

COVID UPDATE

By mandate of the Bishop of Manchester on June 6, all restrictions and procedures put in place during the pandemic are no longer in effect.

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

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

Anyone who has been recently exposed to COVID 19 or any other communicable disease should not attend public services of any kind. Those sick should remain at home until such time as they are healthy.

Liturgy online or on TV...

Boston Catholic Television catholicstv.org
Sunday Mass from Notre Dame
catholicstv.org/masses/notre-dame-mass
Salt & Light TV saltandlighttv.org
Eternal Word Television ewtn.com

COVID VACCINE CONCERNS

Beware of fake news! There are reports that call into question the moral and ethical validity of Covid-19 vaccines. Do not be misled. **Right click** on the following tab and **open** the hyperlink to read what the Bishops of the United States are saying about the moral permissibility of the current Covid-19 vaccines:

[Click Here for the Memo](#)

SANCTUARY CANDLES

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



Out of respect for the Lord and in consideration of fellow parishioners, please remember to silence or turn off your cell phones during Mass. Thank you!

✠ PARISH TITHING ✠

Our Parish needs to take in \$9700.00 each week in order to make ends meet. This amount represents an adjusted budget offertory of \$8500.00 per week plus the combination of budgeted Property and Fuel second collections (\$4800.00 per month divided into 4 weeks or \$1200.00 weekly). Your weekly contribution helps ensure that the Parish remains a vibrant community. Please remember to submit your weekly gift even if you will be away. Consider signing up for electronic giving (see below). Especially in these trying times, your Parish depends on your responsible stewardship and support!

**COLLECTION AMOUNTS FOR
SEPTEMBER 5, 2021
WILL APPEAR IN NEXT WEEK'S BULLETIN**



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

UPCOMING SECOND & SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

September 12	Catholic University / USCCB
September 19	Fuel
September 26	Priest Retirement Fund
October 3	Property Management
October 10	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

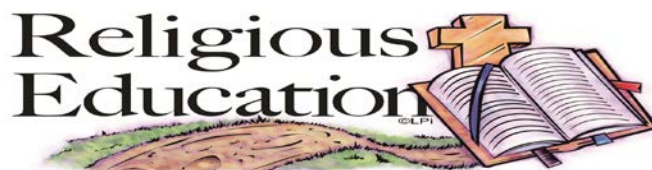
Suggested Weekly Contribution Based on a Percentage Increase

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 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-FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

✠ WEEKLY CALENDAR ✠

Sunday, September 12

10:00 AM Blessing of Catechists *Plaistow*
 11:00 AM Catechist Meeting *Plaistow*

Wednesday, September 15

Holy Angels Church
 Open All Day For Prayer

7:00 PM St. Vincent de Paul Society Meeting *Plaistow*

Thursday, September 16

8:30 AM – 8:30 PM Eucharistic Adoration *Newton*

Saturday, September 18

3:00 PM Sacrament of Reconciliation *Plaistow*

Sunday, September 19

10:00 AM Religious Ed – Gr. PreK to 8 *Plaistow*
 12:00 PM Religious Ed – High School *Plaistow*

The Sanctuary Candle in
 Holy Angels Church
 will burn this week in loving memory of
Paul Antkowiak
 (1st Anniversary)
 by his family



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.



**FEED THE
 HUNGRY**

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 11 ~ 24th Sunday in Ordinary Time

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

Monday, September 13 ~ John Chrysostom, Bishop and Doctor of the Church

1 Tm 2:1-8; Lk 7:1-10

8:00 AM Monica Skerry by the Barczak family
Newton

Tuesday, September 14 ~ Exaltation of the Holy Cross

Nm 21:4b-9; Phil 2:6-11; Jn 3:13-17

8:00 AM Ed Duhamel (Birthday Remembrance)
 by Pat Zakiewicz
Plaistow

Wednesday, September 15 ~ Our Lady of Sorrows

1 Tm 3:14-16; Jn 19:25-27 or Lk 2:33-35

6:30 PM William DeSantos, Sr. by Jack and Barb Brotz
Plaistow

Thursday, September 16 ~ Cornelius, Pope, and Cyprian, Bishop, Martyrs

1 Tm 4:12-16; Lk 7:36-50

8:00 AM Shirley Fontaine (Month's Mind)
Newton

Friday, September 17 ~ Robert Bellarmine, Bishop and Doctor of the Church

1 Tm 6:2c-12; Lk 8:1-3

No Mass

Saturday, September 18 ~ Weekday

1 Tm 6:13-16; Lk 8:4-15 (Day)

Wis 2:12, 17-20; Jas 3:16—4:3; Mk 9:30-37 (Vigil)

4:00 PM Natalie and Phillip Gagnon
 by the Lanseigne family
Plaistow

Sunday, September 19 ~ 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Wis 2:12, 17-20; Jas 3:16—4:3; Mk 9:30-37

8:00 AM Robert M. Hampe, Jr. by the Lumnah family
Newton

10:00 AM Paul Antkowiak (1st Anniversary) by his family
Plaistow



✠ FAITH FORMATION & PARISH INFORMATION ✠



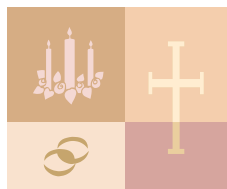
Thank you so much for your continued support of the St. Vincent de Paul Society. We've had a busy Spring, and Summer shows no sign of slowing down our effort to help our neighbors and friends in need.

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** ✠

VIGIL LIGHT

The Vigil Light in front of the Blessed Mother Icon in Newton may be offered in memory or honor of a loved one. The suggested offering for each is \$10.00.

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!

**ONLINE BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUP
FROM CATHOLIC CHARITIES NH**

Have you recently lost a spouse, family member or friend, and are struggling to cope with the loss? Catholic Charities NH will be starting its next online support group, **"Bereavement – Experiencing Loss, Being Lost and Finding your Way Again,"** a six-week program helping participants discover new ways to cope with loss, while creating opportunities to be supported and support others also sharing a painful journey. Sessions will be held on **Wednesdays (September 29 – November 3) from 1:30 to 2:30 PM.** To register, visit www.cc-nh.org/beravement. You may also call 603-752-1325 or email efrenette@nh-cc.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.

Christmas Craft Fair

Saturday, November 6, 2021

9:00 AM to 3:00 PM



**St. Luke the Evangelist Parish Center
8 Atkinson Depot Rd. Plaistow, NH**

Come join us for a fabulous day full of fun and festivities! There will be thousands of one-of-a-kind gifts from 20+ vendors of high-quality, handcrafted, and handmade items. Plus, our Country Store, Silent Auction, Jewelry Table, and COOKIE HEAVEN! We're offering 5 great raffles: \$1000 Cash Raffle, Wine Raffle, Penny Sale Raffles, Theme Basket Raffles, and Quilt Raffles. Breakfast and lunch will be available in The Café and we'll have various live entertainment and children's activities all day long. If we're lucky, we will even have Photos with SANTA from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM. **Plenty of free parking! No admission fee! Our indoor event will be held rain or shine.** Questions? Call 603-382-8324. *Please note: the parish center is NOT wheelchair accessible.*

**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.





Ever wonder how you can make a difference for those in your community?

Saint Vincent de Paul's Annual Fundraiser, the Walk for the Poor, is our largest fundraiser. This year, the need is greater than it has ever been. We all know more people are struggling financially than ever before. They are looking for a hand up to get them through this rough patch. This is where the **Society of Saint Vincent de Paul** can help. We give that hand up - to help pay rent, put food on their table, get their car repaired to be able to go to work, keep their home heated, get medicine they require, etc. We want to have the funds to be able to help anyone who asks, but we need your help in doing that! Please consider joining our walk this year. We would love to see families walking to help other families. SportsTeams walking to support their community. We encourage people to walk in memory of a loved one - what a beautiful way to be remembered. Every dollar raised goes directly to helping people in our community.

This year, like last year, there are two options for our walk:

Option 1 - Walk with us on September 25, 2021

We will leave from Mary, Mother of the Church by proceeding left onto Amesbury Road, right onto Bear Hill Road and back, which is a little over a mile. Registration will be at 9 a.m. with the walk beginning at 10 a.m. Water, Gatorade and tee-shirts will be available. We will be socially distancing as we are walking.

OR

Option 2 - Walk "Virtually" ANYTIME from September 25 through October 9, 2021 virtually. Walk your dog, do a family walk or hike, walk on your treadmill at the gym, walk around your neighborhood – just please WALK! Send us a picture of you walking, (if you want) and we will post it on our Facebook page.

Both options require you to fill out a simple registration form at <https://www.fopwalk.org/event/2503>

If you have any questions, please contact Margaret Madeiros madeirosm22@yahoo.com or Susan Mokray suziqmo@aol.com visit our Facebook page www.facebook.com/SVDP/?ti=as

The Friends of the Poor® Walk/Run is a national event coordinated by the Development Team at the National Council of the United States Society of St. Vincent de Paul.

Will you walk a mile with us to support our mission to help the poor in our community?



FRIENDS OF THE POOR® WALK/RUN

SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL



Walker/Runner Pledge Sheet

Walker's Full Name:

SVdP Conference/Council Name: Plaistow NH

Donor's Name	Donor's Address	Pledge \$ Amount	Paid
0Example: Bob Smith	1212 Main Street, Anytown, MO 12345	25.00	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
1			
2			
3			
4			
5			
6			
7			
8			
9			
10			
11			
Total			

HAITI COLLECTION

A massive 7.2-magnitude earthquake hit Haiti on August 14, killing more than 2000 people, with death toll numbers still unknown. The quake and aftershocks leveled homes, leaving thousands without shelter. Countless others were injured, and hospitals are overwhelmed.



Tropical Storm Grace hit the island on August 16, causing more widespread suffering and damage. Haiti is a country already susceptible to tropical weather and is still recovering from the disastrous earthquake a decade ago. Many in Haiti are already facing widespread hunger due to drought and economic instability. Your gift is critical for the families in Haiti. When you give, you provide immediate assistance for our Haitian sisters and brothers desperate to survive this devastating situation. Your help will deliver immediate relief. The Bishops of the USA have asked Catholics to reach out to Catholic Relief Services to get needed help to Haiti. CRS is the outreach organization of the US Catholic Church and is well established to help in Haiti. Your prayers and support will make so much difference. Please give a vital gift today!

Visit **CRS.ORG** to donate!



HURRICANE IDA RELIEF DONATIONS

The effects of Hurricane Ida have been devastating for US states in the South and throughout the southeast northeast. The Catholic Church in the US is already helping... you can too!

CATHOLIC CHARITIES USA

Catholic Charities USA, is commissioned by the U.S. Catholic Bishops to represent the American Catholic community in times of domestic disaster, responds with emergency and long-term assistance as needed. Its Disaster Response Office connects the Church's social service agencies and disaster planning offices across the nation. Catholic Charities USA is collaborating with the American Red Cross and other humanitarian organizations to respond to the devastation wrought by Hurricane Ida. To make donations for Hurricane Ida visit **catholiccharitiesusa.org**.

SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DEPAUL

Contributions may be made online or by mail: Online: **svdpusa.org**. Mail: The National Council, Society of St. Vincent de Paul, 58 Progress Pkwy. St. Louis, MO 63043-3706.

PARISH SERVERS WANTED

Parish life is back !!

We are looking to resume ALTAR SERVERS ministering at all Sunday, Weekday and Holy Day Liturgies...

But we are also conscious of personal safety and family schedules as well as the Parish schedule for Religious Education. So, we are looking for Altar Servers as follows:



Saturday 4 PM Plaistow – ADULT SERVERS

Sunday 8 am Newton – ADULT SERVERS

Sunday 10 am – YOUTH & ADULT SERVERS

Weekday Liturgies – ADULT SERVERS

★ Youth are always welcome to serve at the 4 PM and the 8 am Liturgy, but because of Religious Education schedules this may be complicated... but welcome still !

ALTAR SERVER - YOUTH

The mission of the St. Luke the Evangelist Altar Servers is to minister at God's altar with reverence, generosity, and love. The presence of Altar Servers is an important witness, reminding us that Catholics of every age have gifts to offer and a role in ministry. To become a youth Altar Server, students must be in the third grade or higher, and have received Confirmation & Eucharist

Parent permission forms are available in the Sacristy of both Churches. All Servers begin as "observers" and gradually learn what Servers do during Mass. Contact F. Albert (fr.albert@stluketheevangelist.net) or at 382-8324 with any questions or to begin Altar Serving.

ALTAR SERVER - ADULT

Adult Altar Servers continue the mission of service to the Parish in its worship. Adults are scheduled at Saturday Vigil, Sunday, Daily and Holy Day Liturgies. Adults are especially welcome to assist at Funeral Liturgies which are typically held on weekday or Saturday mornings.

Youth or Adult Servers may choose to wear a mask while serving.

Contact F. Albert (fr.albert@stluketheevangelist.net) or at 382-8324 with any questions.



Bringing Home the Word

Twenty-fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time (B)

September 12, 2021

Changing Our Mentality

By Fr. Mark Haydu, LC

Jesus presents a different way of seeing, hearing, and judging. It takes some getting used to!

Peter, as a good friend, wants to protect Jesus from the cross he is announcing. Yet Jesus doesn't want protection from the will of the Father—rather he wants support. He invites Peter to change his mentality.

Jesus knew what was coming; he must suffer and be rejected. Suffering and rejection are not absolute evils. Our goal in life can't be to avoid suffering and to be accepted by everyone. If we pursue good and follow Jesus, we will also experience rejection. When Jesus tells us that following him means taking up our cross,

it shouldn't surprise us when a cross is planted in our path with a sign saying, "Pick me up."

In the first reading, the prophet says he opened his ear and didn't rebel. When the consequences of this faith were abuse and rejection, he didn't shield his body and face. He could do so because, like Jesus, he was rooted in love and not fear. He didn't fear their arguments, ideas, and insults. He didn't fear what they could do to his body, for they couldn't touch his soul, his heart, his freedom.

When we know we are loved, and are following what is right, we have a confidence and a strength that the world knows not.

It is a different way of seeing, hearing, and judging. It is of a higher order, a deeper source, and brings total peace. And it takes some getting used to! +

Sunday Readings

Isaiah 50:4c–9a

I gave my back to those who beat me,
my cheeks to those who tore out my beard.

James 2:14–18

Demonstrate your faith to me without works, and I will demonstrate my faith to you from my works.

Mark 8:27–35

[Jesus said,] "You are thinking not as God does, but as human beings do."

*Our goal in life can't be
to avoid suffering
and to be accepted
by everyone.*

A Word from Pope Francis

You may know all the commandments, all the prophecies, all the truths of the faith, but if this isn't put into practice, is not translated into works, it serves nothing....A faith without works, a faith that doesn't get you involved, isn't faith. It's words and nothing more than words.

—Homily, February 21, 2014



REFLECTION QUESTIONS

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

- When amidst situations of opposition, do I find my peace in Jesus and the truth?
- What might steal my peace? Talk to Jesus about it and look for a solution in his gospel of the cross.

Stop. Pray. Stay!

By Fr. Bruce Lewandowski, CSSR

My older sister is a Felician sister in Livonia, MI. During a visit some weeks after she entered the convent, our family was given a tour of the motherhouse. Everywhere there were paintings and statues of Jesus, Mary, St. Francis, and Blessed Mary Angela, the Felician founder. All were very nice, but one image in particular got our attention. We stood still, silent. None of us had ever seen anything like it.

It was a statue of Jesus after the scourging at the pillar. He was almost life-size, crowned with thorns, covered with bloody wounds, and robed in purple. His appearance was so moving that we couldn't help but linger there. And as we did, the kind sister guiding our tour told us about a child from the Montessori, which is staffed by the sisters on the motherhouse grounds. Upon seeing the statue, the child blurted, "I hope the police know about this." The power of that image was undeniable.

It has been a long time since that day at the motherhouse. I've seen many pictures of Jesus, Mary, and the saints since then. But none made me want to stop and pray and stay there, lingering. Sadly, a lot of religious art is less than beautiful or inspiring. It doesn't evoke any reaction, except maybe boredom or nostalgia. The image of Divine Mercy is overused. T-shirts of the immaculate conception are sold by the thousands. Coffee mugs of the Sacred Heart clutter every rectory kitchen.



If you page through religious catalogs or go online, what you find is kitsch, the dull repetition of images and figures that no longer speak to our graphically astute, million-pixeled, ultracolored, high-definition reality. The visual world around us has grown by leaps and bounds, each day more and more striking, with evocative, heart-stopping, breathtaking images, while religious, devotional art has stayed mired in the past, gradually slipping into irrelevance. Whatever happened to good Catholic art? How did the Church that gave birth to the ceiling paintings of the Sistine Chapel come to settle for "good ol' plastic Jesus?"

Maybe there's a connection between the abandonment of popular devotion

and the demise of good Catholic art. During the 1960s and '70s—the time when much religious art was removed from churches and stored in warehouses, sold, or destroyed—many Catholics were also told that there was no room for their beloved popular devotions in our modern times.

Iconoclasm, the rejection and removal of religious art, for many meant the simultaneous loss of cherished prayers, novenas, and devotions. Only recently, with the resurgence of interest in devotions like the rosary and the chaplet of Divine Mercy, have we seen a return to Catholic art. As popular devotions find new life in the Church today, isn't it time to give new life to Catholic art, too? But not by resurrecting and reproducing old art from a time that will never return. We need new Catholic art that will make us stop and pray and stay today. +

*Is Catholic art
a thing of the past?*



*Lord, I am grateful for the gift
of faith. Help me to practice
what I believe in my heart.*

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

WEEKDAY READINGS

September 13–18

Monday, St. John Chrysostom:
1 Tm 2:1–8 / Lk 7:1–10


Tuesday, The Exaltation of the Holy Cross:
Nm 21:4b–9 / Phil 2:6–11 / Jn 3:13–17

Wednesday, Our Lady of Sorrows:
1 Tm 3:14–16 / Jn 19:25–27 or Lk 2:33–35

Thursday, Sts. Cornelius and Cyprian:
1 Tm 4:12–16 / Lk 7:36–50

Friday, Weekday:
1 Tm 6:2c–12 / Lk 8:1–3

Saturday, Weekday:
1 Tm 6:13–16 / Lk 8:4–15

Bringing Home
the **Word** 
September 12, 2021

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