

COVID UPDATE

By mandate of the Bishop of Manchester on June 6, all restrictions and procedures put in place during the pandemic are no longer in effect.

The choice to wear or to not wear a mask is left up to individuals and their discretion. Those persons who have not been vaccinated should be especially mindful of their own safety and the safety of others, especially those vulnerable to communicable disease.

A hand sanitizer station will remain at the main entrances of the church doors for the time being for parishioners' convenience.

Anyone who has been recently exposed to COVID 19 or any other communicable disease should not attend public services of any kind. Those sick should remain at home until such time as they are healthy. The dispensation to not attend Sunday Liturgy for those sick or anxious about public contact remains in effect until further notice.

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 30, 2021
Offertory \$7,204.38

June 6, 2021
Offertory \$6,086.38
Property Mgmt \$1,529.30



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

June 13	No Second Collection
June 20	Fuel
June 27	Works of the Holy Father
July 4	Property Management
July 11	No Second Collection

Suggested Weekly Contribution Based on Income

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

Suggested Weekly Contribution Based on a Percentage Increase

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

✠ PARISH NEWS ✠

FOR OUR RECORDS

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

BABY BOTTLE CAMPAIGN

June 20 to July 4, 2021

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.**



BLESSING OF FATHERS

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

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.



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.

EVICTON & 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 FOUNDATION

St. Luke the Evangelist Parish has received a donation in
the amount of **\$77.97** from the AmazonSmile Foundation
as a result of AmazonSmile program activity between
January 1 and March 31, 2021.

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 SUMMER...

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

ELEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

✠ WEEKLY CALENDAR ✠

Tuesday, June 15
6:00 PM Finance Council Meeting *Plaistow*

Wednesday, June 16
PARISH OFFICE CLOSED
Holy Angels Church Plaistow open for private prayer all day

Thursday, June 17
8:30 AM – 8:30 PM Eucharistic Adoration *Newton*

Saturday, June 19
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, June 12 ~ Eleventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

Ez 17:22-24; 2 Cor 5:6-10; Mk 4:26-34

4:00 PM Gemma Martin by Joseph Bettencourt
Plaistow

Sunday, June 13 ~ Eleventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

Ez 17:22-24; 2 Cor 5:6-10; Mk 4:26-34

8:00 AM Richard John Powierza by Mary Anne Downs
Newton

10:00 AM Jesselyn Driscoll by her family
Plaistow

Monday, June 14 ~ Weekday

2 Cor 6:1-10; Mt 5:38-42

8:00 AM Sr. Marilyn Lagermann by the Stanley family
Newton

Tuesday, June 15 ~ Weekday

2 Cor 8:1-9; Mt 5:43-48

8:00 AM In Honor of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Plaistow

Wednesday, June 16 ~ Weekday

2 Cor 9:6-11; Mt 6:1-6, 16-18

6:30 PM Joseph Paporo by Deborah Nugent,
Jennifer Nugent, and Eric Grue
Plaistow

Thursday, June 17 ~ Weekday

2 Cor 11:1-11; Mt 6:7-15

8:00 AM People of the Parish
Newton

Friday, June 18 ~ Weekday

2 Cor 11:18, 21-30; Mt 6:19-23

No Mass

Saturday, June 19 ~ Romuald, Abbot

2 Cor 12:1-10; Mt 6:24-34 (Day)

Jb 38:1, 8-11; 2 Cor 5:14-17; Mk 4:35-41 (Vigil)

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

Sunday, June 20 ~ Eleventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

Jb 38:1, 8-11; 2 Cor 5:14-17; Mk 4:35-41

8:00 AM Patricia Lawrence by the Bettencourt family
Newton

10:00 AM Eleanor Knowles by Marjorie Knowles
Plaistow



Mass Times for travel

masstimes.org

"come to me all of you"

- Matthew 11:28

✠ FAITH FORMATION & PARISH INFORMATION ✠

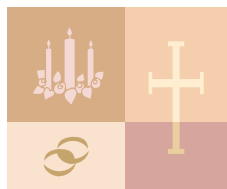


We're looking for new members! Have you ever wondered what the St. Vincent de Paul Society is all about? Our meetings are held on the **3rd Wednesday at 7 PM of each month**. New members are always welcome. We look forward

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!

QUO VADIS DAYS

**For Young Men Ages 14-18
10:00 AM to 6:00 PM**

Do you know where your life is going? The Lord Jesus as a great plan for you! You are invited to attend a *Quo Vadis Days Hike* on **June 15, 2021 at St. Theresa Parish in Henniker, NH** and *Quo Vadis Days Game Day* on **August 6, 2021 at St. Patrick Parish in Pelham, NH** to spend time with other young men your age looking at the Lord's call in your life while having lots of fun. *Quo Vadis Days* is led by priests and seminarians of the diocese and includes a variety of games, prayer, other activities, and opportunities to grow in friendship with the Lord and with each other. The cost is \$20 (financial aid available). Please contact Fr. Von DeRosia at 603-635-3525 or vderosia@rcbm.org.



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 Szczapa	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 ✠



ALTAR SERVERS WANTED!

School students 3rd grade and up – adults and families are all welcome!

If you would like to become an altar server, or if you have served before and would like to resume serving, please contact Fr. Albert at 603-382-8324 or fr.albert@stluketheevangelist.net

CONGRATULATIONS!

The Diocese of Manchester ordained Deacons David Gagnon and Joseph Moynahan as Priests for service in the Diocese on **Saturday, June 5** at Saint Joseph Cathedral in Manchester. Please pray for the newly ordained deacons and priests of the Diocese.

**WORLDWIDE
MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER**

To support married couples during this time of social distancing, **Worldwide Marriage Encounter** is sponsoring virtual marriage experiences. Some are on weekends and there are

seven sessions on weekdays from 7:00 to 9:30 PM. Couples will explore their individual personality styles, improve listening and communication skills, understand God's plan for their marriage, and learn how to keep their relationship a priority. Registration is limited and a \$100 application fee is required. For more information, or to apply, visit www.wwmema.org.

Invite God into your marriage on the next Worldwide Marriage Encounter experience on **Thursdays/Mondays, July 8-29, 2021**.



St. Thomas Aquinas High School

St. Thomas Aquinas High School in Dover, NH is a college prep School of Excellence. We are happy to offer campus visits and tours throughout the spring and summer months, and we are still accepting applications for Fall 2021. For more information about the admission process or to schedule a visit, please contact us at admission@stalux.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

The Parish Office will be **closed on Wednesday, June 16**. The office will reopen at 8:30 AM on Thursday, June 17.

FIAT DAY

For Young Women Ages 14-18

July 30, 2021 from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM

Do you want to say "yes" to God's plan for your life? You are invited to attend a Fiat Day at Ste. Marie Parish in Manchester, NH to spend time with other young women your age looking at the Lord's call in your life while having lots of fun. Cost is \$20 (financial aid is available). For more information, or to register, contact Becky Vinson at 603-663-0153 or rvinson@rcbm.org.

**CATHOLIC CHARITIES NH HOSTING
UNEMPLOYMENT ONLINE SUPPORT GROUP**

For those who may be struggling with job loss – or looking for the next opportunity – Catholic Charities NH is offering a free online support group to help you effectively navigate the complex job search process. "Unemployed: What Now? How do I Find A Job?" is a five-part series where you will learn and share best practices around targeting prospective employers, resume writing and interviewing, as well as how to best apply your unique skills to your own search. **The program will be held via Zoom for five consecutive Thursdays (at 10:00 AM) starting June 24.** To register, visit www.cc-nh.org/unemployment or call 603-752-1325.

**KNIGHTS of COLUMBUS
ST. JUDE COUNCIL #6617**



LOOKING FOR GOOD MEN

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

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

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



ADULT FAITH FORMATION

THE SACRAMENTS

Based on the film series presented by Bishop Robert Barron

As stated by WORD ON FIRE: "Bishop Barron looks at the great sacraments of the Church in all their theological depth, spiritual effects, and pastoral promise. *The Sacraments* will help you understand these signs and channels of grace."

If you are interested in joining a group for four weeks either on Wednesday evenings at 7 p.m., beginning July 7, or Thursday afternoons at 1:30 p.m., beginning July 8, please cut the form off at the bottom and complete. Completed forms should be returned either in the collection basket or at the parish office no later than Monday, June 28. Any questions, contact Cathy Smith at csmith@stluketheevangelist.net or at 382-8324.

Both groups will meet in the Church Hall

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 SACRAMENTS

Name _____

Phone _____

E-Mail _____

Cell Phone _____

Wed., July 7–July 28, at 7 p.m. ____

Thurs., July 8–July 29, at 1:30 p.m. ____

✠ PARISH INFORMATION ✠

GLUTEN INTOLERANT?

The Parish now provides an option for receiving Holy Communion for anyone suffering from gluten intolerance or celiac disease. We have obtained special altar breads that are fully certified for use at Mass by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, and laboratory tested to contain only .001% gluten. Please see the Pastor or the Sacristan before Mass about receiving Communion using one of these special hosts.



Altar Flowers are a special opportunity for remembering a departed loved one or offering thanksgiving for a blessing or family event. A floral arrangement placed in front of the altar for the Sunday Liturgy can be purchased for an offering of \$85, with an accompanying announcement in the weekly bulletin. Availability is limited according to the Liturgical Calendar. Offerings can be reserved on a first-come basis by contacting the Parish Office at 382-8324.



SANCTUARY CANDLES

The Sanctuary Candles in both Newton and Plaistow may be offered in memory or honor of a loved one. The suggested offering is \$10.00. Please call the Parish Office 382-8324.

PARISH POLICY ON GROUPS SEEKING SUPPORT

After consultation with the Parish Pastoral Council, and taking into account the many groups that desire the community's support, it has been decided that the following policy be put into place:

- 1. Only Parish groups will be allowed to solicit support for their projects in our churches. This includes groups from within the Parish itself or groups which are based within our Parish.
- 2. Groups from outside the Parish community will be allowed to solicit support from the community *only by rare exception* and with the express consent of the Pastor and Parish Council.
- 3. No group of any kind will be allowed to solicit until the conclusion of the Liturgy. Publicity and other materials may be displayed in the entrances of the Church, but no actual solicitation may occur until after Mass has ended.
- 4. No more than one (1) Parish group may seek the support of the community at one time. This means that there are not to be multiple support efforts on the same weekend.

The Pastor will be the sole arbitrator of scheduling for Parish groups seeking community support. Parish groups should contact the Parish Office to determine availability for scheduling any support event. Thank you for your continuing support for the mission of St. Luke the Evangelist Parish.

PLEASE HELP US!

As you leave church, kindly take your Bulletin with you – or return it to the basket at the entrance of the Church, return your music book and Mass card to their proper place, and pick up after yourself as you leave. Our Ushers are wonderful and diligent, but they should not have to face a Foxboro aftermath as each Mass ends! Thanks for being attentive and respectful!

F. Albert.

ST. LUKE'S WEBSITE!

<http://stlukenh.org>

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

A Parish Pastoral Council is primarily charged to assist in the development of mission-focused Parishes rather than programmatic or finance-driven ones. Pastoral Councils attempt to place at the heart of the Parish a consciousness of a zeal for the mission of Jesus Christ. When there is a clear awareness of this "larger vision" proposed by the Gospel and taught by the Church, a Parish finds itself energized by a sense of mission and directed to matters that foster the mission of the Parish, grounded in the mission of Christ (Diocese of Manchester, *Guidelines for Parish Pastoral Councils*, 2002). Our Parish Pastoral Council provides invaluable advice to the Pastor and Staff of the Parish through consultation, dialogue and ongoing learning. Our Council generally meets on a monthly basis to discuss Parish life and issues and to assess our ongoing mission as a Catholic community. The members of the Parish Council can be accessed through the Parish Office, or by email at

parishcouncil@stluketheevangelist.net.

Robert Harb, Chairperson
Cathy Smith
Elaine Kindler
Jack Brotz
Jeffrey Lozeau
Janice Bettencourt
Michael Barczak
Fr. Albert Tremblay, obl. SB



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.

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.



Bringing Home the Word +

Eleventh Sunday in Ordinary Time (B)

June 13, 2021

Spreading Seeds

By Fr. Mark Haydu, LC

The kingdom of God has an inward power, an effervescence with which it is equipped, that makes it a force of growth and multiplication. Jesus compares the kingdom with a seed. You plant it in favorable soil and, you know not how, it springs up into a little plant and then eventually into a full-grown tree. Its life principle is not given by the soil—although that helps it grow—but rather it has power of itself to expand.

The Christian life and the kingdom are very much like this. At baptism we have received supernatural grace in our souls. And if given suitable support,

that faith will grow and become the transformative element of our lives. It will drive us toward a life of faith, hope, and love. It will lead us to forgive others, improve society, and transform everything for good.

The same can be said of the Church, Christ's kingdom of love. Christ planted the seed of faith in his apostles and that seed spread and thrived all across Europe. Their faith multiplied and grew until all throughout the world the fruits of their faith are on display as a veritable kingdom of charity: hospitals, universities, soup kitchens, hospices, shelters for the battered and homeless, retreat centers, chapels, churches, museums, research and rehabilitation centers, religious orders, lay associations, volunteer groups, and the list could and does continue on and on. There is a force in faith and love that cannot be contained! +

Sunday Readings

Ezekiel 17:22–24

On the mountain height of Israel / I will plant it.

It shall put forth branches and bear fruit, / and become a majestic cedar.

2 Corinthians 5:6–10

We walk by faith, not by sight.

Mark 4:26–34

[Jesus said,] "But once it is sown, it springs up and becomes the largest of plants and puts forth large branches."

*The apostles' faith
multiplied until,
all throughout the world,
the fruits of their faith
are on display.*

A Word from Pope Francis

How often do we see a man or woman arrive at work with a weary face, with a tired countenance and, when we ask them, "What happened?" they answer: "I only slept two hours because we are taking turns at home to be close to... our grandfather, our grandmother"...These are heroic deeds, the heroism of families!

—General audience, June 10, 2015



REFLECTION QUESTIONS



- Do I let the force of my faith multiply into acts of love and service?
- If I don't feel this force within me, what can I do to awaken it?

Pray Radically

By Fr. Bruce Lewandowski, CSsR

On news and information services, reporters often refer to terrorists as radicals. This automatically puts *radical* on the list of bad words and makes anyone who is radical or has radical tendencies seem bad. We should be careful when using the word *radical* to refer to extremists or fundamentalists because not all are radical. I want to reclaim the word *radical*. It's not a bad word.

The difference between extremist and radical is simple. Radical means to return to the root or origin of something. So a radical Christian would seem very similar to Jesus and a radical Muslim would appear to be very much like Muhammad. On the other hand, an extremist is one who holds ideas or beliefs that can result in action that is beyond the norm of what is normally expected or acceptable. A Christian or Muslim extremist adheres to that which is beyond the norm for Jesus or Muhammad.

Pope Benedict XVI wrote in *Deus Caritas Est* (2005) that "it is time to reaffirm the importance of prayer in the face of the activism and the growing secularism of many Christians engaged in charitable work." He continues, "The Christian who prays does not claim to be able to change God's plans or



correct what he has foreseen. Rather he seeks an encounter with the Father of Jesus Christ." And still further, "A personal relationship with God and an abandonment to his will can prevent man from being demeaned and save him from falling prey to the teaching of fanaticism and terrorism." Prayer seeks an encounter. Relationship is the key. Prayer is a relationship. Prayer, if it is radical, can be the remedy for extremism.

It's said that couples who are married for many years start to look, act, and even think like each other. Some even develop

a deep intuitive sense that allows one to anticipate the needs of the other. We become like the people we spend time with, especially if we like them.

The disciples spent a lot of time with Jesus and in doing so they began to speak as he spoke and act as he acted. They became Christlike simply by spending time with him. Something of Jesus rubbed off on his followers. People could see Jesus in them. Radical prayer calls us back to this kind of relationship: spending time with Jesus; lingering before the Lord; passing time in the presence of the Holy One; and staying with him long enough to have something of Jesus rub off on us. Through radical prayer, we start to look, think, and act like the Divine, and others can see something of Jesus in us. +



*Lord, you reveal the kingdom
of God to all people.
Help me bear witness
to God's kingdom of
compassion and peace.*

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

Want to be more like the Divine? There is a way.

WEEKDAY READINGS

June 14–19

Monday, Weekday:

2 Cor 6:1–10 / Mt 5:38–42

Tuesday, Weekday:

2 Cor 8:1–9 / Mt 5:43–48

Wednesday, Weekday:

2 Cor 9:6–11 / Mt 6:1–6, 16–18

Thursday, Weekday:

2 Cor 11:1–11 / Mt 6:7–15

Friday, Weekday:

2 Cor 11:18, 21–30 / Mt 6:19–23

Saturday, Weekday:

2 Cor 12:1–10 / Mt 6:24–34

Bringing Home
the Word 

June 13, 2021

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