

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By mandate of the Bishop of Manchester on June 6, all restrictions and procedures put in place during the pandemic are no longer in effect.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

August 8, 2021

Offertory	\$6,284.11
NH Missionaries	\$1,155.00



Saint Luke the Evangelist Parish uses **Parish Giving** to provide parishioners with an opportunity to make your offertory and other contributions through Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT). Parish Giving is a simple, secure, and convenient way to manage your stewardship without weekly envelopes and without worries. This program is available to parishioners at no cost. Log on to the St. Luke the Evangelist Parish website at <http://stlukenh.org>, click on the Parish Giving logo, and follow the easy registration instructions.

UPCOMING SECOND & SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

August 15	Assumption of Mary
August 22	Fuel
August 29	Missionary Co-op
September 5	Property Management
September 12	Catholic University; USCCB

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

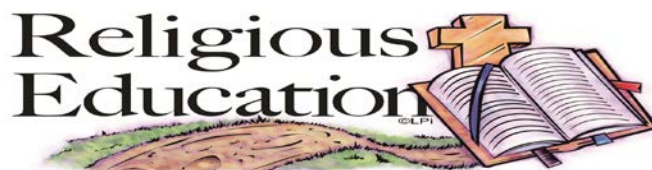
Suggested Weekly Contribution Based on a Percentage Increase

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>.



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.

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. 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 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



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.**



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.

THE ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

✠ WEEKLY CALENDAR ✠

Tuesday, August 17
 6:00 PM Finance Council Meeting *Plaistow*

Wednesday, August 18
 Holy Angels Church
 Open All Day For Prayer
 7:00 PM St. Vincent de Paul Society Meeting *Plaistow*

Thursday, August 19
 8:30 AM – 8:30 PM Eucharistic Adoration *Newton*

Saturday, August 21
 3:00 PM Sacrament of Reconciliation *Plaistow*

SUPPORT THE SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT de PAUL IN AUGUST

Visit Hannaford's, Route 111 in East Hampstead, NH
 and purchase a \$2.50 reusable Fight Hunger Bag.
For every bag sold, we will receive a \$1 donation.

Save the planet and help your
 St. Vincent de Paul Society
 help the poor and hungry in our community!

RESTROOM BREAKS DURING MASS Attention Parents

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

PRAYER LINE

St. Luke's offers a prayer line as a resource for those
 seeking prayer assistance. To submit your prayer
 request please call Cathy Smith at 603-382-8324, ext.
 314 or email her at csmith@stluketheevangelist.net.

ST. LUKE THE EVANGELIST FOOD PANTRY

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

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



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, August 14 ~ The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

*1 Chr 15:3-4, 15-16, 16:1-2; 1 Cor 15:54b-57; Lk 11:27-28
 (Vigil)*

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

Sunday, August 15 ~ The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Rv 11:19a, 12:1-6a, 10ab; 1 Cor 15:20-27; Lk 1:39-56

8:00 AM Louis Inzero (Birthday Remembrance)
 by the Stanley family
Newton

10:00 AM Jesselyn Driscoll by her family
Plaistow

Monday, August 16 ~ Stephen of Hungary

Jgs 2:11-19; Mt 19:16-22

8:00 AM Michael Twomey by the Knights of Columbus
Newton

Tuesday, August 17 ~ Weekday

Jgs 6:11-24a; Mt 19:23-30

8:00 AM Collette Larkin (Month's Mind)
Plaistow

Wednesday, August 18 ~ Weekday

Jgs 9:6-15; Mt 20:1-16

6:30 PM Will Johnson by the Knights of Columbus
Plaistow

Thursday, August 19 ~ John Eudes, Priest

Jgs 11:29-39a; Mt 22:1-14

8:00 AM The Intentions of Joyce Nardella
 by her sister, Joan Daniels
Newton

Friday, August 20 ~ Bernard, Abbot and Doctor of the Church

Ru 1:1, 3-6, 14b-16, 22; Mty 22:34-40
No Mass

Saturday, August 21 ~ Pius X, Pope

Ru 2:1-3, 8-11, 4:13-17; Mt 23:1-12 (Day)

Jos 24:1-2a, 15-17, 18b; Eph 5:21-32; Jn 6:60-69 (Vigil)
 4:00 PM Connie Lawson by Pat Zakiewicz
Plaistow

Sunday, August 22 ~ 21st Sunday in Ordinary Time

Jos 24:1-2a, 15-17, 18b; Eph 5:21-32; Jn 6:60-69

8:00 AM Carol Bettencourt (2nd Anniversary)
 by Janice Bettencourt
Newton

10:00 AM Eva, Raymond, and Stephen Huberdeau
 by Linda Huberdeau
Plaistow



AUGUST 15, 2021

✠ FAITH FORMATION & PARISH INFORMATION ✠



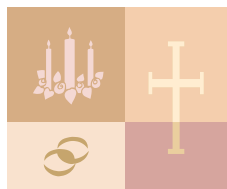
Thank you so much for your continued support of the St. Vincent de Paul Society. We've had a busy Spring, and Summer shows no sign of slowing down our effort to help our neighbors and friends in need.

If you are interested in learning more about this great group of volunteers, contact our Secretary, Jim Edwards, at jimmy69180@hotmail.com or 603-642-5236. Meetings are both live and virtual.

If you seek assistance or need information about the Society, call (603) 382-8324, ext.315.

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!

BLUE MASS

All are welcome to the Annual Blue Mass at St. Joseph Cathedral in Manchester on **Sunday, September 26, 2021 at 10:30 AM.*** The Blue Mass is an opportunity to pray for and with members of law enforcement, firefighters, emergency medical technicians, dispatchers and their families and communities. It is also an opportunity to ask God to continue to bless them and their families in their important work. After Mass, awards will be presented in the Cathedral. We will recognize an exemplary Catholic Police Officer, Firefighter, EMT and Dispatcher.

****In case of any adverse developments related to COVID-19, the Mass will be celebrated Sunday, November 14, 2021 at 10:30 a.m.***



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** ✠

The Sanctuary Candle at
Mary, Mother of the Church
will burn this week in loving memory of
Laura Intervalo
by Tess Moulaison



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.

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.

6 WEEK BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUPS

DAYTIME GROUP

Mondays from 2:00 to 3:30 PM
September 13 through October 18
Exeter Hospital, 5 Alumni Drive, Exeter, NH
Conference 1 North

EVENING GROUP

Wednesdays, 6:30 to 8:00 PM
September 6 through October 13
Medical Building, 4 Alumni Drive, Exeter, NH
Conference Room #2

These six-week interactive support groups provide an opportunity for members to meet in a safe, supportive environment to explore the grieving process and share with others who are coping with the loss of a loved one. All groups are free. Minimum enrollment is 4 participants for each group, and a maximum of 7 participants for the evening group due to social distancing policy. Please be able to commit to all six sessions. To register, please call Hillary Coughlin 603-580-8948 or email her at hcoughlin@ehr.org.



St. Luke the Evangelist is now on Facebook! Go to www.facebook.com/stlukenh.org/ or **St. Luke the Evangelist Parish – Newton/Plaislow** and give us a Like! Please invite fellow parishioners & friends to do the same.

CHARITY GOLF TOURNAMENT

The Knights of Columbus in Derry, NH, Council #3023, are having a charity Golf Tournament on **August 20** at Hoodkrest Country Club in Derry, NH. All of the proceeds will support Catholic organizations. They are also having an Online Auction. For more information, visit <https://birdease.com/KOFCSTAGOLF>.

YOUNG ADULT RETREAT DAY

"Rest and Renew" is a Retreat Day for all Catholic men and women ages 21 to 35 from both Maine and New Hampshire. This weekend experience on **September 10-12, 2021** will offer time for rest, reflection, prayer, and socializing. For more information and to register, visit <https://yaretreat2021.eventbrite.com>. Questions may be directed to Mary Jane Silvia, Director of Adult Faith Formation, at mjsilvia@rcbm.org or 663-0172.

THERE IS
POWER IN
PRAYER
**JOIN
US**

Every Thursday
Evening
7:00 pm
Mary, Mother of the
Church Newton NH

Say, reflect on the
rosary as we pray
for the intentions of
the church, our
world, our
communities and for
each other.



THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS
COUNCIL #6617

Saint Luke the Evangelist

8 Atkinson Depot Road Plaistow, NH 03865 TEL (603) 382-8324 FAX (603) 382-1113

August 9, 2021

Dear Parishioners of Saint Luke the Evangelist:

I thought an official “word” on the parking lot situation is apropos – so let me reiterate the announcement I made at the end of Liturgy last weekend:

On Wednesday, August 4, we did make a good start on the crack sealing in Plaistow on the school side of the parking lot. However, the owner of Petra Paving, our Contractor, informed me about midday that it was his desire and advice that we stop the whole project because the crack sealing Petra Paving was beginning to do was not going to be effective in the short and long run. After speaking with him, I agreed, and the project work came to an end.

The Parish knew full well that the Plaistow lots were in bad shape, and the crack sealing and coating was an intermediate step to buy us a little more time with the lots. Our plan was not successful. I must say that I both appreciate and admire our Contractor for being honest and helpful about not spending money needlessly and moving to another level of parking lot remediation. But that project will wait for another year at least.

For now, the Plaistow lots will remain as is. We have already begun discussions as to how we will proceed in the future.

Thank you for your patience and understanding as we move forward to take good care of our Parish home.

On behalf of the Finance Council,

Father Albert, obl SB.



The Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

In its earliest form, the Solemnity of the Assumption celebration focused on Mary's death and her sharing in Christ's paschal mystery. Even before the fifth century, the church in Jerusalem commemorated the "*Dormition*" (falling asleep) of the Theotokos, or Mother of God, a title that the Eastern Church, which also celebrates today's feast, still retains. Later reflection made Mary's entrance into God's Kingdom explicit, using scriptural images: a victory celebration, a bridal procession, Mary's being "lifted up." By the eighth century, the feast was known in Rome as the "Assumption."

On November 1, 1950, in only the second declared exercise of papal infallibility, Pope Pius XII, after consultation with all the bishops of the Catholic Church, proclaimed as a dogma of the faith the unique fact of Mary's bodily assumption. The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary became a day of special significance for Catholics around the world.

The dogma of the Assumption states that Mary was taken up body and soul into heaven, after the completion of her earthly life since by reason of her Immaculate Conception she should not suffer the consequences of original sin.

While there is no direct biblical evidence for the Assumption, the Church has long held on the basis of theological reasoning and Tradition, the implicit belief in Our Lord's taking His mother to Himself from the moment of her passage from this life, since she is declared "full of grace" or "highly favored daughter" of God the Father (LK 1:28). The Archangel Gabriel further articulates Mary's relationship to the Trinity in this fashion: "The Holy Spirit will come upon you and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore, the child to be born will be called holy, the Son of God" (LK 1:35). It might be argued, then, as St. Francis de Sales suggests, that "the Assumption is necessitated by the desire of the Trinity to behold the face of Mary for all eternity, since she enjoys a unique relationship with each Person of the Trinity as daughter, mother and bride." In the Eastern tradition, the argument is advanced from the doctrine of the Incarnation that Christ took His mother into heaven so that He Who was perfectly human might gaze forever upon one other human being, glorified like Himself. The Second Vatican Council, in the document *Lumen Gentium*, states: "The Immaculate Virgin, preserved free from all stain of original sin, was taken up body and soul into heavenly glory, when her earthly life was over, and exalted by the Lord as Queen over all things, that she might be the more fully conformed to her Son, the Lord of lords (cf. RV 19:16) and conqueror of sin and death" (LG, n. 59).

As archetype of the Church, Mary exemplifies the very essence of the Church, and the dogma of the Assumption has significant consequences for all the faithful: "In the meantime the Mother of Jesus in the glory which she possesses in body and soul in heaven is the image and beginning of the Church as it is to be perfected in the world to come. Likewise, she shines forth on earth, until the day of the Lord shall come (cf. 2 PT 3: 10), a sign of certain hope and comfort to the pilgrim People of God...."

"The entire body of the faithful pours forth urgent supplications to the Mother of God that she, who aided the beginnings of the Church by her prayers, may now, exalted as she is above all the angels and saints, intercede before her Son in the fellowship of all the saints, until all families of people, whether they are honored with the title of Christian or whether they still do not know the Savior, may be happily gathered together in peace and harmony into one People of God, for the glory of the Most Holy and Undivided Trinity." (LG, nn. 68-69).



Bringing Home the Word

Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary (B)

August 15, 2021

Mary's Astonishing "Yes"

By Dan Finucane

Imagine someone who knew nothing of Christianity, who had never seen the New Testament, who had never heard the Gospel. Suppose this person hears just one song—the Magnificat, Mary's hymn from the Gospel of Luke. What will that person think?

In some translations of Scripture, Mary says her soul "magnifies" the Lord. She rejoices in God who saves her. Someone who also believes in God will find this appealing and hopeful. But what does it mean that Mary *magnifies* the Lord?

This woman sings about what God does. God blesses those no one else sees.

People who know Someone has created everything might be in awe of this God. Here is Someone with enormous power. The poor fear such power, yet God shows them mercy. Human tyrants abuse power. This God sweeps them away. But how could Mary's life magnify this God, this Lord?

She sings of Abraham. Her God created descendants from a nomad, descendants who later left slavery in Egypt. Moses asked this God, what should we call you? "Call me I AM." No normal name can say what this God is. This God is doing something *new* now, so this woman sings.

How does Mary magnify the Lord? Her life is the window through which we see the image of the eternal God taking our own form. Her heart is a lens through which our eyes focus in wonder as her response, her yes to God, receives God's presence. This woman was asked by God to do something extraordinary. She said yes. And with that yes, she is taken up forever in something astonishing. +

Mary's life is the window through which we see the image of the eternal God taking our own form.

A Word from Pope Francis

Mary is assumed into heaven: small and humble, she is the first to receive the highest glory. She, a human creature, one of us, attains eternity in soul and body. And there she awaits us as a mother waits for her children to come home. Indeed, the people of God invoke her as the Gate of Heaven.

—Solemnity of the Assumption,
August 15, 2019



Sunday Readings

Revelation 11:19a, 12:1–6a, 10ab

A great sign appeared in the sky, a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet.

1 Corinthians 15:20–27

The last enemy to be destroyed is death, for "he subjected everything under his feet."

Luke 1:39–56

And Mary said..."The Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name."

REFLECTION QUESTIONS



- How would you explain the importance of Mary to a non-Christian?
- What might God be asking you to do? Are you willing to say yes to his call?

A Perpetual Reminder

By Fr. Bruce Lewandowski, CSsR

What's wrong with this picture? What if we got it all wrong? As tradition has it, we trust that Mary, as she appears in the icon of Perpetual Help, is always there, ready at any and every moment to help us. But what if, in that very same icon we know so well, Mary is not the one giving help, but is, rather, on the receiving end? What if she's the one who needs help?

Picture Mary this way: like a woman clutching her child looking out the window of a burning building waiting for fire-and-rescue; like a mother grabbing for her son on their front stoop as bullets spray past them; like a mom supporting her hyperactive boy on one arm while balancing bags of groceries from the parish food cupboard on the other; or like a mother and her son on plastic seats behind thick glass waiting for visitors at an immigration detention center.

Think of our iconic Mary in that way. It's a whole different picture—not Mary who helps, but Mary who is in need of help. Our Mother of Perpetual Help appears as a victim of awful circumstances. Mary and Jesus are alone. Joseph has died, leaving a widow and a young son. We know how widows were treated back then. Her son's death looms on the horizon. She is in trouble. With Joseph gone, she is alone in the world and has to rely on the help of others and God. She wants help.

An icon is a window into heaven; this scene can be interpreted as anything but



heavenly. What's wrong with the picture of Our Mother of Perpetual Help? You might say, "Nothing." Well, I think there is something wrong, not with the picture but with how we might view it. Certainly, Mary is the instrument God used to make the Redeemer flesh among us. She is the dispenser of God's graces and blessings.

But if we're not careful, we can treat her as a kind of spiritual vending machine, making it all about us and what we can get from her. Sometimes our thinking about the icon and our devotion to the Lady in it can be one-sided. Our many needs can cause us to turn in on ourselves and forget about others and their need for assistance. Mary is saying:

"Help me!"

When we look into the icon we see Mary. Remember, she also sees us. She looks out her icon-window, waiting, wanting help. She stands as a perpetual reminder of the many women and children in the world waiting for our help. Will you be there, always and at every moment, ready to help? Mary is Perpetual Help for so many in today's world. Perpetual Help is what her icon asks us to be for others. +

*If we're not careful,
our thinking about
the icon and our devotion
can be one-sided.*

PRAYER

*Lord, you reveal the wisdom
of God in the hearts
of all people. Help me
teach others by example
the wisdom of your love,
forgiveness, and peace.*

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

WEEKDAY READINGS

August 16–21

Monday, Weekday:

Jgs 2:11–19 / Mt 19:16–22

Tuesday, Weekday:

Jgs 6:11–24a / Mt 19:23–30

Wednesday, Weekday:

Jgs 9:6–15 / Mt 20:1–16

Thursday, Weekday:


Jgs 11:29–39a / Mt 22:1–14

Friday, St. Bernard:

Ru 1:1, 3–6, 14b–16, 22 / Mt 22:34–40

Saturday, St. Pius X:

Ru 2:1–3, 8–11; 4:13–17 / Mt 23:1–12

Bringing Home
the Word 

August 15, 2021

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