

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By mandate of the Bishop of Manchester on June 6, all restrictions and procedures put in place during the pandemic are no longer in effect.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 catholiciv.org
 Sunday Mass from Notre Dame
 catholiciv.org/masses/notre-dame-mass
 Salt & Light TV saltandlighttv.org
 Eternal Word Television ewtn.com

✠ 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!

September 19, 2021

Offertory \$8,633.68
Fuel \$1,678.62



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 26 Priest Retirement Fund
- October 3 Property Management
- October 10 Fuel
- October 17 World Mission Sunday
- October 24 No Second Collection

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 Unites 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!

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>.

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



REMEMBERING OUR DECEASED BROTHERS

On **Sunday, October 10, 2021**, the 10:00 AM Mass at St. Luke the Evangelist Parish, Holy Angels Church, will be in memory of the deceased members of Council #6617, Knights of Columbus.

You and your family are cordially invited to join the Knights, their families, and the St. Luke Parish community in prayer to celebrate the memories of our deceased brothers.

PARISH OFFICE CLOSED

In observance of the Columbus Day holiday, the Parish Office will be closed on **Monday, October 11**. The office will reopen on Tuesday, October 12 at 8:30 AM.

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

Saint Luke the Evangelist Parish has been issued a **\$73.90** donation from the AmazonSmile Foundation as a result of Amazon Smile program activity between April 1 and June 30, 2021.

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-SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

✠ **WEEKLY CALENDAR** ✠

Sunday, September 26

10:00 AM Religious Ed – Pre-K to 8 *Plaistow*
 12:00 PM Religious Ed – High School *Plaistow*

Wednesday, September 29

**Holy Angels Church
Open All Day For Prayer**

7:00 PM Mysteries of the Rosary *Plaistow*

Thursday, September 30

8:30 AM – 8:30 PM Eucharistic Adoration *Newton*
 1:30 PM Mysteries of the Rosary *Plaistow*

Saturday, October 2

3:00 PM Sacrament of Reconciliation *Plaistow*

Sunday, October 3

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

The Sanctuary Candle in Mary, Mother of the Church will burn this week in loving memory of **Fred Colby** by Carol and John Tucker



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, September 25 ~ 26th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Nm 11:25-29; Jas 5:1-6; Mk 9:38-43, 45, 47-48 (Vigil)
 4:00 PM Frank Szczapa by his family
Plaistow

Sunday, September 26 ~ 26th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Nm 11:25-29; Jas 5:1-6; Mk 9:38-43, 45, 47-48
 8:00 AM Helen Gibbs by Susan and Mick Swanwick
Newton
 10:00 AM Karen, Lillian, & John Murphy by Carole Lueders
Plaistow

Monday, September 27 ~ Vincent de Paul, Priest

Zec 8:1-8; Lk 9:46-50
 8:00 AM Deceased Members of the Angwin and Elder Families by Lisa and Charlie Angwin
Newton

**Tuesday, September 28 ~ Wenceslaus, Martyr;
Lawrence Ruiz and Companions, Martyrs**

Zec 8:20-23; Lk 9:51-56
 8:00 AM In Honor of St. Michael the Archangel
Plaistow

Wednesday, September 29 ~ Michael, Gabriel & Raphael, Archangels

Dn 7:9-10, 13-14 or Rv 12:7-12a; Jn 1:47-51
 6:30 PM James Loomis by the Brotz family
Plaistow

Thursday, September 30 ~ Jerome, Priest and Doctor of the Church

Neh 8:1-4a, 5-6, 7b-12; Lk 10:1-12
 8:00 AM Antoinette Giorgi (Month's Mind)
Newton

Friday, October 1 ~ Thérèse of the Child Jesus, Virgin and Doctor of the Church

Bar 1:15-22; Lk 10:13-16
No Mass

Saturday, October 2 ~ The Holy Guardian Angels

Bar 4:5-12, 27-29; Mt 18:1-5, 10 (Day)
Gn 2:18-24; Heb 2:9-11; Mk 10:2-16 (Vigil)
 4:00 PM Roland and Mary Guilmette by the Matson family
Plaistow

Sunday, October 3 ~ 27th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Gn 2:18-24; Heb 2:9-11; Mk 10:2-16
 8:00 AM The Intentions of Paul Fournier by Edith Fournier
Newton
 10:00 AM Deceased Members of the Fogel family and Frank Kelcourse by Elaine Kelcourse
Plaistow



✠ FAITH FORMATION & PARISH INFORMATION ✠



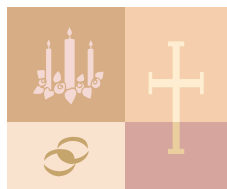
Thank you so much for your continued support of the St. Vincent de Paul Society. We've had a busy Spring, and Summer shows no sign of slowing down our effort to help our neighbors and friends in need.

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!

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!



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 ✠

MEN OF SAINT JOSEPH

The Men of St. Joseph are a group committed to living lives of conversion, integrity, and honesty, acting as a witness for Jesus Christ in daily life, work, social, parish and family settings. The men of Saint Joseph aim to emulate St. Joseph so to become better husbands, fathers, sons and brothers. There are no dues and the Men of St. Joseph do not participate in projects or other volunteer efforts as a group, but instead, gather together for sharing among men to help them be a better person, a better family man, and a better member of the Church

In November, a special Men of St. Joseph Leaders' Conference will be held at Saint Mary-Saint Joseph Parish in Salem. The goal of the Leader's Conference is to start or to restart Men of Saint Joseph Groups in parishes in the Diocese. Father Marc Montminy and Father Anthony Frontiero will speak, and Frank Howard will be worship leader.

Saint Luke Parish invites interested men to step forward to become leaders in a newly formed Men of Saint Joseph Group meeting here in Newton-Plaistow. If you are interested, please contact Father Albert at fr.albert@stluketheevangelist.net or call the Parish Office.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS BLOOD DRIVE

The St. Jude Council of the Knights of Columbus are sponsoring a blood drive on **Friday, October 8** at the Atkinson Community Center, 4 Main Street, Atkinson **from 1:00 to 6:00 PM**. Pre-registration is required. Go to www.redcrossblood.org or call 1-800-733-2767. The need for blood is extremely urgent. Please consider giving the gift of life!

ONLINE BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUP FROM CATHOLIC CHARITIES NH

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. or 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.*

OCTOBER - RESPECT LIFE MONTH



**EACH YEAR IN THE MONTH OF OCTOBER,
THE CATHOLIC CHURCH IN THE
UNITED STATES CELEBRATES
RESPECT LIFE MONTH**

Please join your Knights of Columbus Council #6617 in celebrating Respect Life Month on **Saturday, October 2 at 9:00 AM** in the courtyard in front of the church in Plaistow. We will gather to pray and recognize that every life is sacred, from the moment of conception until natural death. This service will last approximately 45 minutes. In case of inclement weather, we will move into the church.

**COME AND BE PART OF
GOD'S CALLING TO SERVE.**



**THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS
COUNCIL #6617**

ST. LUKE THE EVANGELIST PARISH ANNUAL CHRISTMAS CRAFT FAIR

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 2021
9:00 AM – 3:00 PM
ST. LUKE THE EVANGELIST PARISH CENTER
8 ATKINSON DEPOT ROAD, PLAISTOW, NH



A St. Luke the Evangelist tradition!

Join the fun as our Parish family comes together to create lots of holiday spirit, and to raise much-needed funds for our community.

5 BIG Raffles: \$1,000 Cash, Penny Sale,
Theme Baskets, Quilts, and Wine

Baked Goods ♦ *Children's Corner* ♦ Cookie Heaven
♦ *Country Store* ♦ Jewelry Table ♦
♦ Photos with Santa Claus ♦ *Silent Auction* ♦

Refreshments for sale all day long in The Café.

Over 20 Juried Vendors of hand-crafted items!



For our Christmas Craft Fair to be a success, we need all kinds of help. Please look over this catalog of opportunities to see where your talents will fit best. We'd love to have you involved in this community event as a family, a group of friends, a ministry, or, as an individual!

For more information, email stlukenhfair@gmail.com



PROMOTE, PROMOTE, PROMOTE . . .

Talk about the Fair to everyone you meet or visit. Be sure to invite and entice all your friends, family, neighbors and co-workers to attend **our** Christmas Craft Fair!

More people = More \$\$\$\$ for the Parish and a lot more FUN!!

Pursuing Persons to Publicly Promote the Fair:

- * Put window banners on cars, pass out to Trick-O-Treaters, give to any & everyone you meet!
- * Display post cards in public – town hall, library, stores, workplace, community notice boards, etc.
- * Help put up – then take down and return to church – YARD SIGNS in Plaistow, Newton, and surrounding towns (*put up weekend of Oct. 16/17 and RETURN to churches by Nov. 20-21*).

Silent Auction

We need **NEW** items such as small appliances, digital audio/video/photograph equipment, toys, bikes, ski or sports equipment. We also need donations of certificates for weekend trips, ski and/or golf packages, tickets and/or packages to entertainment or sporting events, etc. Donate a service **you** can offer to another to make, bake, or do something, etc. Think outside of the box!

WANTED: Motivated Masses to....

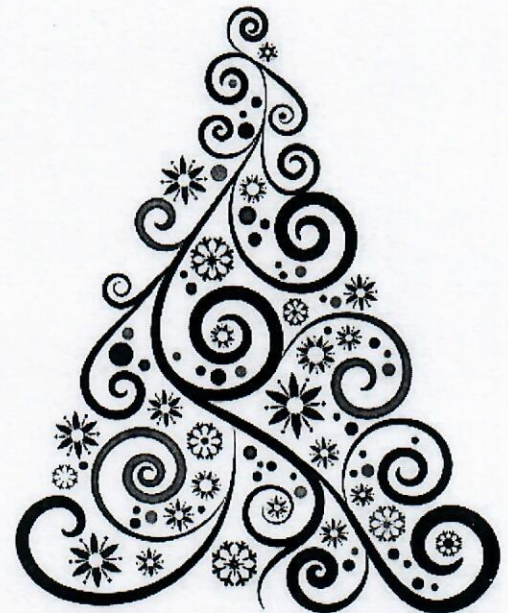
- * Solicit a prize from your workplace. If you own a business, PLEASE DONATE A PRIZE.
- * Lottery Tickets! Lots & Lots of Lottery Tickets. any-value scratch Lottery tickets for the Giant Lottery Tree (*expiration after Nov. 30*).
- * Donate three home-made pies for Thanksgiving and/or Christmas (*prepare pies for winning bidder to pick up from the Parish Office on a mutually agreed day*).
- * Donate a Christmas-card addressing service for up to 50 cards (*winning bidder drops off and picks up cards from the Parish Office on mutually agreed days*).
- * Non-perishable donations can be brought to Parish Hall any Saturday 3PM-5PM or Sunday 9AM-12PM until October 17.
- * Help arrange the Silent Auction tables (Friday, Nov. 5).
- * Work a shift at the Silent Auction table (Saturday, Nov. 6).

CA\$H RAFFLE

Six chances to win: \$1,000 1st prize, \$300 2nd prize and four \$50 3rd prizes! Tickets are only 6 for \$5.00, or \$1.00 each.

Vocal Volunteers are Vital! Please...

- * We're looking for a Ca\$h Raffle Lead helper. Might this be you? email stlukenhfair@gmail.com
- * Work a shift at Cash Raffle table the day of the Fair, Nov. 6.
- * SELL SELL SELL Lots of tickets to Lots of People!!
Remember: more people = more money for the Parish.



Fair Set-up and Break-down:

We need lots of **MUSCLE & ENERGY** -- male OR female **MUSCLE & ENERGY** – young OR old **MUSCLE & ENERGY** – to help set-up on Thursday, Friday & Saturday, Nov. 4, Nov. 5, Nov. 6.!

Special Request:

Do you have unused vases in your cupboards and closets?

We can trade them for a valuable gift certificate to a specific local floral shop!

* Drop donations off at Parish Hall any Saturday 3PM-5PM or Sunday 9AM-12PM until October 17.

Cookie Heaven

Bake dozens and dozens and dozens of delicious cookies. Gluten-free, nut-free and/or sugar-free cookies very welcome; please label clearly! Watch for the *Cookie Angel's* Visit!!

Bountiful Bakers needed to:

- * **BAKE** cookies.
- * Bake **LOTS and LOTS and LOTS OF COOKIES**.
- * Deliver to Parish Center Friday, Nov. 5, 3PM-8PM.



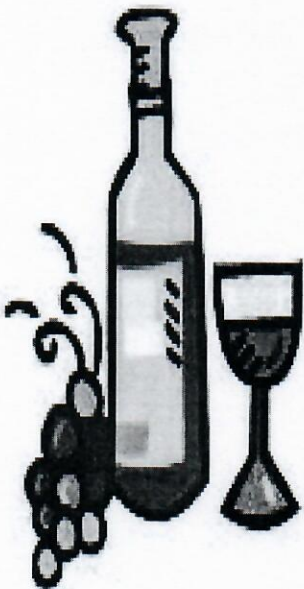
PENNY SALE

We need all kinds of **NEW** items for all ages: men and women – boys and girls.

Looking for gift cards from local restaurants, hair salons, auto service centers, gardening centers, etc.

Savvy Citizens sought to:

- * Donate NEW "As Seen on TV" items.
- * Re-Gift/Donate any NEW, UN-used gifts in your closets – they are Penny Sale treasures!!
- * Visit your favorite local haunts and ask them to donate items.
- * Drop donations off at Parish Hall any Saturday 3PM-5PM or Sunday 9AM-12PM until October 17.



Quilt Raffle

Hark, Helpers! Can you...

- * Help sell tickets at Masses through October.
- * Work a shift at the Quilt Raffle the day of the Fair, Saturday, Nov. 6.

Wine Raffle (absolutely no liquor please)

"Anyone over 21" needed to please:

- * We're looking for a Wine Raffle Lead helper. Might this be you?
email stlukenhfair@gmail.com
- * Donate bottles of wine! All kinds of wine!! Lots and Lots of WINE!
- * Collect empty wine boxes from the NH Liquor store.
- * Bring wine & boxes to Parish Hall any Saturday 3PM-5PM or Sunday 9AM-12PM until October 17.
- * Work a shift at the Wine Raffle the day of the Fair, Saturday, Nov. 6.

Theme Baskets (Please list the CONTENTS and VALUE of the basket).

Please donate cellophane-wrapped, ready-to-raffle baskets with a theme. PLEASE, include a list of the contents and the total value (\$) of the Basket on a note on the OUTSIDE of the Basket.

Thematic Thinkers wanted to:

- * Create and donate a basket.
- * Ask businesses you frequent to donate a basket: salon, gym, shoe store, auto place, pet store, etc.
- * Drop donations off at Parish Hall any Saturday 3PM-5PM or Sunday 9AM-12PM until October 17.



Children's Corner

Lollipop Game, Face Painting, Cookie Decorating!!!
Lots of things to keep little people entertained!

People with Big Hearts and Lots of Patience needed to:

- * We need LOTS of large, original-size Tootsie Roll Pops BY Oct 17!
- * Prizes needed for the Lollipop Game: small- and medium-sized NEW toys suitable for boys or girls.
- * Drop donations off at Parish Hall any Saturday 3PM-5PM or Sunday 9AM-12PM until October 17.
- * Help with the various activities at the Children's Corner on Saturday, Nov. 6. Teenager's 8th grade and older especially wanted!

COUNTRY STORE

Closet Crafters please:

- * Hand knit or crochet items: hats, mittens, blankets, sweaters, etc. Baby sizes sell fast!
- * Make jams, jellies, canned fruit, pickles, relishes, etc.
- * Bake pies, breads, brownies, cupcakes, etc. (all cookies will go to Cookie Heaven).
Gluten-free, nut-free and/or sugar-free baked goods are welcome; please label clearly!
- * Bring perishable items to the Parish Center Friday, Nov. 5, 3PM-8PM.

Thrift Store (no electronics or Catholic Sacramentals please.)

We can accept used but in very good condition items. NO items with Broken or Missing Parts!
Items for all ages: men and women, boys and girls, plus Holiday items.

Hunting for Treasure Hunters to:

- * Donate Grab bags (no perishables please).
- * Donate seasonal decorations, table décor, etc.; kitchen wares, wood-worked items, toys, games, puzzles (Must not be broken or missing any pieces).
- * Drop donations off at Parish Hall any Saturday 3PM-5PM or Sunday 9AM-12PM until October 17.

Jewelry Table Time to clean out those jewelry boxes and drawers!

Regalia Wranglers requested to:

- * Donate new or as new jewelry. Bring in all things in good condition you don't wear anymore: earrings, pins, rings, necklaces, bracelets, cuff links, tie pins, chains, watches, etc.
- * Drop donations off at Parish Hall any Saturday 3PM-5PM or Sunday 9AM-12PM until October 17.
or you may call Danielle Kelly to schedule a person-to-person delivery (603-382-6499).

FOOD, Glorious FOOD!

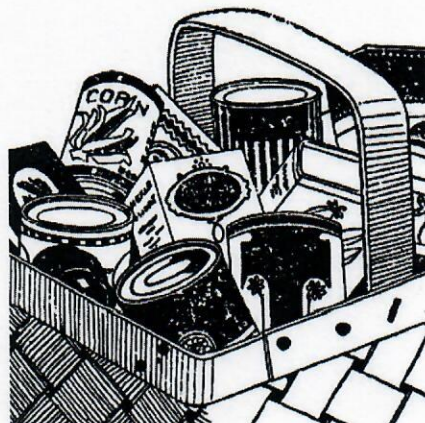
Delicious food & beverages will be available all day!

Foraging for Fabulous Foodies to:

- * Work a shift in the kitchen or as a cashier on Saturday, Nov. 6.
- Donate ingredients for American Chop Suey and other delicious food and beverages—watch for sign-ups in October!

Watch for SignUp boards in backs of churches in October.

Please, NO donations for the Café before **November**.



ST. LUKE THE EVANGELIST PARISH ANNUAL CHRISTMAS CRAFT FAIR

Saturday, November 6, 2021 – 9:00 am–3:00 PM – St. Luke the Evangelist Parish Center

VOLUNTEER SIGN-UP SHEET

*Please return **BY** October 17 (or **SOONER**)* 😊

Name: _____ Best time to reach you: _____

Day-time phone: _____ Evening phone: _____

E-mail: _____

YOU are needed!! Our Christmas Fair is the perfect opportunity to come together and work as a community to raise vital funds for our Parish! Which of your gifts will you use to help the fair? Thank you, in advance, for your generous donations, physical assistance, and participation. This Fair would not exist without YOU!

Please indicate below where and when you can help, and how you can donate.

____ **SPECIAL NEED FOR ORGANIZED PERSONS** The Christmas Fair Lead seeks TWO (2) organized, focused individuals to make **EASY DAYTIME** phone calls beginning last week in September. Volunteers will call businesses who received donation request letters via snail mail for our Silent Auction. Volunteers will keep track of responses, messages, etc. and communicate back to Fair Lead.

I will donate **non-perishable, NEW or LIKE NEW items.** (Please be sure the items you donate are clean and free of musty or stale odors. We cannot use items that require cleaning or have a musty smell.)

I will deliver them to Parish Hall any Saturday from 3PM-5PM or Sunday from 9AM-12PM through October 17.

- ____ **Silent Auction** _____
- ____ **Penny Sale** _____
- ____ **Country Store** _____
- ____ **Jewelry** _____
- ____ **Wine Raffle** _____
- ____ **Children's Corner** _____

SATURDAY 10/30 & SUNDAY, 10/31, The weekend BEFORE the Fair (look for these in Churches 10/23-10/24)

____ **DISTRIBUTE** Windshield Flyers along with Halloween Treats! Put them on windshields when shopping!

WEDNESDAY, 11/3

Stage Decoration & Banner Hanging Heroes

____ **3PM-5PM** – Five (5) volunteers needed to form 3 teams along with the Fair Lead. Volunteers must be willing and able to: sweep, carry awkward but not heavy items from various places, negotiate stairs, and be comfortable climbing & using a step ladder. **Team A** will hang banners in the gym. **Team B** will “decorate” the stage with Christmas trees, garland, flowers, and a wreath. **Team C** will set up the Fair Check-In Area.

THURSDAY, 11/4, Set-up, Part 1

Trucks/Vehicle with open trailer

____ **3PM – 6PM** We need TWO (2) Trucks or SUVs with open trailer, sign-up if we can utilize yours!

Set-up Part ONE: 3PM – 6PM

____ Christmas Fair Lead is seeking a few **robust volunteers to begin Christmas Fair set-up.** This job involves requires working as a team, paying attention, and above all a friendly CAN-DO spirit. Lots of things will be accomplished in this three (3) hour time frame: Volunteers will move lots of tables (some heavy/some light) and chairs as well as some boxes of donations from Parish Hall over to Parish Center via truck. Volunteers must be able to do a lot of walking, go up and down stairs, and carry heavy awkward items.

FRIDAY, 11/5, 3:00PM-8:00PM I will donate & deliver **PERISHABLE** items **DIRECTLY** to Parish Center.

- ____ **Country Store:** _____
- ____ **Cookie Heaven:** BAKE cookies, BAKE cookies, BAKE cookies, BAKE cookies, and BAKE more cookies!
- ____ **St. Luke's Café:** Please watch for special sign-up boards after Masses in October!

Please indicate below where and when you can help

Plan to arrive 5-10 minutes before your time slot.

FRIDAY, 11/5, Set-up, Part 2

Trucks/Vehicle with open trailer

_____ 12 NOON – 3PM We need TWO (2) Trucks or SUVs with open trailer, sign-up if we can utilize yours!

Set-up Part TWO: 12 NOON – 3PM

_____ Christmas Fair Lead is seeking a few robust volunteers to continue Christmas Fair set-up. This job involves requires working as a team, paying attention, and above all a friendly CAN-DO spirit. Lots of things will be accomplished in this three (3) hour time frame: Volunteers will move lots of tables (some heavy/some light) and chairs as well as some boxes of donations from Parish Hall over to Parish Center via truck. Volunteers must be able to do a lot of walking, go up and down stairs, and carry heavy awkward items.

Various Help between 3PM – 8PM

_____ Help set-up Parish Tables: I am available from _____ to _____

_____ Help set-up Silent Auction: I am available from _____ to _____

_____ Hold doors as vendors come in & out of Parish Center: I am available from _____ to _____

Set-up & Decorate the Café

_____ 5PM-6PM Two (2) volunteers to decorate the café with garland and tablecloths. No heavy lifting.

SATURDAY, 11/6, The DAY OF THE FAIR

_____ I'd like to **Help with Parking**: I like being outdoors & the cold doesn't bother me!! I am available from _____ to _____ (Parking must be 'staffed' 7:00AM-2:00PM. Your info will be passed on to Ray Viglione.)

PARISH TABLE HELP – During the Fair between 7:30AM-3:00PM, please indicate your preferred shift

_____ Early Bird 7:30AM – 9:00AM

_____ Afternoon 1:00PM – 3:30PM

_____ Morning 8:30AM – 11:00AM

_____ Fair Breakdown 3:30PM – 5:00PM

_____ Lunch 11:00AM – 1:00PM

_____ Other Time Frame, be specific _____

If possible, I'd like to help with the:

___ CAFÉ Cashier

___ CASH RAFFLE

___ Children's Corner

___ Cookie Heaven

___ Country Store

___ Penny Sale

___ Jewelry Table

___ Quilt Raffle

___ Silent Auction

___ Theme Basket

___ WINE Raffle

___ **Put Me Where Needed MOST!**

_____ I can't stand for very long

_____ I can't climb stairs

_____ I can't lift heavy items

_____ 2:30PM-4PM – Help "After Fair" with Silent Auction – monitoring tables as bids are tallied, organizing items, etc.

_____ 3:30PM-5PM – We need FOUR people to call the "winners". These volunteers must be comfortable using their own cell phone to make these calls. Calls will be made at Parish Center NOT Parish Hall.

_____ 3:30PM-5PM – Muscle needed to breakdown fair and/or bring specific tables back to Parish Hall as labeled.

_____ 3:30PM-5PM – We need TWO Trucks or SUVs with open trailer, sign-up if we can utilize yours!

***Your assignment will be confirmed via email or phone, please be sure to provide both at the top of this form. Also, please arrive 5-10 minutes early & stop at Volunteer Check-In for assignment.**

SUNDAY, 11/7

_____ 9:00AM-12:00PM – We need TWO (2) people to continue calling "winners". Volunteers must be comfortable using their own cell phone to make these calls. Calls will be made down in Parish Hall.

_____ 9:00AM-12:00PM – TWO (2) people to help give out Silent Auction Items to winning bidders in Parish Hall

_____ 9:00AM-12:00PM – TWO (2) people to help give out Raffle Prizes to winners in RE Office at Parish Hall.

If you would like more specific information about anything fair-related, please email: stlukenhfair@gmail.com

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

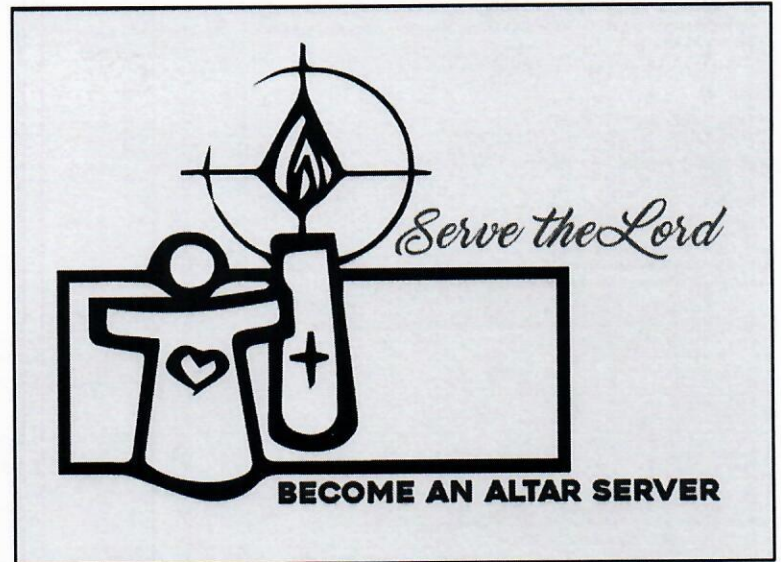
Contributions may be made online or by mail: Online: **svdpusa.org**. Mail: The National Council, Society of St. Vincent de Paul, 58 Progress Pkwy. St. Louis, MO 63043-3706.

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

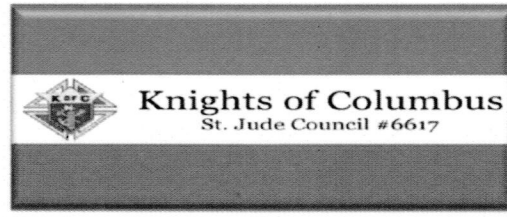
Adult Altar Servers continue the mission of service to the Parish in its worship. Adults are scheduled at Saturday Vigil, Sunday, Daily and Holy Day Liturgies. Adults are especially welcome to assist at Funeral Liturgies which are typically held on weekday or Saturday mornings.

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.

Priesthood Sunday September 26, 2021

Please pray with us as we support the vocation of Priesthood

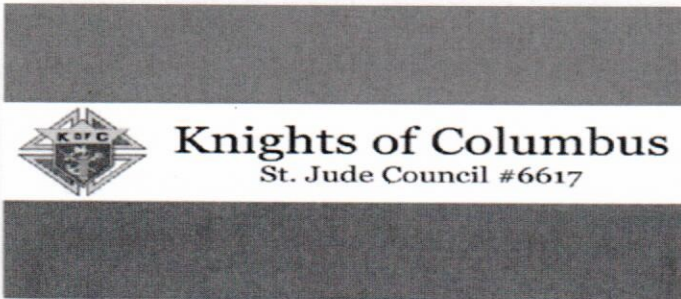


- + **For** all priests who are ordained to serve our Church, that their ministry may be fruitful and appreciated by the people whom they serve, *we pray to the Lord...*
- + **For** the gift to our parish and diocese of vocations to the ordained priesthood, that good men may be drawn to love and to serve the People of God, *we pray to the Lord...*
- + **For** retired priests, that they may experience God's abundant love as they walk a new path of prayer and servanthood in retirement, *we pray to the Lord...*
- + **For** all pastors of the Diocese of Manchester in their ministry, that we may affirm, support, and celebrate their gift of service to the parishioners they serve, *we pray to the Lord...*
- + **That** we may never take the presence of our priests for granted, as we cherish the celebration of the Mass and are nourished by the Eucharist, *we pray to the Lord...*
- + **For** all priests who struggle with loneliness, declining health, or loss of mobility, that they may be comforted by the grace of the Holy Spirit, *we pray to the Lord...*
- + **That** this parish family may always embrace our priest(s), and sustain his ministry by our love, our constant prayer, and our trust in his leadership, *we pray to the Lord...*
- + **For** priests who now sleep in the peace of the resurrection, and for those who may die this year or this day, that God leads them gently into their eternal reward, *we pray to the Lord...*

Every year the St. Jude Council provides financial help to seminarians.

This year we are helping 3 seminarians from NH and 1 postulate of
The Sisters of the Presentation of Mary

St. Jude Council of the Knights of Columbus
"Doing Good in Several Hoods"



■ Representing Columbus Knighthood



■ Charity as our Livelihood

CHARITY

■ Respecting Mary and all Motherhood

■ Fostering values of Fatherhood

UNITY

■ Working together in Brotherhood

■ Lending help in our Neighborhood

FRATERNITY

■ Supporting the vocation of Priesthood

■ Proud of our local Statehood

PATRIOTISM

■ Patriotic for our founding Nationhood



■ Seeking Holiness in our Adulthood

The Gospel at Home

This Sunday's Gospel: Mark 9:38-43, 45, 47-48

In Sunday's Gospel, Jesus tells his disciples that God's love is not reserved just for them or for any "in" group. Everyone belongs in the embrace of God's love. Jesus wants his followers to be ready to accept others, work with them, learn from them, and appreciate the gifts they have to share.

Exploring the Gospel Message

Seeds (Preschool): Children learn to pray by following the example of others. Spend some moments with your child teaching him or her how to give thanks for food and friends or to praise God for the beauty of a sunrise. Remember how important it is for your young child to see and hear you pray.

Promise (Grades K-1): Your child learned how important it is that we gather together for Mass. As a family, you can play the game on pages 2 and 3 of this week's lesson. If you get a chance, visit the church during the week. Take the list on page 4 with you and have your child help you find each item.

Good News (Grades 2-3): Your child learned that Jesus wants all to belong to his family. He or she also learned that the Scripture readings at Mass are a message for all the members of Jesus' family. During the week, take time to put your family Bible in a special place. Then talk about ways your family can share yourselves with others.

Venture (Grades 4-6): This was a busy week in your child's class. First, your child learned about three saints from the Americas: Oscar Romero, Marianne Cope, and Kateri Tekakwitha. From them, the class learned that Jesus calls all of us to live in solidarity with one another. The class also learned that the readings at Mass are from the Bible. Ask your young person how to make people feel welcome.

Visions (Grades 7-9): Your youngster spent a good amount of time this week learning about Pope Francis and his time serving the Church. Ask your son or daughter to describe how Pope Francis views the poor as part of the Church. The class also learned that God's love is for all. Talk about how every human being has the right to respect from others. How can your family show respect?

Pray Together

When you have completed this week's conversation, pray together for the continued success of Pope Francis's leadership. It has been six years since Pope Francis visited the United States in September 2015. Pray that his words will inspire all Americans to follow the ways of Christ.

Gospel Table Talk

- Read this Sunday's Gospel (usccb.org/bible/readings/).
- Review last week's discussion about serving others like Saint Vincent de Paul and others did.
- Are there any organizations in your parish or in your community who help/serve others? (Meals on Wheels, shelters for abuse victims, free daycare, food banks, etc.)
- Discuss people who volunteer for these and other charities. Why do they do it? Do they receive any immediate rewards? What can your family do to help in this important work?



✠ PARISH INFORMATION ✠

GLUTEN INTOLERANT?

The Parish now provides an option for receiving Holy Communion for anyone suffering from gluten intolerance or celiac disease. We have obtained special altar breads that are fully certified for use at Mass by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, and laboratory tested to contain only .001% gluten. Please see the Pastor or the Sacristan before Mass about receiving Communion using one of these special hosts.



Altar Flowers are a special opportunity for remembering a departed loved one or offering thanksgiving for a blessing or family event. A floral arrangement placed in front of the altar for the Sunday Liturgy can be purchased for an offering of \$85, with an accompanying announcement in the weekly bulletin. Availability is limited according to the Liturgical Calendar. Offerings can be reserved on a first-come basis by contacting the Parish Office at 382-8324.



SANCTUARY CANDLES

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

PARISH POLICY ON GROUPS SEEKING SUPPORT

After consultation with the Parish Pastoral Council, and taking into account the many groups that desire the community's support, it has been decided that the following policy be put into place:

- 1. Only Parish groups will be allowed to solicit support for their projects in our churches. This includes groups from within the Parish itself or groups which are based within our Parish.
- 2. Groups from outside the Parish community will be allowed to solicit support from the community *only by rare exception* and with the express consent of the Pastor and Parish Council.
- 3. No group of any kind will be allowed to solicit until the conclusion of the Liturgy. Publicity and other materials may be displayed in the entrances of the Church, but no actual solicitation may occur until after Mass has ended.
- 4. No more than one (1) Parish group may seek the support of the community at one time. This means that there are not to be multiple support efforts on the same weekend.

The Pastor will be the sole arbitrator of scheduling for Parish groups seeking community support. Parish groups should contact the Parish Office to determine availability for scheduling any support event. Thank you for your continuing support for the mission of St. Luke the Evangelist Parish.

PLEASE HELP US!

As you leave church, kindly take your Bulletin with you – or return it to the basket at the entrance of the Church, return your music book and Mass card to their proper place, and pick up after yourself as you leave. Our Ushers are wonderful and diligent, but they should not have to face a Foxboro aftermath as each Mass ends! Thanks for being attentive and respectful!

F. Albert.

ST. LUKE'S WEBSITE!

<http://stlukenh.org>

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

A Parish Pastoral Council is primarily charged to assist in the development of mission-focused Parishes rather than programmatic or finance-driven ones. Pastoral Councils attempt to place at the heart of the Parish a consciousness of a zeal for the mission of Jesus Christ. When there is a clear awareness of this "larger vision" proposed by the Gospel and taught by the Church, a Parish finds itself energized by a sense of mission and directed to matters that foster the mission of the Parish, grounded in the mission of Christ (Diocese of Manchester, *Guidelines for Parish Pastoral Councils*, 2002). Our Parish Pastoral Council provides invaluable advice to the Pastor and Staff of the Parish through consultation, dialogue and ongoing learning. Our Council generally meets on a monthly basis to discuss Parish life and issues and to assess our ongoing mission as a Catholic community. The members of the Parish Council can be accessed through the Parish Office, or by email at parishcouncil@stluketheevangelist.net.

Robert Harb, Chairperson
Cathy Smith
Elaine Kindler
Jack Brotz
Jeffrey Lozeau
Janice Bettencourt
Michael Barczak
Fr. Albert Tremblay, obl. SB



Bringing Home the Word

Twenty-sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time (B)
September 26, 2021

Protect Life

By Fr. Mark Haydu, LC

The tapestry by Pieter van Aelst in the Vatican Museum, *Slaughter of the Innocents*, may not seem to have much to do with today’s readings, yet it does. Let me explain: This wall-size work of art depicts the murder decreed by Herod of all the children two years and under. It was his desperate effort to extinguish any possibility that the Messiah might eventually contest his throne.

The reading of James could very well be applied to the greedy and avaricious Herod. “You have lived on earth in luxury and pleasure; you have fattened

your hearts for the day of [your own] slaughter” (James 5:5). All the wealth, authority, and success he had only led him to be more grasping and insecure. Anyone who sees a threat to his own well-being in the birth of a child reveals his own internal poverty of spirit.

Rather than remove the little ones from our lives, we should do all we can to edify and maintain their faith. Jesus, as well as James, has harsh words for anyone who would lead a little one to sin.

Herod was the first who needed to hear the words of the Messiah he was trying to silence. If anything causes you to sin, even something as precious as a hand or foot, it’s better to cut it off and live physically impaired rather than maintain apparent wholeness while spiritually rotting from within. The life of our souls and that of the little ones is of paramount importance, and no material security should be placed ahead of it. +

Anyone who sees a threat to his own well-being in the birth of a child reveals his own poverty of spirit.

A Word from Pope Francis

It is our great responsibility, as baptized persons, to proclaim Christ, to carry the Church—this fruitful motherhood of the Church—forward. Mary, during the persecution of the first Christians, prayed so much and moved those who had been baptized to go forward with courage.

—Homily, April 17, 2013



Sunday Readings

Numbers 11:25–29

[Moses said,] “If only all the people of the LORD were prophets! If only the LORD would bestow his spirit on them!”

James 5:1–6

Come now, you rich, weep and wail over your impending miseries.

Mark 9:38–43, 45, 47–48

[Jesus said,] “If your hand causes you to sin, cut it off. It is better for you to enter into life maimed than with two hands to go into Gehenna.”

REFLECTION QUESTIONS



- Do I protect life as a gift from the Father, from conception to natural death?
- How do I help the little ones in my life come to know Jesus?

Climbing Zacchaeus' Tree

By Fr. Bruce Lewandowski, CSsR

The story of Zacchaeus is a favorite for many (Luke 19:1–10). It's appealing because of Zacchaeus' desire to see Jesus, his shortness of stature, his sinful reputation, and his spontaneous tree-climbing. And it's unforgettable because of Jesus' gift of mercy. Everyone can identify with all or part of this story.

For me, it's all about the tree. The tree is right smack in the middle of the story. It creates the dividing line for the before-and-after pictures of Zacchaeus. Before the tree, it's Zacchaeus the sinner. After the tree, Zacchaeus is redeemed. The tree is the vehicle, the instrument, the tool that makes the after shot possible. The tree allows Zacchaeus to reach a pivotal point, bringing about a life-changing encounter. After that meeting, Zacchaeus would never be the same.

Look at the trees in your life! Trees offer a meeting place, a spot for encountering the living God and the possibility of experiencing life-changing grace. Look at trees as if all were the tree in the story of Zacchaeus!

Stop and find the beauty in trees. Individually or a forest full of them, they are inspiring. Fall leaves or sprouting spring leaves remind us that nature can draw us closer to God, revealing the wonder of it all.

The Family Tree: Sometimes the closeness and familiarity of family can keep us from seeing God living and active in those nearest and dearest to



us. We can encounter the living God through our mother, father, sister, brother, or husband or wife. A young mom with her newborn baby in her arms told me that she and her husband were humbled that God would choose them to help create a new person.

The Money Tree: My mother always says that money doesn't grow on trees. It's the fruit of hard work. Most of us know work as a burden, part of the curse brought on us by Adam and Eve's original sin. But isn't work the continuing of God's good creation? A carpenter takes wood and makes beautiful furniture. A chef mixes simple ingredients to make something delicious. We are charged with perfecting

what God has given us, mixing together unheard-of combinations of things, raising them to new and spectacular levels.

The Tree of Life: The cross is the tree of life. It is the surest sign of God's love for us. The cross of Christ on Calvary undoes the original sinful act in the Garden of Eden. Saint Alphonsus urges us to gaze at the cross, and there we will find every reason to love God. "By his wounds we were healed!" (Isaiah 53:5).

Look at the trees! Nature, family, work, and faith—similar to trees—all invite us to a life-changing experience of grace. Climb one! You will never be the same. +

*Flowers and plants,
seas and rivers, sun
and moon all proclaim
God's goodness.*

PRAYER

*Lord, I am grateful for your
all-embracing love. Open my
eyes to see you in everyone
I meet. Open my heart to
welcome all your people.*

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

WEEKDAY READINGS

September 27–
October 2

Monday, St. Vincent de Paul:
Zec 8:1–8 / Lk 9:46–50

Tuesday, Weekday:
Zec 8:20–23 / Lk 9:51–56

Wednesday, Sts. Michael, Gabriel, and Raphael:
Dn 7:9–10, 13–14 or Rv 12:7–12a / Jn 1:47–51

Thursday, St. Jerome:
Neh 8:1–4a, 5–6, 7b–12 / Lk 10:1–12

Friday, St. Thérèse of the Child Jesus:
Bar 1:15–22 / Lk 10:13–16

Saturday, The Holy Guardian Angels:
Bar 4:5–12, 27–29 / Mt 18:1–5, 10

Bringing Home
the **Word**

September 26, 2021

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