

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By mandate of the Bishop of Manchester on June 6, all restrictions and procedures put in place during the pandemic are no longer in effect.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

### 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!

**COLLECTION AMOUNTS FOR  
JULY 4, 2021  
WILL APPEAR IN NEXT WEEK'S BULLETIN**



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

July 11	No Second Collection
July 18	Fuel
July 25	Parish to Parish Support
August 1	Property Management
August 8	NH Missionaries

### 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

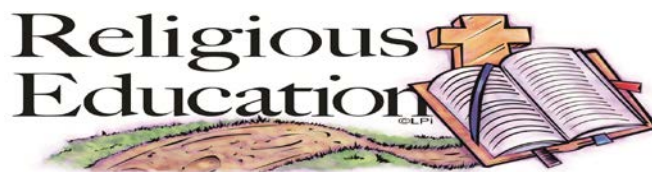
### Suggested Weekly Contribution Based on a Percentage Increase

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](mailto: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>.



### ST. LUKE THE EVANGELIST RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Religious Education Registration for the 2021-2022 Academic Year for **Grades Pre-K through 12** begins in September. If your child is currently enrolled, a registration form has been sent home. If your child is new to the Program, please call Cathy Smith at 382-8324 for more information.

### CATECHISTS NEEDED

Our Religious Education Program is in need of catechists for Sunday mornings. Training will be provided. If you can help, please email Cathy Smith at [csmith@stluketheevangelist.net](mailto:csmith@stluketheevangelist.net).

### 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

**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](http://www.amazonsmile.com). For questions, please call the Parish Office at 603-382-8324. Be sure to choose:

**St Luke the Evangelist Parish, Plaistow.**

### ALTAR SERVERS WANTED!

School students 3<sup>rd</sup> 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](mailto:fr.albert@stluketheevangelist.net)



### **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](http://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.**



### **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.

## FIFTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

### ✠ WEEKLY CALENDAR ✠

Wednesday, July 14

Holy Angels Church Plaistow open for  
private prayer all day

7:00 PM The Sacraments Plaistow

Thursday, July 15

8:30 AM – 8:30 PM Eucharistic Adoration Newton  
1:30 PM The Sacraments Plaistow

Saturday, July 17

3:00 PM Sacrament of Reconciliation Plaistow

### 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](mailto:csmith@stluketheevangelist.net).



### ST. LUKE THE EVANGELIST FOOD PANTRY

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

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

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.**

**FOOD PANTRY VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!** It is summer and vacations are planned, and who does not deserve a break? But our Food Pantry continues to operate, and we are busier than ever. We are looking for helpers to stock shelves, run food up and down the stairs, and to place food boxes in patron's vehicles – we are still in "drive up mode." The Pantry is looking for help on Wednesday and Friday mornings from 9:00 AM to Noon and on Thursday evenings from 5:30 to 7:30 PM. Call Marie at 819-4949 and leave a message if you can help!

### ✠ MASS INTENTIONS ✠

Saturday, July 10 ~ Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

*Am 7:12-15; Eph 1:3-14; Mk 6:7-13 (Vigil)*

4:00 PM Millie Gattinella by Pat Zakiewicz  
Plaistow

Sunday, July 11 ~ Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

*Am 7:12-15; Eph 1:3-14; Mk 6:7-13*

8:00 AM The Intentions of Paul Fournier by Edith Fournier  
Newton

10:00 AM Jesselyn Driscoll by her family  
Plaistow

Monday, July 12 ~ Weekday

*Ex 1:8-14, 22; Mt 10:34—11:1*

8:00 AM People of the Parish  
Newton

Tuesday, July 13 ~ Henry

*Ex 2:1-15a; Mt 11:20-27*

8:00 AM People of the Parish  
Plaistow

Wednesday, July 14 ~ Kateri Tekakwitha, Virgin

*Ex 3:1-6, 9-12; Mt 11:25-27*

6:30 PM Frank Tatarka by his wife, Sonia  
Plaistow

Thursday, July 15 ~ Bonaventure, Bishop and  
Doctor of the Church

*Ex 3:13-20; Mt 11:28-30*

8:00 AM Marie Lessard by Cathy Smith  
Newton

Friday, July 16 ~ Our Lady of Mt. Carmel

*Ex 11:10—12:14; Mt 12:1-8*

No Mass

Saturday, July 17 ~ Weekday

*Ex 12:37-42; Mt 12:14-21 (Day)*

*Jer 23:1-6; Eph 2:13-18; Mk 6:30-34 (Vigil)*

4:00 PM Roland and Mary Guilmette by the Matson family  
Plaistow

Sunday, July 18 ~ Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

*Jer 23:1-6; Eph 2:13-18; Mk 6:30-34*

8:00 AM Dorothy and Glenn Stanley by the Stanley family  
Newton

10:00 AM Jake Collins by the Morrier family  
Plaistow





JULY 11, 2021

## ✠ FAITH FORMATION & PARISH INFORMATION ✠

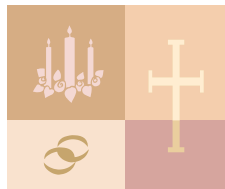


We're looking for new members! Have you ever wondered what the St. Vincent de Paul Society is all about? Our meetings are held on the **3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday at 7 PM** of each month. New members are always welcome. We look forward

any questions you may have. **Please contact SVdP Secretary, Jim Edwards, at (603) 642-5236 or [jimmy69180@hotmail.com](mailto: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 DAY

**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 *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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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	<a href="mailto:fr.albert@stluketheevangelist.net">fr.albert@stluketheevangelist.net</a>
Cathy Smith	<a href="mailto:csmith@stluketheevangelist.net">csmith@stluketheevangelist.net</a>
Joyce Szczapa	<a href="mailto:jszczapa@stluketheevangelist.net">jszczapa@stluketheevangelist.net</a>
Jackie Tremblay	<a href="mailto:jtremblay@stluketheevangelist.net">jtremblay@stluketheevangelist.net</a>
Val Barczak	<a href="mailto:mvmbarczak@comcast.net">mvmbarczak@comcast.net</a>
Parish Council	<a href="mailto:parishcouncil@stluketheevangelist.net">parishcouncil@stluketheevangelist.net</a>

✠ Parish News ~ Youth News ~ Around The Diocese ✠

The Sanctuary Candle at  
Mary, Mother of the Church  
will burn this week in loving memory of  
**Edmond & Doris LeBlanc**  
by their family



**REGINA CAELI ACADEMY**  
**Accepting Applications for the**  
**Northern Massachusetts Center in 2021!**

The Regina Caeli Academy (RCA) is a private, independent, *University-Style Hybrid* academy operating in the Catholic tradition. We offer accredited, classical academic and extracurricular classes to Pre-School through 12<sup>th</sup> grade students two days a week. The parent remains the primary educator by homeschooling the other days following the plans provided by RCA. Our new NMA center is opening at All Saints Parish in Haverhill, MA this August 2021. To register, or for more information, contact Becky Casey at 781-856-7690.

**ST. JOSEPH REGIONAL CATHOLIC SCHOOL**

St. Joseph Regional Catholic School has added a second kindergarten class for the 2021-2022 school year. There are also a few openings available in Grades 6 and 8. For more information, please email Mrs. Latino at [info@sjrcs.com](mailto:info@sjrcs.com).

**ST. THOMAS AQUINAS**

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 summer months, and we are still accepting applications for Fall 2021. For more information, or to schedule a visit, please contact us at [admission@stalux.org](mailto:admission@stalux.org).

**CHARISMATIC RETREAT DAY**

You are invited to a Charismatic Retreat Day for *A Post-Pandemic Perspective on the Church, the World, and the Catholic Charismatic Renewal* to be held at Ste. Marie Church, Manchester, NH (Montminy Hall) from **8:30 AM to 12:30 PM on Saturday, July 24, 2021**. The featured speaker will be Fr. Don Clinton from St. Joseph Parish in Epping. This day is free of charge and open to all. To pre-register, or for more information, call Jackie Morganti at 332-3576.



St. Luke the Evangelist is now on Facebook! Go to [www.facebook.com/stlukenh.org/](https://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.

**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. Fiat Day is led by the vocations team of the diocese and the Daughters of Mary, Mother of Healing Love of Manchester, NH. It includes a schedule of Mass and prayer, activities, and opportunities to grow in friendship with the Lord and with each other. Cost is \$20 (financial aid is available). For more information, or to register, contact Becky Vinson at 603-663-0153 or [rvinson@rcbm.org](mailto:rvinson@rcbm.org).

**CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES AND COVID-19**

As you may know, there is immense suffering and loss of life occurring in India and Brazil due to the pandemic. The Catholic Church, through Catholic Relief Services (CRS) is on the ground in those countries working to support local hospitals and programs which are being overwhelmed and which have reached a breaking point.

Given our own experience in the United States with regards to the pandemic and the important role the Church has in being able to respond to global events, we have an opportunity to assist relief efforts in India and Brazil. To learn more about CRS efforts in the affected areas, please visit [www.crs.org/stories/covid-19-pandemic-india-and-brazil](http://www.crs.org/stories/covid-19-pandemic-india-and-brazil).

**THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS**  
**COUNCIL #6617**



**THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS WOULD LIKE TO THANK ALL THOSE WHO GOT THEIR HANDS DIRTY ASSISTING IN OUR PARISH BEAUTIFICATION PROJECT AT BOTH THE NEWTON AND PLAISTOW PARISH CAMPUSES ON SATURDAY JUNE 26.**

**MULCH WAS SPREAD, SHRUBS CUT BACK AND TRIMMED, GARDENS WEEDED, FLOWERS PLANTED. BOTH CAMPUSES LOOK GREAT!**

**THANK YOU!**

## BEREAVEMENT MINISTRY MEMORIAL MEALS

Our Parish welcomes volunteers to help providing breakfast or lunch following a Funeral Liturgy.

Volunteers contribute food items, and other helpers get things ready, serve, and clean up when everyone goes on their way. We will all work as a team, so helpers will be called on to serve in a particular sequence that spreads out the work and time commitment. This is an ideal ministry for retirees or stay-at-home Moms or Dads who have kids at school. Helpers can also bring food items the night before or early in the morning on the day of the funeral on their way to work.

To assist grieving families, we provide breakfast or lunch after the funeral service. A standard menu has been developed to simplify this operation. In addition, we need help in setting up the hall and in final clean up. Although there is no formal charge for this service, families may make a donation to the Parish.

If you are interested in helping with this ministry, please complete the form below and put it in the collection basket or bring it to the parish office. **Even if you have been a volunteer in the past, please sign up so we can develop a revised list of those who want to continue to help and new volunteers.** Any questions, please contact Cathy Smith at [csmith@stluketheevangelist.net](mailto:csmith@stluketheevangelist.net) or call 382-8324.

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Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell: \_\_\_\_\_  
E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to assist with memorial meals on a rotating basis: (please check and circle all that apply)

### SET UP & CLEAN UP

Make phone calls to volunteers \_\_\_\_\_  
Table set up (day of or night before) \_\_\_\_\_  
Food Serving (at meal) \_\_\_\_\_  
Clean up (hall & kitchen) \_\_\_\_\_

### FOOD DONATION BREAKFAST

Yogurt \_\_\_\_\_  
Pastry/Muffins \_\_\_\_\_  
Fruit \_\_\_\_\_  
Coffee Cake/Breads \_\_\_\_\_

### FOOD DONATION LUNCH

Desserts (cookies, cakes, brownies) \_\_\_\_\_  
Salads (garden, potato, pasta, fruit) \_\_\_\_\_  
Finger Roll Sandwiches (2 doz.) \_\_\_\_\_  
(tuna, egg, chicken, etc.) \_\_\_\_\_  
Ham and Cheese Slices (1 lb.) \_\_\_\_\_  
Buns for Ham and Cheese \_\_\_\_\_  
Soup in the Winter \_\_\_\_\_





## 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

Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time (B)

July 11, 2021

## Our Tradition of Service

By Fr. Mark Haydu, LC

**B**lessed Fra Angelico, a fifteenth-century Dominican brother, was also a famous painter—so much so that St. John Paul II made him the patron of painters. His chapel for Pope Nicholas V, dedicated to Deacon St. Lawrence, patron of Rome, still survives in the Vatican.

The emperor reportedly told St. Lawrence to show him the treasures of the Church, and so he brought the poor before the Roman emperor, saying that these are the Church's true treasures. Fra Angelico's wonderful 1449 fresco, *St. Lawrence Giving Alms*, shows Lawrence, who served

in Rome in the third century, giving coins to the poor and lame of the city.

Indeed, for the Church, those most in need are those who most interest us, because they are the ones who most interested Christ. From the very beginning, Jesus sent out his apostles, two by two, to prepare people to receive his preaching. They were to heal the sick, cast out demons, and preach the gospel of salvation. He did not concentrate his efforts only on the influential, although he didn't avoid them, but rather invested his efforts in forming his apostles in preaching and service.

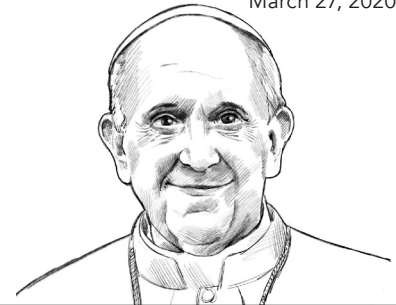
Christ has entrusted the Church with that same mission, and it continues to fulfill this charge worldwide. No continent or country is without the presence of the Catholic Church, with its missionaries and institutions who care for the materially, intellectually, and spiritually poor. We should be proud to be part of such a worldwide force for good that has served so many for so long. +

*For the Church, the neediest are those who most interest us, because they are the ones who most interested Christ.*

## A Word from Pope Francis

Our lives are woven together and sustained by ordinary people—often forgotten people—who do not appear in newspaper and magazine headlines...doctors, nurses, supermarket employees, cleaners, caregivers...and so very many others who have understood that no one reaches salvation by themselves.

—Extraordinary moment of prayer,  
March 27, 2020



## Sunday Readings

### Amos 7:12–15

The LORD took me from following the flock, and the LORD said to me, "Go, prophesy to my people Israel."

### Ephesians 1:3–14 or 1:3–10

In him we have redemption by his blood, the forgiveness of transgressions, in accord with the riches of his grace.

### Mark 6:7–13

[Jesus said,] "Whatever place does not welcome you...leave there and shake the dust off your feet in testimony against them."

## REFLECTION QUESTIONS

### ONE QUESTION FOR REFLECTION

- How do I participate in the Church's mission of serving the poor?
- What more can I do to educate my children or others in this important aspect?



# One World, Two Views

By Fr. Bruce Lewandowski, CSsR

I remember watching an elementary-school principal deal with a child who was sent to the office for bad behavior. She asked the youngster, “Do you know what you did?” Tearfully, without hesitation, the child answered, “Yes, I’m bad.” The principal countered saying, “No, you’re not bad. You just did a bad thing.”

For centuries the world has been labeled by Catholics as depraved, horrible, and bad. Men and women in religious life struggled to understand how to view, interact with, and engage the world around them. Why is it that saintly founders such as Francis of Assisi, Ignatius of Loyola, Vincent de Paul, Alphonsus Liguori, Teresa of Ávila, Catherine McAuley, Frances Cabrini and so many others were attracted to the monastery, the convent, and ministry among the economically poor, sick, uneducated, and marginalized? Certainly, it was because Jesus called them by his word and example. But wasn’t it also because of their worldview? Their vocations grew from their understanding of good and evil, that people needed to be saved from the world and that good people were needed to do the saving. Those who saw the world as God-forsaken ran to religious life, fleeing from the world, in the hope of finding salvation for themselves and others.

After the Second Vatican Council (1962–1965), however, some men and women entered religious life with a



different understanding. The Dogmatic Constitution of the Church (*Lumen Gentium*) and The Pastoral Constitution on the Church in the Modern World (*Gaudium et Spes*) articulated a different worldview and helped redefine our understanding of the relationship between the Church and the world. The world and all that is in it is good, and it is not only worthy of the Church’s attention, but the Church’s embrace. Interaction with the world and all who are in it can offer us an experience of grace and goodness. With Vatican II, it became more and more difficult to clearly define the world as good or evil, and consequently, to understand that people are so unequivocally in need of being

saved from it. The clear line between good and evil as it applies to the world was blurred. And so, one enters religious life not to flee the world but to engage it more fully and experience salvation by living in it.

Two distinct worldviews continue to exist in the Church and in religious life today. Are they simply two paths leading to the same destination? The one you espouse will determine the direction of your life. Condemn the world as evil and run away from it or run toward the world and embrace it in all its goodness? These are not easy questions to answer, that is, unless you remember the time you got sent to the principal’s office. Were you bad? Or did you just do a bad thing? +

*When you were  
reprimanded as a child,  
were you bad or did you  
just do a bad thing?*

## PRAYER

*Lord, you offered your  
life in humble service to  
humanity. Empower me with  
your Spirit, that I may be a  
humble servant of love and  
compassion to all people.*

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

## WEEKDAY READINGS

July 12–17

**Monday, Weekday:**  
Ex 1:8–14, 22 / Mt 10:34–11:1


**Tuesday, Weekday:**  
Ex 2:1–15a / Mt 11:20–24

**Wednesday, St. Kateri Tekakwitha:**  
Ex 3:1–6, 9–12 / Mt 11:25–27

**Thursday, St. Bonaventure:**  
Ex 3:13–20 / Mt 11:28–30

**Friday, Weekday:**  
Ex 11:10–12:14 / Mt 12:1–8

**Saturday, Weekday:**  
Ex 12:37–42 / Mt 12:14–21

Bringing Home  
the Word 

July 11, 2021

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