

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!

May 13, 2021

Ascension \$ 849.00

May 16, 2021

Offertory \$7,109.96

Catholic Comm. \$ 971.00



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

May 23	Fuel
May 30	No Second Collection
June 6	Property Management
June 13	No Second Collection
June 20	Fuel

Suggested Weekly Contribution Based on Income

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

Suggested Weekly Contribution Based on a Percentage Increase

Your Current Offertory Contribution	25% Increase	30% Increase	40% Increase
\$75.00	\$93.75	\$97.50	\$105.00
\$50.00	\$62.50	\$65.00	\$70.00
\$40.00	\$50.00	\$52.00	\$56.00
\$35.00	\$43.75	\$45.50	\$49.00
\$30.00	\$37.50	\$39.00	\$42.00
\$25.00	\$31.25	\$32.50	\$35.00
\$20.00	\$25.00	\$26.00	\$28.00
\$15.00	\$18.75	\$19.50	\$21.00
\$10.00	\$12.50	\$13.00	\$14.00
\$5.00	\$6.25	\$6.50	\$7.00

✠ PARISH NEWS ✠

PENTECOST VESPERS

All are invited to Pentecost Vespers at **6:00 PM** in **Newton** on Pentecost Sunday, **May 23, 2021**.

FOR OUR RECORDS

We need your help to keep our records current. If there are any births, deaths, marriages, moves, or address changes in your family, please notify the Parish Office at 603-382-8324 or by email at jtremlay@stlukeetheevangelist.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>.



The Sanctuary Candle in Holy Angels Church will burn this week in loving memory of **Mark Hammond** by Colleen and Family

The Sanctuary Candle in Mary, Mother of the Church will burn this week in loving memory of **Kenny Jenkins** by the Jenkins & Statezni Families



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.

NEWTON CAMPUS CLOSING

With painting scheduled for the buildings on the Newton campus **beginning the week of May 24**, all Liturgies held at Newton are moved to Plaistow for the duration of the project. This means that daily Mass at Newton will be transferred to Plaistow, and Thursday Eucharistic Adoration will also transfer to Plaistow. **This does not change Sunday Liturgy, which will continue to be celebrated at 8 am in Newton as usual.** Please visit our Parish website at www.stlukenh.org for further updates.



BLESSING OF FATHERS

A special blessing of Fathers will be given at all Masses on the weekend of **Father's Day, June 20, 2021**.

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.

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.

PENTECOST SUNDAY

✠ WEEKLY CALENDAR ✠

Sunday, May 23
 12:00 PM Parish Pastoral Council Meeting *Plaistow*
 6:00 PM Vespers *Newton*

Wednesday, May 26
 Holy Angels Church Plaistow open for
 private prayer all day

Thursday, May 27
 8:30 AM – 8:30 PM Eucharistic Adoration *Newton*

Saturday, May 29
 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.



**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.**

✠ MASS INTENTIONS ✠

Saturday, May 22 ~ Pentecost Vigil
Gn 11:1-9; Ex 19:3-8a, 16-20; Ez 37:1-4; Jl 3:1-5;
Rom 8:22-27; Jn 7:37-39
 4:00 PM Beth Tebbetts by Pat Zakiewicz
Plaistow

Sunday, May 23 ~ Pentecost Sunday
Acts 2:1-11; 1 Cor 12:3b-7, 12-13; Jn 20:19-23
 8:00 AM Mickey and Louis Inzero by the Stanley family
Newton
 10:00 AM Kenny Jenkins
 by the Jenkins and Statezni families
Plaistow

Monday, May 24 ~ The Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of the Church
Gn 3:9-15, 20 or Acts 1:12:14; Jn 19:25-34
 8:00 AM Mary Walsh by Cathy Smith
Newton

Tuesday, May 25 ~ Bede the Venerable, Priest and Doctor of the Church; Gregory VII, Pope; Mary Magdalene de' Pazzi, Virgin
Sir 35:1-12; Mk 10:28-31
 8:00 AM Mark Hammond by Colleen and family
Plaistow

Wednesday, May 26 ~ Philip Neri, Priest
Sir 36:1, 4-5a, 10-17; Mk 10:32-45
 6:30 PM Bernie Szematowicz by the Brotz family
Plaistow

Thursday, May 27 ~ Augustine of Canterbury, Bishop
Sir 42:15-25; Mk 10:46-52
 8:00 AM Roy Lajoie (Birthday Remembrance)
 by his family
Newton

Friday, May 28 ~ Weekday
Sir 44:1, 9-13; Mk 11:11-26
 No Mass

Saturday, May 29 ~ Paul VI, Pope
Sir 51:12cd-20; Mk 11:27-33 (Day)
Dt 4:32-34, 39-40; Rom 8:14-17; Mt 28:16-20 (Vigil)
 4:00 PM Verna Carbone
 by Raymond and Beverley Viglione
Plaistow

Sunday, May 30 ~ The Most Holy Trinity
Dt 4:32-34, 39-40; Rom 8:14-17; Mt 28:16-20
 8:00 AM Gemma Martin by Janice Bettencourt
Newton
 10:00 AM Veronica Webster (13th Anniversary)
 by her daughters
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>

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!

Maybe it's time

To re-connect with your Church

To re-new yourself and others through the unique power of the Holy Spirit

If you are a baptized Catholic, have received your First Communion, but decided against Confirmation as a teen, mabe NOW IS THE TIME for you to re-consider **Confirmation**.

God *does* care about you. *For some reason*, God chose you to be born into a family that would bring you to the Catholic Church for Baptism. So maybe – just maybe – now...it's time...to make your own choice. **Confirmation**. If you are 18 or over and were never Confirmed, contact the Parish Office (603-382-8324) or www.stlukenh.org. With little time and reflection, practicing Catholics can be prepared to celebrate the gift of the Spirit in their lives. **Maybe it's your time.**



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 ✠

FROM THE DIOCESE OF MANCHESTER

Regarding the so called “Our Lady of Mount Carmel Catholic Mission” in Salem, NH

It has come to the attention of the Diocese of Manchester that a group which calls itself “The Religious Congregation of Mary Immaculate Queen” (“CMRI”) has established a church in Salem by the name of “Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Mission.” On its website, this group indicates that it offers the Tridentine Rite Mass (sometimes referred to as the “Traditional” or “Latin” Mass), “Catechism” classes for children, and “Confessions” and other sacraments.

THE SO-CALLED RELIGIOUS CONGREGATION OF MARY IMMACULATE QUEEN IS NOT IN COMMUNION WITH THE ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH. They are not Catholic. Neither are the so-called sisters at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Convent in Atkinson. These women are NOT Religious connected to the Catholic Church in any way.

The members of CMRI are “*sedevacantists*,” meaning that they believe that the current pope is not truly the pope and that the See of St. Peter is vacant. They do not recognize Pope Francis as head of the Church, and they also reject the Second Vatican Council, the 1983 Code of Canon Law, and the Reform of the Liturgy. **Catholics are not permitted to receive the sacraments from CMRI ministers except under the most extraordinary circumstances.**

This statement is issued out of pastoral and spiritual concern for those who may erroneously present themselves for reception of the sacraments at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Mission. If you have any questions about the relationship between CMRI and the Roman Catholic Church, please contact your Pastor.

For those who have a desire to attend a celebration of the Traditional Latin (Tridentine) Liturgy within the Church, note that Saint Stanislaus Parish in Nashua is a Tridentine Rite Parish fully in communion with the Church and under the Sponsorship of the Diocese of Manchester and staffed by a priest of the Fraternity of Saint Peter. The Parish is located at : 5 Green Street, Nashua, NH 03064-2641 **Phone:** (603) 598-0400 **Website:** <http://www.latinmassnashua.org>.



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.

PARISH OFFICE CLOSED

In observance of the Memorial Day holiday, the Parish Office will be **closed on Monday, May 31**. The office will reopen at 8:30 AM on Tuesday, June 1.

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

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).

THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS ST JUDE OPEN GOLF TOURNAMENT

WE ARE LOOKING FOR SPONSORS

THE KNIGHTS again this year are sponsoring the St Jude Open Golf Tournament, **June 5, 2021** at the Apple Hill Golf Club in East Kingston, NH. The tournament has sold out in record time with 144 golfers registering to play. All proceeds raised will assist two local families in dire financial need.

How can you help??? You can become a sponsor, and/or let us know of a company or business that would like be a sponsor. Sponsorships range from \$100 to \$500, but any donation would be gratefully appreciated. For your \$100 sponsorship, your name, in memory of someone special or in the name of a cause important to you, will be displayed on a golfball sign and placed on one of the holes for the golfers to see.

To learn more about the SJO and sponsorships please visit: tinyurl.com/SJO2021

Sponsorship checks should be made out to *St Jude Open* and mailed to St Jude Open, PO Box 589, Plaistow, NH 03865.

For centuries Pentecost has been one of the premier days of the Church year. The Church in different places has celebrated Pentecost with all kinds of symbols and traditions. Customary at Pentecost were branches of fresh foliage, bundles of green grasses and reeds, and a large number of familiar spring flowers: roses, poppies, peonies and irises.

On Pentecost, people feasted on the first pickings of their gardens: asparagus, peas, lettuces and herbs, rhubarb and strawberries. With pastures lush and with flocks and herds giving birth, the abundance of dairy products transformed winter's fast into springtime's great feast.

These signs of the season came to be interpreted as emblems of the life-giving Spirit, as reminders of God's covenant with all creation.

On the Jewish calendar, *Shavuot*, the feast of "Weeks," falls 50 days -seven weeks-after Passover (*Shavuot*) is also called Pentecost, from the Greek word for 50.) The days between Passover and *Shavuot* are the time of the grain harvest in many Mediterranean lands. This most important harvest of the year must be successful, though even a good crop of grain is extremely vulnerable just before it is gathered in. When grain ripens, it grows brittle and is easily broken by wind, easily rotted by rain. The 50 days in Jewish lore are a time of pensiveness, of holding one's breath until the harvest has been safely brought into storage.



Even in more northerly climates we know the anxieties of spring. When will the fields dry out so that we can plant? When will the rains come so that the seed will sprout? A hailstorm can wreck an orchard, a cold snap can kill newly hatched chicks, and a dust storm can asphyxiate a herd.

Pentecost became a celebration of the end of anxiety – a feast of fulfillment. Some of its customary images are dishes prepared from milk and honey as signs of our arrival in the “promised land” of the settled days of summer. Cheesecake was just about invented as a Pentecost delicacy.

Another Hebrew title for Pentecost is *Yom ha-Bikkurim*, “the day of firstfruits.” A firstfruit is an offering to God of the first of each harvest. Throughout the Fifty Days, an offering of barley was made to God, and at Pentecost the offering changed to the first sheaves of ripe wheat.

In Jewish and Christian folklore, Pentecost is associated with ripe, red strawberries, golden apricots and cherries - the first of the summer fruits. This is just about the time of year these fruits grow ripe in the warmer places of North America, and markets everywhere have them in abundance.

The Pentecost custom of filling homes and houses of worship with lush greenery was kept by Jews and Christian alike. The custom still lives on in central and eastern Europe. There is great mystery in a simple green branch or a stalk of green grass.

Not that many weeks ago the earth seemed lifeless, but in time the ground softened, the buds swelled and blossomed, and the Passover arrived. Now that the season is complete, the days have gotten long and warm, trees are green, and the earth has grown fruitful.

The branches and bundles of green grasses may remind us of phrases from the Pentecost sequence- *Veni Creator Spiritus* – “*dulce refrigerium*,” “sweet refreshment,” and “*in aestu temperies*,” “mildness in the heat.” These are attributes of the Holy Spirit.

City folks sometimes substituted paper roses and green foliage for the real thing. The art of cut paper added a lovely dimension to Pentecost and sometimes was combined with real greenery and flowers. Paper birds, flowers, garlands and other ornaments would be used to festoon whole small trees cut and brought inside. In past generations, Christmas was not the only season for decorated trees. Many Byzantine churches still use small birches and poplars in their decoration, especially of the front doors. Some Jewish synagogues spread their floors with sweet-smelling hay and decorate the ark of the scriptures with tree branches.

The story of the covenant on Sinai, where God came down in fire and wind, became the principal focus of the festival of *Shavuot*. The covenant completes the Passover. The Israelites kept vigil while Moses received the tablets of the law; thus keeping vigil throughout the night became a Jewish custom for *Shavuot*. It also became a custom for Christians at Pentecost so that Easter time would end the way it began, with a nighttime vigil.

We Christians add the story of the descent of the Holy Spirit to the other stories we celebrate at Pentecost, the stories we have received as a legacy from the Jewish celebration. With special delight we contrast the story in Acts of the Spirit’s gift of the understanding of languages with the disruption of languages on the tower of Babel. Pentecost can be for us a kind of festival of the nations - like Epiphany, the herald of a world at peace.

Milk and Honey

Cows love fresh, green grass. Late spring must be their favorite time of year. An old English title for these days is “three-milk” because well-fed cows need to be milked several times a day. The result is that milk, cream, butter, cheese and yogurt are especially abundant in spring.

The Jewish holiday of Shavuot—50 days after Passover—is celebrated by eating sweetened dairy dishes such as cheesecakes, blintzes and rice pudding. So is the Christian holiday of Pentecost—50 days after Easter Sunday. Jews and Christians learned this delicious custom from one another.

Shavuot is a celebration of the people’s arrival at Mount Sinai after their escape from slavery in Egypt. In fire and wind, God came down on the mountain to give the people their holy law. God promised that if they stayed faithful to this law, they would prosper in “the land flowing with milk and honey.”

Pentecost is a celebration of the fiery, windy outpouring of the Holy Spirit on Jesus’ disciples. In giving us the Spirit, Jesus keeps his promise to be with us until the end of time. If you can imagine it, Shavuot and Pentecost are like wedding days, promises of love and faithfulness.

All holidays need their once-a-year treats. Every Pentecost you can enjoy a taste of “milk and honey” by serving cheesecake for dessert. Topped with “tongues of fire” (in the form of burning candles), it’s a traditional way to rejoice in the “birthday of the church” and the “wedding of heaven and earth.”



Pentecost Sunday



Getty Images

Pentecost marks the occasion of God sending the Holy Spirit upon Jesus' disciples after his Resurrection. The book of Acts describes how the disciples were gathered together in one place on the day of Pentecost. The Jewish feast of Pentecost (Shavuot or the Feast of Weeks) was a day that commemorated the giving of the law to Moses, a day soon to be marked as well by the giving of the Holy Spirit. On Pentecost, the Holy Spirit gave the disciples the strength to fulfill their commission to spread the Good News of Jesus. The Solemnity of Pentecost, which crowns and fulfills the Easter season, is a good time to pray for a deeper indwelling of the Holy Spirit.

Prayer to the Holy Spirit

Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful.
And kindle in them the fire of your love.
Send forth your Spirit and they shall be created.
And you shall renew the face of the earth.

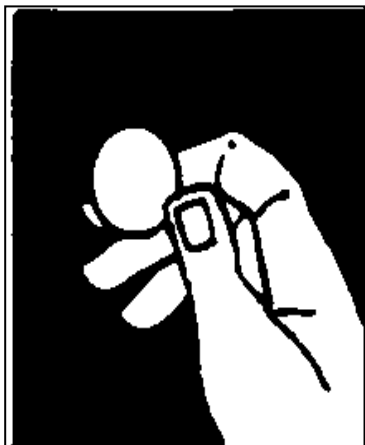
The Marian title of "Mother of the Church," was given to the Blessed Mother by Bl. Pope Paul VI at the Second Vatican Council and today's memorial was decreed by Pope Francis in 2018.

Memorial of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of the Church (June 1)

In 2018, the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments inscribed the Memorial of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of the Church in the General Roman Calendar to be observed on the Monday after Pentecost, taking precedence over an obligatory Memorial that coincides with it.



OUR COMMUNION: OUR PEACE AND OUR PROMISE



In our life together as Catholic Christians, we rejoice in the great gift of the Holy Eucharist. We believe as a Church that Jesus is always present in our world, but Christ is especially present when we gather for worship. The primary day for gathering is Sunday, when we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus. When we come together for Sunday Liturgy, we believe as Catholics that Jesus is “truly present” in the Word, in the Sacrament, in the gathered Assembly and in the person of the priest.

Jesus tells us to eat his flesh and drink his blood. We must avoid an overly literalistic understanding of these words. We do not literally eat flesh or drink blood. Jesus’ command to eat his body and drink his blood can only make sense if we understand the words body and blood as designating the whole person, the real glorified Christ as he exists today in our midst.

How do we approach this great moment? It should be with reverence and with the knowledge that the Lord calls each of us - and all of us as a community - to enter into the mystery of the Lord’s dying and rising. A few things are important about our reception of communion:

The Church calls us to fast from all food and drink at least one hour before receiving. This is more of a spiritual exercise than an ascetical practice. When fasting, our minds, bodies and spirits are better prepared to receive the gifts God gives us.

We all “receive” communion from the hands of another.

“Taking” communion is not part of the Catholic perspective on the sacrament of the Eucharist. Jesus feeds us... we are needy and unworthy. That feeding comes through the ministry of another of our brothers or sisters. The Bishops of the United States have authorized two methods of receiving communion under the form of the host: on the tongue, or in the hand. One should determine one’s preference, and after a bow of the head in reverence to the sacred Host, respond “*Amen*,” open the mouth or have a “throne” made with one’s two hands open to receive the Body of the Lord. *The host is then immediately consumed.*

We believe as a Church that Jesus is always present in our world, but he is especially present when we gather for worship.

How do we approach this great moment?

In the Diocese of Manchester, our Bishop has made it clear that a sign of adoration before receiving the Eucharist is a wonderful way of showing reverence and awe before the Holy Gifts God gives to us. ***A simple bow of the head is indicated in the 2001 General Instruction of the Roman Missal.*** One then receives the Eucharist standing, joined in procession with the whole Assembly gathered - in communion with the Church. Any gestures or actions which detract from this communion are distracting and a serious sign of dis-union with the Assembly gathered and praying together.

Continued on next page...

The assembly is encouraged by the Church to receive from the cup, after having the cup withdrawn for centuries. This in no way detracts from the belief that the “whole Christ, body, blood, soul and divinity” is present in either element of the Eucharist. The Church’s return to a common cup follows the very words of Jesus, “take and eat... take and drink...” and the instructions and admonitions of the great Christian teachers such as Paul of Tarsus and Augustine of Hippo. ***Receiving from the cup means first bowing one’s head in a gesture of adoration, responding “Amen” to the minister, and then drinking from the cup.***

There is no scientific evidence at all of any person “catching something” from this act. In fact, you are more likely to catch cold from sitting next to a family member at home than from sharing in the cup at communion time. ***Receiving under both forms is a fuller and better sign of our participation in the Eucharistic action. Eating and drinking fulfills in the best way possible the commands of the Lord Jesus.***



Receiving from the cup means just that. Self-intinction (dipping the host into the cup yourself) is not part of our observance and breaks the communal sharing of the Eucharist in a serious way. While intinction is used in some places, it is not a preferred way of receiving communion according to our U.S. Bishops, and **NEVER** in the Catholic Church is a communicant allowed to complete this action on his or her own. ***We receive communion as a holy gift from God.*** Our conduct in receiving should show how important we believe that gift to be.

Children who are not of the age to receive (7 by law in the Church) should not receive communion. This means that parents have to keep an eye on little ones - while still respecting their desire to “join the procession.” **DO bring up children in the communion procession**, and have them cross their arms over their chest, and the priest or minister of communion will simply bless them. ***Parents should never “share” communion they have received with their young children.*** While on the surface a pious act, it breaks up the unity supposed by the sharing of the Eucharist. When they have reached the proper age and are prepared, children are admitted to communion for the first time. That day is a highlight in the lives of many a Catholic boy and girl, as well it should be.

To eat Jesus’ body and drink His blood is to enter into a true encounter with the person of Jesus. This is the full meaning of the Eucharist. It is a dynamic meeting with the Risen One. But it is not a solitary experience. We do not come to the Eucharist simply as isolated individuals, but rather as persons who are members of a community, as persons who are the Body of Christ. The Eucharist is not just Jesus with me, but Jesus with us, and all of us with one another. And we are not together hiding from the world: We are Christ’s body in the world God created, every day, every hour of our lives.

In a word, Jesus’ presence is not static: He is not satisfied just to be there. He is there to act dynamically in order to change our lives. In the Eucharist we meet Christ, and are challenged by his presence in the assembly of his people. He is present to make us whole people. He is there to bring harmony and peace into our lives, our families, our country, and our world. He comes to make us experience ourselves as his body in the world.

We receive communion as a holy gift from God....


Saint Luke the Evangelist


Religious Education 2021-22

The Parish is anticipating returning to our regular Religious Education Programs in the Fall of 2021. Currently enrolled families have been sent a mailing with Registration materials, Registration materials are available at the Church entrances.

All our programs may have to contend with a restrictions involving social distancing and the wearing of masks. Since we are always looking to protect each other, students will have to observe these practices if they continue to be mandated by our Diocese.

Students K – 8 should be registered for Religious Education on Sunday morning.

 **Beginning in the Fall we will resume our Religious Education program for students in K - 8 with Sunday dismissal at the 10:00 am Liturgy at Plaistow.** As in years past, students will be dismissed at the beginning of Liturgy for their own Liturgy of the Word downstairs in the Hall, then they will proceed to their group meetings in individual classrooms. They will return to church at the time of the recitation of the Creed for the rest of the Liturgy.

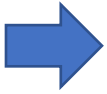
 Sacramental Preparation will also return in the Fall. Students in the second grade are eligible to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation, and students in the third grade are eligible to celebrate the Sacraments of Confirmation and Eucharist.



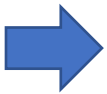
The Parish will sponsor a program ready for older students who may have “missed” Sacramental celebrations, and programs as needed for students with special needs. Contact Cathy Smith or Father Albert in the Parish Office for more information about these opportunities.



Beginning this Fall our Parish will also offer a resource session for all high school age students immediately following the 10:00 am Liturgy at Plaistow. This program is designed to offer high school age students an opportunity for learning and discussion about our Catholic tradition. In addition, these sessions may also lead to helping students who wish to receive the Sacraments of the Church, especially the Sacrament of Confirmation. Registration for the High School Resource Program is open to all high school students and can be found on the Religious Education Registration Form.



Our Parish program depends on volunteers who give of themselves and so witness by deeds of service to the Way of the Lord Jesus. We welcome adults to help the Religious Education Program as a Catechist, Aide, Hall Monitor or Substitute. All volunteers must complete a Diocesan Application, a mandated Diocesan Child Safety program and a background check.



Adults are welcome to consider any of our Adult Faith Formation programs offered in person or remotely, please consult the Bulletin or call Cathy Smith, our Pastoral Associate, for more information.

**Please contact the Parish Office at 603.382.8324
or visit stlukenh.org for more information**

Restore • Renew • Proclaim

the Hope that is Christ



The Diocese of Manchester continues to strengthen and renew faith formation in our parish, school and home school communities. Through this process we are being called anew to “Restore, Renew and Proclaim the Hope that is Christ.”

- Our Diocese has reimagined our sacrament preparation processes to include a return to celebrating the sacraments of initiation in their **restored order**: Baptism, Confirmation, Eucharist.

What is Lifelong Faith Formation?

Lifelong faith formation is a process of growing in the faith that begins with baptism. Immersed in the life of the Trinity, we are adopted sons and daughters of God our Father, brothers and sisters of Jesus Christ and temples of the Holy Spirit. Like all human relationships, developing and deepening our relationship with the Trinity happens gradually and over time. Consequently, lifelong faith formation provides opportunities and experiences throughout the entire life span to strengthen our relationship and knowledge of God, Jesus, and the Spirit; to enhance our understanding of Scripture, Tradition and doctrines of our faith; and to sustain us in living as disciples of Jesus Christ.

What does restored order of the Sacraments mean?

Restored order means returning the three sacraments of Christian initiation to the logical order in which they were designed to be celebrated: first Baptism, then Confirmation, then Eucharist. During the first five hundred years or so of the history of the Church, it was always the case that the sacraments of Christian initiation were celebrated in this sequence.

Why is the Diocese of Manchester changing the age of Confirmation?

By placing Confirmation at this age, the Diocese of Manchester follows the natural sequence of the sacraments of Christian initiation. In addition, by placing Confirmation **prior to the reception of First Eucharist** it makes it easier to view the Eucharist as the summit of Christian initiation.

How is the celebration of Confirmation changed in the Diocese of Manchester?

The standard age of Confirmation is third grade, and Confirmation will be celebrated at the same liturgy as First Communion. As a result, the preparation and reception of the sacraments of initiation throughout the Diocese of Manchester will be Baptism in infancy and Confirmation and Eucharist in third grade. Although not a sacrament of initiation, the Sacrament of Reconciliation will be received in the second grade.

What are the benefits of restored order?

First, it will highlight that the Eucharist, not Confirmation, is the culmination of Christian initiation. Secondly, with the reception of grace of the Holy Spirit at a younger age, it will give children greater courage and guidance in facing the increasing difficulties of living a Christian life. Finally, it will allow for more opportunities for parents to take greater responsibility in their role as the primary educators of their children.



CONFIRMATION AND EUCHARIST

What is “the Restored Order”?

An increasing number of dioceses in the United States are adopting a restored order policy for the celebration of the sacraments of Confirmation and Eucharist. This means, quite simply, that it becomes standard policy for Catholics who were baptized in infancy to receive Confirmation *before* First Communion, not *after*. Practically speaking, this means that the two sacraments are received at the First Communion Mass, with Confirmation being celebrated after the homily.



Why is it referred to as “the Restored Order”?

During the first 500 years or so of the history of the Roman Catholic Church (and still today in the Christian churches of the East), it was always the case that the sacraments of Christian initiation were celebrated in an invariable sequence: Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist. And it was almost always the case that all three sacraments were celebrated together at the same time, even with infants. Following the lead of official documents that were issued by the Church after the Second Vatican Council, more and more dioceses are restoring this original order to the celebration of the sacraments of Christian initiation.

Isn't Confirmation a sacrament of maturity that should come after First Communion as a child grows older?

Not really. Confirmation is actually the completion of Baptism (by the full gift of the Holy Spirit). To celebrate Confirmation requires nothing more by way of age-appropriate maturity than to receive the Eucharist. Remember, there is a legitimate, parallel practice in Eastern churches of fully initiating even infants with all three sacraments. The maturity that is required for receiving any of the sacraments of Christian initiation is only what is age-appropriate. The Church expects interior dispositions of readiness, such as understanding freedom, that are realistic at any given age, nothing more.

When we are used to a different practice after more than a thousand years, why is the Church now going back to the original sequence?

Restored order is more than just a fascination with the way it used to be. In fact, there are some very significant theological and liturgical reasons for restoring the integrity of the three sacraments of Christian initiation—all celebrated in proper order, even at the same time. The RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) requires that children and adults in the catechumenate receive all three sacraments together, even if the children are younger than the age at which the Catholic children of the parish are routinely confirmed. Putting the celebration of Confirmation between Baptism and Eucharist better expresses its role as the completion of Baptism. As a matter of fact, the sacrament that is the culmination of a person's Christian initiation is the Eucharist, not Confirmation. Theologically, it is the gift of the Holy Spirit given in all its fullness at Confirmation that best prepares one to receive Eucharist, and thus to be most fully joined to the Body of Christ.

Is it wrong, then, to be Confirmed after receiving Eucharist?

Of course not. The Church has many ways of celebrating the mysteries of God's love in the sacraments. But because Rome so strongly encourages restoring the order of celebrating the sacraments of Christian initiation, don't be surprised if more and more communities restore the original sequence of the three sacraments of Christian initiation.



Bringing Home the Word

Pentecost Sunday (B)

May 23, 2021

The Patience of Mary

By Fr. Mark Haydu, LC

A common image of Mary—surrounded by the apostles in the upper room, awaiting the Holy Spirit—has a name: *Regina Apostolorum*, Queen of the Apostles. She is enthroned as Queen Mother because, when her Son the King was enthroned and lifted up, he told her, “Behold your son.” With those words he entrusted Mary to the care of John, the apostles, and the whole Church. As any good queen and mother, she defends her own.

She is also called the Spouse of the Spirit, because it was in union with

the Spirit that she engendered the Son. She also engenders him in the apostles and in our souls through her powerful intercession and waiting on the Spirit.

One of Mary’s best qualities is waiting patiently until God’s power arrives. After the annunciation she waited nine months with Jesus in her womb. Then she waited some thirty years while Jesus grew and prepared for his mission. She waited during his public life and watched as his fame spread, but also as his enemies plotted. She waited at the foot of the cross and endured that unending Holy Saturday until the resurrection. And she waited patiently on the first Pentecost Sunday for the coming of the gift of the Holy Spirit promised by her Son. She knew he would come through, as he always did.

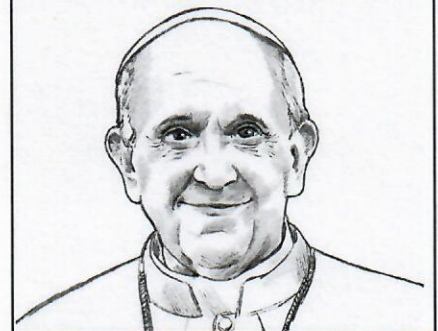
We get impatient with God and want him to respond on our timetables according to our expectations. He waits to give us a chance to adapt our hearts to his plan and timing. He waits until the time is just right. +

One of Mary’s best qualities is waiting patiently until God’s power arrives. We get impatient and want him to respond on our timetable.

A Word from Pope Francis

The Holy Spirit...reminds us that first of all we are God’s beloved children; all equal, in this respect, and all different. The Spirit comes to us, in our differences and difficulties, to tell us that we have one Lord—Jesus—and one Father, and that for this reason we are brothers and sisters!

—Pentecost Homily, May 31, 2020



REFLECTION QUESTIONS

ONE QUESTION REFLECTION

- How often do I seek Mary’s intercession or help?
- Patience is a fruit of the Spirit. How can you practice more patience this week?

Sunday Readings

Acts 2:1–11

And suddenly there came from the sky a noise like a strong driving wind, and it filled the entire house in which they were.

1 Cor 12:3b–7, 12–13 or Gal 5:16–25

As a body is one though it has many parts, and all the parts of the body, though many, are one body, so also Christ.

John 20:19–23 or John 15:26–27; 16:12–15

But when he comes, the Spirit of truth, he will guide you to all truth.

The Many Faces of Mary

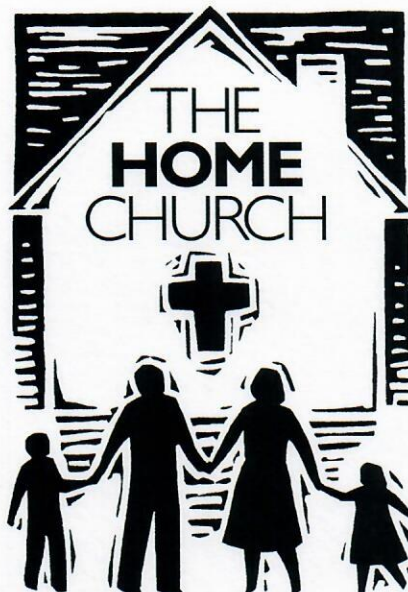
By Johan van Parys

I celebrated my first Communion in 1967. Of the many religious gifts I received, my absolute favorite was a statue of Mary. She wore a beautiful pastel dress and had flowing blonde hair and brilliant blue eyes. Even more exciting, she played “Immaculate Mary.” The statue received a place of honor in my bedroom which, according to my concerned mother, looked more like a shrine. Part of my bedtime routine was to pray the Hail Mary in front of Mary. Then I took a moment of silence before winding up the mechanism and listening to “Immaculate Mary” as I quietly hummed along.

A couple of years later I realized that in real life Mary didn’t have blonde hair or wear pastel robes, and she had only herself as the immaculate conception until fairly recently. This came as a spiritual shock, and I felt betrayed; however, my curiosity of who Mary was and what she may have looked like was piqued.

Mary, mother of Jesus and wife of Joseph, was Jewish. More than likely she was born to a poor family and led a hard life. She undoubtedly worried about her son, especially when he set out to complete his mission at about age thirty. Regardless, she stayed by his side. She even flanked the cross he was nailed to and cradled his body after he was lowered from it.

Mothers are often the first to know the truth about their children, and Mary



knew Jesus was the Messiah before anyone else did. She testified to this not only during her lifetime, but also after she was assumed into heaven during her many apparitions.

I find these apparitions fascinating—not that they happened, but rather how they happened. It seems like Mary was and continues to be the supreme missionary. She understood that by taking on the image of the people to whom she was appearing, she could more easily win them over to her Son. In an instant, this foreign religion would receive a local face.

When she appeared in Mexico as Our Lady of Guadalupe, she appeared as an Aztec princess. Thus, the Aztec people

could recognize themselves in Mary, and she became one of them. In Vietnam, she appeared as Our Lady of La Vang, a Vietnamese woman; in Africa, as an African woman; in Belgium, as a blonde woman. Indeed, Mary has taken the shape, color, and form of almost every woman on this planet. This affirms that we’re each created in God’s image and that Jesus died for all of us.

Today, my entire house is filled with religious art. Many might think of it as more of a shrine than a home—old habits die hard. I have images of Mary from all around the world. In these Marian statues I see the face of Mary, the Mother of God and our heavenly mother. I also see the faces of all mothers.

Similarly, the diverse statues of Mary in our churches allow us to recognize ourselves in her. We are invited to become more like her by taking on her virtues.

As we celebrate Mary in May, may we learn from her and turn to her with our every need. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us! +

PRAYER

*Lord, your Spirit renews
our faith, hope, and love.
Empower me to be your
presence of love and
compassion to others.*

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

WEEKDAY READINGS

May 24-29

Monday, Blessed Virgin Mary:
Gn 3:9–15, 20 or Acts 1:12–14 / Jn
19:25–34

Tuesday, Weekday:
Sir 35:1–12 / Mk 10:28–31

Wednesday, St. Philip Neri:
Sir 36:1, 4–5a, 10–17 / Mk 10:32–45

Thursday, Weekday:
Sir 42:15–25 / Mk 10:46–52

Friday, Weekday:
Sir 44:1, 9–13 / Mk 11:11–26

Saturday, Weekday:
Sir 51:12cd–20 / Mk 11:27–33

Bringing Home
the Word 
May 23, 2021

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