



MUSIC FOR THE LITURGY

Sunday, January 30, 2022

The Fourth Sunday
In Ordinary Time

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

Gathering: All Creatures Of Our God And King
BB 543

Responsorial Psalm (Psalm 103)

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

Preparation Christians, Let Us Love One Another
BB 483

Mass Parts Mass of Creation

Communion Take And Eat BB 358

Recessional: Alleluia, Alleluia (Hymn To Joy) BB 169

✠ 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 16, 2022

Offertory	\$6,107.22
Seminarian Fund	\$1,335.00

COLLECTION AMOUNTS FOR
JANUARY 23, 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 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>.



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 30	No Second Collection
February 6	Property Management
February 13	Catholic Schools
February 20	Fuel
February 27	No Second Collection
March 2	Aid to Churches in Europe and Africa

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

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.amazon.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.**

MAYBE...IT'S TIME

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 reconsider Confirmation. 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 at 603-382-8324.

The Sanctuary Candle in
Holy Angels Church
will burn this week
in loving memory of
Theresa Tremblay
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 30

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

Wednesday, February 2

Holy Angels Church
Open All Day For Prayer

Thursday, February 3

8:30 AM – 8:30 PM Eucharistic Adoration *Newton*
10:00 AM Prayer Shawl Ministry Meeting *Plaistow*

Saturday, February 5

9:00 AM K of C Culture of Life Webinar *Plaistow*
3:00 PM Sacrament of Reconciliation *Plaistow*

Sunday, February 6

10:00 AM Religious Ed – PreK to 8 *Plaistow*
11:00 AM Grade 3 Meeting for Parents
And Students *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

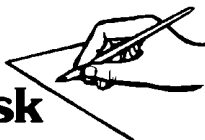
St. Luke's offers a prayer line as a resource for those seeking prayer assistance. To submit your prayer request please call Cathy Smith at 603-382-8324, ext. 314 or email her at csmith@stluketheevangelist.net.



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 29 ~ Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

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

Monday, January 31 ~ John Bosco, Priest and Religious Founder

2 Sm 15:13-14, 30, 16:5-13; Mk 5:1-20
8:00 AM Walter and Leo Metcalf by Barbara Metcalf
Newton

Tuesday, February 1 ~ Weekday

2 Sm 18:9-10, 14b, 24-25a, 30—19:3; Mk 5:21-43
8:00 AM Maryann Vaillancourt
by Grace Bukowski and family
Plaistow

Wednesday, February 2 ~ The Presentation of the Lord

Mal 3:1-4; Heb 2:14-18; Lk 2:22-40
6:30 PM Richard Sullivan
by Joe and Ann Marie Sheehan
Plaistow

Thursday, February 3 ~ Blaise, Bishop and Martyr; Ansgar, Bishop

1 Kgs 2:1-4, 10-12; Mk 6:7-13
8:00 AM Richard Bradley by Bonnie Lajoie
Newton

Friday, February 4 ~ Weekday

Sir 47:2-11; Mk 6:14-29
No Mass

Saturday, February 5 ~ Agatha, Virgin and Martyr

1 Kgs 3:4-13; Mk 6:30-34 (Day)
Is 6:1-2a, 3-8; 1 Cor 15:1-11; Lk 5:1-11 (Vigil)
4:00 PM Thomas Hofbauer (Birthday Remembrance)
by Joe and Ann Marie Sheehan
Plaistow

Sunday, February 6 ~ Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Is 6:1-2a, 3-8; 1 Cor 15:1-11; Lk 5:1-11
8:00 AM Theresa Tremblay by Jeanne Sullivan
Newton
10:00 AM Eva Huberdeau by Linda Huberdeau
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 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

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.

✠ 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.



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. You may also call 603-752-1325 or email efrenette@nh-cc.org. There is no cost to participate.

CELEBRATING THE CULTURE OF LIFE

Join the Knights of Columbus on
Saturday February 5 from 9:00 to 11:00AM
Plaistow Church Hall

For a two-hour uplifting and inspirational virtual webinar Celebrating the Culture of Life.

Speakers on the virtual webinar include:

- Fr. Christian Tutor of New Hampshire Right to Life
- Beth Gaby: Director of Concord 40 Days For Life
- Ian Huyett: Cornerstone Action and Policy Research
- Lindsay Hyvonen: Director of real Options Pregnancy Centers
- Ray LeMay: NH Knights of Columbus State Deputy

If you have any questions, call Dan Sullivan 603-770-4803

HELP US HELP OTHERS

The Knights of Columbus, St. Jude Council #6617 will be hosting their 27th 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. 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



Do Something for Lent. Renew your faith.

Lent begins with Ash Wednesday, March 2, 2022! This Lent, Saint Luke the Evangelist Parish invites all to renew their faith by participating in the Church's annual retreat time of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving.

This year we are pleased to, once again, utilize the **"Disciples on The Journey"** book for our text.

What is the Lenten Journey about?

It is about prayer! Today we begin with prayer as our 2022 Lenten Journey program gets underway. Begin to pray in an active way about the upcoming Lenten season. Ask for the Spirit's guidance as you consider your involvement; pray that our Parish's Lenten Journey through the desert be blessed.

Consider a small group! Groups meet during Lent to discuss the upcoming Lenten Sunday Readings, and to share member's experiences of discipleship. We will use a text that follows the Sunday Lenten readings published by the Office of Catechetical Ministry of the Diocese of Victoria, TX. Adults, Families and Youth will learn more about Scripture, participate in interesting discussions, meet some wonderful people, and have the opportunity to build up the Body of Christ.

What else? During Lent, special *Paschal Mission* inserts in the weekly bulletin will focus on the Lenten Scriptures and on discipleship in the real world. Sunday Homilies will touch on living Jesus' Gospel and on the questions discussed at Group meetings.



**Small Group sign-ups begin next weekend, February 6!
Registration Forms will be in the bulletin.**

Group Meetings begin the week of February 27.

The Gospel at Home

This Week's Gospel: Luke 4:21-30

The Gospel for this Sunday is a summary of Luke's whole Gospel. Jesus tells the Good News of God's favor and kindness toward all people. But Jesus' message is rejected because he is just the son of a carpenter. Everyone faces rejection at one time or another. Children can be deeply hurt by rejection. The lesson of today's Gospel is to avoid rejecting others or prejudging them.

Exploring the Gospel Message

Seeds (Preschool): Your child learned that when Jesus told Good News about himself, not everyone listened. Your child learned that to listen is a way to show love and respect. Have your child show you the words he or she learned in sign language. Be especially attentive to what your young child has to offer.

Promise (Grades K-1): In class, your child learned that when we have problems, we can help each other make it better. Talk together as a family about how it feels to have a problem. Talk, too, about how to settle arguments and disagreements—ways to make difficult situations better. Ask your child to tell your family about the Forgiveness Prayer from this week's lesson.

Good News (Grades 2-3): The class learned to appreciate the people who believe in them. They recognized why some people didn't believe in Jesus. The class also talked about ways to show that they believe in Jesus. Ask your child to share the "I Believe in Jesus" booklet with the family. Then talk about ways your family shows that you believe in Jesus and his Good News.

Venture (Grades 4-6): Your youngster's class learned how the people of Jesus' hometown rejected him. Have a family examination of conscience to see what evidence there is in your household of prejudice or the rejection of others. Your child also learned about the role of prophets. Ask your child to share what he or she learned about Saint Maximilian Kolbe. Also, your child can explain how to play the Accept and Reject Game. Talk about other times when your family members felt rejected and accepted.

Visions (Grades 7-8): This week's Gospel showed the class that Jesus' own friends and neighbors rejected his teaching. They also learned about the true meaning of love from 1 Corinthians 13:4-7. Read that passage and talk about it together. The class also talked about how to confront one's own prejudices. Talk about any prejudices your family might have. Ask your youngster to tell the family about World Day of the Sick. Talk about ways you can care for those who are sick.

Pray Together

When you complete your conversation about the week's Gospel lesson, gather in a comfortable spot in your home. Let each person in the family ask in his or her own words for God's help in accepting people and not rejecting them. Pray for people who feel rejected, alone, or afraid.





Bringing Home the Word

Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time (C)

January 30, 2022

Developing the Strength of a Prophet

By Fr. Mark Haydu, LC

The consoling words from the prophet Jeremiah give comfort to all of us. God told him that he, like each of us, was known even in his mother's womb. It was the knowledge of being known and loved that gave Jeremiah the strength to stand before his people and prophesy some very strong and harsh words. He was set as a strong pillar, a wall of brass, a fortified city. He was rooted in love, because he needed to be so as not to be crushed by the anger and

resentment stirred up by his prophetic words.

Jesus faces the same ire when visiting his hometown. At first the Nazarenes praise him, but soon, as if they had some entitlement, they presumptuously demand that he perform miracles to satisfy their vanity—not to change their hearts. When Jesus challenges them, their response is to want to throw him off a cliff!

As Christians, we all have a prophetic mission. We're called to preach the truths of the gospel, and at times this isn't popular. In the public square, the Church and Christians are often praised for their charitable work but asked to silence their religious voice when morality is discussed. We need the strength and conviction of prophets as well as the love that drives them. +

Sunday Readings

Jeremiah 1:4–5, 17–19

Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I dedicated you, a prophet to the nations I appointed you.

**1 Corinthians 12:31–13:13 or
1 Corinthians 13:4–13**

Love is patient, love is kind....It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

Luke 4:21–30

And [Jesus] said, "Amen, I say to you, no prophet is accepted in his own native place."

*As Christians we're called
to preach the truths
of the gospel, and at times
this isn't popular.*

A Word from Pope Francis

The great biblical tradition enjoins on all peoples the duty to hear the voice of the poor. It bids us break the bonds of injustice and oppression which give rise to glaring, and indeed scandalous, social inequalities. Reforming the social structures which perpetuate poverty and the exclusion of the poor first requires a conversion of mind and heart.

—Journey to the Philippines,
January 16, 2015



REFLECTION QUESTIONS



- Do I have the courage to share the gospel truth?
- Do I show my faith in charitable thoughts, actions, and words?

We Need a Real Open-Door Policy

By Kathleen M. Basi

Several years ago, my hometown of Columbia, MO, was rocked by racial protests. We even made the national news. It was hard for me to judge who was “right” and who was “wrong.” The issues seemed too complex and nuanced.

So, I found it very disturbing when some people dismissed the protesters out of hand. I had never really thought through what “white privilege” meant. Nor had I, until then, ever examined my conscience for unintended bias in my worldview.

Guess what? I found it—a lot of it.

We tend to view the world through the lens of our own experiences. We assume that the realities that define our worldview are the same ones that define everyone else’s, even though a look at the news every night tells us that isn’t the reality. Most of us surround ourselves with people who look and think like us, and gradually we forget to empathize with those whose experiences are much different.

Christians have historically been separated not only by denomination but by skin color and, later, by style of worship. This isn’t as big a problem among Catholics because in smaller towns there’s often only one parish. We have no option but to worship together.

Still, the issues that get the most attention in Catholic liturgical circles focus on white European concerns: How much Latin is enough? How much



is too much? Is the organ really more conducive to communal song than piano and guitar? Are hymns better than styles influenced by popular music?

The American Church is beautifully diverse: Latino, African American, African immigrant, Filipino, Vietnamese, Korean. Frequently, though, our worship doesn’t reflect that richness. How often do we include the languages, voices, and music of nonwhite cultures in our liturgies?

In the civic sphere, it’s common to hear people argue that those who come to America should assimilate, but that view has no place in the Church. We are called to be a neighbor. To do so means to honor and accept, to welcome and

support. Isn’t it possible that if races and cultures were more open to each other inside the church doors, it might spill out onto the streets as well?

I often ponder this: Despite a largely Eurocentric worship, the power of what we celebrate attracts people from many races and cultures. If we open our hearts and our worship to the beauty that they have to offer us, how many more might enter into the faith? +

***Worshiping together
means more than just
being with each other
in the same church
at the same time.***



***Lord, your love never fails. Help
me to embrace life with gratitude
and love and joyfully welcome all
people into my heart.***

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

WEEKDAY READINGS

January 31–February 5

Monday, St. John Bosco:
2 Sm 15:13–14, 30; 16:5–13 / Mk 5:1–20


Tuesday, Weekday: 2 Sm 18:9–10, 14b,
24–25a, 30—19:3 / Mk 5:21–43

Wednesday, The Presentation of the Lord:
Mal 3:1–4 / Heb 2:14–18 / Lk 2:22–40 or 2:22–32

Thursday, Weekday:
1 Kgs 2:1–4, 10–12 / Mk 6:7–13

Friday, Weekday:
Sir 47:2–11 / Mk 6:14–29

Saturday, St. Agatha:
1 Kgs 3:4–13 / Mk 6:30–34

Bringing Home
the Word 
January 30, 2022

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