

COVID-19 IS STILL AROUND!

According to the Diocese of Manchester and the best practices outlined by the State of New Hampshire, masks are strongly recommended for all who are able to wear them.

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.



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 23, 2021

Offertory	\$7,074.84
Fuel	\$1,348.87



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 30	No Second Collection
June 6	Property Management
June 13	No Second Collection
June 20	Fuel
June 27	Works of the Holy Father

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 jtremlay@stluketheevangelist.net. If you are new to our parish, registration forms are available at the entrances of both churches. You can also find a registration form on our website at <http://stlukenh.org>.

BABY BOTTLE ENVELOPES

The Pregnancy Care Center (PCC) offers loving, confidential support to those facing an unplanned pregnancy. The goal of the PPC is to journey alongside women to let them know they are not alone. Additionally, they provide sexual integrity education, post abortion counseling, and material assistance (baby items, food). The PCC has locations in Haverhill, Lawrence, and Lowell, MA. On **June 20**, we will begin a Baby Bottle (Envelope) Campaign which will be used to raise funds for the PCC ministry. Please visit www.pccfriends.org to fill a virtual baby bottle or use the addressed baby bottle envelopes provided to mail in your donation. Be sure to note St. Luke the Evangelist on your check. Thank you!



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

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.**

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.

EVICTIION & 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.

THE MOST HOLY TRINITY

✠ WEEKLY CALENDAR ✠

Monday, May 31
PARISH OFFICE CLOSED

Wednesday, June 2
Holy Angels Church Plaistow open for
private prayer all day

8:30 AM – 8:30 PM **Thursday, June 3**
Eucharistic Adoration *Plaistow*

3:00 PM **Saturday, June 5**
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 29 ~ The Most Holy Trinity
Dt 4:32-34, 39-40; Rom 8:14-17; Mt 28:16-20
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

Monday, May 31 ~ Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Zep 3:14-18a or Rom 12:9-16; Lk 1:39-56
8:00 AM Mark Robinson (Month's Mind)
Plaistow

Tuesday, June 1 ~ Justin, Martyr
Tb 2:9-14; Mk 12:13-17
8:00 AM Raymond and Anna Lynch and son Vincent
by their family
Plaistow

Wednesday, June 2 ~ Marcellinus and Peter, Martyrs
Tb 3:1-11a, 16-17a; Mk 12:18-27
6:30 PM Glen Davis (2nd Anniversary) by the Brotz family
Plaistow

Thursday, June 3 ~ Charles Lwanga and Companions, Martyrs
Tb 6:10-11, 7:1bcde, 9-17, 8:4-9a; Mk 12:28-34
8:00 AM Wayne Bates by Bob Lonergan
Plaistow

Friday, June 4 ~ Weekday
Tb 11:5-17; Mk 12:35-37
No Mass

Saturday, June 5 ~ Boniface, Bishop and Martyr
Tb 12:1, 5-15, 20; Mk 12:38-44 (Day)
Ex 24:3-8; Heb 9:11-15; Mk 14:12-16, 22-26 (Vigil)
4:00 PM Stanley Plonowski by Pat Zakiewicz
Plaistow

Sunday, June 6 ~ The Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ (Corpus Christi)
Ex 24:3-8; Heb 9:11-15; Mk 14:12-16, 22-26
8:00 AM Thomas Antczak by the Burge family
Newton
10:00 AM Michael Gerard Lyons (4th Anniversary) and
Bryan Paul Lyons (1st Anniversary)
by Gerard Lyons
Plaistow



✧ FAITH FORMATION & PARISH INFORMATION ✧

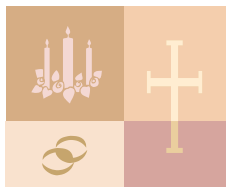


We're looking for new members! Have you ever wondered what the St. Vincent de Paul Society is all about? Our meetings are held on the **3rd Wednesday at 7 PM of each month**. New members are always welcome. We look forward

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!



VIGIL LIGHT

The Vigil Light in front of the Blessed Mother Icon at Mary Mother of the Church will burn in loving memory of

Michael LeDuc

by a friend



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).



PLEASE JOIN THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS, COUNCIL #6617, IN CONGRATULATING TWO OF OUR MEMBERS ON BECOMING THIRD DEGREE KNIGHTS.

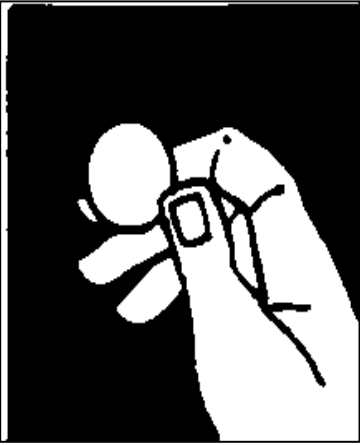
**SHAWN P. SMITH
MICHAEL R. CONNOLLY**

VIVAT JESUS

**THE KNIGHTS
OF COLUMBUS
COUNCIL #6617**



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.

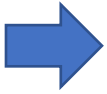
 Sacramental Preparation will also return in the Fall. Students in the second grade are eligible to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation, and students in the third grade are eligible to celebrate the Sacraments of Confirmation and Eucharist.



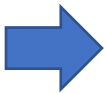
The Parish will sponsor a program ready for older students who may have “missed” Sacramental celebrations, and programs as needed for students with special needs. Contact Cathy Smith or Father Albert in the Parish Office for more information about these opportunities.



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.

A Day of Peacemaking

A civil war turns former friends and allies into deadly enemies. Different regions of the same country turn against one another. Workers in the same company might suddenly find themselves fighting each other. Even family members can turn into adversaries.

The hostility doesn't always stop after a war ends. How would you feel if someone who once tried to kill you moved into your neighborhood?

In 1868, soon after the end of the American Civil War, Memorial Day began to be observed not just as a day to remember people who died in the war but as a day to show and seek forgiveness, a day to begin rebuilding what war had destroyed.

We'll never stop needing that kind of Memorial Day. Make good use of this day. It can be much richer than simply a day to loaf or shop.

Visit a cemetery. Bring some flowers to decorate the graves of people you knew and people you didn't know. Visit a historical site. Learn about the Civil War and other wars. Ask to hear someone's stories about war, about being a refugee, about losing a loved one. To help us recall that this is a day of sorrow, top your flag with purple ribbons.

Make peace in your neighborhood if there's a conflict. Forgive someone who once harmed you. Repair something that's broken and make beautiful something that's ugly. Plant flowers. Plant a tree. Pray for justice, for peace, for healing and for reunion.



TAKE ME HOME, TOO



Summer Ordinary Time

A SENSE OF THE SEASON

What do the words Ordinary Time mean? Dorothy Day said, "The words 'Ordinary Time' in our prayer books put me in a state of confusion and irritation. To me, no time is ordinary." She was right. The Ordinary in "Ordinary Time" refers to ordinal—counted—time, not to a lack of something to celebrate. The Roman document, General Norms for the Liturgical Year and Calendar, says: "Apart from those seasons having their own distinctive character

[Advent, Christmastime, Lent, Triduum and Easter time], 33 or 34 weeks remain in the yearly cycle that do not celebrate a specific aspect of the mystery of Christ. Rather, especially on the Sundays, they are devoted to the mystery of Christ in all its aspects."

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

When we gather on Sundays in Ordinary Time, as always, we hear the scriptures proclaimed. The church reads straight through "the Gospel of the year," either Matthew, Mark or Luke, each week often picking up where we left off last week. (We read John during Lent and Easter, and on feasts.) The first readings, from the first testament of the Bible, have been chosen for their relationship to the Gospel passages. Many voices are heard throughout summer Ordinary Time. We also read through some of the letters of the second testament of the Bible. The mystery of Christ "in all its aspects" unfolds.

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

"What happens in our churches every Sunday is the fruit of our week. What happens as the fruit of the week past is the beginning of the week to come. Sunday is simultaneously a point of arrival and departure for Christians on their way to the fullness of the kingdom. This is not ordinary at all. This is the fabric of Christian living." (Saint Andrew Bible Missal [Brooklyn: William J. Hirten Co., 1982.])



Bringing Home the Word +

Most Holy Trinity (B)

May 30, 2021

The Mission of the Trinity

By Fr. Mark Haydu, LC

The very first fresco Raphael painted for Pope Julius II, *The Disputation of the Holy Sacrament*, includes a representation of the Trinity. Christian iconography commonly depicted the Godhead as a triangle with the all-seeing eye in the center, often with rays of glory flooding forth. Yet Raphael chooses to make it much more personal, more real. He depicts the three persons of the Trinity.

God is not merely an idea, a first principle, or a mental criterion for moral choosing, but three real divine persons, each one active in your life. A triune

God, an eternal explosion of love in which the Father begins by creating you; the Son continues by saving you; and the Holy Spirit consumes their love by inspiring and sanctifying you.

Although all things change, God never changes. He is still, the point of the pendulum from which all things hang and are supported. He wisely governs with his one hand lifted in authoritative and assuring purpose. In his other hand, the sphere of the world rests secure. His decisions are not arbitrary, swayed by public opinion, or motivated by insecurity needing affirmation. He is who is. It is we who need him and not the other way around.

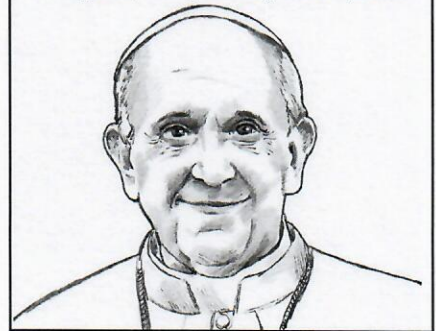
Yet, his absolute authority doesn't convert him into an aloof despot. God lovingly takes interest in everything! Nothing is unimportant—from the greatest things on earth to the smallest minutiae of my day. If it is important to me, it is important to him, and his providential hand keeps it all in balance. +

God lovingly takes interest in everything, from the greatest things on earth to the smallest minutiae of my day!

A Word from Pope Francis

God loves each one of us even when we make mistakes and distance ourselves from him. God the Father loves the world so much that, in order to save it, he gives what is most precious to him: his only-begotten Son....The Trinity is therefore love, wholly at the service of the world.

—Angelus, Trinity Sunday, June 7, 2020



REFLECTION QUESTIONS

QUESTIONS REFLECTION

- The Trinity shares their life with me through grace. Do I care for that gift in my soul?
- In the Holy Trinity the Father creates, the Son saves, and the Holy Spirit sanctifies. Do I thank each for these gifts?

Sunday Readings

Deuteronomy 4:32–34, 39–40

Ask from one end of the sky to the other: Did anything so great ever happen before? Was it ever heard of?

Romans 8:14–17

For those who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God.

Matthew 28:16–20

[Jesus said,] "Make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit."

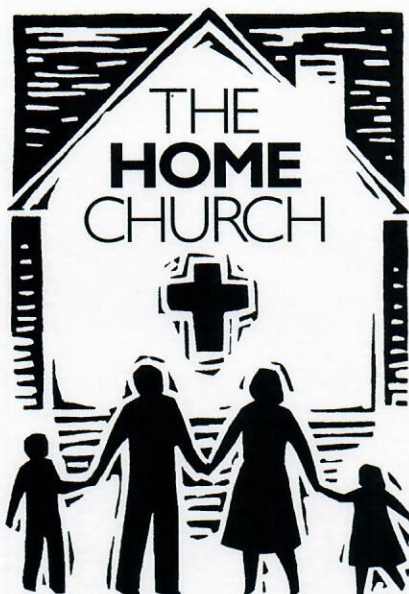
Called to Follow Jesus

By Johan van Parys

Every time I sit at the desk in my home office, I glance at the small crucifix lying on it—a simple wooden cross with a small metal corpus. It was given to me by one of the late abbots of the Benedictine abbey of Mont César in Leuven, Belgium. He had received it from the late Bishop Boleslavs Sloskans, a Latvian national who had secretly been ordained a bishop in 1926 for a diocese in the former Soviet Union.

When authorities found out, he was arrested and sent to a Soviet work camp. He managed to keep a small crucifix during his imprisonment. At the beginning of World War II, Bishop Sloskans found refuge at Mont César, where he spent the rest of his life. The crucifix rested on his desk at Leuven until it was passed down to the abbot.

I remember the day father abbot gave it to me with great clarity. It was the day I decided not to become a priest. I had always wanted to be a priest, thinking that I had the calling. In prayer, I heard Jesus say, “Come and follow me,” which I understood to mean “become a priest.” When I turned seventeen, I applied to our local seminary; thus began a circuitous trajectory in and out of seminaries until I finally decided that I must not have *the calling*.



That was a difficult moment. I visited the abbot who was my spiritual director and said that I was sad not to have “the calling.” He said that while I may not be called to be a priest, surely I am called to follow Christ. The latter, he continued, is much more important than the former.

He then recounted the life of Bishop Sloskans and gave me the small crucifix. He explained that what made Bishop Sloskans such a great Christian was not his calling to the priesthood, but the way he lived out his calling to follow Christ

wherever he found himself—even in prison.

At that moment I realized that I had received the calling—maybe not to be a priest, but to follow Jesus. There is no higher or better calling. There is only one calling, and it is the one Jesus addresses to each of us: “Come and follow me.”

The way each of us lives out this calling can be very different. Mostly it is informed by our personal strengths and talents. Yet in the end, our fundamental calling as Christians is to become more and more like Christ regardless of who we are, where we live, or what we do.

Every time I glance at the simple crucifix, I think of Bishop Sloskans and I am reminded of his commitment to Christ. His example, like that of many saints, is an inspiration to us all.

Let us pray daily for the grace to be faithful to our calling as followers of Christ—no matter where life’s path takes us. +

PRAYER

Lord, you command me to love all people. Remove the prejudice that keeps me from loving my brothers and sisters.

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

WEEKDAY READINGS

May 31–June 5

Monday,
Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary:
Zep 3:14–18a or Rom 12:9–16 / Lk 1:39–56

Tuesday, St. Justin:
Tb 2:9–14 / Mk 12:13–17

Wednesday, Weekday:
Tb 3:1–11a, 16–17a / Mk 12:18–27

Thursday, St. Charles Lwanga and Companions:
Tb 6:10–11; 7:1bcd, 9–17; 8:4–9a
Mk 12:28–34

Friday, Weekday: Tb 11:5–17 / Mk 12:35–37

Saturday, St. Boniface: Tb 12:1, 5–15, 20
Mk 12:38–44

Bringing Home
the Word 
May 30, 2021

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