



## MUSIC FOR THE LITURGY

Sunday, January 23, 2022

The Third Sunday  
In Ordinary Time

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

Gathering: Gather Your People BB 313

Responsorial Psalm (Psalm 103)

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

Preparation: Hosea BB 665

Mass Parts: Mass of Creation

Communion: In The Breaking Of The Bread BB 322  
Our Blessing Cup BB 357

Recessional: Take The Word Of God With You BB 380

## ✠ 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  
JANUARY 16, 2022  
WILL APPEAR IN NEXT WEEK'S BULLETIN**



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.

## 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 [jtremlay@stluketheevangelist.net](mailto:jtremlay@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>.

## 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 23	Fuel
January 30	No Second Collection
February 6	Property Management
February 13	Catholic Schools
February 20	Fuel
February 27	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>

### BLESSING OF COUPLES

There will be a special blessing of couples at the conclusion of all Liturgies on the weekend of **February 12-13**. Please pray for those married among us and remember those preparing to be married as well.

### 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.**



### VIGIL LIGHT

The Vigil Light in front of the Blessed Mother Icon at Mary Mother of the Church will burn for

**The Intentions of the Early Family**

by Dan Sullivan

The Sanctuary Candle in Holy Angels Church will burn this week in loving memory of

**Arthur Hawxhurst**

by the St. Vincent de Paul Society



### 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 23

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

### Wednesday, January 26

Holy Angels Church  
Open All Day For Prayer

### Thursday, January 27

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

### Saturday, January 29

3:00 PM Sacrament of Reconciliation *Plaistow*

### Sunday, January 30

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

### PARISH OFFICE HOURS

The Parish Office is open Monday through Thursday from 8:30 AM to 12:00 Noon and from 1:00 to 4:30 PM. The Office is closed on Fridays.

### PRAYER LINE

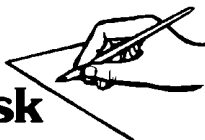
St. Luke's offers a prayer line as a resource for those seeking prayer assistance. To submit your prayer request please call Cathy Smith at 603-382-8324, ext. 314 or email her at [csmith@stluketheevangelist.net](mailto:csmith@stluketheevangelist.net).



Find us on:  
**facebook®**

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 22 ~ 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 (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*

### Monday, January 24 ~ Francis de Sales, Bishop and Doctor of the Church

*2 Sm 5:1-7, 10; Mk 3:22-30*

8:00 AM Brian Gabriel (Month's Mind)  
*Newton*

### Tuesday, January 25 ~ Conversion of Paul, Apostle

*Acts 22:3-16 or Acts 9:1-22; Mk 16:15-18*

8:00 AM Ellen Cotter by Cathy Smith  
*Plaistow*

### Wednesday, January 26 ~ Timothy and Titus, Bishops

*2 Tm 1:1-8 or Ti 1:1-5; Mk 4:1-20*

6:30 PM Richard Sullivan by Ed and Gayle Wencis  
*Plaistow*

### Thursday, January 27 ~ Angela Merici, Virgin and Religious Founder

*2 Sm 7:18-19, 24-29; Mk 4:21-25*

8:00 AM Beverly Gosselin (Month's Mind)  
*Newton*

### Friday, January 28 ~ Thomas Aquinas, Priest, Religious, and Doctor of the Church

*2 Sm 11:1-4a, 5-10a, 13-17; Mk 4:26-34*

*No Mass*

### Saturday, January 29 ~ Weekday

*2 Sm 12:1-7a, 10-17; Mk 4:35-41 (Day)*

*Jer 1:4-5, 17-19; 1 Cor 12:31—13:13; Lk 4:21-30 (Vigil)*

4:00 PM Yvette Caron by Rich and Priscilla Walsh  
*Plaistow*

### Sunday, January 30 ~ Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

*Jer 1:4-5, 17-19; 1 Cor 12:31—13:13; Lk 4:21-30*

8:00 AM The Intentions of Ruth Early by Dan Sullivan  
*Newton*

10:00 AM Frances Blinn by Pat Morrill  
*Plaistow*



Mass Times for travel  
**masstimes.org**

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

### **MEN OF SAINT JOSEPH**

The Men of St. Joseph are a group committed to living lives of conversion, integrity, and honesty, acting as a witness for Jesus Christ in daily life, work, social, parish and family settings. The men of Saint Joseph aim to emulate St. Joseph so to become better husbands, fathers, sons and brothers. There are no dues and the Men of St. Joseph do not participate in projects or other volunteer efforts as a group, but instead, gather together for sharing among men to help them be a better person, a better family man, and a better member of the Church

**Saint Luke Parish invites interested men to step forward to become leaders in a newly formed Men of Saint Joseph Group meeting here in Newton-Plaistow. If you are interested, please contact Father Albert at [fr.albert@stluketheevangelist.net](mailto:fr.albert@stluketheevangelist.net) or call the Parish Office.**

### **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.**

### **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
Parish Prayer Line	603-382-8324 x 314
St. Vincent de Paul Society	603-382-8324 x 315
St. Luke's Food Pantry	603-819-4949
Preschool	603-382-9783
Presentation of Mary Convent	603-382-2744

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



## ❖ Community News ❖



### 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.



### 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.

### CATHOLIC CHARITIES NH:

#### **"HOW TO DEAL WITH DEMENTIA" SUPPORT GROUP**

Is your family member or friend struggling with memory loss? You are not alone, and Catholic Charities NH is here to support you. Its newest online support group, "How to Deal with Dementia," is a **five-week program starting on February 24**, providing an understanding of dementia, its impact on those affected, and resources you can use to best support your loved one. To register, visit [www.cc-nh.org/dementia](http://www.cc-nh.org/dementia). You may also call 603-752-1325 or email [efrenette@nh-cc.org](mailto:efrenette@nh-cc.org). There is no cost to participate.

### 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 [pmrps6@comcast.net](mailto:pmrps6@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)



# The Gospel at Home

## This Week's Gospel: Luke 1:1-4; 4:14-21

In this Sunday's Gospel, Jesus says he fulfills the words of the prophet Isaiah. He is chosen to bring good news to the poor, sight to the blind, and freedom to captives. Those who follow Jesus are called to continue his work of mercy, love, and acceptance.

### Exploring the Gospel Message

**Seeds (Preschool):** Your child learned that Jesus has Good News to tell. The class also explored how they can share Good News with others in many ways. Take some time to drive or walk around your neighborhood. Look for signs of Good News in what you see in each house or building you pass. When you get back home, talk about how your family can be Good News for others. Have your child show how he or she can pray using hands. Have your child sign and say a prayer for your family.

**Promise (Grades K–1):** Your child learned that Jesus grew up in a real town with real neighbors. The class also learned the importance of their own neighborhood. Ask your son or daughter to teach the family to play the “I can be a good neighbor” game. Go with your child to deliver the “Good Neighbor Award” your child wrote in class.

**Good News (Grades 2–3):** Your child's class shared what is Good News for them and how they bring Good News to others. Talk about the Good News that Jesus shared with his friends and neighbors—care for the poor, sight to the blind, freedom for those in slavery. Your child also learned about the Liturgy of the Word at Mass. Talk about ways to help one another be attentive to the readings at Mass. Ask your child to share the story “Birdie's Good News” with the family.

**Venture (Grades 4–6):** Ask your child to share with the family what he or she learned about the Gospel of Luke. The class also learned what is needed to build community. Talk about ways your family can be prophets, feed the hungry, and bring Good News to the poor. Set up a prayer place in your home. Decorate it with a Bible, candles, and maybe a statue or religious picture. Gather there for a morning and evening prayer during the week.

**Visions (Grades 7–8):** The class this week explored information about the Gospel writer named Luke. Ask your youngster to share what the class learned. The class also learned that Jesus acted as a Spirit-filled prophet when he read the words of Isaiah in his hometown synagogue. How can your family bring Good News to the poor? Look in your daily newspaper or online for stories about people who need to hear Jesus' words. Talk about their situations.

### Pray Together

When you complete your conversation about the week's Gospel lesson, make a family litany of people in your family, in your neighborhood, at work, at school, or in the world who need to experience the Good News. Take turns reading the names or the situations. All can respond by saying, “Lord, help us be Good News for (name).”





# Maybe ....

## it's time

### To re-connect with your Church

### To re-new yourself and others through the unique power of the Holy Spirit who guides us in Love and Truth.

If you are a baptized Catholic, have received your First Communion, but decided against Confirmation as a teen, maybe **NOW IS THE TIME** for you to re-consider **Confirmation**.

- ✓ Maybe you weren't ready when you were sixteen years old.
- ✓ Maybe you didn't want to be pressured into it by your family and peers.
- ✓ Maybe you weren't sure that Catholic is who you wanted to be.
- ✓ Maybe you were just beginning to doubt that what you were taught as a child -- about God, Jesus, the Holy Spirit, the Virgin Mary, the Eucharist, the saints, eternal life -- was all too good to be true.
- ✓ Maybe you were overwhelmed with school commitments, personal disappointments, and feeling that God really didn't care if you were Catholic anyway.

Sessions begin  
soon!

God *does* care about you. *For some reason*, God chose you to be born into a family that would bring you to the Catholic Church for Baptism.

So maybe -- just maybe -- now...it's time....to make your own choice.

# Confirmation.

If you are 18 or over and were never Confirmed, contact the Parish Office. With little time and reflection, practicing Catholics can be prepared to celebrate the gift of the Spirit in their lives.

**Maybe it's your time.**

Saint Luke the Evangelist Parish, Newton-Plaistow  
603 382 8324. [www.stlukenh.org](http://www.stlukenh.org)



# Bringing Home the Word

Third Sunday in Ordinary Time (C)

January 23, 2022

## Rediscovering God's Love

By Fr. Mark Haydu, LC

**H**ave you ever lost something and then, after some time passes, finally found it? Perhaps your keys, a cell phone, or worse still, a credit card? When we find utilitarian items that we've lost or misplaced, we're so relieved and happy because we need these things for daily living. But what if we lose our whole purpose for living? Then we're really in trouble.

The people to whom Nehemiah was speaking lost more than something material; they lost the key to who they were as a people. They lost the law

of God that had been given to them through Moses hundreds of years before. They were now listening to it for the first time. Upon hearing all its wisdom and prescriptions, they were cut to the heart and wept. There was so much they had forgotten and were no longer practicing. As exiles in Babylon, they had lost so much.

Yet the response toward this rediscovery could have been joy, because now they knew once again what made for happiness and living in the Lord. They had discovered the love that called them into existence.

We have been given the Holy Spirit who leads us into all truth and reminds us of everything Jesus taught us in Scriptures and Tradition. Knowing God's truth is the deepest source of joy. Finding him is like finding what was lost. Like the found key, God unlocks our happiness. Like a cell phone, he gives us a constant connection with him. And like a credit card—but infinitely better—God is the love that fulfills our desires. And we never have to pay him back. +

*Knowing God's truth  
is the deepest source of joy.  
Finding him is like finding  
what was lost.*

## Sunday Readings

**Nehemiah 8:2–4a, 5–6, 8–10**

Ezra read clearly from the book of the law of God, interpreting it so that all could understand what was read.

**1 Corinthians 12:12–30 or  
12:12–14, 27**

As a body is one though it has many parts, and all the parts of the body, though many, are one body, so also Christ.

**Luke 1:1–4, 4:14–21**

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring glad tidings to the poor.

## A Word from Pope Francis

Without Christ we are condemned to be dominated by everyday weariness, with its worries, and by fear of the future. The Sunday encounter with the Lord gives us the strength to experience the present with confidence and courage, and to go forth with hope. For this reason, we Christians go to encounter the Lord... in the Eucharistic celebration.

—General Audience, December 13, 2017



## REFLECTION QUESTIONS

### ONE2TION2 REFLECTION

- Is there any aspect of God's word or truth that I have ignored or forgotten?
- How can I rediscover and accept that truth again?



# Finding the Best Mass

By Very Reverend Bruce Lewandowski, CSsR

I think everyone has his or her list of “bests:” the best ice cream, the best fried chicken, the best seat in the ballpark, the best route to work, the best hospital, or the best movie ever made. You get the idea. We gravitate toward things and experiences that meet a particular set of standards that we hold for others and ourselves. We instinctively rate our experiences, categorizing them as good, better, and best or—on the flip side—not so bad, bad, and awful.

Even Mass is subject to our inner critic and our personal rating system. So, where’s the best Mass? Before I go any further, I feel the need to divulge the fact that I attended Catholic school my entire life, and the idea that, regardless of the details, the Mass is the Mass and no one celebration is better than another was instilled in me repeatedly. Every Mass offers us the opportunity to have an awesome exchange with God, and each one deserves our reverence and respect, even if human weakness and error sometimes take center stage.

But aren’t some celebrations of the Mass really just better than others? I don’t mean your first holy Communion, wedding, or fiftieth anniversary. Certainly, those are special celebrations.

I’m referring to that Sunday Mass in your diocese that everyone talks about, saying, “They have the best Mass.” Maybe the priest gives memorable homilies, or they have an exemplary



music ministry, or they excel at making everyone feel welcome. Everyone flocks to that church and wishes their parish had that kind of Mass.

What if we rated Sunday Masses? What if you could look online or leaf through a diocesan directory to find out how others rate the various components of a Mass? Everything from architecture and parking to the style and character of worship could be described and rated. Many dioceses have relaxed regulations regarding territorial parishes. There are many options for Mass.

The challenge is to make worship relevant. If Masses were rated, competition might result. Competition is good when the goal is to attract more

people to Jesus through the celebration of the Mass. The Mass well-prepared and executed is the best tool we have for evangelization. The Mass has the power to draw us together into the very life of God. So why not market the Mass where it’s done well? We shop for the best in so many areas of life. We search for the best jobs, schools, and other things. Isn’t the Mass worth all that, and so much more? +

*We’re taught that  
all Masses are good,  
but what if we rated them?*



*Lord, you created all people equal.  
Open my eyes to recognize  
the dignity of all people and  
my heart to love unconditionally.*

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

## WEEKDAY READINGS

January 24–29

**Monday**, St. Francis de Sales:  
2 Sm 5:1–7, 10 / Mk 3:22–30

**Tuesday**, The Conversion of St. Paul the Apostle:  
Acts 22:3–16 or Acts 9:1–22 / Mk 16:15–18

**Wednesday**, Sts. Timothy and Titus:  
2 Tm 1:1–8 or Ti 1:1–5 / Mk 4:1–20

**Thursday**, Weekday:  
2 Sm 7:18–19, 24–29 / Mk 4:21–25

**Friday**, St. Thomas Aquinas: 2 Sm 11:  
1–4a, 5–10a, 13–17 / Mk 4:26–34

**Saturday**, Weekday:  
2 Sm 12:1–7a, 10–17 / Mk 4:35–41