

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By mandate of the Bishop of Manchester on June 6, all restrictions and procedures put in place during the pandemic are no longer in effect.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 15, 2021

Assumption of Mary \$9,402.31



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 22	Fuel
August 29	Missionary Co-op
September 5	Property Management
September 12	Catholic University / USCCB
September 19	Fuel

Suggested Weekly Contribution Based on Income

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

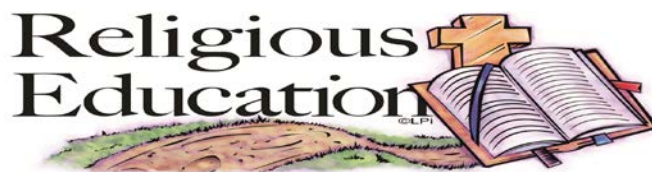
Suggested Weekly Contribution Based on a Percentage Increase

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

✠ PARISH NEWS ✠

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.

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



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.

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.

TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

❖ WEEKLY CALENDAR ❖

Wednesday, August 25
Holy Angels Church
Open All Day For Prayer

Thursday, August 26
8:30 AM – 8:30 PM Eucharistic Adoration Newton

Saturday, August 28
3:00 PM Sacrament of Reconciliation Plaistow

SUPPORT THE SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT de PAUL IN OCTOBER

Hannaford's, Route 111 in East Hampstead, NH
has RUN OUT of Fight for Hunger bags.

We apologize for the inconvenience!

Hannaford's will have a new supply in October,
so stay tuned!

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 21 ~ 21st Sunday in Ordinary Time
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

Monday, August 23 ~ Rose of Lima, Virgin
1 Thes 1:1-5, 8b-10; Mt 23:13-22
8:00 AM Stephen Fogg by Barbara Metcalf
Newton

Tuesday, August 24 ~ Bartholomew, Apostle
Rev 21:9b-14; Jn 1:45-51
8:00 AM In Honor of the Holy Trinity
Plaistow

Wednesday, August 25 ~ Louis; Joseph Calasanz, Priest
1 Thes 2:9-13; Mt 23:27-32
6:30 PM Francine Bettencourt (8th Anniversary)
by Janice Bettencourt
Plaistow

Thursday, August 26 ~ Weekday
1 Thes 3:7-13; Mt 24:42-51
8:00 AM The Intentions of Joyce Nardella
by her sister, Joan Daniels
Newton

Friday, August 27 ~ Monica
1 Thes 4:1-8; Mt 25:1-13
No Mass

Saturday, August 28 ~ Augustine, Bishop and Doctor of the Church
1 Thes 4:9-11; Mt 25:14-30 (Day)
Dt 4:1-2, 6-8; Jas 1:17-18, 21b-22, 27;
Mk 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23 (Vigil)
4:00 PM Donald B. Culbert, Jr. (6th Anniversary)
by his mother, Jane Culbert, and family
Plaistow

Sunday, August 29 ~ 22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time
Dt 4:1-2, 6-8; Jas 1:17-18, 21b-22, 27;
Mk 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23
8:00 AM Betty Joyce by the Lumnah family
Newton
10:00 AM Deceased Family Members of the Charles and Mary Jesionowski family
by Sonia Tatarka
Plaistow



✠ FAITH FORMATION & PARISH INFORMATION ✠



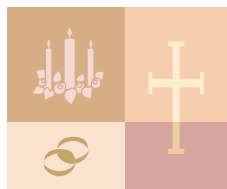
Thank you so much for your continued support of the St. Vincent de Paul Society. We've had a busy Spring, and Summer shows no sign of slowing down our effort to help our neighbors and friends in need.

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
**For The Intentions Of
Jeanne Fullerton**
by the Brotz family



ANNUAL MISSIONARY COOPERATIVE OFFERING

On the weekend of **August 28-29**, our Parish will reach out to the **Diocese of Jackson, Mississippi** in our own nation as part of our Diocese of Manchester Mission Cooperative program. The Diocese of Jackson, MS is one of the smallest per capita Catholic Dioceses in the US and certainly one of the poorest. Our generosity will help the parishes of the Diocese welcome 1000 children to schools and feeding programs in Mississippi and will also fund summer nutrition programs for children and families who do not get enough to eat in the summer vacation months. The Diocese of Jackson also sponsors parish programs that educate and welcome people of all faith traditions while helping residents who exist well below the poverty line. Thank you for your generosity to the Catholic Diocese of Jackson. Visit their website at www.jacksondiocese.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/Plaistow** and give us a Like! Please invite fellow parishioners & friends to do the same.

HELP WANTED

Saint Luke the Evangelist Parish in Newton-Plaistow, NH is searching for a PT custodian for our Preschool-Kindergarten in Plaistow, NH. The position involves routine custodial services after school hours (post 3 PM) Monday through Friday to equal twenty (20) hours per week. The successful candidate must be able to work independently and follow instructions to prepare the school environment for each new learning day. Candidates must be able to work on their feet for most of their time, go up and down stairs and lift at least twenty (20) pounds. Candidates must also complete the Diocese of Manchester protocols for Safe Environment including a State(s) Criminal background check and Diocesan Safe Environment database training.

A full job description and application materials are available by contacting the Parish Office at (603) 382-8324 or fr.albert@stluketheevangelist.net.

YOUNG ADULT RETREAT DAY

"Rest and Renew" is a Retreat Day for all Catholic men and women ages 21 to 35. 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>.

**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**

BRING THE BIBLE TO LIFE AND LIVE SCRIPTURE EVERY DAY!!!!



Join us for six weeks of exploration of the Bible that equips you to apply the message of Scripture to your daily life.

Threshold Bible Study series, published by *TWENTY-THIRD PUBLICATIONS*, is a dynamic, informative, and inspiring way to enter into a deeper relationship with God through Scripture.

Our Fall Bible share groups will be exploring the theme “Mysteries of the Rosary” *Twenty-Third Publications* states: “This study explores the biblical roots of each of the mysteries of the rosary and the meditative tradition of this popular prayer. Enhance your reflection on the joyful, luminous, sorrowful, and glorious mysteries by understanding their biblical foundations.”

If you are interested in joining a group either on Wednesday evenings at 7 p.m., beginning September 22, or Thursday afternoons at 1:30 p.m., beginning September 23, please cut the form at the bottom and complete. Completed forms should be returned either in the collection basket or the parish office no later than Tuesday, September 7. Any questions, contact Cathy Smith at 382-8324 or csmith@stluketheevangelist.net

Groups will meet downstairs

(There is a \$10 book fee)

Name _____

Address _____ Phone _____

E-Mail _____ Cell Phone _____

Mysteries of the Rosary (circle one)

Wednesdays at 7 p.m.
Sept. 22 – Oct. 27

Thursdays at 1:30 p.m.
Sept. 23 – Oct. 28

CREMATION?

While burial or entombment of the body remains the preference and is encouraged by the Church, cremation may be chosen for sufficient reason. The Revised Code of Canon Law states: "The Church earnestly recommends the pious custom of burial be retained; but it does not forbid cremation, unless this is chosen for reasons which are contrary to Christian teaching." (CIC, c. 1176.3)

When is Cremation Allowed? Cremation may be requested for hygienic, economic or other reasons of a public or private nature. Some examples include: transfer of the remains to a distant place, possible avoidance of considerable expense, a severe psychological fear of burial in the ground or in a tomb. The selection of cremation was the specific choice of the individual before death. When requested by the family of the deceased for what also might be determined as an appropriate pastoral reason.

If a body is to be cremated, is it preferable that cremation take place after the Funeral Liturgy?

It is recommended that priority be given to the celebration of the Eucharistic Liturgy with the body of the deceased present.

Can a body be cremated prior to the Funeral Liturgy? What arrangements are different?

In the Diocese of Manchester, it is permitted to celebrate the funeral liturgy in the presence of the cremated remains. The cremated remains are to be accorded the same respect given to the corporeal remains of a human body. This includes the way they are carried, the care and attention to appropriate placement and transport, and their final disposition. The container in which the cremated remains are placed should be dignified in nature. The cremated remains are to be positioned on a suitable table in the same place where the casket is usually positioned. They may also be placed near the Paschal Candle during the funeral liturgy. The candle and the cremated remains may be placed in the sanctuary so as to be visible to all.

What is required for the proper and reverent disposition of cremated remains?

Cremated remains are to be buried or inurned. They should not be buried on private land, but are to be buried in a cemetery or entombed in a mausoleum or columbarium. **The practice of scattering cremated remains on the sea, from the air, or on the ground is not permitted.** If burial takes place at sea, according to local custom, the cremated remains are to be kept intact in a solid and durable container, and not scattered.

Keeping the cremated remains in a private home, funeral home or any other place is not considered to be the reverent disposition that the Church requires. **The integrity of the cremated remains is always to be respected.** The cremated remains of one deceased person may not be mixed with the cremated remains of another person. It is not permitted to divide the cremated remains and retain, inter or entomb them in more than one place.

It is also not permitted to divide the cremated remains in such a way that they are contained in lockets or jewelry. Any other practice which violates the integrity of the cremated remains and impedes reverent and proper burial/disposition is prohibited. Whenever possible, appropriate memorialization should be utilized at the place of burial.

Consult your cemetery office for all available options for the respectful burial, disposition and memorialization of cremated remains.

... from the Heart of the Southern Home Missions

Mississippi is a big state embracing 47,716 square miles. It is a state of many contrasts from its gentle wooded slopes to its endless fields of cotton, soy beans, corn and rice, to the white sands and blue water of its Gulf Coast. Poultry for domestic and foreign consumers is complemented by catfish farming. Former times saw cotton as the predominant crop. Now agriculture is rivaled by growing industry. Throughout the State new factories are bringing in their wake the promise of a better life.

The growth of the State is indicated by the growth of Jackson, the capital. In 1945, Jackson had a population of 72,000; today the Jackson metropolitan area numbers 576,800. Statistics often paint a dismal picture of Mississippi, but its hospitals and schools, its growing cities and industries, its improved farming methods tell a different and happier story.

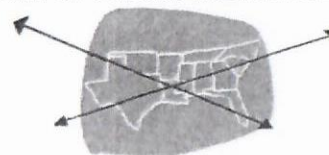
If a growing Mississippi is looking forward to a more prosperous future, there is no denying that the State is beset by many problems. We face crucial years in the State's history — years which will greatly influence the future of the State. In the meantime, the Catholic Diocese of Jackson proudly and diligently builds enthusiasm for a new evangelization. The burdens imposed by a society with the lowest per capita income and the highest percentage of families living below the poverty level of the fifty United States continue to challenge our best efforts.

The Catholic Church in America is concerned about its home missions. Mississippi and the Diocese of Jackson present a challenge and an opportunity. With approximately only 50,000 Catholics in a total population of 2,967,297, the Church of the Diocese of Jackson reaches out to the best of its ability in Christlike missionary and ecumenical thrusts to all people within its boundaries. With hope, we look to Catholics throughout the U.S. for encouragement and help. As people of God, we wish to bring enthusiasm to our ministry and commitment to our vision of sharing the light of faith with those who live the life and shape the times of Mississippi today.

Religious men and women and lay volunteers have shared generously in the growth of the Church in Mississippi. Today, 18 parishes or missions are led by a lay person or by a religious sister or brother. Twelve do not have Mass every weekend. Catholics in the Diocese of Jackson are 2.3 percent of the total population. There is a higher percentage of African-Americans in the general population than any other diocese in the United States and we have a growing Latino population. Less than one percent are Catholic.

The Catholic Church wishes to have a rightful place as a significant religious, social and cultural influence in Mississippi. We welcome your help. These are days of challenge, opportunity and action! Can you share in our mission here? If you do, the Church of Jackson welcomes you and is grateful for your prayers and generosity!

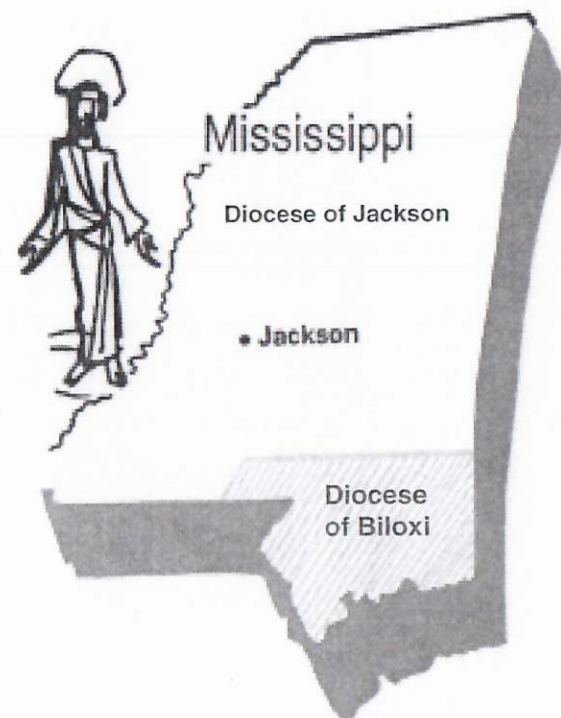
HEART OF THE SOUTHERN MISSIONS



Jackson, Mississippi

A Personal Invitation...

To Share in the Mission of Evangelization in the Diocese of Jackson



"We wish to confirm once more that the task of evangelizing all people constitutes the essential mission of the Church. It is a task and mission which the vast and profound changes of present-day society make all the more urgent. Evangelizing is in fact the grace and vocation proper to the Church, her deepest identity."

Pope Paul VI
On Evangelization in the Modern World

The Diocese of Jackson covers Sixty-five of MISSISSIPPI'S eighty-two counties.
It is the largest diocese east of the Mississippi River.

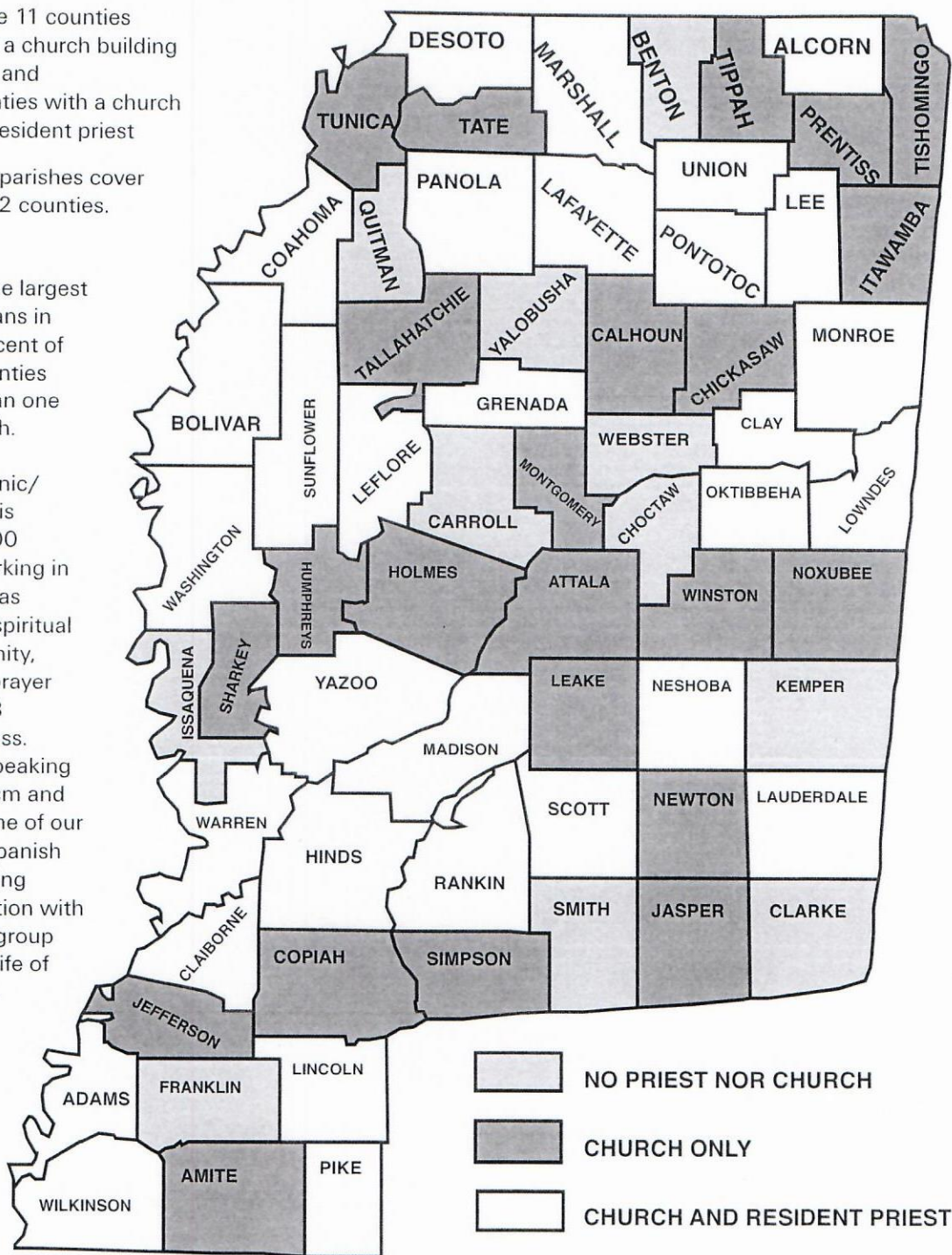
We have 11 counties
without a church building
and
21 counties with a church
but no resident priest

Twenty parishes cover
at least 2 counties.

The Diocese of Jackson has the largest percentage of African-Americans in the total population. Forty percent of all people in our sixty-five counties are African-American. Less than one percent share our Catholic faith.

We also have a growing Hispanic/Latino population. Presently it is estimated that there are 30,000 Hispanic people living and working in the Diocese of Jackson. This has been a challenge to meet the spiritual needs of this growing community, sacraments, Mass, and other prayer services. Presently we have 28 parishes that offer Spanish Mass. Others have hired a Spanish speaking minister to assist with catechism and sacramental preparations. Some of our priests have begun studying Spanish so as to better serve this growing population. It is a lively population with many children and certainly a group that we wish to bring into the life of the Church here in Mississippi.

There are 33 public and private universities, colleges and junior colleges without any Catholic colleges.



For more information contact:
The Director

MISSISSIPPI CATHOLIC MISSIONS
CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF JACKSON
P. O. Box 2248 • Jackson, MS 39225-2248 • 601/969-1880



Bringing Home the Word

Twenty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time (B)

August 22, 2021

Our Legacy of Faith

By Fr. Mark Haydu, LC

We all want to leave a legacy, to be remembered when we're gone. A legacy comes from faithfully and lovingly living your convictions. Joshua challenges the Israelites, making a definitive statement as their leader and head of his family: "We will serve the LORD." Notice that it isn't a question of *if* you will serve someone, but *who* you will serve.

The easiest way to find out who you are serving is to look where your heart, thoughts, and worries are. Jesus said, "Where your treasure is, there also will your heart be" (Matthew 6:21).

Peter also had this hard choice placed to him, and he spoke up as the first pope, the head of a family of believers. When Jesus revealed the doctrine of the Eucharist, that it was truly his body and blood, many left him over this difficult saying.

Jesus asks the apostles if they want to leave, too. He could have said this was just a symbol—that those who left had misunderstood. But he doesn't change his teaching. He merely asks the apostles if they accept and believe him.

Peter's answer, like Joshua's, is a fundamental option. He finds in Jesus' words eternal life. There is nowhere else to go when you have tasted the goodness and truth of Jesus. As hard as some of those truths may be, for Peter there is no turning away. Following Jesus faithfully will lead him to lay down his life for Jesus, crucified upside down, and buried on Vatican Hill where you can visit his tomb today. How's that for a legacy? +

Sunday Readings

Joshua 24:1–2a, 15–17, 18b

[Joshua said,] "Choose today whom you will serve....As for me and my household, we will serve the LORD."

Ephesians 5:21–32 or 5:2a, 25–32

Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ loved the church and handed himself over for her.

John 6:60–69

Simon Peter answered..."You have the words of eternal life. We have come to believe and are convinced that you are the Holy One of God."

The easiest way to find out who you are serving is to look where your heart, thoughts, and worries are.

A Word from Pope Francis

When someone is sick, we at times think: "Let's call for the priest to come"; "No, then he will bring bad luck. Let's not call him."...The idea is floating about that the undertakers arrive after the priest, and this is not true....It is Jesus himself who comes to relieve the sick person...and also to forgive his sins.

—General audience, February 26, 2014



REFLECTION QUESTIONS



- What are my convictions, and what ideal do I love and live for?
- Will that ideal last in time and into eternity? There is still time to adjust.

What if We Used God's Gifts?

By Kathleen M. Basi

The summer after I graduated high school, I toured Europe with a music ensemble. One afternoon in the Italian countryside, we passed a tenement in the ditch beside the highway. It flashed by so quickly, I didn't have time to form a clear picture; I only have an impression of shelters constructed from cardboard boxes with sheets draped over them.

That image has haunted me ever since. Seeing such things in pictures doesn't quite pack the same emotional punch as being there in real life. I couldn't believe anybody actually lived like that, especially in the First World.

Many things in the world defy comprehension, particularly for those of us comfortably ensconced in temperature-controlled homes with two- (or three-) car garages and multiple televisions. Terror attacks, genocide, poverty, and war brutal enough to cause millions to flee their homelands are unfathomable. So is the crucifixion, actually.

That image of a body stretched upon intersecting beams is unfathomable for the opposite reason. Its familiarity lessens its impact. To me, the icon of Our Mother of Perpetual Help offers a different way to approach this pivotal event in salvation history. It depicts the Christ Child shrinking away from the cross, the nails, the lance, and the gall and vinegar. Meanwhile, his Mother is



staring right at us while gesturing to her Son. I can just see in her eyes what she's thinking: "Look what he's done for you!"

Meditating on this image, I realize I may never be able to fully comprehend just what Jesus went through in order to win our salvation, any more than I can comprehend the desperation that leads parents to put their children in a raft in the middle of winter and cross the sea.

Yet comprehending isn't what matters most. The world is full of suffering, full of problems whose magnitude we will never understand, let alone figure out how to fix. And yet each of us is uniquely gifted, with a purpose in God's plan. Each of us

can toss a pebble and make a tiny ripple in that vast surface. One little throw might not make a difference, but if every Christian did the same, who knows what God might accomplish through us?

In the end, when I look at the icon of Our Mother of Perpetual Help, that is what comes to mind. "Look what he's done for you," she seems to be saying. "Now, what are you going to do?" +

The icon of Our Mother of Perpetual Help gives people a powerful way to look at the crucifixion.

PRAYER

*Lord, you have the words
of eternal life.*

*Help me believe and trust
in the power of your Word.*

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

WEEKDAY READINGS

August 23–28

Monday, Weekday:

1 Thes 1:1–5, 8b–10 / Mt 23:13–22

Tuesday, St. Bartholomew:

Rv 21:9b–14 / Jn 1:45–51

Wednesday, Weekday:

1 Thes 2:9–13 / Mt 23:27–32

Thursday, Weekday:

1 Thes 3:7–13 / Mt 24:42–51

Friday, St. Monica:

1 Thes 4:1–8 / Mt 25:1–13

Saturday, St. Augustine:

1 Thes 4:9–11 / Mt 25:14–30

Bringing Home
the Word 

August 22, 2021

© 2021 Liguori Publications, a ministry of the Redemptorists. One Liguori Drive, Liguori, MO 63057. Scripture quotations in this publication are from the *New American Bible*, revised edition, © 2010, 1991, 1986, 1970 Confraternity of Christian Doctrine, Washington, DC. The Pope Francis quotation is used with permission and copyright © 2020 *Libreria Editrice Vaticana*. All rights reserved. 1-800-325-9521. Liguori.org.