

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By mandate of the Bishop of Manchester on June 6, all restrictions and procedures put in place during the pandemic are no longer in effect.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

October 31, 2021

Offertory **\$6,951.93**



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

November 1	All Saints Day
November 7	Property Management
November 14	Campaign/Human Development
November 21	Fuel
November 28	Christmas Flowers

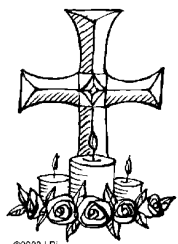
Suggested Weekly Contribution Based on Income

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 ✠



ALL SOULS DAY

We will remember all of our loved ones who have died at a Mass of Remembrance on **Tuesday, November 2 at 6:30 PM in Plaistow**. All are invited to attend. Please note that there will be NO 8:00 AM Liturgy on November 2.

HELP WANTED – ADVENT PREPARATIONS

Volunteers are invited to help do some rearranging and decorating on **Sunday, November 21 following the 8:00 AM Liturgy in Newton and the 10:00 AM Liturgy in Plaistow**. Our tasks include Advent decorating and some light clean up of the churches in preparation for the Advent season. All are welcome to lend a hand – our work usually lasts just over an hour if we have all the help we can muster! Please contact the Parish Office for more information.

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>.



GIVING TREES

Giving Trees will be located in the back of both churches on the weekend of **November 13-14**. Please take an ornament, buy the item(s) listed, and return it - **with the ornament attached** - to the church or the parish office **no later than December 11-12** (the Third Sunday of Advent).

PARISH OFFICE CLOSED

In observance of the Veteran's Day holiday, the Parish Office will be closed on **Thursday, November 11**. The Office will reopen at 8:30 AM on Monday, November 15.

THE BOOK OF THE NAMES OF THE DEAD



Throughout November, a special *Book of the Names of the Dead* will be open near the Baptismal Font & Paschal Candle for parishioners to record the names of the faithful departed. It is a visible sign that the faithful departed remain with us as part of the Church. You are welcome to record names of loved ones and the dates of their death.

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.

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.

THIRTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

✠ WEEKLY CALENDAR ✠

Sunday, November 7
10:00 AM NO Religious Ed – Pre-K to 8 *Plaistow*

Wednesday, November 10
Holy Angels Church
Open All Day For Prayer

Thursday, November 11
PARISH OFFICE CLOSED
8:30 AM – 8:30 PM Eucharistic Adoration *Newton*

Saturday, November 13
3:00 PM Sacrament of Reconciliation *Plaistow*



VIGIL LIGHT

The Vigil Light in front of the
Blessed Mother Icon
at Mary Mother of the Church
will burn in loving memory of
Moses and Ellen Tucker
by William 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, November 6 ~ 32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time
1 Kgs 17:10-16; Heb 9:24-28; Mk 12:38-44 (Vigil)

4:00 PM Bertha Boben by Pat Zakiewicz
Plaistow

Sunday, November 7 ~ 32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time
1 Kgs 17:10-16; Heb 9:24-28; Mk 12:38-44

8:00 AM Tilly Massaro by the Stanley family
Newton

10:00 AM Carl Jesionowski by his family
Plaistow

Monday, November 8 ~ Weekday

Wis 1:1-7; Lk 17:1-6

8:00 AM William Bettencourt and Walter Halko
by Janice Bettencourt
Newton

Tuesday, November 9 ~ Dedication of Lateran Basilica

Ez 47:1-2, 8-9, 12; 1 Cor 3:9c-11, 16-17; Jn 2:13-22

6:30 PM Recipients of Prayer Shawls
by the Prayer Shawl Committee
Plaistow

**Wednesday, November 10 ~ Leo the Great, Pope and
Doctor of the Church**

Wis 6:1-11; Lk 17:11-19

6:30 PM Don Richardson by the Knights of Columbus
Plaistow

Thursday, November 11 ~ Martin of Tours, Bishop

Wis 7:22b—8:1; Lk 17:20-25

8:00 AM Mark Hammond by his wife Colleen and family
Newton

Friday, November 12 ~ Josaphat, Bishop and Martyr

Wis 13:1-9; Lk 17:26-37

No Mass

Saturday, November 13 ~ Frances Xavier Cabrini, Virgin

Wis 18:14-16, 19:6-9; Lk 18:1-8 (Day)

Dn 12:1-3; Heb 10:11-14, 18; Mk 13:24-32 (Vigil)

4:00 PM Jay Knowles by Bob and Alice Litwinovich
Plaistow

Sunday, November 14 ~ 33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Dn 12:1-3; Heb 10:11-14, 18; Mk 13:24-32

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 Summer, and Autumn 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.

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.

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.



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 ✠

HELP WANTED

The Pregnancy Care Center is looking for an Ultrasound Technologist. The Ultrasound Technologist would have the responsibility for the day-to-day operation and management of the ultrasound machine(s) at the Pregnancy Care Center. Interested applicants can view more details and apply at www.PCCFriends.org. Please send resumes and cover letters to jobs@pccnortheast.org.

OPEN HOUSE

St. Joseph Regional Catholic School invites you to its Open House on **Sunday, November 7 from 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM**. They will offer tours, classroom visits, and student demonstrations, and you will have the opportunity of meeting current students, parents, teachers, and staff. Prospective families are encouraged to come learn more about all of the great things happening at St. Joe's! Questions? Contact info@sjrcs.com or call 603-893-6811, ext. 19.

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!

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:
CARING RIDES FOR LOCAL SENIORS

CareGivers, a program of Catholic Charities NH, recently expanded its Caring Rides program to the Greater Plaistow area and is seeking volunteers to help drive local homebound seniors to the doctor's office, dental visits, and other vital appointments. Many of these seniors live alone and cannot drive or access reliable transportation, relying on our amazing network of volunteers who continually prove that having a big heart can make a priceless impact. To sign up, please visit www.caringrides.org or call Ryan at 603-663-0250.



Find us on:
facebook®

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.

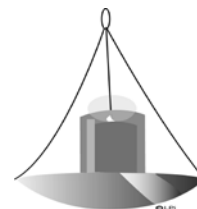


**WORLDWIDE
MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER**

To support married couples during this time of social distancing, **Worldwide Marriage Encounter** is sponsoring virtual marriage experiences. Some are on weekends and there are

seven sessions on weekdays from 7:00 to 9:30 PM. Couples will explore their individual personality styles, improve listening and communication skills, understand God's plan for their marriage, and learn how to keep their relationship a priority. Registration is limited and a \$100 application fee is required. For more information, or to apply, visit www.wwmema.org.

The Sanctuary Candle in
Holy Angels Church
will burn this week in loving memory of
Mark Hammond
by his wife Colleen and family



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.





**EAT, DRINK &
RAISE MONEY!**

COME SUPPORT A DOUGH RAISER TO BENEFIT

**ST LUKE the
EVANGELIST PARISH**

DATE:
SUNDAY NOV 7, 2021

VALID AT:
**30 CUSHING AVE
HAVERHILL, MA 01830
978-556-9595
WWW.UNOS.COM**

*UNO® will
donate up to
20%
of your check*

**DINE-IN
or
TAKEOUT!**

Please present this certificate at the time of payment to have up to 20% of your check's value, excluding tax and tip, donated to the organization above. Not to be used with other coupons or discounts. Tickets are not to be distributed in the restaurant or within the perimeter of the parking area. Valid only for the date listed above.

unodoughraisers.com

PRESENT THIS TO YOUR SERVER

Pizzeria Uno Corporation © 2014



**EAT, DRINK &
RAISE MONEY!**

COME SUPPORT A DOUGH RAISER TO BENEFIT

**ST LUKE the
EVANGELIST PARISH**

DATE:
SUNDAY NOV 7, 2021

VALID AT:
**30 CUSHING AVE
HAVERHILL, MA 01830
978-556-9595
WWW.UNOS.COM**

*UNO® will
donate up to
20%
of your check*

**DINE-IN
or
TAKEOUT!**

Please present this certificate at the time of payment to have up to 20% of your check's value, excluding tax and tip, donated to the organization above. Not to be used with other coupons or discounts. Tickets are not to be distributed in the restaurant or within the perimeter of the parking area. Valid only for the date listed above.

unodoughraisers.com

PRESENT THIS TO YOUR SERVER

Pizzeria Uno Corporation © 2014



**EAT, DRINK &
RAISE MONEY!**

COME SUPPORT A DOUGH RAISER TO BENEFIT

**ST LUKE the
EVANGELIST PARISH**

DATE:
SUNDAY NOV 7, 2021

VALID AT:
**30 CUSHING AVE
HAVERHILL, MA 01830
978-556-9595
WWW.UNOS.COM**

*UNO® will
donate up to
20%
of your check*

**DINE-IN
or
TAKEOUT!**

Please present this certificate at the time of payment to have up to 20% of your check's value, excluding tax and tip, donated to the organization above. Not to be used with other coupons or discounts. Tickets are not to be distributed in the restaurant or within the perimeter of the parking area. Valid only for the date listed above.

unodoughraisers.com

PRESENT THIS TO YOUR SERVER

Pizzeria Uno Corporation © 2014



**EAT, DRINK &
RAISE MONEY!**

COME SUPPORT A DOUGH RAISER TO BENEFIT

**ST LUKE the
EVANGELIST PARISH**

DATE:
SUNDAY NOV 7, 2021

VALID AT:
**30 CUSHING AVE
HAVERHILL, MA 01830
978-556-9595
WWW.UNOS.COM**

*UNO® will
donate up to
20%
of your check*

**DINE-IN
or
TAKEOUT!**

Please present this certificate at the time of payment to have up to 20% of your check's value, excluding tax and tip, donated to the organization above. Not to be used with other coupons or discounts. Tickets are not to be distributed in the restaurant or within the perimeter of the parking area. Valid only for the date listed above.

unodoughraisers.com

PRESENT THIS TO YOUR SERVER

Pizzeria Uno Corporation © 2014

The Gospel at Home

This Sunday's Gospel: Mark 12:38-44

This Sunday's Gospel is a call for us all to share ourselves with others. The widow gives to the Temple two small coins that are significant to her livelihood. Jesus contrasts that with the showy gifts the rich and learned gave to the Temple treasury. They gave something of their great abundance. The widow gave of herself. We are all called to do the same—to give of ourselves.

Exploring the Gospel Message

Seeds (Preschool): Your child learned that everyone's gift is important. Take a few minutes to talk with your child about what important gifts each member of your family possesses. Make sure your child understands why the small amount of money the widow gave in the Gospel story was so important.

Promise (Grades K-1): In class this week, your child learned about generosity in giving. Play the game on page 2 with your child. (He or she will teach you how.) You can also play the game with real personal treasures. Post the "I Can Give" envelope on your refrigerator or bulletin board. All members of the family can enclose gift certificates for one another in the envelope.

Good News (Grades 2-3): This week, your child learned about generosity and trust in God from the two widows in Sunday's readings. The first widow generously gave of the little she had to feed Elijah and trusted that her family would be cared for. The woman in the Gospel gave what little she had for the good of others. Invite your child to share these stories with the family. Talk about how the Seventh Commandment is about respecting the rights and property of others.

Venture (Grades 4-6): This week, your child learned about both the Gospel and the Old Testament reading from Sunday Mass. Through

the stories of two widows, your child discovered examples of generosity. The class learned about the value of the collection at Mass as a way to help spread the Good News. Finally, the class explored the Catholic social teaching about rights and responsibilities. Talk about ways your family shows generosity. Discuss ways your family can help protect the rights of others.

Visions (Grades 7-9): This week, your youngster's class learned that the choices they make are good indicators of their values. They learned from the Gospel that true generosity means giving from the heart and giving what is important to each of them. Ask your youngster to share with the family the story, "The Widow's Gift." Talk about the real meaning of the word charity. List the activities, people, and things that your family values most. How does sharing these with others indicate your desire to follow Jesus as his disciple?

Pray Together

Before an evening meal, offer prayers of thanksgiving for all the people who have given generously to your family. Talk about how you can best repay their generosity by "paying it forward," that is, by being helpful and generous to others.

Gospel Table Talk

- Read this Sunday's Gospel (usccb.org/bible/readings/).
- Share some pictures of people in your family who have died.
- Tell a story about each one and share memories of how they gave of themselves to help others.
- Dedicate a special place in your home to keep the pictures displayed this month.
- Throughout the month, take time each day to remember and pray for these family members.





Bringing Home the Word

Thirty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time (B)

November 7, 2021

God Notices Our Acts of Generosity

By Fr. Mark Haydu, LC

Elijah is quite bold. He finds this poor woman collecting sticks to make her “last supper” on earth. She has run out of money, food, and energy. Even so, the prophet asks her to prepare him a cake and, in exchange for her hospitality, he promises she will not run out until God sends rain again. In her faith and humility, she says yes, and gives away all that she had to live on. God blesses her generosity! Jesus observes something similar. A poor widow willingly gives all

she has when, without anyone noticing, she drops her coins in the donation basket. God always notices our acts of generosity and multiplies them into eternity.

The first part of the Gospel stands in contrast with these two mighty widows. It shows us how *not* to be apostles. Jesus chastises the scribes and teachers of the law for three defects in their religious practice: pride, greed, and showing off. They love public greetings and special seating at church and parties. Jesus goes even further by saying they use their authority to devour widow’s houses. Could Jesus’ irony be any starker? While the widow is giving her last coins, the priest is using it to devour her livelihood.

We may never see in this life how God blesses our small or large acts of love, prayer, and generosity. Yet, we should keep doing them, not to be seen or rewarded, but because we love God, and to love is always the right thing. God sees, and a great reward awaits us. +

Sunday Readings

1 Kings 17:10–16

The God of Israel, says: The jar of flour shall not go empty, nor the jug of oil run dry.

Hebrews 9:24–28

Christ...will appear a second time, not to take away sin but to bring salvation to those who eagerly await him.

Mark 12:38–44 or 12:41–44

[Jesus said,] “They have all contributed from their surplus wealth, but she...has contributed all she had, her whole livelihood.”

Jesus chastises the scribes for three defects in their religious practice: pride, greed, and showing off.

A Word from Pope Francis

Familiarity with the Lord, of Christians, is always in community. Yes, it is intimate, it is personal, but within the community. A familiarity without community, a familiarity without bread, a familiarity without the Church, without the people, without the sacraments, is dangerous.

—Homily, April 17, 2020



REFLECTION QUESTIONS

ONE QUESTION FOR REFLECTION

- Am I doing what I can do to help the poor and protect them?
- Is my piety and religiosity also expressed in charity and service?

The Joy of Natural Family Planning

By Kathleen M. Basi

In February, the airwaves will be filled with advertisements for chocolates, jewels, and roses. Valentine's Day is a secular celebration meant for the renewal of love—by which, of course, we mean being bewitched—swept away by something beyond our control.

It's a romantic idea, but infatuation is only the very tip of the iceberg called love. As Catholics, we've been blessed with a beautiful heritage. In a world reeling from the pain caused by the misuse of sexuality, the Church's teachings on marriage shine like a beacon of hope, pointing us toward a brighter future. Throughout its history, the Church has called upon married couples to be open to life—not to have as many children as possible but to remember that what God joined, we must not divide. In the case of the marital act, that means the unity of the couple cannot be separated from the potential to give life. In practical terms, it means using natural family planning (NFP). At its essence, this means reading the signs of fertility and infertility that God himself built into us as man and woman.

Although NFP is often dismissed as impractical and unreliable, most couples who have made the commitment attest that it has made their marriages stronger. There's a good reason for this: Successful NFP practice encourages team effort instead of placing the responsibility on one spouse. When husbands and wives communicate, good things tend to



happen. When they include God in their monthly discernment about family size, even greater things happen.

That's not to say NFP is without its challenges. Periodic abstinence requires sacrifice. Charting cycles requires a commitment to tracking fertility signs daily. Intimacy will often be planned instead of rising spontaneously.

Yet most NFP couples would say the sacrifices are worthwhile. Being intentional about physical intimacy keeps us focused on the needs of the other and prevents us from taking the gift for granted.

Living in tune with our sexuality—the deepest expression of our capacity to love as God loves—helps us better understand

what it means to be made in God's image. When we love our spouses fully, holding nothing back, we become happier and more secure in our marriages. And we rest in the knowledge that by avoiding unnecessary hormonal intervention, we are both protecting the health of the one we love and being good stewards of creation.

Maybe next February it will be time to give your spouse a different kind of Valentine's Day gift—the gift of yourself.+

For information from the Catholic Church on natural family planning (NFP), visit: <https://www.usccb.org/topics/natural-family-planning>

Natural family planning can make your marriage stronger.



Lord, I am grateful for your abundant gifts. Open my hands and heart that I may give my all in sharing your peace and love with the world.

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

WEEKDAY READINGS

November 8–13

Monday, Weekday: Wis 1:1–7 / Lk 17:1–6

Tuesday, Dedication of the Lateran Basilica: Ez 47:1–2, 8–9, 12 / 1 Cor 3:9c–11, 16–17 / Jn 2:13–22

Wednesday, St. Leo the Great: Wis 6:1–11 / Lk 17:11–19

Thursday, St. Martin of Tours: Wis 7:22b–8:1 / Lk 17:20–25

Friday, St. Josaphat: Wis 13:1–9 / Lk 17:26–37

Saturday, St. Frances Xavier Cabrini: Wis 18:14–16; 19:6–9 / Lk 18:1–8

Bringing Home
the Word 
November 7, 2021

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