



MUSIC FOR THE LITURGY

Sunday, January 9, 2022

The Baptism of the Lord

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

Gathering: Hark, The Herald Angels Sing BB 91

Responsorial Psalm (Psalm 98)

All the ends of the earth have seen the power of God. (2x)

Preparation A Voice Cries Out BB 45

Mass Parts Heritage Mass
(Begins at # 891 in 2022 Missalette)

Communion It Came Upon The Midnight Clear
BB 96

The Supper Of The Lord BB 349

Recessional: Angels We Have Heard On High BB 82

✠ 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!

December 25, 2021

Christmas \$ 4,392.00

December 26, 2021

Offertory \$10,012.28

COLLECTIONS AMOUNTS FOR

JANUARY 1 and 2, 2022

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're new to our parish, registration forms are available at the entrances of both churches. Registration forms can also be found 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

January 9	No Second Collection
January 16	Seminarian Fund
January 23	Fuel

Suggested Weekly Contribution Based on Income

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

Suggested Weekly Contribution Based on a Percentage Increase

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

✠ PARISH NEWS ✠

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

CEMETERY PLOT

Holy Angels Cemetery (Plaistow) plot for sale. It is one plot (one casket and one cremains, or two cremains). Original price was \$700.00 and now will sell for \$600.00. If interested, contact the Parish Office.



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!

FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTION STATEMENT

If you would like an "end of year" financial statement of your contributions to the Parish for 2021, **please call Jackie** at the Parish Office at 603-382-8324. **Financial Statements are issued on a request only basis.**

PARISH OFFICE CLOSED

The Parish Office will be closed on **Monday, January 17** in observance of the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday. The office will reopen at 8:30 AM on Tuesday, January 18.

Our regular office hours are Monday through Friday from 8:30 AM to 12:00 Noon and 1:00 to 4:30 PM. The Parish Office is closed on Fridays.

The Sanctuary Candle in Holy Angels Church will burn this week in loving memory of
Jack Cotter
by Rachel Lanseigne



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.

✠ WEEKLY CALENDAR ✠

Sunday, January 9

12:00 to 4:00 PM – CLOTHING DRIVE – PARISH HALL
 10:00 AM Religious Ed – PreK to 8 *Plaistow*
 11:00 AM Gr. 2 Reconciliation Retreat and
 First Reconciliation *Plaistow*
 6:00 PM Vespers *Newton*

Wednesday, January 12

Holy Angels Church
 Open All Day For Prayer

Thursday, January 13

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

Saturday, January 15

3:00 PM Sacrament of Reconciliation *Plaistow*

Sunday, January 16

10:00 AM Religious Ed – PreK to 8 *Plaistow*

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 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, January 8 ~ Vigil of the Baptism of the Lord

Is 40:1-5, 9-11; Ti 2:11-14, 3:4-7; Lk 3:15-16, 21-22 (Vigil)
 4:00 PM Jake Collins by Ray and Beverley Viglione
Plaistow

Sunday, January 9 ~ The Baptism of the Lord

Is 40:1-5, 9-11; Ti 2:11-14, 3:4-7; Lk 3:15-16, 21-22
 8:00 AM Alfred Bencivenga by Barbara and Jack Brotz
Newton
 10:00 AM Bill Lueders (18th Anniversary)
 by Carol Lueders
Plaistow

Monday, January 10 ~ Weekday

1 Sm 1:1-8; Mk 1:14-20
 8:00 AM Sheila McNamara by Bonnie Lajoie
Newton

Tuesday, January 11 ~ Weekday

1 Sm 1:9-20; Mk 1:21-28
 8:00 AM For Michael and his recovery
Plaistow

Wednesday, January 12 ~ Weekday

1 Sm 3:1-10, 19-20; Mk 1:29-39
 6:30 PM Mary Safka (Birthday Remembrance)
 by Joe and Ann Marie Sheehan
Plaistow

Thursday, January 13 ~ Hilary, Bishop and Doctor of the Church

1 Sm 4:1-11; Mk 1:40-45
 8:00 AM Arlene Collier by the Little Sisters of St. Francis
Newton

Friday, January 14 ~ Weekday

1 Sm 8:4-7, 10:22a; Mk 2:1-12
 No Mass

Saturday, January 15 ~ Weekday

1 Sm 9:1-4, 17-19, 10:1; Mk 2:13-17 (Day)
Is 62:1-5; 1 Cor 12:4-11; Jn 2:1-11 (Vigil)
 4:00 PM Brian McLaughlin
 by Joe and Ann Marie Sheehan
Plaistow

Sunday, January 16 ~ Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

Is 62:1-5; 1 Cor 12:4-11; Jn 2:1-11
 8:00 AM Jack Ronan and Daniel J. O'Leary
 by Susan Ronan
Newton
 10:00 AM Michael Twomey, Sr.
 by the Knights of Columbus, #6617
Plaistow



Mass Times for travel
masstimes.org
 "come to me all of you"
 - Matthew 11:28

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 ❖



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.



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.

SCHOLARSHIPS TO CAMP

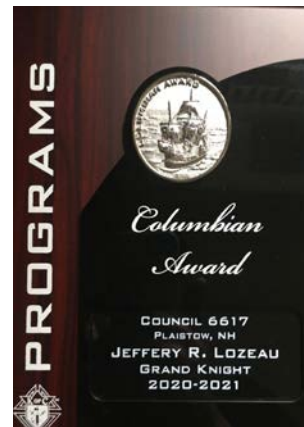
We are pleased to announce that Bishop Libasci is making scholarships available to youth aged 6 to 15 to attend Camps Fatima and Bernadette in 2022! This is possible in accordance with the terms of a bequest received by the diocese. The youth must be Catholic and residing in New Hampshire.

The full scholarships granted to those in financial need are based on the recommendation of the pastor of their parish. Please contact your parish office to request a letter of recommendation and application. **The deadline for submission of recommendations is March 11, 2022.**

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.

What a way to start out the year!



The Knights of Columbus, Council #6617 received the Columbian Club Award from the National Knights of Columbus for this past fraternal year because of the excellence of our programs in Community, Life, Faith, and Family. Our mission, helping those in need. Don't you want to be part of that? Join us!

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





Flower Donations Were Made In Loving Memory Or Honor Of:

*Krystyna M. Smardz
Stanislaw K. Smardz
Mr. & Mrs. Vincent Zamierowski
Mr. & Mrs. Francois Fortin
The Dinges Family
The Bettencourt Family
The Halko Family
Carol Hantyes
Jack Rogers
Mr. & Mrs. W.A. Lawrence
Mr. & Mrs. H. Becker
Charles and Helen Sielicki, Sr.
Lionel and Louise LaFleur
Lionel LaFleur, Jr.
Cecelia Sielicki
Karl and Mary Brotz
John and Louise Szematowicz
Joan Brotz
Paul Brotz*

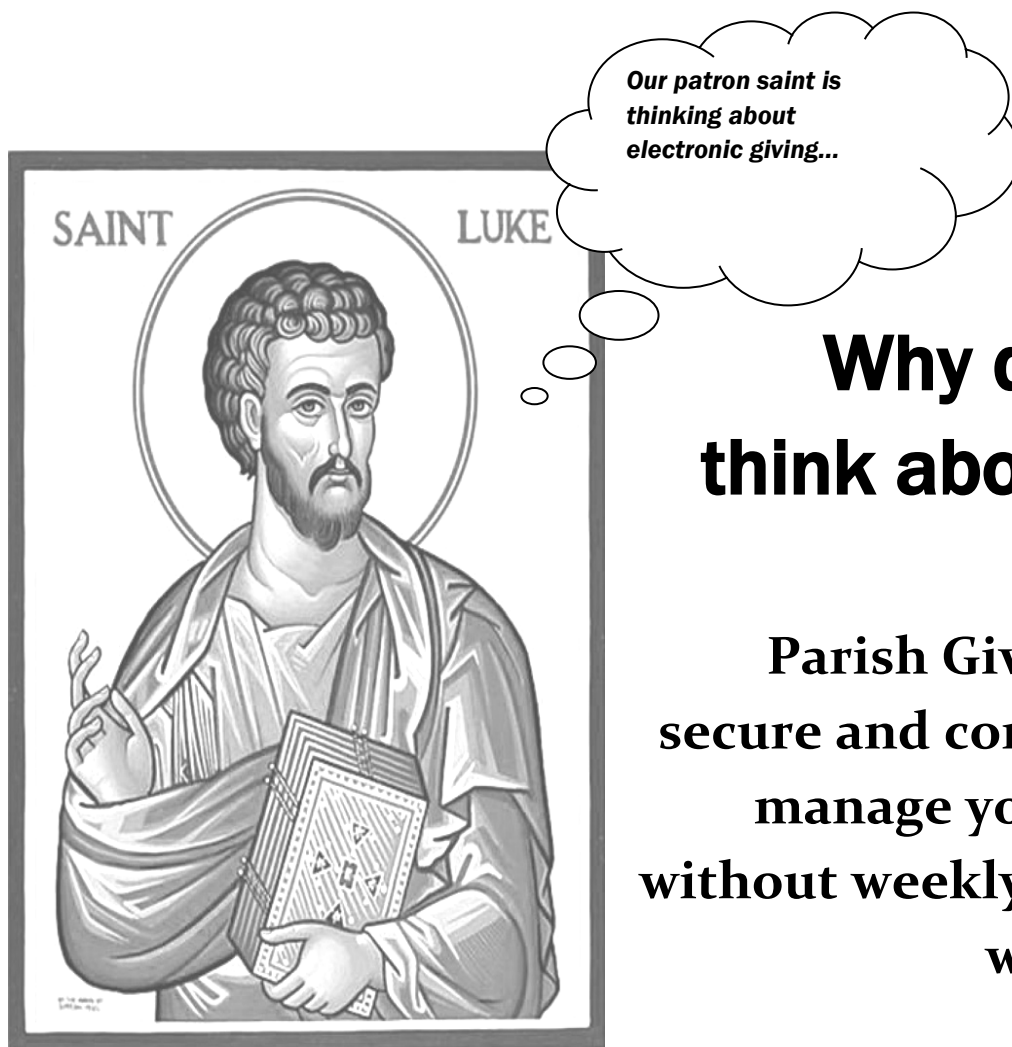
*Elmer Brotz
Rita Jarnot
Gerard and Monique Provost
Simone Boulet
Bill and June Goodwin
Raymond Fournier
Harold Lloyd
The Santos Family
The Pare Family
Deceased Members of the
Knights of Columbus, #6617
Jesus
Mary
Joseph
Deceased Loved Ones
Daniel and Margurite Driscoll
John and Millie Healey
Johnnie Driscoll
Emily Driscoll*

Bobby Driscoll
 John Halleran
 The Krajewski Family
 The Viles Family
 The DeSantis Family of Revere
 The Jones Family of Hyde Park
 Paul Antkowiak
 Ella Tomaselli
 Peter Tomaselli
 Sophie Bengtson
 Stephan Antkowiak
 The Ayers Family
 The Obert Family
 Deceased Members of the
 Richards Family
 Deceased Members of the
 Souza Family
 Vincenzo DeNovellis
 Flavia DeNovellis
 Celeste Linnan
 Willy Bergeron
 Mildred Tremblay
 Jim Tremblay
 Ma and Dad Bergeron
 Nicole Rau
 Sr. Elizabeth Anne Lee
 Harvey and Mary Lee
 The Lee Kirkpatrick Family
 The Murphy Family
 The Lueders Family
 George Moulaison
 Mateo Intervalo
 Laura Intervalo
 Julito Intervalo
 Jack Ronan
 Dan O'Leary
 Mary O'Leary
 Deceased Members of the
 Ronan Family
 Deceased Members of the
 O'Leary Family
 Walter and Mary Wozny
 Theodore and Lillian Karavedas
 Billy Witkum
 Bernice and Ray Kizlowski

Gerald Fox
 William "Bill" Fox
 Melissa Boyle
 Dorothy Bell
 Robert Giallongo
 Mr. & Mrs. Serafin Giallongo
 Kathleen Giallongo
 Mr. & Mrs. Wilfrid Fisette
 My Brothers – Roger, Robert,
 Gilles, Raymond, and John Fisette
 Mark Hammond
 Paul O'Leary
 Dan O'Leary
 Mary O'Leary
 Yvette, Louis, and Robert Caron
 Albert and Anna Marcelonis
 The Cotter Family
 The Marciano Family
 The Muscianesi Family
 Timothy Hercules
 Shirley Fontaine
 Albert DiMambro
 Richard W. Sullivan
 Richard J. Sullivan
 James and Frances Sullivan
 John and Agnes Keely
 The Sullivan and Keely
 Family and Friends
 John D. Troy
 The Morris Family
 The LaRochelle Family
 The Miloof Family
 Mr. Roy Lajoie
 Our Angel in Heaven
 Dan Martin
 Robert Hampe, Jr.
 Ted and Mary Hesse
 The Martin Family
 The Lumnah Family
 Deceased Members of the
 Sheehan Family
 Deceased Members of the
 Hofbauer Family
 The Lesiczka Family
 The Carbone Family

*Phillip and Natalie Gagnon
Louis and Marguerite Lanseigne
Dennis and Geraldine Miele
Lorraine Emerson
Joan Schwartz
Jack Kelly
Our Dad, Roy J. Lajoie
Grampy Roy J. Lajoie
Mr. & Mrs. Bernard Lajoie
Kevin A. Gallant
Mary A. Wentworth
James A. Wentworth
Margaret Gallant
Fred Gallant
Richard Ferguson
Deceased Members of the
O'Hara Family
Verna Carbone
Mary and Gene Vader
Johanna Power
Michelle Grimes
Mary Schwarzenberg
George and Althea Rainville
Edwin and Evelyn Sadowski
Joseph and Ann Manewicz
Mr. & Mrs. Archie Desosito
Mr. & Mrs. Joseph DeMonaco
Irene Bergeron
Arthur Bergeron
Royston and Margaret Preece
Margaret and Leon Cote
Robert and Elenora Davidson
Norman L. Cote
Paul D. Cote
Robert and Teresa Vien
Robert Girard
Barbara Girard
William Poist
William Esposito
Agnes Massei
Mr. & Mrs. John Murphy
Tom Dolan
Patricia Dolan
Mary Donahue
Beatrice Clark*

*Armand Boutin
Gerri LaRue
Lea M. Roberts
Deceased Members of the
Anderson Family
Deceased Members of the
McKinnon Family
My Loved Ones
Anna and Raymond Lynch
Geno Gamache
Mary Guilmette
Roland Guilmette
Simone Matson
Richard Matson
Frank Bahl
Kathleen McCarthy
Joseph Murach, Sr.
Nancy Murach
Paul Murach
Frank Szczapa
Frances Fleming
Sophie and Alex Szczapa
Helen and Frank Perry*



Why don't you think about it too?

Parish Giving is a simple, secure and convenient way to manage your stewardship without weekly envelopes and without worries.

- Parish Giving allows you to select contribution amounts and special collections right from your own computer or smartphone
- You can be a good steward for the Parish even when you are away from the area on a weekend
- Parish Giving allows you to print out a report detailing your contributions for the year.
- Log on to the St. Luke the Evangelist Parish website <http://stlukenh.org>, click on the Parish Giving logo and follow the easy registration instructions.



The Gospel at Home

This Week's Gospel: Luke 3:15–16, 21–22

The story of Jesus' baptism in Sunday's Gospel shows the mystery of the Blessed Trinity. After John baptizes Jesus in the Jordan, God announces to the crowd that Jesus is his beloved Son, and the Holy Spirit in the form of a dove settled on him. Baptism gives us new life as adopted children of God and gives all the gift of that Holy Spirit. Living the Gospel helps those who follow Jesus be a witness to the world that the Good News is for everyone.

Exploring the Gospel Message

Seeds (Preschool): Your child learned that the Sacrament of Baptism makes people members of God's family—the Church. Take time to show your child pictures of his or her Baptism. Share the names of the godparents. This is also a good opportunity for you to make sure that your child knows how to make the Sign of the Cross.

Promise (Grades K–1): In class, the children shared the story of Jesus' baptism. Talk to your child about the memories you have of his or her Baptism. Talk about the white garments, the candle, the godparents, the priest or deacon who performed the ceremony, and the pouring of the water. Help your child with all the information needed to complete the back of the Baptism "strip."

Good News (Grades 2–3): This week your child learned that Jesus' baptism by Saint John was the beginning of his work teaching about God's love. Your child also became familiar with the rite of the Sacrament of Baptism. The class also learned that people are baptized in the name of the Holy Trinity—Father, Son,

and Holy Spirit. Whenever you make the Sign of the Cross, you are reminded that you are members of God's family, the Church. As a family, try to begin all your activities with the Sign of the Cross.

Venture (Grades 4–6): This week your child learned that Baptism makes them members of the Church. Baptism is also a call for everyone to act justly. Your child learned the principles of Catholic social teaching. Ask them to share those with the family. Discuss how the Holy Spirit speaks with us and directs our lives. During any discussions, consider using a Talking Stick like the one from the lesson.

Visions (Grades 7–8): The Feast of the Baptism of the Lord has been an opportunity for your teenager to learn more about two of the Sacraments of Christian Initiation—Baptism and Confirmation. Baptism is also a call to make a difference in all the communities to which we belong. Take some time to share together how important it is for your family to be active members of the Christian community, to worship together, and to be signs to others of the presence of the Holy Spirit in the world.

Pray Together

Before the evening meal or at some other time when you are all together, renew your baptismal promises to believe what the Church teaches and to follow in the footsteps of Christ. Pray together the Apostles' Creed.

CREMATION?

While burial or entombment of the body remains the preference and is encouraged by the Church, cremation may be chosen for sufficient reason. The Revised Code of Canon Law states: "The Church earnestly recommends the pious custom of burial be retained; but it does not forbid cremation, unless this is chosen for reasons which are contrary to Christian teaching." (CIC, c. 1176.3)

When is Cremation Allowed? Cremation may be requested for hygienic, economic or other reasons of a public or private nature. Some examples include: transfer of the remains to a distant place, possible avoidance of considerable expense, a severe psychological fear of burial in the ground or in a tomb. The selection of cremation was the specific choice of the individual before death. When requested by the family of the deceased for what also might be determined as an appropriate pastoral reason.

If a body is to be cremated, is it preferable that cremation take place after the Funeral Liturgy?

It is recommended that priority be given to the celebration of the Eucharistic Liturgy with the body of the deceased present.

Can a body be cremated prior to the Funeral Liturgy? What arrangements are different?

In the Diocese of Manchester, it is permitted to celebrate the funeral liturgy in the presence of the cremated remains. The cremated remains are to be accorded the same respect given to the corporeal remains of a human body. This includes the way they are carried, the care and attention to appropriate placement and transport, and their final disposition. The container in which the cremated remains are placed should be dignified in nature. The cremated remains are to be positioned on a suitable table in the same place where the casket is usually positioned. They may also be placed near the Paschal Candle during the funeral liturgy. The candle and the cremated remains may be placed in the sanctuary so as to be visible to all.

What is required for the proper and reverent disposition of cremated remains?

Cremated remains are to be buried or inurned. They should not be buried on private land, but are to be buried in a cemetery or entombed in a mausoleum or columbarium. **The practice of scattering cremated remains on the sea, from the air, or on the ground is not permitted.** If burial takes place at sea, according to local custom, the cremated remains are to be kept intact in a solid and durable container, and not scattered.

Keeping the cremated remains in a private home, funeral home or any other place is not considered to be the reverent disposition that the Church requires. **The integrity of the cremated remains is always to be respected.** The cremated remains of one deceased person may not be mixed with the cremated remains of another person. It is not permitted to divide the cremated remains and retain, inter or entomb them in more than one place.

It is also not permitted to divide the cremated remains in such a way that they are contained in lockets or jewelry. Any other practice which violates the integrity of the cremated remains and impedes reverent and proper burial/disposition is prohibited. Whenever possible, appropriate memorialization should be utilized at the place of burial.

Consult your cemetery office for all available options for the respectful burial, disposition and memorialization of cremated remains.



Bringing Home the Word +

The Baptism of the Lord (C)

January 9, 2022

Renewal by the Holy Spirit

By Fr. Mark Haydu, LC

We have all received baptism, but why don't the amazing fruits and graces received then always show themselves powerfully in our lives?

Titus tells us what has already happened for us in baptism. We were saved "through the bath of rebirth and renewal by the holy Spirit" (3:5). Yet this renewal accomplished by the Spirit needs to be fully embraced by us for it to reach its potential. We know we have been renewed, but how do we keep renewing? This happens by prayerful contact with the Holy Spirit.

In Titus, Spirit is capitalized because it's the Spirit of God. Renewal by the Holy Spirit is a renewal in which God, not man, is the principal protagonist. "Behold, I" (not you) "make all things new" (Revelation 21:5).

We often think that to be renewed and grow, we have to do something. God tells us it is something he does. "I, the LORD, make you holy" (Leviticus 20:8). We have to give him back the power he already has. Or better yet, we need to recognize God's power and let him use it in us.

A revolution needs to happen in our minds and hearts where we recognize that without the Holy Spirit we can do nothing. So, ask the Holy Spirit to come upon you in a real baptism of fire. Then all those baptismal gifts will spark into a flame and help you set the world ablaze with his love! +

Sunday Readings

**Isaiah 42:1-4, 6-7 or
Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11**

I, the LORD, have called you
for justice, /
I have grasped you by the hand.

**Acts 10:34-38 or
Titus 2:11-14; 3:4-7**

He went about doing good and
healing all those oppressed by the
devil, for God was with him.

Luke 3:15-16, 21-22

[John said,] "I am baptizing you
with water, but...he will baptize you
with the holy Spirit and fire."

***We need to recognize God's
power and let him use it in us.
A revolution must happen
in our minds and hearts.***

A Word from Pope Francis

After these thirty years of hidden life, Jesus' public life begins. And it begins precisely with his baptism in the River Jordan. But Jesus is God; why does Jesus get baptized?... Because he wants to be with the sinners. For this reason, he gets in line with them and does the same thing they do.

—Angelus, Baptism of the Lord,
January 10, 2021



REFLECTION QUESTIONS



- When was the last time I prayed to the Holy Spirit? He is a real divine person; talk to him.
- Do I have courage to ask the Holy Spirit to come down and touch my soul with his fire?

The Art of Complaining

By Very Reverend Bruce Lewandowski, CSsR

At some time or another, I think every pastor has gotten “hate mail.” Letters of complaint, filled with anger, the occasional foul word, or any variety of accusations and disparaging remarks are part of pastoring. Pastors can’t please everyone. Once, just briefly, I thought about printing a viciously negative letter I received in the parish bulletin. I even thought about tacking it to the church notice board. I didn’t do it, realizing it could embarrass the author or—worse for me—earn the writer a few sympathizers.

Complaining is part of being human. We’ve likely all been known to complain about family members, friends, or coworkers. As a pastor, complaints can be helpful. How else will the parish improve? The difficulty is that there are very few persons schooled in fashioning and delivering a well-thought-out complaint. That means, for most of us, our message is lost.

Here are some tips to help parishioners master the art of complaining and get their pastor’s ear:

Presume goodwill. Pastors don’t make random decisions just to make their parishioners miserable. Decisions are often given a great deal of thought and discussed thoroughly with parish staffers, pastoral councils, and other clergy and laity. Presume your pastor’s heart is in the right place. Most pastors love their people and want what is best for everyone in the parish.



Don’t be anonymous. Anonymous complaints are rarely taken seriously unless they’re of the type that require the intervention of law enforcement. I’m not writing about those here. A complaint should invite conversation, interaction, and hopefully an exchange of ideas, concerns, hopes, and probable solutions. You can’t talk to “anonymous.” Unsigned complaints usually go nowhere.

Find allies. True concern for the well-being of the parish should be shared. If one person is struggling with a pastor’s decisions, it is likely that others are, too. I’m not making the strength-in-numbers argument here. Lobbying in church really isn’t a good idea. But if a decision is negatively affecting a number of people, it should be reviewed.

Meet in person. Much is left open to interpretation when a complaint is only shared in writing. Text and email complaints, even with the inclusion of emojis, don’t carry emotions. Facial expressions, body language, tone and volume of the speaker, even silence, allow for total communication. Ask for a meeting. Agree together about who should be invited. Sit down and have a dialogue.

Be open to compromise. Don’t go to your pastor with a decision. Approach him with a question. Why the change? Why now? Why this new direction? “Why” is a great starting point. It can lead to greater understanding, which may change your opinion. Be part of the solution.

Be Christian. Kindness, even when you’re angry about something, will always win you a fair hearing. Be kind. Be kind. Be kind. +

Complaints can help a parish improve. Check out these tips for some good ways to get your pastor’s ear.



Lord, give me a shepherd’s heart so that I can show your love and compassion to someone in need.

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

WEEKDAY READINGS

January 10–15

Monday, Weekday:
1 Sm 1:1–8 / Mk 1:14–20

Tuesday, Weekday:
1 Sm 1:9–20 / Mk 1:21–28

Wednesday, Weekday:
1 Sm 3:1–10, 19–20 / Mk 1:29–39

Thursday, Weekday:
1 Sm 4:1–11 / Mk 1:40–45

Friday, Weekday:
1 Sm 8:4–7, 10–22a / Mk 2:1–12

Saturday, Weekday:
1 Sm 9:1–4, 17–19; 10:1a / Mk 2:13–17