, 2021 through August 6, 2021 (not available week of July, 5 2021)**. Each themed week is filled with fun, enriching activities including active time in our beautiful playground. Half day, full day, and before/after care options available. To register, and for more information, email Mrs. Farren: summer@sjrcs.com.

CATHOLIC CHARITIES NH

Your support of Catholic Charities NH has helped create a better path forward for more than 130,700 New Hampshire residents over the past year through emergency assistance, mental health counseling, senior support services, support for homeless veterans, and so much more. As the demand for services – and calls for help – continue to rise, it's because of you that Catholic Charities NH is able to help those facing hardship and crisis build the lives they want to live. Visit www.cc-nh.org/everything to donate and see your gifts in action.

NEW ONLINE SUPPORT GROUP FROM CATHOLIC CHARITIES NH

Divorce / separation can be an uncomfortable and often misunderstood topic, and for those directly impacted, a painful process with many questions often left unanswered. Catholic Charities NH will be hosting its next online support group, "Divorce/Separation: Why me? What can I do?" for those navigating the divorce process or trying to find their way afterward. Participants will learn more about the dynamics of divorce, better understand their options, learn helpful coping strategies, and support others on the same journey. The program will be held via Zoom for six consecutive Wednesdays (at 12:00 Noon) starting **April 21**. To register, visit www.cc-nh.org/supportgroup or call 603-752-1325.



**Easter Flower
Offerings Were Made In
Loving Memory / Honor of:**

*Dan Martin
Robert Hampe
Mary and Ted Hesse
Ed and Mary Thurnquist
Teri Thurnquist George
Deceased Members of the
Martin and Lumnah Families
Rita Ahearn
Herbert Ahearn
Normand Lessard
Alice Lessard
Pat Riley
Michael and Mary Kisiel
Charlene DeBenedetto
Paul J. Stefanski*

*Lisa and Walter Sliviak
Deceased Members of the
Ustick and Stefanski Families
The Osgood Family
The Boutin Family
Mr. & Mrs. John Murphy
Agnes Massei
Patricia Dolan
Beatrice Clark
Mary Donahue
Deceased Members of the
McKinnon and Anderson Families
Margaret and Leon Cote
Eleanora and Robert Davidson
Norman and Paul Cote*

Robert and Teresa Viens
 The Marciano Family
 Salvatore and Anna Musci
 Timothy Hercules
 Louis and Michelina Inzero
 Ted and Mary Sweeney
 Glenn and Dorothy Stanley
 Betty and Mary Nappi
 Phillis Cahill
 Anna Gambordella
 Margaret and Fred Nappi
 Dan and Margurite Driscoll
 John and Millie Healey
 Bobby Driscoll
 John Driscoll
 John Holleran
 Emily Driscoll
 Dick Murray
 Deceased Members of the
 Harper and Sorriento Families
 Jennifer Remick
 Grace Anderson
 Austin Remick
 Sister Jacqueline Gagne
 Harold Lloyd
 Raymond Fournier
 Deceased Members of the
 Krajewski and Viles Families
 Lea M. Roberts
 Krystyna M. Smardz
 Stanislaw K. Smardz
 Karl and Mary Brotz
 Elmer and Joan Brotz
 John and Louise Szematowicz
 Paul Brotz
 Beth Tebbets
 Jack Ronan
 The DeSantis Family in Revere
 The Jones Family in Hyde Park
 Donald King
 Joseph and Ann Manewicz
 Anna and Albert Marcelonis
 Robert and Louis Caron
 Paul Caron
 The Cotter Family
 Molly Lee Wetzel
 David Wetzel
 Salvatore and Virginia Polese
 Victor and Mary Daly
 Kevin Gallant

Margaret Gallant
 Fred Gallant
 Mary Wentworth
 James Wentworth
 Deceased Members of the
 Zakiewicz Family
 Richard Sullivan
 Deceased Members of the
 Sullivan and Kelly Families
 Nora O'Hara
 Deceased Members of the
 O'Hara Family
 Verna Carbone
 Michelle Grimes
 Mary and Gene Vader
 Johana Power
 Harvey and Irene Lee
 Sr. Elizabeth Anne Lee, ofc
 Margie Schwenk
 Deceased Members of the
 Kirkpatrick and Lee Families
 Jean Ballard
 Edwin and Evelyn Sadowski
 George and Althea Rainville
 Jannie Mestogrates
 John and Faith
 John Marcinkowski
 Irene and Rene Bourgault
 Roy Lajoie
 Mr. & Mrs. Roland Chabot
 Our Little Angel
 Our Grampy and Dad, Roy Lajoie
 Mr. & Mrs. Bernard Lajoie
 Aurel and Rose Duhamel
 Rosemary Duhamel
 Jay Duhamel
 Deceased Members of the
 Sheehan and Hofbauer Families
 Peg Cerasuolo
 Deceased Members of the
 Lanseigne Family
 Deceased Members of the
 Emerson Family
 Deceased Members of the
 Gagnon Family
 Deceased Members of the
 Charest Family
 Deceased Members of the
 Miele Family
 Joan Schwartz

*Deceased Members of the
McCarriston Family
Deceased Members of the
Carrafiello Family
Deceased Members of the
Merola Family
Deceased Members of the
Rolands Family
Deceased Members of the
Boldi Family
Deceased Members of the
Richards and Souza Families
Sophie Bengtson
Stephen Antkowiak
Ella Tomaselli
Peter Tomaselli
Paul Antkowiak
Walter and Mary Wozny
Ted and Lillian Karavedas
Billy Witkom
Jack Ronan
Dan O'Leary
Deceased Members of the
Ronan, O'Leary, and Doherty Families
Deceased Members of the
Gaudreau Family
Deceased Members of the
DeSimone Family
Deceased Members of the
Aloia Family
Deceased Members of the
Solari Family
Deceased Members of the
Ayers and Obert Families
John D. Troy
Earl and Marie Stack
Lionel LaFleur
Louise LaFleur
Lionel LaFleur, Jr.
Helen Sielicki
Charles Sielicki, Sr.
Cecelia Sielicki
Robert B. Tremblay, Sr.
Deceased Members of the
Tremblay and Ouellet Families
Doreen O'Leary
The Bettencourt Family
The Ducharme Family
Carol Hantges
John "Jack" Rogers*

*Mary and Ted Hesse
The Halko Family
Robert Girard
Barbara Girard
William Poist
William Esposito
Margaret Preece
Ann Sullivan
Jesus
Mary
Joseph
My Loved Ones
The Fitzpatrick Family
The O'Shea Family
Sarah McCarthy
Ryan Fitzpatrick
Gail Sanford
Eileen and George Balzer
Robin Trout
The Murphy Family
The Lueders Family
Cornelius and Catherine Ahearn
Raymond and Anna Lynch*



Eastertime

A Sense of the Season

First, we kept the forty days, with praying, fasting and giving alms. Then we celebrated the three days of Christ's passion, dying and rising. Now we delight in the fifty days, with rejoicing, feasting and giving witness! The season of Easter is fifty days long. It is a time of unbridled joy, of exuberant rejoicing. The church tells us, "The fifty days from Easter Sunday to Pentecost are celebrated in joyful exultation as one feast day, or better as one 'great Sunday.' These above all others are days for the singing of the Alleluia." (*General Norms for the Liturgical Year and Calendar*, #22)

Why is Eastertime fifty days? The ancient cultures that gave us the Bible had great respect for numbers. They believed that numbers contained hints about God and the meaning of life. The number seven was thought to contain fullness: There are seven days in the week, according to God's original way of ordering time, creating all that there is and resting. So if you multiply 7 times 7, you have "fullness times fullness."

But wait! 7×7 is 49! With God, there is always more — more than we can ever imagine. So our holy season of Easter is even more than "fullness times fullness." It's "fullness times fullness" and then some: $7 \times 7 + 1$. That's what love is like: more than we can ever imagine. That's what heaven is going to be like: more than we can ever imagine.

The fifty days are days for looking for the risen Lord among us, for hearing in each other's stories of rising from the big and small deaths, days when we experience something of Christ's triumphs. That's why

we look to the newly baptized, robed in bright new clothes and oily with gladness: At Easter, they died and rose with Christ! Now they take their places with us. Together, like the apostles who were so full of the Spirit that people thought they were drunk, we rush about with good and giddy news: Death is not the last word! Life and love are forever! And slowly, painstakingly, we work together, together with Christ, to change this world into the world to come. Sing Alleluia!

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The Gospel at Home

This Sunday's Gospel: John 10:11–18

In this Sunday's Gospel, Jesus compares himself to a good shepherd who knows and cares for his sheep. This image of Jesus as the Good Shepherd is one of the oldest images of Jesus in Christian art. The Good Shepherd cares for the world and demonstrates how everyone can care for the earth and its people.

Exploring the Gospel Message

Seeds (Preschool): This week, your child played a good shepherd game called “Getting Home” in class. Invite your child to teach the family how to play the game. Talk about ways your family helps and cares for one another. Talk about ways Jesus is a Good Shepherd for your family.

Promise (Grades K–1): Your child learned about Jesus the Good Shepherd. They also learned to recognize people in their lives who care for them like shepherds. Talk about the ways your family cares for other people and how your child can learn more about care by watching over any pets you may have. Be sure to display the Good Shepherd project your child made in class.

Good News (Grades 2–3): While learning about Jesus the Good Shepherd, your child's class also learned how to care for the great gift of Creation. Talk together about ways your family is already caring for the earth and its resources. Talk, too, about ways you can do even better. Invite your child to teach your family the “We Care for Creation” game. Also discuss what a parish is and who leads the parish starting with the pastor.

Venture (Grades 4–6): While learning about Jesus the Good Shepherd, your child discovered that a shepherd knows, protects, and unites his flock. As part of understanding this Gospel, the class explored ways to protect the earth. Ask your child to share why Pope Francis added caring for Creation as a new Work of Mercy. Then talk about actions your family can do to be good shepherds by caring for the environment. Pick one or two actions and promise to help one another follow through. Fill out the Weekly Water Use Survey together as a family and see how your family works to conserve water.

Visions (Grades 7–9): This week, your son or daughter's class took a quiz to see how well they do caring for our world. They learned how Father Michael McGivney cared for immigrants to the United States. Discuss how this work fits into our care for God's Creation. They also explored Pope Francis actions of adding care for Creation as a Work of Mercy, plus he declared this Church year as the Year of Saint Joseph. The lesson includes a prayer for Saint Joseph that your family can pray together.

Pray Together

Pray together a few verses of Psalm 23: “The LORD is my shepherd; there is nothing I lack. In green pastures he makes me lie down; to still waters he leads me; he restores my soul... Indeed, goodness and mercy will pursue me all the days of my life; I will dwell in the house of the LORD for endless days” (Psalm 23:1–2, 6). You can find the full text of this psalm in your family Bible.



CREMATION?

While burial or entombment of the body remains the preference and is encouraged by the Church, cremation may be chosen for sufficient reason. The Revised Code of Canon Law states: “The Church earnestly recommends the pious custom of burial be retained; but it does not forbid cremation, unless this is chosen for reasons which are contrary to Christian teaching.” (CIC, c. 1176.3)

When is Cremation Allowed? Cremation may be requested for hygienic, economic or other reasons of a public or private nature. Some examples include: transfer of the remains to a distant place, possible avoidance of considerable expense, a severe psychological fear of burial in the ground or in a tomb. The selection of cremation was the specific choice of the individual before death. When requested by the family of the deceased for what also might be determined as an appropriate pastoral reason.

If a body is to be cremated, is it preferable that cremation take place after the Funeral Liturgy?

It is recommended that priority be given to the celebration of the Eucharistic Liturgy with the body of the deceased present.

Can a body be cremated prior to the Funeral Liturgy? What arrangements are different?

In the Diocese of Manchester, it is permitted to celebrate the funeral liturgy in the presence of the cremated remains. The cremated remains are to be accorded the same respect given to the corporeal remains of a human body. This includes the way they are carried, the care and attention to appropriate placement and transport, and their final disposition. The container in which the cremated remains are placed should be dignified in nature. The cremated remains are to be positioned on a suitable table in the same place where the casket is usually positioned. They may also be placed near the Paschal Candle during the funeral liturgy. The candle and the cremated remains may be placed in the sanctuary so as to be visible to all.

What is required for the proper and reverent disposition of cremated remains?

Cremated remains are to be buried or inurned. They should not be buried on private land, but are to be buried in a cemetery or entombed in a mausoleum or columbarium. **The practice of scattering cremated remains on the sea, from the air, or on the ground is not permitted.** If burial takes place at sea, according to local custom, the cremated remains are to be kept intact in a solid and durable container, and not scattered.

Keeping the cremated remains in a private home, funeral home or any other place is not considered to be the reverent disposition that the Church requires. **The integrity of the cremated remains is always to be respected.** The cremated remains of one deceased person may not be mixed with the cremated remains of another person. It is not permitted to divide the cremated remains and retain, inter or entomb them in more than one place.

It is also not permitted to divide the cremated remains in such a way that they are contained in lockets or jewelry. Any other practice which violates the integrity of the cremated remains and impedes reverent and proper burial/disposition is prohibited. Whenever possible, appropriate memorialization should be utilized at the place of burial.

Consult your cemetery office for all available options for the respectful burial, disposition and memorialization of cremated remains.



Bringing Home the Word

Fourth Sunday of Easter (B)

April 25, 2021

A Love-Filled Sacrifice

By Fr. Mark Haydu, LC

At the center of his painting, *Hands of the Crucified*, Renato Guttuso (1912-1987) places the piercing reality of pain represented by the hand of Jesus. The dark reds, blacks, and blues give way to the brightness of the oranges, yellows, and whites. This choice of palate is purposeful. Death is depicted with the same palate as a sunset, when darkness closes in on the light. But then night gives way to the colors of the sunrise when new life springs forth. The brutal darkness that leads to his death is replaced by the light-giving act of the love of God.

The Good Shepherd also shows the beauty of this love-filled sacrifice. This is why the Father loves Jesus; because he lays down his life for us. He has the power to do so and does it freely. This is because the Shepherd's mission and vocation is centered on the good of the sheep. They are the center of his daily cares and concerns. Jesus tells us that you and I are the utter focus of his heart and life. You are worth it. It is a beautiful thing to be loved by someone. Imagine if this someone is God himself.

As modern as this painting looks, the artist honors a traditional symbol. Byzantine art often depicted the blood from Jesus' side falling into a chalice to connect the passion of Jesus with the eucharistic sacrifice. Notice that the artist does the same by showing the blood falling into a simple chalice with a host at its center. +

Sunday Readings

Acts 4:8-12

[Peter said,] "He is 'the stone rejected by you, the builders, which has become the cornerstone.'"

1 John 3:1-2

See what love the Father has bestowed on us that we may be called the children of God. Yet so we are.

John 10:11-18

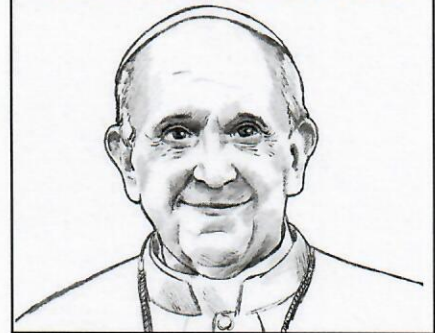
[Jesus said,] "I am the good shepherd. A good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep."

*Jesus tells us that you
and I are the utter
focus of his heart
and life.*

A Word from Pope Francis

True rest is not simple, because there is false rest and true rest....Man has never rested as much as today, yet man has never experienced as much emptiness as today! Opportunities to amuse oneself, to go out, cruises, travels; but many things do not give you fullness of heart. Indeed, they do not give you rest.

—General Audience, September 5, 2018



REFLECTION QUESTIONS



- Jesus, how well do I imitate your love by sacrificing for others?
- Do I seek salvation, peace, and healing from Jesus?

Words That Change Hearts

By Kathleen M. Basi

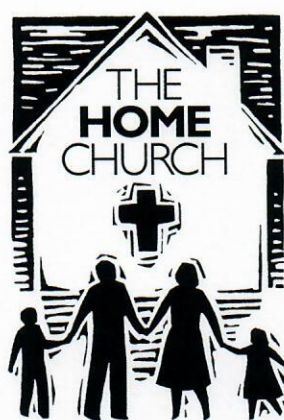
It's really hard to say "I'm sorry."

Maybe it's a pride thing. We want to believe we're good people, and rightly or wrongly, admitting fault calls that into question. Plus, it leaves us vulnerable. There's always a chance that the other person won't accept our apology. We no longer have control over the direction of the relationship—we've given the control to someone else.

However, as difficult as it is to say "I'm sorry," it's even more difficult to say "I forgive you." In fact, most people don't say it at all. They tend to say "It's OK" or "Don't worry about it" even though clearly it was not OK, or an apology wouldn't have been necessary.

The words "I forgive you" feel incredibly presumptuous. It's as if we're putting ourselves on a pedestal of self-righteousness: Look at me; I'm so holy I can forgive you. It seems better for the relationship if we pretend we were square in the first place.

At a deeper level, though, those three words are so challenging because they actually require a change of heart. They're



"I'm sorry" and "I forgive you" are gifts of self.

hard to say, because often we don't want to forgive. We'd rather gloss over the offense and pretend to dismiss it while secretly burying it in a deep emotional hole, where we can dig it up and mull it over at our leisure.

But the hardest words to say are often the most important. "I'm sorry" and "I forgive you" are gifts of self. An apology is a gift of one's vulnerability. Forgiveness is a gift of unconditional love. In both cases, simply saying the words

changes our hearts.

There are words within the sacraments of the Church that are "efficacious" (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 1131). They don't require an accompanying action—the words themselves are the action. When your confessor says "your sins are forgiven," that's it. The words have done the work.

Laypeople can't forgive others' sins, but our words do have great power to move our own hearts. It's almost impossible to say "I forgive you," for instance, to someone who has hurt you unless you really mean it. (Just try it sometime.)

Of course, it's not always that simple. Some wounds are fathoms deep—layered by time, distance, and severity. Yet, choosing repentance and forgiveness in the relationships of the here and now might well be the key to unlocking healing for older, deeper hurts as well.

It puts us closer to the heart of the God whose forgiveness and mercy know no bounds. +

PRAYER

Risen Lord, you are the Good Shepherd who watches over us and protects us from all harm. Give me the courage to be a loving shepherd and advocate for the poor and vulnerable.

From Hopeful Meditations for Every Day of Easter Through Pentecost, Rev. Warren J. Savage and Mary Ann McSweeney

WEEKDAY READINGS

April 26-May 1

Monday, Easter Weekday:
Acts 11:1–18 / Jn 10:1–10

Tuesday, Easter Weekday:
Acts 11:19–26 / Jn 10:22–30

Wednesday, Easter Weekday:
Acts 12:24–13:5a / Jn 12:44–50

Thursday, St. Catherine of Siena:
Acts 13:13–25 / Jn 13:16–20

Friday, Easter Weekday:
Acts 13:26–33 / Jn 14:1–6

Saturday, Easter Weekday:
Acts 13:44–52 / Jn 14:7–14

Bringing Home
the Word 
April 24, 2021

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