

MUSIC FOR THE LITURGY

Sunday, December 19, 2021
Fourth 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 Waiting In Silence B 50
Mass Parts Heritage Mass
(Begins at # 891 in 2022 Missalette)
Communion I Received The Living God BB 324
The Supper Of The Lord BB 349
Recessional: Ready The Way Of The Lord BB 62

✠ PARISH TITHING ✠

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

**COLLECTION AMOUNTS FOR
DECEMBER 12, 2021
WILL APPEAR IN NEXT WEEK'S BULLETIN**



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>.

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!

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

December 19	Retired Religious Fund
December 25	Christmas
December 26	No Second Collection
January 1	Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God
January 9	Property Management

Suggested Weekly Contribution Based on Income

Annual Income	5% Commitment annually/ weekly	3% Commitment annually/ weekly
\$100,000	\$5,000/\$100	\$3,000/\$60
\$75,000	\$3,750/\$75	\$2,250/\$45
\$60,000	\$3,000/\$60	\$1,800/\$36
\$50,000	\$2,500/\$50	\$1,500/\$30
\$40,000	\$2,000/\$40	\$1,200/\$24
\$30,000	\$1,500/\$30	\$900/\$18
\$25,000	\$1,250/\$25	\$750/\$15
\$15,000	\$750/\$15	\$450/\$9

Suggested Weekly Contribution Based on a Percentage Increase

Your Current Offertory Contribution	25% Increase	30% Increase	40% Increase
\$75.00	\$93.75	\$97.50	\$105.00
\$50.00	\$62.50	\$65.00	\$70.00
\$40.00	\$50.00	\$52.00	\$56.00
\$35.00	\$43.75	\$45.50	\$49.00
\$30.00	\$37.50	\$39.00	\$42.00
\$25.00	\$31.25	\$32.50	\$35.00
\$20.00	\$25.00	\$26.00	\$28.00
\$15.00	\$18.75	\$19.50	\$21.00
\$10.00	\$12.50	\$13.00	\$14.00
\$5.00	\$6.25	\$6.50	\$7.00

✠ PARISH NEWS ✠

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

EARLY BULLETIN DEADLINE

We have one more early bulletin deadline for the Christmas Season:

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

Our regular bulletin deadline is **Monday at 9:00 AM.**



GIVING TREES

Thanks to all who took ornaments from the Giving Tree this year. You have helped to make the Christmas season brighter for children of the community and for many people who are struggling to make ends meet. Your generosity is truly appreciated!

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.

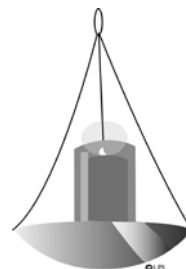
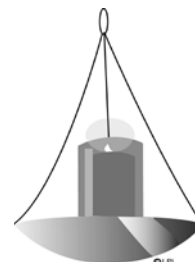


VIGIL LIGHT

The Vigil Light in front of the Blessed Mother Icon at Mary Mother of the Church will burn in loving memory of
Wallace Antczak
by the Burge family



The Sanctuary Candle in Holy Angels Church will burn this week in loving memory of
Deceased Members of the Fogel Family and Frank Kelcourse
by Elaine Kelcourse



The Sanctuary Candle in Mary, Mother of the Church will burn this week in loving memory of
Deceased Knights
by a fellow Knight

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.

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

✠ WEEKLY CALENDAR ✠

Sunday, December 19

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

Tuesday, December 21

6:00 PM	Finance Council Meeting	<i>Plaistow</i>
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Wednesday, December 22

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

Thursday, December 23

**NO ADORATION IN NEWTON
PARISH OFFICE CLOSING AT 12:00 NOON**

Saturday, December 25

**NO SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION
NO 4:00 PM VIGIL LITURGY**

Sunday, December 26

6:00 PM	Vespers	<i>Newton</i>
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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.



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.

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 18 ~ Fourth Sunday of Advent

Mi 5:1-4a; Heb 10:5-10; Lk 1:39-45 (Vigil)

4:00 PM	Mark Hammond by Colleen and family	<i>Plaistow</i>
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Sunday, December 19 ~ Fourth Sunday of Advent

Mi 5:1-4a; Heb 10:5-10; Lk 1:39-45

8:00 AM	Wallace Antczak by the Burge family	<i>Newton</i>
10:00 AM	Charles and Mary Jesionowski by their daughter, Sonia Tatarka	<i>Plaistow</i>

Monday, December 20 ~ Late Advent Weekday

Is 7:10-14; Lk 1:26-38

8:00 AM	Jack Cotter by Grace Bukowski	<i>Newton</i>
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Tuesday, December 21 ~ Peter Canisius, Priest and Doctor of the Church

Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a; Lk 1:39-45

8:00 AM	Roland and Mary Guilmette by the Matson family	<i>Plaistow</i>
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Wednesday, December 22 ~ Late Advent Weekday

1 Sm 1:24-28; Lk 1:46-56

6:30 PM	Arthur Hawxhurst by Bob and Alice Litwinovich	<i>Plaistow</i>
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Thursday, December 23 ~ John of Kanty, Priest

Mal 3:1-4, 23-24; Lk 1:57-66

8:00 AM	Jack Cotter by Jeanne Sullivan	<i>Newton</i>
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Friday, December 24 ~ The Nativity of the Lord (Vigil)

Is 62:1-5; Acts 13:16-17, 22-25; Mt 1:1-25

4:00 PM	People of the Parish	<i>Plaistow</i>
6:30 PM	People of the Parish	<i>Newton</i>

Saturday, December 25 ~ The Nativity of the Lord

Is 52:7-10; Heb 1:1-6; Jn 1:1-18

9:00 AM	People of the Parish	<i>Newton</i>
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Sunday, December 26 ~ The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph

1 Sm 1:20-22, 24-28; 1 Jn 3:1-2, 21-24; Lk 2:41-52

8:00 AM	Joseph A. Krafton by his family	<i>Newton</i>
10:00 AM	Jesselyn Driscoll by her family	<i>Plaistow</i>



Mass Times for travel

masstimes.org

"come to me all of you"
- Matthew 11:28

✧ FAITH FORMATION & PARISH INFORMATION ✧

CLOTHING DRIVE

KIMBERLY'S 16th ANNUAL HOLIDAY GIVE AWAY!!!

We are back and better than ever!!! Not to mention the addition of my little princess Rayna (who will be cheering Mommy and Daddy on from the safety of our home)!

This year's clothing drive will be back to our pre-COVID ways. We will be collecting clothing on **January 8th and 9th** at Holy Angels Church (downstairs in the back of the church) from **12:00 to 4:00 PM** each day.

We will be accepting donations for Catie's Closet, Ruth's House, Emmaus House, Epilepsy Foundation, and Wish Project. We are accepting **CLEAN** clothing of any size, any season, any decade. Any donations of underwear must be new and packaged.

We will also be accepting non-perishable food items for St. Luke's Food Pantry.

If you have any questions, concerns, or would like to volunteer, please contact me at: kimberly-andrade@comcast.net.

Thank you so much for your continued support throughout the years! May God continue to bless you all, and I wish you and your families a safe and healthy holiday season!

Kimberly Clenord

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.

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.

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.

**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.**

MEN OF SAINT JOSEPH

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.

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.

✧ 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

✦ 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 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.

Vita Nova Invites You To Join Us For:

OUT OF THE WOODS~ ~INTO THE WATER

**Men's Retreat
January 7-9**

Hosted at the
Barbara C. Harris Center
in Greenfield, NH

SAVE \$25 until 12/13!

LEARN MORE + REGISTER TODAY
vitanova.org/catholic-mens-retreat

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. **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.**



DO SOMETHING GOOD WITH US

The Knights of Columbus are a vital and vibrant part of 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 online by going to www.kofc.org/joinus.

**THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS
ST JUDE COUNCIL #6617
www.kofc6617.org**



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.



COME, O COME....

Yes, you read the title right. That's "O" - the letter of the alphabet that most reminds us of breakfast cereal, inner tubes, doughnuts, hula hoops, no hitters... and Advent. In many parishes, "O" is the first word said in the new church year. We sing it in Advent's most popular song, "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel." It announces the season which anticipates the coming of Christ at Christmas.

This hymn, which is almost synonymous with the whole season of Advent was first composed and sung to announce that Advent was ending. **The last eight days of Advent (beginning on December 17 and ending on December 24) form a little season all by themselves.** As the church prepares to celebrate the nativity of Christ, the Liturgy gets more intense. At daily Mass, the Gospels relate the events leading up to the first Christmas. At evening prayer, the Church prays a special series of antiphons that beckon the Messiah to come. Each night gives him a new name, drawn from the Old Testament tradition. "O Wisdom," "O Sacred Lord," "O Flower of Jesse's Stem," "O Key of David," "O Radiant Dawn," "O King of All Nations," and, on Christmas eve, the greatest of them all, "O Emmanuel," a name that means "God is with us."

For the reasons which will be immediately obvious, we call that group of refrains the "O Antiphons." They are a hallmark of late Advent, and a collection of music our church has treasured for centuries. The Mass now includes a version of them as the alleluia verses for the same eight days before Christmas.



In the Middle Ages, those seven antiphons got strung together into a popular hymn. The last one became verse one and “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” was born. Thus, the antiphon originally established for the last evening before Christmas Eve is now often sung to begin Advent. That “O” of course, simply tells us that we’re talking to someone. It is like saying, “Hey, you,” only more politely. But “O” reminds us of much more. It makes us think of something having no beginning and no end, like God’s love or an Advent wreath. It resembles the shape of our mouth and the sound we make when we face a mystery we cannot fully comprehend.

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O come, Thou **Wisdom** from on high,
Who orders all things mightily;
To us the path of knowledge show,
And teach us in her ways to go.

O come, Thou **Rod of Jesse**, free
Thine own from Satan’s tyranny;
From depths of hell Thy people save,
And give them victory over the grave.

O come, Thou **Day-spring**, come and cheer
Our spirits by Thine advent here;
O Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
And death’s dark shadows put to flight.

O come, Thou **Key of David**, come,
And open wide our heavenly home;
Make safe the way that leads on high,
And close the path to misery.

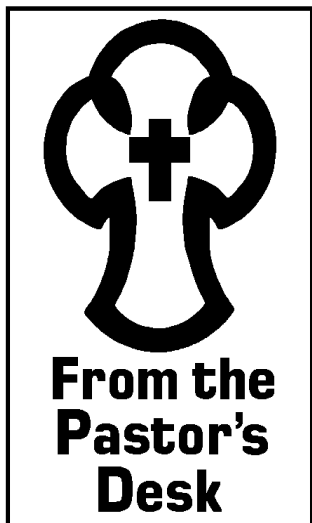
O come, great **Lord of might**,
Who to Thy tribes on Sinai’s height
In ancient times once gave the law
In cloud and majesty and awe.

O come, Thou **Root of Jesse’s tree**,
An ensign of Thy people be;
Before Thee rulers silent fall;
All peoples on Thy mercy call.

O come, **Desire of nations**, bind
In one the hearts of all mankind;
Bid Thou our sad divisions cease,
And be Thyself our King of Peace.

O come, O come, **Emmanuel**,
And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear.





CHRISTMAS IS COMING!!! Or hadn't you heard?.....

With the Christmas holiday feast upon us, a few planning reminders for the "big day..."

Please note that the last opportunity for the **Sacrament of Reconciliation** before Christmas is Sunday, December 19 following 6 PM Evening Prayer at Newton.

The Parish Office will be closed at noon December 23 and on December 24, 27, and 31. Parish Offices will re-open for business on Monday, January 3 at 8:30 am.

The Liturgies for the **Solemnity of Christmas** are on **Friday, December 24 at 4:00 PM in Plaistow** and at **6:30 PM in Newton**. On **Saturday, December 25**, Christmas Day, we will celebrate Liturgy at **9:00 am in Newton**. Christmas is a Solemnity and is *always* a holy day of obligation for all Catholics. Please note that there is no 4 PM Liturgy on December 25, nor is there public Evening Prayer.

Liturgies for the Feast of the Holy Family on Sunday, December 26 are at **8 am in Newton** and **10 am in Plaistow**. Evening Prayer on December 26 is at 6 PM in Newton. There is no celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation on December 26.

The **Octave Day of Christmas and the Solemnity of Mary, Θεοτόκος - the Mother of God - a holy day of obligation** – will be celebrated at a **Vigil Liturgy at Plaistow at 4:00 PM on Friday, December 31**, and on **Saturday, January 1 at 9:00 am in Newton**.

January 2 is the **Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord**. We will follow our usual Sunday Liturgy schedule, **4 PM on January 1 at Plaistow, on January 2 at 8 am in Newton and 10 am in Plaistow**, and we will gather for Evening Prayer at 6:00 PM in Newton. There is no celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation on that evening.

January 9 is the **Feast of the Baptism of the Lord**. We will follow our usual Sunday Liturgy schedule, and we will gather to sing Christmas Evening Prayer at 6:00 PM in Newton. There is no celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation on that evening.



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)

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**

CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE *(A Holy Day of Obligation)*

Friday, December 24 VIGIL OF THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD
 4:00 PM Liturgy (Plaistow)
 6:30 PM Liturgy (Newton)

**Saturday, December 25 SOLEMNITY OF THE NATIVITY
 OF THE LORD**
 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)



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 1:39–45

In Sunday's Gospel, Mary visits her cousin Elizabeth. The two of them demonstrate just how to trust God's word and to rejoice in God's blessings. They both praise God, and Elizabeth gives us the words that are central to the Hail Mary—"Blessed is the fruit of your womb." The mystery of the Incarnation—God taking on human flesh by the Virgin Mary—is the great sign of divine care for us all.

Exploring the Gospel Message

Seeds (Preschool): Your child decorated a Christmas tree with pictures of some of the characters and creatures from the Christmas story. Ask your child to tell you about each of the ornaments on his or her tree. If you decorate a tree this week, be sure to invite your child to help you. It is a good opportunity to talk about Christmas and its meaning for your family.

Promise (Grades K–1): During this week's lesson, the class shared the joy people feel when a favorite relative visits or when a new baby arrives. Ask your child to share with the family the story "Welcome Home, Donnie." Your child will also be happy to share with the family the story of Mary and Elizabeth. He or she can use the picture that was colored. A code from class shows where some of the words for the Hail Mary were first spoken.

Good News (Grades 2–3): During this week's class, your child played a game that dramatizes the journey to Bethlehem. Ask your child to teach the family how to play the game and play it together. Talk about all the people and information in the squares of the game board. Ask your child to tell the family about Saint Francis and the first Christmas crib scene.

Venture (Grades 4–6): Christmas is almost here! Your youngster learned about ways to live and to share the spirit of Christmas. They learned about the custom of Los Posadas (the inns) and how that public celebration spreads the good news of Jesus' coming into the world. What customs does your family or nationality have that help you celebrate the true meaning of Christmas? Let your child share with the family the Scriptural sources for the Hail Mary—based on the angel's greeting to Mary and Elizabeth's welcome when Mary came visiting. From the lesson, look at the story of Saint Stephen together.

Visions (Grades 7–8): This week, your youngster learned that Mary's visit to Elizabeth showed her generous response to God's call as well as her trust in God. Talk together about the family's need for trust and how each member can grow in trust. The readings throughout Advent have been filled with God's promises. A sign of Christmas spirit is trust in those promises. Read together Mary's beautiful response to God's action in her life—the Magnificat (Luke 1:46–55).

Pray Together

One Christmas carol is perfect for the last few days before Christmas—"O Come, O Come Emmanuel." The song contains all the longing, hope, and trust in God's Promise the season provides. You can use a YouTube video of this carol as your prayer for the week. You will find it at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7xtpJ4Q_Q-4.



Bringing Home the Word +

Fourth Sunday of Advent (C)

December 19, 2021

True Love Means Sacrifice

By Fr. Mark Haydu, LC

God is often present in the little, hidden things of life. Take for example the small town of Bethlehem. This place barely appeared on the maps of the time. Yet in this dull town, overlooked by all, God wished to be born. God isn't into bling.

Look at the Vatican painting *Annunciation* by Gentile da Fabriano. A ray of light in the painting shines from the upper left window directly down onto Mary's womb. She carries in her the Light of the World, but it happened in a way unbeknownst to anyone. He is

the Light of the World, shining to catch our attention, but he does so in silence, humility, and intimacy.

There is a second aspect of the Incarnation to learn here. Christmas was about a real sacrifice. Mary and Jesus offered their very selves. Hebrews says it wasn't an animal or a wheat offering but Jesus' very body and blood. The same for Mary, as it was her life, her virginity, her very intimacy, that she was opening to God when she agreed to be the mother of the Lord. It's easy to be generous when it doesn't touch too close to home.

So, try not to look for glitz and externals this Christmas but for God's hidden presence. And imitate Jesus and Mary by giving of your very self. It's not about a fast, a donation, or extra prayers—as good as those Advent practices are. But all of this prepares us to give our very selves to him in trust through the hidden acts of love of every day. +

Try not to look for glitz and externals this Christmas but for God's hidden presence.

A Word from Pope Francis

[Jesus] did not wait until we were good before he loved us, but gave himself freely to us. May we not wait for our neighbors to be good before we do good to them, for the Church to be perfect before we love her, for others to respect us before we serve them.

Christmas Midnight Mass,
December 24, 2019



Sunday Readings

Micah 5:1-4a

But you, Bethlehem-Ephrathah / least among the clans of Judah, / From you shall come forth for me / one who is to be ruler in Israel.

Hebrews 10:5-10

We have been consecrated through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

Luke 1:39-45

[Elizabeth] cried out in a loud voice and said, "Most blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb."

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

- What hidden acts of love can you offer during this upcoming Christmas?
- Are there ways you can point out to your children God's presence in the little things?

Let Us Kneel

By Fr. Bruce Lewandowski, CSsR

We were all packed onto a busy East Harlem street corner when a Puerto Rican man rushed into traffic, catching the attention of all who were waiting to cross. When he reached the other side of a sea of trucks and cars, he knelt down right there in the street at the feet of an old woman pushing a grocery cart. Leaning on her cart, she stood over him and made the sign of the cross on his forehead, shoulders, and chest. Then, holding her crossed fingers up reverently, the man kissed them. He knelt for a blessing from his godmother in the street, a common gesture for children and young people in Latin American countries, but a grand expression for a grown man.

The part of the Good Friday service most people dread is the Universal Prayer. As we pray for everyone in ten different petitions, the deacon or cantor calls out, "Let us kneel....Let us stand." It's tedious and painful for some knees, and tiring to many, so some priests invite people to either remain standing or be seated. Maybe it's because sinking to our knees is too awkward or strange. Some don't like to kneel. I've visited churches where the kneelers have been removed. What might that mean? In prayer, kneeling is an act of adoration and supplication, but it's also a sign of powerlessness and defeat; it can be seen as a way to show humility in a physical way.



A woman told me her mother used to make her kneel on uncooked rice as a form of punishment for backtalking, disobedience, or lying. A common sight in the oft-crowded Mexican sanctuary of Our Lady of Guadalupe is the procession of pilgrims walking on their knees in penance for themselves or loved ones. Remember the horrific scenes of people positioned on their knees before ISIS executioners just moments before they met an untimely death? There's a lot that can bring us to our knees—penance, prayer, punishment, and protest. Kneeling is a powerful statement. It took the publicized kneeling of a pro football player to get us to notice.

Many are offended by those who kneel during the national anthem. Why? Is it to admit that our nation has been brought to its knees by terrorism and a pandemic; by racism and police brutality; by Harvey, Irma, and Maria; by a killer in Las Vegas; by a broken immigration system; by bipartisan paralysis and self-serving politicians? Much has proven to be beyond our power and ability to change. We've been humbled and humiliated, and the icon of our powerlessness is represented by an NFL player kneeling on the field of play.

When you kneel in church next time, pray that America can rise above the hate. The rhetoric. The prejudice. Let us kneel. +

Many are offended by those who kneel during the national anthem. Why?



*Lord, your Word gives me life,
joy, hope, and peace.
May your Word find a home
in me and inspire me to live a life
rooted in gospel values.*

*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 20–25, 2021

Monday, Advent Weekday:
Is 7:10–14 / Lk 1:26–38

Tuesday, Advent Weekday:
Sg 2:8–14 or Zep 3:14–18a / Lk 1:39–45

Wednesday, Advent Weekday:
1 Sm 1:24–28 / Lk 1:46–56

Thursday, Advent Weekday:
Mal 3:1–4, 23–24 / Lk 1:57–66

Friday, Advent Weekday:
2 Sm 7:1–5, 8b–12, 14a, 16 / Lk 1:67–79

Saturday, Nativity of the Lord (Christmas):
Is 52:7–10 / Heb 1:1–6 / Jn 1:1–18 or 1:1–5, 9–14