



**MUSIC FOR THE LITURGY**

**Sunday, January 16, 2022**

**The Second Sunday  
In Ordinary Time**

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

Gathering: All Are Welcome BB 420

Responsorial Psalm (Psalm 103)

*Loving and forgiving are you, O Lord;  
slow to anger, rich in kindness, loving  
and forgiving are you*

Preparation Pescador de Hombres BB 496

Mass Parts Mass of Creation

Communion One Love Released BB 353  
Bread Of Life BB 362

Recessional: O God Beyond All Praising BB 541

**✠ 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!

January 1, 2022

**Mary, Mother of God \$1,134.00**

January 2, 2022

**Offertory \$5,722.89**

**Property Management \$1,375.60**

January 9, 2022

**Offertory \$5,839.26**

**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 16 Seminarian Fund  
January 23 Fuel  
January 30 No Second Collection

**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...**

<b>Boston Catholic Television</b>	<b>catholictv.org</b>
Sunday Mass from Notre Dame	
<a href="http://catholictv.org/masses/notre-dame-mass">catholictv.org/masses/notre-dame-mass</a>	
Salt & Light TV	<a href="http://saltandlighttv.org">saltandlighttv.org</a>
Eternal Word Television	<a href="http://ewtn.com">ewtn.com</a>

**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.

**AMAZONSMILE FOUNDATION**

Saint Luke the Evangelist Parish has been issued a **\$76.32 donation** from the AmazonSmile Foundation as a result of AmazonSmile program activity between July 1 and September 30, 2021.

**AmazonSmile.com** is the same market platform as Amazon.com, but with the added benefit of allowing customers to donate 0.5% of the price of items purchased to a charitable organization. Please register today to start shopping and donating at [www.amazonsmile.com](http://www.amazonsmile.com). For questions, please call the Parish Office at 603-382-8324. Be sure to choose:

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

**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 **Richard Sullivan** 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 16**  
 10:00 AM Religious Ed – PreK to 8 *Plaistow*

**Monday, January 17**  
 PARISH OFFICE CLOSED

**Tuesday, January 18**  
 6:00 PM Finance Council Meeting *Plaistow*

**Wednesday, January 19**  
 Holy Angels Church  
 Open All Day For Prayer  
 7:00 St. Vincent de Paul Society Meeting *Plaistow*

**Thursday, January 20**  
 8:30 AM – 8:30 PM Eucharistic Adoration *Newton*

**Saturday, January 22**  
 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](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 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 15 ~ Second Sunday in Ordinary Time**  
*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*

**Monday, January 17 ~ Anthony, Abbot**  
*1 Sm 15:16-23; Mk 2:18-22*

8:00 AM Eileen Meader by her daughter, Joan Meader  
*Newton*

**Tuesday, January 18 ~ Weekday**

*1 Sm 16:1-13; Mk 2:23-28*  
 8:00 AM James and Judy Pratt by the Pratt family  
*Plaistow*

**Wednesday, January 19 ~ Weekday**

*1 Sm 17:32-33; 37, 40-51; Mk 3:1-6*  
 6:30 PM John Hofbauer (Birthday Remembrance)  
 by Joe and Ann Marie Sheehan  
*Plaistow*

**Thursday, January 20 ~ Fabian, Pope and Martyr;**  
**Sebastian, Martyr**

*1 Sm 18:6-9, 19:1-7; Mk 3:7-12*  
 8:00 AM Georgianna Lekas (1<sup>st</sup> Anniversary)  
 by the Parish  
*Newton*

**Friday, January 21 ~ Agnes, Virgin and Martyr**

*1 Sm 24:3-21; Mk 3:13-19*  
 No Mass

**Saturday, January 22 ~ Day of Prayer for the Legal**  
**Protection of Unborn Children**

*2 Sm 1:1-4, 11-12, 19, 23-27; Mk 3:20-21 (Day)*  
*Neh 8:2-4a, 5-6, 8-10; 1 Cor 12:12-30; Lk 1:1-4, 4:14-21 (Vigil)*  
 4:00 PM Yvette Caron by Paul and Justine Caron  
*Plaistow*

**Sunday, January 23 ~ Third Sunday in Ordinary Time**

*Neh 8:2-4a, 5-6, 8-10; 1 Cor 12:12-30; Lk 1:1-4, 4:14-21*  
 8:00 AM Vincent Early, Sr. by Dan Sullivan  
*Newton*  
 10:00 AM Arthur Hawxhurst  
 by the St. Vincent de Paul Society  
*Plaistow*



**JESUS aCROSS THE BORDER –**

Monthly Gathering / Social Gathering for young adults on **January 21, 2022** at St. Joseph the Worker Shrine (37 Lee Street, Lowell, MA) 7:30 to 11:00 PM. JESUS aCROSS THE BORDER is blessed to be celebrating its 5<sup>th</sup> birthday and honored to be collaborating with the Young Catholics of Greater Boston (North Shore) for their first-ever OFFICIAL event! Please join us for this beautiful evening of praise & worship led by Brandon Fitts of Delmore Worship and LIFT Ministries, Holy Mass celebrated by the dynamic Fr. Richard Clancy, and our Surprise Birthday Social! Confessions will be available before Mass, during adoration. We hope you can join us for this special evening on **January 21 at 7:30 PM at St. Joseph the Worker Shrine in Lowell, MA.** For more event details, please visit our Facebook event page located in the link below.  
[www.facebook.com/events/243305624583090](http://www.facebook.com/events/243305624583090)

**DAY OF PRAYER FOR THE UNBORN**

**January 22, 2022**

**8:00 AM Mass followed by Adoration until 11:00 AM the Rosary, Litany of Life, and personal prayer time**

**St. Michael Parish  
9 Lincoln Street, Exeter, NH**

**THE GOD MINUTE**

Every morning a small group of priests, religious, and lay people start their day in prayer. Soft music, sacred scripture, and a thoughtful reflection are weaved into a 10-minute prayer called “The God Minute.” It’s then uploaded for you to access and pray along with us on your own time. And it’s free. Listen with your coffee in the morning, while driving to work, or taking a walk. See how easy and beautiful prayer can be!

[www.thegodminute.org](http://www.thegodminute.org)

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	Fr. Albert Tremblay	<a href="mailto:fr.albert@stluketheevangelist.net">fr.albert@stluketheevangelist.net</a>
Parish Prayer Line	603-382-8324 x 314	Cathy Smith	<a href="mailto:csmith@stluketheevangelist.net">csmith@stluketheevangelist.net</a>
St. Vincent de Paul Society	603-382-8324 x 315	Joyce Szczapa	<a href="mailto:jszczapa@stluketheevangelist.net">jszczapa@stluketheevangelist.net</a>
St. Luke’s Food Pantry	603-819-4949	Jackie Tremblay	<a href="mailto:jtremblay@stluketheevangelist.net">jtremblay@stluketheevangelist.net</a>
Preschool	603-382-9783	Val Barczak	<a href="mailto:mvmbarczak@comcast.net">mvmbarczak@comcast.net</a>
Presentation of Mary Convent	603-382-2744	Parish Council	<a href="mailto:parishcouncil@stluketheevangelist.net">parishcouncil@stluketheevangelist.net</a>



❖ 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](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.

**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.**

**REGINA CAELI ACADEMY**

Now Accepting Applications at the Northern Massachusetts Center for Fall 2022. [Our Winter Touring Event will be held at 1:00 PM on January 24th!](#)

Regina Caeli is a private, independent, *University-Style Hybrid®* academy operating in the Catholic tradition. RCA has over 20 centers in 16 states, and has been successfully forming children in virtue and character for nearly 20 years. The Northern Massachusetts center offers accredited, classical academic and extracurricular instruction for preschool to 12th grade students with two full days of dynamic socratic classroom tutoring per week. The parent remains the primary educator by following the plans provided by RCA at home the rest of the week. Tutoring is held on Mondays and Thursdays at All Saints Parish in Haverhill, MA. To learn more, contact Mrs. Rebecca Casey at (978) 228-3244 or [rcasey.nma@rcahybrid.org](mailto:rcasey.nma@rcahybrid.org), to schedule a tour.

Apply now at [rcahybrid.org/admissions/apply-now](https://www.facebook.com/trainingthemindtoformthesoul)  
<https://www.facebook.com/trainingthemindtoformthesoul>

**HELP US HELP OTHERS**

The Knights of Columbus, St. Jude Council #6617 will be hosting their 27<sup>th</sup> Annual St Jude Golf Open on **Saturday, June 5, 2022**. Each year a family(s) or individual(s) who find themselves in financial difficulty through no fault of their own, and typically medical related, is selected to be the recipient(s) of the proceeds from the Open. Last year, the Open benefited a single mother with breast cancer and a father who had brain cancer. The Knights are always looking for ways to help members of our parish and community.

In the mid to latter part of January, the Knights will begin the process of identifying the recipient(s) of this year St Jude Golf Open. If you know of a family or someone who may benefit from this year's Open or have any questions, please contact Peter Richards at 603-382-4315 or [pmrpjs6@comcast.net](mailto:pmrpjs6@comcast.net). He will go over the process with you, the next steps, and answer any additional questions you may have. The selection process is 100% confidential. The Knights are planning to complete the selection process by mid February.

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



**SAINT JOSEPH**

was a just man,

A TIRELESS WORKER,

the upright guardian

OF THOSE ENTRUSTED TO HIS CARE.

**MAY HE ALWAYS**

guard, PROTECT, and ENLIGHTEN

FAMILIES.

- ST. JP II

*catholicALLYEAR.com*

## WHO ARE THE MEN OF ST. JOSEPH?

The Men of St. Joseph is a community of Roman Catholic men from parishes in New Hampshire and the Merrimack Valley who look to St. Joseph as a role model and protector. Our mission is to build a Christian brotherhood that enables men to become better disciples, husbands, fathers, and members of our community under the inspiration of St. Joseph.

The foundation of our community is built on the Christian notion of fraternity where men come together and support one another in their journey of faith. We invite you to learn more about us and discern if God is calling you to join the Men of St. Joseph and become a member of our Christian fraternity.

The Men of Saint Joseph gather for prayer and support on a regular basis. There are no dues or other group efforts, but we welcome opportunities to involve ourselves in our community.

**JOIN US. YOU OWE IT TO YOURSELF!**



# WINTER ORDINARY TIME

What do the words Ordinary Time mean? Dorothy Day said, "The words 'Ordinary Time' in our prayer books put me in a state of confusion and irritation. To me, no time is *ordinary*." She was right.

The Ordinary in Ordinary Time refers to ordinal—counted—time, not to a lack of something to celebrate. The Church document, *General Norms for the Liturgical Year and Calendar*, says: "Apart from those seasons having their own distinctive character [Advent, Christmastime, Lent, Triduum and Eastertime], 33 or 34 weeks remain in the yearly cycle that do not celebrate a specific aspect of the mystery of Christ. Rather, especially on the Sundays, they are devoted to the mystery of Christ in all its aspects." (#43)

How do we celebrate "the mystery of Christ in all its aspects"? We gather every Sunday. Sunday is our original feast day. Christians have gathered every Sunday—the day of Christ's resurrection, the first day of the week—ever since there were Christians.

Each year there are two blocks of Ordinary Time, one in the winter between Christmastime and Lent, and the other in summer and fall, from Pentecost through Christ the King. When we gather on Sundays in Ordinary Time, as always, we hear the scriptures proclaimed. We systematically read through the Gospels. The first readings from the first testament of the Bible were chosen for their relationship to the Gospel passages. The second readings come from the various letters of the second testament of the Bible. The mystery of Christ "in all its aspects" unfolds.

What is the heart of our Sunday celebration? We do our eucharist; that is, we do our thanksgiving. We praise and thank God for all creation; we pray for the whole world, as we remember Christ's life, death and resurrection. We share the bread and wine, the body and blood. We are sent forth to be the body and blood of Christ in our homes, our workplaces, our neighborhoods, our towns, our cities, our country, our world.

"What happens in our churches every Sunday is the fruit of our week. What happens as the fruit of the week past is the beginning of the week to come. Sunday is simultaneously a point of arrival and departure for Christians on their way to the fullness of the kingdom. This is not ordinary at all. This is the fabric of Christian living."



# The Gospel at Home

## This Week's Gospel: John 2:1-11

In this Sunday's Gospel, Jesus begins his public ministry at a wedding feast at Cana in Galilee. He saves the groom some embarrassing moments by providing a fresh supply of wine. Jesus demonstrates that he brings people together in joy and that he uses human events to convey his message that the Kingdom of God is at hand.

### Exploring the Gospel Message

**Seeds (Preschool):** Your child's feelings of love, security, and trust stem from experiences in your family. This week in class the lesson helped your child understand that he or she belongs to a family and to appreciate the love and concern there. Take time this week to talk together about the experiences you all share, and be especially aware of what your young child needs from you. Have your child show you the drawing from page 4 of the lesson.

**Promise (Grades K-1):** This week your child explored the ways he or she makes a difference to family and friends. Your child learned about Jesus' blessing a young bride and groom with his presence. This is a good week to share how your family shows the love and care that Jesus expressed by saving the wedding couple from embarrassment. Have your child tell you the story, "Michael Brings Joy," from this week's lesson.

**Good News (Grades 2-3):** This week your child learned about the Seven Sacraments. Encourage your child to share what each of the sacraments means. As a family, share experiences of receiving the sacraments or how the sacraments are part of your life as a family. Your child may be preparing for First Communion; plan ways for the whole family to join in the preparation.

**Venture (Grades 4-6):** Your young person's class learned how the sacraments offer Jesus' loving and healing actions. Starting with the Gospel of the Wedding at Cana, the class saw how Jesus used a sign to make a difference in people's lives and to form a community. What are the welcoming, healing, and loving signs your family shares with others? Ask your youngster to teach the "Sacramental Life" game to the family, and play it together.

**Visions (Grades 7-8):** This week's lesson used the Gospel of the Wedding at Cana to teach about all the sacraments. Your youngster talked about the ways that the sacraments make our faith visible. Ask your youngster to share the symbols, words, and gestures of the sacraments with the family. Talk together about what the sacraments mean for your family. How can you help one another participate regularly in Eucharist and Reconciliation? How have the other sacraments made an impact on your family?

### Pray Together

Try to join in a morning or evening prayer together each day for a week. The prayer does not have to be formal, structured, or long. Say a special prayer in your own words for all the weddings that will occur this week that God may bless the couples and keep them faithful, safe, and loving.





## ✠ AROUND THE DIOCESE ✠



### **MARRIAGE IN THE CHURCH** Did you know that ALL Catholics are required to be married in the Church as a condition of the validity of their marriage?

Any Catholic married in a civil ceremony (JP) or in any religious ceremony other than a Catholic one (unless specifically excepted by the Bishop) is not living out the Sacrament of Marriage in its fullness according to the teaching of the Church. Contact Father Albert at the parish office for more information.



### **STAY INFORMED WITH FAITHFUL CITIZENSHIP NEWS**

The Diocese of Manchester wants to inform Catholics about important public policy matters facing our elected officials. Faithful Citizenship News provides briefs on legislation as well as information about Catholic social teaching on some of today's pressing issues. To read the current issue of Faithful Citizenship News and to subscribe, visit [www.catholicnh.org/fcnews](http://www.catholicnh.org/fcnews).

### **CATHOLIC CHARITIES COUNSELING**

New Hampshire Catholic Charities provides individual, marital, family, and couples' counseling, helping people with a variety of personal difficulties, including: Depression, Stress, Family Conflicts, Relationship Problems, Anxiety, Substance Abuse, Life Adjustment Issues, Grief and Loss. Counseling also helps individuals and families strengthen communication skills in order to build and sustain healthy relationships and live more satisfying lives. A sliding scale fee is offered. Contact Arlene Dody, LCMHC in Salem at 603-893-1971 for more information.

### **HOW TO MAKE A REPORT OF SEXUAL ABUSE**

Child sexual abuse is a crime in the State of New Hampshire and the Church. New Hampshire law requires that anyone who has reason to suspect that a child is being or has been abused or neglected must make a report to the Division for Children, Youth & Families ("DCYF") of the State of New Hampshire, 1-800-894-5533. Any person who suspects or alleges child abuse on the part of a priest, deacon, employee, or volunteer of a parish, school, or institution of the diocese of Manchester is also encouraged to make a report to the Office for Ministerial Conduct, 603-669-3100. Church personnel – clergy, paid employees, and volunteers – have additional reporting requirements if they believe that Church personnel have sexually abused a child. You can learn more about these reporting requirements on the diocesan website at [www.catholicnh.org](http://www.catholicnh.org) or by speaking with our Parish Safe Environment Coordinator, Cathy Smith at 382-8324.

### **The Pregnancy Care Center**

The Pregnancy Care Center is a non-profit organization that offers its confidential services at no cost to its clients. We are committed to promoting the culture of life by assisting expectant parents in the birth and subsequent development of their child during his or her first year of life. We are also committed to helping young people embrace the virtues of chastity and continence as a sign of their Christian dignity.

#### **Main Center**

496 Main St., Haverhill, MA (978-373-5700)

[www.pccnortheast.org](http://www.pccnortheast.org)

Helpline: 866-254-4440



### **MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER**

Don't you and your spouse deserve a beautiful, romantic weekend away together? Get away from all those worldly anxieties and take time to just focus on each other by making a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend. Deepen your communication, strengthen your relationship, rekindle your romance, and renew your sacrament by attending the next Worldwide Marriage Encounter weekend in New England. For more information, call Ralph & Jane Becker at 1-800-710-9963 or visit [www.wwme.org](http://www.wwme.org).

### **NH COUPLE ENRICHMENT CIRCLE**

Have you attended a Marriage Encounter Weekend? If your answer is yes, you are invited to participate in the NH Couple Enrichment Circle to continue to strengthen your marriage relationship. For more information, contact David and Karen Demers at 617-480-9989 or [ddemers@aviconpartners.com](mailto:ddemers@aviconpartners.com).

### **RETRouvaille...A Lifeline**

Rediscover a loving marriage with a Retrouvaille weekend. If your marriage is tearing the two of you apart, if there is little or no meaningful communication, if you are considering separation or divorce, we believe Retrouvaille can help you. For more information, call 1-800-470-2230 or visit [www.HelpOurMarriage.com](http://www.HelpOurMarriage.com).



### **SUPPORT FOR DIVORCED AND SEPARATED**

Divorce and separation can be painful experiences. Support groups are available to those who are seeking healing, comfort, and empowerment. Visit [www.catholicnh.org/support](http://www.catholicnh.org/support) for a listing of groups.





# Bringing Home the Word

Second Sunday in Ordinary Time (C)  
January 16, 2022

## The Many-Threaded Tapestry That Is Marriage

By Fr. Mark Haydu, LC

A tapestry weaver works from the back side of the fabric while looking into a mirror to see the reflection of his work. Next to the mirror sits a painting of what he is weaving. The back of the tapestry is full of knots and dull colors. In front it is beautiful and ornate. The way a tapestry is made is a great allegory for marriage. Spouses look at the ideal they are trying to reproduce: God's love for humanity, Jesus' love for

his Church. It is a sacrificial, lay-down-your-life kind of love. While viewing the ideal, the spouses have their hands on the threads, weaving the right color at the right time to reproduce that ideal.

Those strings can represent the different virtues or acts of love required by the specific situation of the relationship. Sometimes a spouse has to stop, tie off a string, pull it out, and start over. From the back, it can look chaotic, but slowly the ideal takes shape and the beauty of the tapestry of marriage comes into view.

God will marry us, says the prophet. He will take us as his own, giving us the gifts of his Spirit to enrich us. Together, we will bear fruit of new life in ourselves and others. Trying to weave that loving union with God and others may be chaotic and knotty; thus, the need to repent and try again. But with his grace, the final product, which comes into full view only at the end, will be unique and beautiful. +

*It can look chaotic, but  
slowly the ideal takes shape  
and the beauty of the marriage  
tapestry comes into view.*

### A Word from Pope Francis

We go to Mass because we are sinners and we want to receive God's pardon, to participate in the redemption of Jesus, in his forgiveness. The confession which we make at the beginning is not pro forma. It is a real act of repentance! I am a sinner and I confess it—this is how the Mass begins!

—General Audience,  
February 12, 2014



## Sunday Readings

### Isaiah 62:1-5

As a bridegroom rejoices in his  
bride /  
so shall your God rejoice in you.

### 1 Corinthians 12:4-11

There are different kinds of spiritual  
gifts but the same Spirit; /  
there are different forms of service  
but the same Lord.

### John 2:1-11

[Jesus said,] "Everyone serves good  
wine first, and then when people  
have drunk freely, an inferior one;  
but you have kept the good wine  
until now."

### REFLECTION QUESTIONS

### QUESTIONS REFLECTION

- Is God's love the ideal I try to emulate in my relationships, especially marriage?
- God is the main protagonist in my relationships. Do I try to listen to his inspirations?



# Measuring God's Love

By Kathleen M. Basi

Anyone who has suffered loss—death, miscarriage, infertility, unemployment, natural disaster—can list the well-meaning yet deeply hurtful things people say. Most of them invoke God: God doesn't give you anything you can't handle. God's will is perfect. And so on.

You can't argue with statements like these, but they can be damaging. They set up God as the cause of one's suffering, which can isolate a person from the very grace he or she most needs: the certainty of God's love.

Perhaps it's human nature. When we lack easy answers, we blame the divine. When a storm decimates a town, it's punishment for human wickedness. If we escape harm, it's a personal blessing. When we're diagnosed with major illness, it's because God is testing us; when the biopsy comes up negative, it's a sign of his favor.

In short, we sometimes treat God as if he's sitting on his heavenly sofa, hitting the "fire" button on some celestial Xbox controller.

The trouble is, if everything is God's fault, then when someone walks into a nightclub and starts shooting or when civil war spirals into war crimes perpetrated by all sides of the conflict, forcing millions to flee, some people will view it as proof that God doesn't exist at all. What loving God could possibly allow such things to happen?



Of course, God didn't have a thing to do with the horror in Syria or the nightclub shooting in Florida. That's on us—on fallen, broken humanity.

Bad things happen because we live in a fallen world. People who have been formed by prejudice and raised in an atmosphere of violence may do things that average sinners like us can't fathom. Yet it's still sin, not God, that bears the responsibility.

Nor should we blame God's wrath when extreme weather events cause great suffering and destruction. Instead, we should examine our own behaviors, looking for ways in which consumption and pollution are damaging the balance of nature.

God's love is not measured by physical bounty or beneficence. Neither should we view misfortune or loss as a sign of his displeasure. God's love is evident in the beauty of this world; in the incredible goodness of humanity—the goodness we are capable of when we remember that we are made in his image. Most of all, it's measured by the cross and the resurrection.

When we encounter the pain of others, it may be hard to know what to say. Sometimes it's better to say nothing at all—to offer a hug, a listening ear, and service. Then, perhaps, those who suffer will know the love of God because they have felt it—through us. +

***God's love is not measured  
by physical bounty  
or beneficence.***



***Lord, send your Spirit and  
empower me to use my gifts and  
talents for the common good  
of all people.***

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

## WEEKDAY READINGS

January 17–22

**Monday, St. Anthony:**

1 Sm 15:16–23/ Mk 2:18–22

**Tuesday, Weekday:** 1 Sm 16:1–13 /

Mk 2:23–28 / Lk 4:31–37

**Wednesday, Weekday:**

1 Sm 17:32–33, 37, 40–51/ Mk 3:1–6

**Thursday, Weekday:**


1 Sm 18:6–9; 19:1–7 / Mk 3:7–12

**Friday, St. Agnes:**

1 Sm 24:3–21 / Mk 3:13–19

**Saturday, Day of Prayer for the Legal  
Protection of Unborn Children:**

2 Sm 1:1–4, 11–12, 19, 23–27 / Mk 3:20–21

Bringing Home  
the **Word** 

January 16, 2022

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