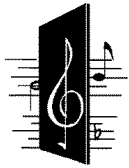


✠ PARISH TITHING ✠



MUSIC FOR THE LITURGY

Sunday, December 5, 2021

Second Sunday of Advent

4:00 PM  
8:00 AM  
10:00 AM

Gathering: Come, Come, Emmanuel  
Responsorial Psalm (Psalm 85)

*Show us your kindness, O God; Show us your kindness, O God.*

Preparation A Voice Cries Out B 45  
Mass Parts Heritage Mass (Begins at # 891 in 2022 Missalette)  
Communion Maranatha BB 66 Gift Of Finest Wheat BB 329  
Recessional: Ready The Way Of The Lord BB 62

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!

November 21, 2021

Offertory \$8,850.19  
Fuel \$1,458.90

November 28, 2021

Offertory \$7,187.77  
Christmas Flowers \$1,998.00

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>.



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.

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!



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!

UPCOMING SECOND & SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

December 5	Property Management
December 8	Immaculate Conception
December 12	Fuel
December 19	Retired Religious Fund
December 25	Christmas

**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 ✠

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

EARLY BULLETIN DEADLINES

With the holiday season approaching, we have several early bulletin deadlines:

Deadline for the December 19 bulletin is Monday, December 6 at 12:00 Noon

Deadline for the December 26 bulletin is Monday, December 13 at 12:00 Noon

Deadline for the January 2 bulletin is Monday, December 20 at 12:00 Noon.

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).



ADVENT EVENING PRAYER

Join us on Sunday evenings of the Advent season for sung Evening Prayer at 6:00 PM at Mary, Mother of the Church in Newton. The Sacrament of Reconciliation will be available following Evening Prayer.



VIGIL LIGHT

The Vigil Light in front of the Blessed Mother Icon at Mary Mother of the Church will burn in loving memory of Deceased Knights by a fellow Knight



The Sanctuary Candle in Holy Angels Church will burn this week in loving memory of Joseph Fitzpatrick by his wife, Kay



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.

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.

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.

WHILE AWAY THIS WINTER...

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

## SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

### ✠ WEEKLY CALENDAR ✠

#### Sunday, December 5

10:00 AM Religious Ed – Pre-K to 8 *Plaistow*  
6:00 PM Vespers *Newton*  
6:30 PM Sacrament of Reconciliation *Newton*

#### Monday, December 6

7:00 PM Knights of Columbus *Plaistow*

#### Wednesday, December 8

Holy Angels Church  
Open All Day For Prayer

#### Thursday, December 9

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

#### Saturday, December 11

##### GIVING TREE GIFTS DUE THIS WEEKEND

3:00 PM Sacrament of Reconciliation *Plaistow*

#### Sunday, December 12

##### GIVING TREE GIFTS DUE THIS WEEKEND

10:00 AM Religious Ed – Pre-K to 8 *Plaistow*  
6:00 PM Vespers *Newton*  
6:30 PM Sacrament of Reconciliation *Newton*

### 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](mailto:csmith@stluketheevangelist.net).



St. Luke the Evangelist is now on Facebook! Go to [www.facebook.com/stlukenh.org/](http://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.

## From the Pastor's Desk



### HOLY ANGELS CEMETERY CLOSED

Holy Angels Cemetery in Plaistow is closed from December 1, 2021 until Spring 2022. This decision comes as result of the real dangers of snow and ice in the Cemetery and the costs to Parishioners to inter during the winter months. Please contact the Parish Office with any questions.

### ✠ MASS INTENTIONS ✠

#### Saturday, December 4 ~ Second Sunday of Advent

*Bar 5:1-9; Phil 1:4-6, 8-11; Lk 3:1-6 (Vigil)*

4:00 PM Gertrude and Frank DeCrescenzo  
by Pat Zakiewicz  
*Plaistow*

#### Sunday, December 5 ~ Second Sunday of Advent

*Bar 5:1-9; Phil 1:4-6, 8-11; Lk 3:1-6*

8:00 AM Adam Lee Barry by Barb and Jim Legier  
*Newton*

10:00 AM In Honor of the Holy Trinity  
*Plaistow*

#### Monday, December 6 ~ Nicholas, Bishop

*Is 35:1-10; Lk 5:17-26*

8:00 AM Grace and Phil Ross by Lisa and Charlie Angwin  
*Newton*

#### Tuesday, December 7 ~ Ambrose, Bishop and Doctor of the Church

*Is 40:1-11; Mt 18:12-14*

8:00 AM Pat Zakiewicz by Sonia Tatarka  
*Plaistow*

#### Wednesday, December 8 ~ The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

*Gn 3:9-15, 20; Eph 1:3-6, 11-12; Lk 1:26-38*

8:00 AM Richard J. Sullivan by Jeanne Sullivan  
*Newton*

6:30 PM William E. Knowles (3<sup>rd</sup> Anniversary)  
by his family  
*Plaistow*

#### Thursday, December 9 ~ Juan Diego Cuauhtlatotzin

*Is 41:13-20; Mt 11:11-15*

8:00 AM Richard Sullivan by Grace Bukowski  
*Newton*

#### Friday, December 10 ~ Advent Weekday

*Is 48:17-19; Mt 11:16-19*

*No Mass*

#### Saturday, December 11 ~ Damasus I, Pope

*Sir 48:1-4, 9-11; Mt 17:9a, 10-13 (Day)*

*Zep 3:14-18a; Phil 4:4-7; Lk 3:10-18 (Vigil)*

4:00 PM Deceased Members of the Fogel family and Frank Kelcourse by Elaine Kelcourse  
*Plaistow*

#### Sunday, December 12 ~ Third Sunday of Advent

*Zep 3:14-18a; Phil 4:4-7; Lk 3:10-18*

8:00 AM Arthur Hawxhurst by his family  
*Newton*

10:00 AM Carl Jesionowski by his family  
*Plaistow*



❖ FAITH FORMATION & PARISH INFORMATION ❖



**IMMACULATE CONCEPTION**

The feast of the Immaculate Conception is a Holy Day of Obligation. Our Mass schedule for the holy day is as follows: **Wednesday, December 8 at 8:00 AM in Newton and at 6:30 PM in Plaistow.**

**PROJECT RACHEL**

If you or someone you know is suffering after abortion, confidential non-judgmental help is available. Call Project Rachel's national toll-free number at 1-888-456-HOPE (4673) or visit [www.hopeafterabortion.org](http://www.hopeafterabortion.org).

**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

**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](mailto:fr.albert@stluketheevangelist.net) or call the Parish Office.**

**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.amazonmile.com](http://www.amazonmile.com). For questions, please call the Parish Office at 603-382-8324. Be sure to choose:

**St Luke the Evangelist Parish, Plaistow.**

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](mailto:csmith@stluketheevangelist.net).

**YOUTH CONFIRMATION**

Students in Junior High or High School who have not celebrated the Sacrament of Confirmation and would like to prepare to receive the sacrament, contact Cathy Smith at 603-382-8324, ext. 305, or email her at [csmith@stluketheevangelist.net](mailto:csmith@stluketheevangelist.net).

**EUCCHARISTIC 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](mailto: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	<a href="mailto:fr.albert@stluketheevangelist.net">fr.albert@stluketheevangelist.net</a>
Cathy Smith	<a href="mailto:csmith@stluketheevangelist.net">csmith@stluketheevangelist.net</a>
Joyce Szczapa	<a href="mailto:jszczapa@stluketheevangelist.net">jszczapa@stluketheevangelist.net</a>
Jackie Tremblay	<a href="mailto:jtremblay@stluketheevangelist.net">jtremblay@stluketheevangelist.net</a>
Val Barczak	<a href="mailto:mvmbarczak@comcast.net">mvmbarczak@comcast.net</a>
Parish Council	<a href="mailto:parishcouncil@stluketheevangelist.net">parishcouncil@stluketheevangelist.net</a>

❖ Community News ❖



**FEED THE HUNGRY**

**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.**

Thank you so much for your continued support of the St. Vincent de Paul Society. We've had a busy Autumn, and Winter 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](mailto: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.



**A HUGE THANK YOU FOR SHARING THE WARMTH**

**Your generous donations of winter coats, hats, gloves and scarves for our kiddos in need in our communities was amazing.**

**We collected well over 200 coats and snow pants, scarves, gloves and hats.**

**Our Parish Family did GOOD.**

**Consider being part of a group that does GOOD every day for those who need it most.**

**Join the Knights.**

**THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS  
ST JUDE COUNCIL #6617  
[www.kofc6617.org](http://www.kofc6617.org)**



**WINTER WEATHER CLOSINGS**

Saint Luke the Evangelist Parish Office, Holy Angels Cemetery Office, Saint Luke Food Pantry and the Parish Liturgical schedule complies with the longstanding inclement weather policy of Saint Luke Religious Education Program and Holy Angels Pre-School-Kindergarten:

**If the Timberlane and/or Sanborn regional school districts close because of inclement weather, ALL Parish Offices and Parish programs will be closed or suspended. All activities by any Parish or non-Parish groups will be cancelled for that day/evening on both campuses.**

In the event of a weather related closing, the scheduled weekday Liturgy will not be held and the intention (if any) will be moved to a conveniently available date. During winter time storms and the clean up associated with major snowfall, access to the campuses in Newton and Plaistow will be restricted. Public notification of the closure will be accomplished through the Office of Religious Education and the Holy Angels Pre-School-Kindergarten as in the past; Parishioners need only to look for indications of Timberlane or Sanborn school districts closure to assume that Saint Luke the Evangelist Parish is also closed.

The Parish Office and Liturgical schedule will typically be observed as usual even if school districts post a delay in their opening times.

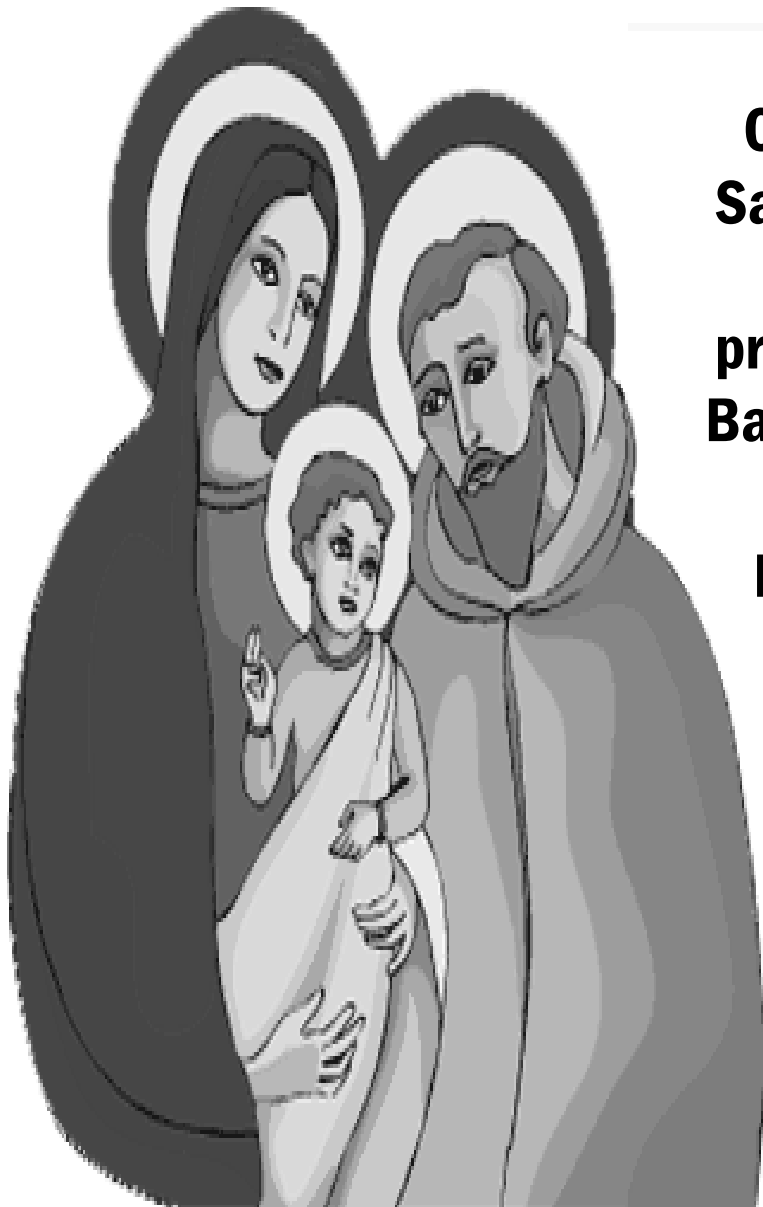
In the event of winter events on a weekend, the Pastor, Facilities Director and Religious Education Coordinator will continue to work together to determine whether or not to cancel class meetings, Parish events or outside group activities. **Sunday (or Saturday evening) liturgies can never be cancelled**, but all are advised to use prudence when deciding to travel to Church during winter storms.

**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.

**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.



**Once again this year our Saint Luke the Evangelist Parish Food Pantry will provide Christmas Dinner Baskets to needy families in our area. The cost of purchasing items for all of the baskets typically runs to well over \$1000.00, and with hard times facing so many, we anticipate the need to be even greater than previous years.**

**If you would like to contribute towards the cost of Christmas Dinner Baskets, please place your contribution in an envelope marked *“CHRISTMAS BASKETS,”* and place it in the offering basket. You may also visit the Parish Offices and make a contribution in person.**

***Thank you for your support of the poor among us.***

# The Gospel at Home

## This Week's Gospel: Luke 3:1-6

In Sunday's Gospel, John the Baptist urges people to prepare the way of the Lord and to make straight his path. Saint John quotes the prophet Isaiah who also states that the mountains and hills will be made low, the winding roads made straight, and the rough ways smooth. The prophet also says that everyone will see the salvation of God. December 8 is the Feast of the Immaculate Conception—a special holy day to celebrate Mary our Mother. And next Sunday, December 12, is the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe—the patroness of the Americas.

## Exploring the Gospel Message

**Seeds (Preschool):** Your child learned that the world around us is a gift from God. Ask your child to show the family the prayer pocket created in class. During the week, use little slips of paper to add to the pocket other works of God for which your family is especially grateful. Take time to look at what's in the pocket and talk about God's gifts.

**Promise (Grades K-1):** Your child's lesson this week is all about preparing for the coming of the Lord. Check out your child's selfie drawing with John the Baptist from the cover of Promise for the week. Ask your child how he or she is preparing his or her heart for Jesus. Share how you are doing the same thing this Advent. Ask your child to tell you the story of Our Lady of Guadalupe, too.

**Good News (Grades 2-3):** This week your child learned how the Old Testament—its events and characters—prepared for the coming of the Messiah. The class heard the promises God made to Noah, Moses, Sarah and

Abraham, and David. They learned, too, the words of John the Baptist echoing the prophet Isaiah asking people to prepare the way of the Lord. Talk about the road your family is taking to prepare for Christmas this year.

**Venture (Grades 4-6):** Your child's class learned the role of prophets who preached about God's faithful love. The class also played a game called, "Advent Is a Journey to Christmas." Play together as a family. Talk about ways your family can be more focused on the coming of Jesus. Ask your child to share with the family the comic page that tells the story of Saint Nicholas.

**Visions (Grades 7-8):** In class this week, your youngster continued the journey to Christmas by listening to the message of the prophets. The class also discussed ways to respond to John the Baptist's call to turn to God and clear a path for the coming of the Savior. Ask your son or daughter to share with the family the story, "Surfers Make the Way Smooth." How can your family help smooth the way for others?

## Pray Together

To celebrate the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, add the praying of the Hail Mary to your Advent Wreath prayer this week. As a reminder, place a statue or picture of Mary near your wreath.

**SAINT LUKE THE EVANGELIST PARISH  
LITURGICAL CALENDAR      ADVENT-CHRISTMAS, 2021-22**

**GIVING TREE GIFTS DUE DECEMBER 11-12 – Advent 3**

**ADVENT 1**  
**Sunday, November 28**      Regular weekend schedule  
 6:00 PM Advent Evening Prayer (Newton)  
 6:30 PM Sacrament of Reconciliation (Newton)

**ADVENT 2**  
**Sunday, December 6**      Regular weekend schedule  
 6:00 PM Advent Evening Prayer (Newton)  
 6:30 PM Sacrament of Reconciliation (Newton)

XMAS MASS SIGN  
UPS TODAY

**Wednesday, December 8**      Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the BVM  
 Patronal Feast of the USA  
 Holy Day Liturgy 8:00 AM (Newton)  
 Holy Day Liturgy 6:30 PM (Plaistow)

**ADVENT 3**  
**Sunday, December 12**      Regular weekend schedule  
 6:00 PM Advent Evening Prayer (Newton)  
 6:30 PM Sacrament of Reconciliation (Newton)

Giving Tree gifts due today!

**Monday, December 14**      **LAST DAY TO RETURN GIVING TREE GIFTS AT PARISH OFFICE**

**ADVENT 4**  
**Sunday, December 19**      Regular weekend schedule  
 6:00 PM Advent Evening Prayer (Newton)  
 6:30 PM Sacrament of Reconciliation (Newton)

**Thursday, December 23**      No Eucharistic Adoration in Newton

**PARISH OFFICES CLOSED: DEC. 23 (NOON) & 30 (NOON),  
 PARISH OFFICE RESUMES REGULAR HOURS AS OF JAN 3**

<b>CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE</b> <i>(A Holy Day of Obligation)</i>	
<b>Friday, December 24</b>	<b>VIGIL OF THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD</b> 4:00 PM      Liturgy (Plaistow) 6:30 PM      Liturgy (Newton)
<b>Saturday, December 25</b>	<b>SOLEMNITY OF THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD</b> 9:00 am      Liturgy (Newton)

**Sunday, December 26**      8:00 am Liturgy, Feast of the Holy Family (Newton)  
 10:00 am Liturgy, Feast of the Holy Family (Plaistow)  
 6:00 PM Christmas Evening Prayer, Newton

**Thursday, December 30**      No Adoration at Newton

**Friday, December 31**      4:00 PM Vigil Liturgy, SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD OCTAVE OF CHRISTMAS *(A Holy Day of Obligation)* (Plaistow)

**Saturday, January 1**      9:00 am Liturgy SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD OCTAVE OF CHRISTMAS *(A Holy Day of Obligation)* (Newton)

**Saturday, January 1**      3:00 PM Sacrament of Reconciliation (Plaistow)  
 4:00 PM Vigil - THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD (Plaistow)

**Sunday, January 2**      8:00 am Liturgy, THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD (Newton)  
 10:00 am Liturgy, THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD (Plaistow)  
 6:00 PM Christmas Evening Prayer (Newton)

**Saturday, January 8**      3:00 PM Sacrament of Reconciliation (Plaistow)  
 4:00 PM Vigil - BAPTISM OF THE LORD (Plaistow)

**Sunday, January 9**      8:00 am Liturgy, BAPTISM OF THE LORD (Newton)  
 10:00 am Liturgy, BAPTISM OF THE LORD (Plaistow)  
 6:00 PM Christmas Evening Prayer (Newton)





## **Anointing of the Sick I: The Mystery of Illness**

We get hurt. We wear out. The lungs, the eyes, the memory, and any of the many limbs and organs that compose us break or ache. Gloom comes over us then: pity for ourselves, sorrow, depression, anger. But hope can come, too, and courage, and sometimes peace.

All of this is marked and celebrated in the rites of our tradition. With a word and a deed, with touch and breath and spit and mud, Jesus heals those who ail. In every place and time, we who are the church remember and tell stories of healing, anoint the sick with oil and share the one bread even with those who cannot assemble for Mass. Thus the sick and the healthy, the homebound and the spry, saints and sinners are made one and remain one, a single body of many parts.

**Anyone who is seriously ill can receive the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick**, including the elderly who become weaker, even if no illness is present; those waiting for surgery when a serious condition is the reason for the operation; sick children who have sufficient use of reason to be helped by the celebration; and those who are unconscious or who have lost the use of reason, provided that they probably would have asked for the sacrament had they the use of their faculties. Furthermore, many forms of mental illness are now known to be serious. So the mentally ill may be anointed, provided that they will be helped and not harmed by the rite. If you have questions, consult a priest or other parish leader.

The most complete celebration of the sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick is a communal one, a celebration in which those to be anointed are surrounded and supported by other members of the Christian community, whether at home, or in the house of the church (for those who can leave their beds and come here). In song and in silence, with scriptures and prayers, we strengthen the bonds of love and faith that are stronger than the most lethal disease and more powerful even than death.



# Bringing Home the Word

Second Sunday of Advent (C)  
December 5, 2021

## The Time Is Right

By Fr. Mark Haydu, LC

Saint Luke loves to be precise in his Gospel, so he documents the exact time and place of the appearance of John the Baptist, the precursor to Jesus. Tiberius was the second emperor of Rome, and the fifteenth year of his reign corresponds to AD 27. Pontius Pilate was prefect from the years 26 to 36. Herod Antipas, son of Herod the Great, ruled in Galilee until his death in the year 39 and is the Herod who had John the Baptist beheaded. On the Jewish side, Caiaphas was high priest, and his influential father-in-law Annas was considered a leader of Jewish religious life.

These historical dates align with Luke’s explanation, as well as other events described in his Gospel. Ours is a faith based on real people and events. No doubt there is a great appreciation for the supernatural in our faith, but it is never *against* nature, just *beyond* it.

Jesus praised John the Baptist (see Matthew 11:2–9) for his strong will and dedication. Humility, austerity, courage, and a spirit of prayer are also a large part of the testimony John left us. In the Vatican painting, *Virgin and Child Surrounded by Saints*, the artist Marco Palmezzano dresses John the Baptist in the martyr’s red and camel skin to accent his supreme virtue. So dedicated and heroic was he in his fulfillment of the mission entrusted to him, Jesus acclaimed “among those born of women there has been none greater” (Matthew 11:11). “He was a burning and shining lamp” (John 5:35) to illuminate the path toward the true light who was coming into the world. Once that divine light arrived, John receded into the shadows. +

## Sunday Readings

### Baruch 5:1–9

Jerusalem, take off your robe of mourning and misery; put on forever the splendor of glory from God.

### Philippians 1:4–6, 8–11

Discern what is of value, so that you may be pure and blameless for the day of Christ.

### Luke 3:1–6

He went throughout [the] whole region of the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.

*There’s an appreciation for the supernatural in our faith, but it is never against nature, just beyond it.*

## A Word from Pope Francis

To prepare the way of the Lord’s coming, it is necessary to take note of the requirements of conversion to which the Baptist invites us....First of all we are called to fill the “valleys” caused by coldness and indifference, opening ourselves to others with the same sentiments as Jesus, that is, with affection and fraternal attention.

Second Sunday of Advent,  
December 9, 2018



## REFLECTION QUESTIONS

- Do I lead people to Jesus through my dedicated testimony?
- Do I speak easily and naturally of Jesus with family and friends?

# Keeping Christ in Christianity

By Fr. Byron Miller, CSsR

If only Christmas came when all the stores were less crowded! 'Tis the season for banners, billboards, and bumper stickers to remind us to avoid commercialism and “Keep Christ in Christmas.” What if there was also a perennial campaign to keep Christ in Christianity? Is Christ’s gospel message easily recognizable all year long in those of us who call ourselves

Christian?

In Flannery O’Connor’s novel *Wise Blood*, a street evangelist preaches his own gospel from his so-called Church Without Christ. But is truth stranger than O’Connor’s fiction when Christian televangelists preach a “prosperity” gospel that claims God rewards true believers with material wealth? How does one reconcile such a gospel with Christ’s humble birth in a stable?

Moreover, how is such a gospel consistent with the heart of Christ’s preaching—the Beatitudes? “The Beatitudes confront us with decisive choices concerning earthly goods; they purify our hearts in order to teach us to love God above all things” (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 1728).

“Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven,” Jesus says concerning the poor in spirit and the pure of heart; the meek, merciful, and mournful; the righteous and those persecuted for their righteousness; the peacemakers and those who are reviled because of their belief in him (see Matthew 5:3–12).



“The Beatitudes reveal the goal of human existence, the ultimate end of human acts: God calls us to his own beatitude” (CCC 1719). This beatitude “teaches us that true happiness is not found in riches or well-being, in human fame or power, or in any human achievement...but in God alone” (1723). According to John Henry Cardinal Newman, “All bow down before wealth. Wealth is that to which [most] men pay an instinctive homage....resulting from a profound faith...that with wealth he may do all things.”

Because of Christ’s total obedience to the Father, our reward is everlasting, unlike material wealth: “For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in

him might not perish but might have eternal life” (John 3:16). “The beatitude of eternal life is a gratuitous gift of God” (CCC 1727). For this treasure, all bow down and. Pay instinctive homage! The reward for true believers is not earthly prosperity but heavenly posterity!

Mark Twain said, “If you pick up a starving dog and make him prosperous, he will not bite you. This is the principal difference between a dog and a man.” Feeding the hungry, sheltering the homeless, visiting the sick and imprisoned, assisting the poor—and expecting no reward—together comprise the fundamental difference between keeping Christ in Christianity and belonging to a Church Without Christ. +

*“The Beatitudes confront us with decisive choices concerning earthly goods.”*

*Catechism of the Catholic Church, 1728*

**PRAYER**

*Lord, you are always patient with me and do great things for me. Teach me to be more patient in life and grateful for all that has been given to me.*

—From *Joyful Meditations for Every Day of Advent and the 12 Days of Christmas*, Rev. Warren J. Savage and Mary Ann McSweeney

## WEEKDAY READINGS

December 6–11

**Monday**, Advent Weekday:

Is 35:1–10 / Lk 5:17–26

**Tuesday**, St. Ambrose:

Is 40:1–11 / Mt 18:12–14

**Wednesday**, Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary: Gn 3:9–15, 20 / Eph 1:3–6, 11–12 / Lk 1:26–38

**Thursday**, Advent Weekday:


Is 41:13–20 / Mt 11:11–15

**Friday**, Advent Weekday:

Is 48:17–19 / Mt 11:16–19

**Saturday**, Advent Weekday:

Sir 48:1–4, 9–11 / Mt 17:9a, 10–13

Bringing Home  
the **Word** 

December 5, 2021

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