

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By mandate of the Bishop of Manchester on June 6, all restrictions and procedures put in place during the pandemic are no longer in effect.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 29, 2021

Offertory	\$6,514.71
Missionary Co-op	\$1,393.00



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

September 5	Property Management
September 12	Catholic University / USCCB
September 19	Fuel
September 26	Priest Retirement Fund
October 3	Property Management

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

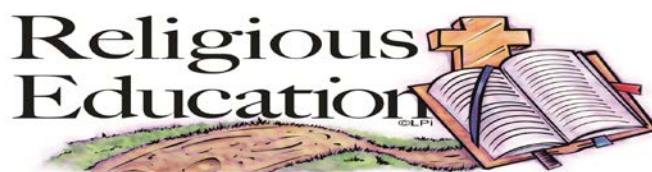
Suggested Weekly Contribution Based on a Percentage Increase

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 FALL...

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

TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

✠ WEEKLY CALENDAR ✠

Sunday, September 5
11:00 AM Religious Ed Registration *Plaistow*

Monday, September 6
PARISH OFFICE CLOSED
7:00 PM Knights of Columbus Meeting *Plaistow*

Wednesday, September 8
Holy Angels Church
Open All Day For Prayer

Thursday, September 9
8:30 AM – 8:30 PM Eucharistic Adoration *Newton*

Saturday, September 11
3:00 PM Sacrament of Reconciliation *Plaistow*

Sunday, September 12
10:00 AM Blessing of Catechists *Plaistow*
11:00 AM Catechist Meeting *Plaistow*

HAITI RELIEF

Please pray for the people of Haiti who have suffered yet another set of natural disasters. Visit www.CRS.org to donate to Haiti relief and find out more information about Catholic Relief Services work in Haiti and throughout the world.

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



**FEED THE
HUNGRY**

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, September 4 ~ 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time
Is 35:4-7a; Jas 2:1-5; Mk 7:31-37 (Vigil)

4:00 PM Frances Blinn (First Anniversary)
by Patricia Morrill
Plaistow

Sunday, September 5 ~ 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time
Is 35:4-7a; Jas 2:1-5; Mk 7:31-37

8:00 AM The Intentions of Paul Fournier by Edith Fournier
Newton
10:00 AM In Honor of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Plaistow

Monday, September 6 ~ Weekday
Col 1:24—2:3; Lk 6:6-11

8:00 AM People of the Parish
Newton

Tuesday, September 7 ~ Weekday
Col 2:6-15; Lk 6:12-19

8:00 AM Deceased Members of the Fogel Family and
Frank Kelcourse by Elaine Kelcourse
Plaistow

Wednesday, September 8 ~ Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Mi 5:1-4a or Rom 8:28-30; Mt 1-16, 18-23
6:30 PM Will Johnson by the Knights of Columbus
Plaistow

Thursday, September 9 ~ Peter Claver, Priest
Col 3:12-17; Lk 6:27-38

8:00 AM People of the Parish
Newton

Friday, September 10 ~ Weekday
1 Tm 1:1-2, 12-14; Lk 6:39-42
No Mass

Saturday, September 11 ~ Weekday
1 Tm 1:15-17; Lk 6:43-49 (Day)

Is 50:4c-9a; Jas 2:14-18; Mk 8:27-35 (Vigil)
4:00 PM Louise Waters by Pat Zakiewicz
Plaistow

Sunday, September 12 ~ 24th Sunday in Ordinary Time
Is 50:4c-9a; Jas 2:14-18; Mk 8:27-35

8:00 AM Raymond Huberdeau by Linda Huberdeau
Newton
10:00 AM Jesselyn Driscoll by her family
Plaistow



✠ FAITH FORMATION & PARISH INFORMATION ✠



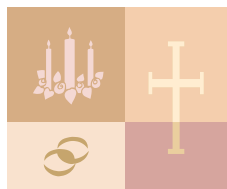
Thank you so much for your continued support of the St. Vincent de Paul Society. We've had a busy Spring, and Summer shows no sign of slowing down our effort to help our neighbors and friends in need.

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 ✠

TOUCH-A-TRUCK FESTIVAL

St. Joseph Regional Catholic School invites you to its 7th Annual Touch-A-Truck Festival on **Saturday, October 2 from 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM** in SJRCS's lower parking lot. This family friendly event is free and open to the public. There will be vehicles, food trucks, music, balloon artists, raffles, and more! Visit police, fire, construction vehicles, etc. Non-perishable food items will be collected for the Sts. Mary and Joseph Food Pantry.

ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

Bishop Peter A. Libasci invites all couples celebrating a significant wedding anniversary in 2021, and those recently unable to participate due to COVID-19, to attend the Fall Wedding Anniversary Mass. This celebration will be held on **Sunday, October 17, 2021 at 2:00 PM** at St. Joseph Cathedral, Manchester. **To register, please contact your parish office by September 22, 2021.** The parish office will gather and submit all necessary information. Once registration has been completed by the parish office, all registrants will receive an invitation to this special celebration. To all married couples, congratulations and we look forward to seeing you at this fall's Wedding Anniversary Mass!

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.

PARISH OFFICE CLOSED

In observance of the Labor Day holiday, the Parish Office will be closed on **Monday, September 6**. The Office will reopen at 8:30 AM on Tuesday, September 7. Our usual office hours are Monday through Thursday from 8:30 AM to 12:00 PM and 1:00 to 5:00 PM. The Office is closed on Fridays.

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



LOOKING FOR GOOD MEN

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

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

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



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

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 or call 382-8324.

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 _____

**In case you missed it in last week's bulletin...
We're planning to have, God-willing, a LIVE Christmas Fair !!**

**The date & time of our annual Christmas Fair is
Saturday, November 6, 2021 from 9:00AM - 3:00PM**

As in years past, we'll have all our favorites: The Café, Cash Raffle, Cookie Heaven, Country Store, Jewelry Table, Kids Table, Lollipop Game, Penny Sale, Photos with Santa, Quilt Raffle, Silent Auction, Theme Baskets, Vendors, and Wine Raffle.

We are also hoping to utilize the online website BiddingOwl as we did last year to expand our reach. Adding BiddingOwl to our Fair Toolbox will allow each of us to share the Christmas Fair with family & friends who are not local, as well as to the community at large.

But first, we need lots of donations for: Country Store, Jewelry, Penny Sale, Silent Auction, Theme Baskets, and Wine raffle. Please see the reverse side of this bulletin for a list of donation needs and basket ideas.

Please note the following KEY DATES

We will begin accepting donations, in Plaistow, starting Saturday, September 11 from 3:00PM-5:00PM and Sunday, September 12 from 9:00AM-12:00PM.

Donations can be dropped off downstairs in Parish Hall, in Plaistow, every Saturday from 3:00PM-5:00PM and every Sunday from 9:00AM-12:00PM until Sunday, October 17. The last day and time for donation drop off will be Sunday, October 17 from 9:00AM-12:00PM.

CAN YOU HELP accept donations, even if only for an hour, on any of the following days downstairs in the Parish Hall in Plaistow??

Saturday, Sept. 11 from 3:00PM-5:00PM or Sunday, Sept. 12 from 9:00AM-12:00PM

Saturday, Sept. 18 from 3:00PM-5:00PM or Sunday, Sept. 19 from 9:00AM-12:00PM

Saturday, Sept. 25 from 3:00PM-5:00PM or Sunday, Sept. 26 from 9:00AM-12:00PM

Saturday, Oct. 2 from 3:00PM-5:00PM or Sunday, Oct. 3 from 9:00AM-12:00PM

Saturday, Oct. 9 from 3:00PM-5:00PM or Sunday, Oct. 10 from 9:00AM-12:00PM

Saturday, Oct. 16 from 3:00PM-5:00PM or Sunday, Oct. 17 from 9:00AM-12:00PM

If you can help, please email stlukenhfair@gmail.com with your availability

St. Luke the Evangelist Parish Annual Christmas Fair

Can you donate...

New and/or Like-New items ?

Antiques, Collectibles, Gift Cards ?

Lottery Tickets ? Lots & Lots & Lots of Lottery Tickets ?

Original Artwork, New Toys, Fun Gadgets, or New Power Tools ?

Newly Knitted and/or Crocheted Coordinated Sets or Afghans ?

Items for men, Items for women, Items for boys, or Items for girls ?

Wine: White wine, Red wine, Pink wine, Sparkling wine, Wine, Wine, Wine !!!

Jewelry: new/like-new Rings, Watches, Chains, Necklaces, Earrings, or Bracelets ??

Vases ? We can get a generous Gift Certificate from a local florist in exchange for them.

Themed Baskets are needed!!

Here are some ideas:

As-Seen-On-TV, Babies, Baking, Beauteous Beards, Birthday-In-A-Box, Book Club, Breakfast-In-A-Basket, Caffeine Fix, Christmas Theme, Chocolate Madness, Cooking, COVID Safety, Crafty Kids, Crazy for Cats, Family Fun, First Aid, Fishing, Fabulous Foodie, Football Fans, Game Night, Gardening, Golf-Golf-Golf, The Grill Master, Ice Cream Party, Kid's Crafts, Kitchen Essentials, Ladies Night Out, Loco for Legos, Mani/Pedi Kit, Mexican Fiesta, Movie Night, New Years' Celebration, Knifty Knitting, Outdoor Adventure, Pamper-the-Chef, Pasta Night, Picnic Basket, Puppy Lovers, Quilting, Relaxation Station, Road Trip, Scrapbooking, Spa Day, Sports Lover, Stampers Delight, Super Scientist, Thanksgiving, Vehicle Safety Kit, Weekend Getaway, Winter Fun, Yoga Time, Zen Master.

KEY DATES

We will accept donations Saturday, September 11 through Sunday, October 17.

Donations will be accepted down in the Church Hall every Saturday from 3:00PM-5:00PM and every Sunday from 9:00AM-11:00AM. The last day and time for donation drop-off will be Sunday, October 17 from 9:00AM-11:00AM.

The Silent Auction and Raffles will close on Saturday, November 6 at 3:00PM.

We will begin notifying winners on Saturday, November 6 after 3:30PM.

Pick up days and times will be:

Sunday, November 7 from 9:00AM-12:00PM.

Saturday, November 13 from 3:00PM– 5:00PM

Sunday, November 14 from 9:00AM-12:00PM.

All winnings must be picked up by 12:00PM on Sunday, November 14.



Bringing Home the Word

Twenty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time (B)

September 5, 2021

A Church of and for the Poor

By Fr. Mark Haydu, LC

The book of James is one of the hardest hitting in the New Testament. He is a tell-it-like-it-is apostle, warning the early Church not to show partiality to the rich and powerful. This is always a danger, especially in a Church that relies on donations. While gratitude to donors is understandable and proper, it's easy for gratitude to become preference, partiality, and a different moral standard. James warns the Church against this.

Jesus warns us, too. He talks about inviting the poor to a party rather than those who can repay us. He tells us that

when we give, that the left hand should not know what the right is doing. He warns the rich that the path to heaven is narrow.

Jesus' call to salvation was for all, but his pastoral focus was certainly with the poor. So, he dedicated much of his time reaching out to those who could give nothing in return: the blind, deaf, lame, and lepers. And his attention didn't stop at the materially poor but extended to sinners and those thought to be impure.

This love for the weak was a sign of the Messiah as proclaimed by many prophets, including Isaiah. The Anointed of God would come to vindicate the poor, orphaned, widowed, sick, and oppressed.

Jesus did exactly that, and it was this solicitude and miraculous power that began convincing Galileans, and eventually those in Jerusalem, that he was the long-awaited One. Pope Francis said he longed for a Church of the poor, for the poor. It seems Jesus did, too. +

Sunday Readings

Isaiah 35:4-7a

Say to the fearful of heart:
Be strong, do not fear!
Here is your God.

James 2:1-5

My brothers and sisters, show no partiality as you adhere to the faith in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ.

Mark 7:31-37

And [immediately] the man's ears were opened, his speech impediment was removed, and he spoke plainly.

While gratitude to donors is understandable, it's easy for it to become partiality and a different moral standard.

A Word from Pope Francis

Remember that story about the poor widow lady...Her husband had committed suicide; he jumped from the bridge into the river. And she wept. She said, "I am a sinner, a poor woman. But my poor husband! He is in hell."...And the Curé of Ars said, "But wait a moment, ma'am, because between the bridge and the river, there is the mercy of God."

—Homily, March 18, 2019



REFLECTION QUESTIONS

ONE2LION2 REFLECTION

- Do I have a heart for the poor as Jesus did?
- How can I express that real preference in practical ways?

Want to Be in That Number?

By Kathleen M. Basi

When I was a child, I had a book about saints that I loved. It was filled with color pictures and heroic, larger-than-life stories. I spent hours trying to decide whether I liked Catherine of Siena or Catherine of Alexandria better. I felt as if I ought to like Siena better for cutting her hair off and being a nun and all, but Alexandria's picture was prettier.

It was years before I realized most of these people weren't the golden-haired northern Europeans portrayed in my book. It was later still before I realized that by focusing on legends and miracles, I had turned sainthood into something reserved for a select few—something far beyond the reach of an ordinary mortal like me.

These days, I prefer to think of the saints as real people, flawed and fragile, representing every country and culture on earth. Yet for all their diversity, each of them sought exactly what I seek: discernment and courage to walk in the footsteps of Christ in a way that is authentic both to his example and to the time and place in which I live.

Now, my favorite stories speak not of miracles, but of extraordinary courage in ordinary situations—like Elizabeth Ann Seton, who, as an impoverished widow, founded the first parochial school in this country, along with a new order of religious—all while raising her own children.

They speak of deeply practical courage



in extraordinary circumstances—like Maximilian Kolbe, who willingly starved to death in place of a fellow concentration-camp prisoner in Auschwitz. In my opinion, that would be even harder than volunteering for a firing squad, where at least the end would come quickly.

And then there are figures with checkered pasts, like Dorothy Day and Thomas Merton—those who don't have feast days in the Church calendar but whose words and actions have reverberated like an earthquake, reshaping the foundation of my faith.

Real people. Real lives. People stumbling through their world in all its messiness, trying to find the path to holiness amid chaos and to identify their

individual purpose for why God placed them on this earth. Those people give me hope. If they managed to find their purpose, maybe I can, too.

It's no longer enough for me to read a paragraph or two about the legendary exploits of those whose names begin with "Saint." I want to know how the real people behind those legends lived. How they learned to mirror God while surrounded by cranky kids and clueless coworkers and spouses who insist on using dish towels to wipe dirty mouths. Because that is the path I need illuminated. +

Saints are real people with real lives seeking the discernment and courage to exemplify Christ.

PRAYER

Lord, I am grateful for your faithfulness. Teach me to bring the comfort of your loving presence to those who are afraid.

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

WEEKDAY READINGS

September 6–11

Monday, Weekday:
Col 1:24–2:3 / Lk 6:6–11

Tuesday, Weekday:
Col 2:6–15 / Lk 6:12–19

Wednesday, The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary: Mi 5:1–4a or Rom 8:28–30 / Mt 1:1–16, 18–23, or 1:18–23

Thursday, St. Peter Claver:
Col 3:12–17 / Lk 6:27–38

Friday, Weekday:
1 Tm 1:1–2, 12–14 / Lk 6:39–42

Saturday, Weekday:
1 Tm 1:15–17 / Lk 6:43–49