



MUSIC FOR THE LITURGY

Sunday, February 6, 2022

The Fifth Sunday
In Ordinary Time

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

Gathering: As We Gather At Your Table BB 311

Responsorial Psalm (Psalm 34)

*Taste and see the goodness of the Lord;
O, Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.*

Preparation Prayer Of St. Francis BB 528

Mass Parts Mass of Creation

Communion The Body Of Christ (Choir)

Recessional: Lord, You Give The Great Commission
BB 378

✠ 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 23, 2022

Offertory	\$5,888.45
Fuel	\$1,179.90

January 30, 2022

Offertory	\$6,295.65
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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

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
March 6	Property Management

Suggested Weekly Contribution Based on Income

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

Suggested Weekly Contribution Based on a Percentage Increase

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

✠ PARISH NEWS ✠

COVID UPDATE

By mandate of the Bishop of Manchester on June 6, all restrictions and procedures put in place during the pandemic are no longer in effect.

The choice to wear or to not wear a mask is left up to individuals and their discretion. Those persons who have not been vaccinated should be especially mindful of their own safety and the safety of others, especially those vulnerable to communicable disease.

A hand sanitizer station will remain at the main entrances of the church doors for the time being for parishioners' convenience.

Anyone who has been recently exposed to COVID 19 or any other communicable disease should not attend public services of any kind. Those sick should remain at home until such time as they are healthy.

Liturgy online or on TV...

Boston Catholic Television	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.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.**

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
Mary, Mother of the Church
will burn this week
in loving memory of
Michael Edwards
by Jim Edwards



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, February 6

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

February 7

7:00 PM Knights of Columbus Meeting *Plaistow*

Wednesday, February 9

Holy Angels Church
Open All Day For Prayer

Thursday, February 10

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

Saturday, February 12

3:00 PM Sacrament of Reconciliation *Plaistow*

Sunday, February 13

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

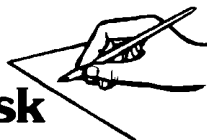
St. Luke's offers a prayer line as a resource for those seeking prayer assistance. To submit your prayer request please call Cathy Smith at 603-382-8324, ext. 314 or email her at csmith@stluketheevangelist.net.



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, February 5 ~ Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

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

Monday, February 7 ~ Weekday

1 Kgs 8:1-7, 9-13; Mk 6:53-56

8:00 AM Helen Fram (Month's Mind)
Newton

Tuesday, February 8 ~ Jerome Emiliani;

Josephine Bakhita, Virgin

1 Kgs 8:22-23, 27-30; Mk 7:1-13

8:00 AM In Thanksgiving for Favors Received
by Elaine Kelcourse
Plaistow

Wednesday, February 9 ~ Weekday

1 Kgs 10:1-10; Mk 7:14-23

6:30 PM Jack Cotter by Ed and Gayle Wencis
Plaistow

Thursday, February 10 ~ Scholastica, Virgin

1 Kgs 11:4-13; Mk 7:24-30

8:00 AM Frank Richard ("Dick") Keefe
by his wife, Sandra Keefe
Newton

Friday, February 11 ~ Our Lady of Lourdes

1 Kgs 11:29-32, 12:19; Mk 7:31-37

No Mass

Saturday, February 12 ~ Weekday

1 Kgs 12:26-32, 13:33-34; Mk 8:1-10 (Day)

Jer 17:5-8; 1 Cor 15:12, 16-20; Lk 6:17, 20-26 (Vigil)

4:00 PM Anna Marcelonis by Paul and Justine Caron
Plaistow

Sunday, February 13 ~ Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Jer 17:5-8; 1 Cor 15:12, 16-20; Lk 6:17, 20-26

8:00 AM Theresa Tremblay by John and Carol Tucker
Newton
10:00 AM Paul Antkowiak (Birthday Remembrance)
by his family
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.

THANK YOU!

Kimberly's Holiday Give Away has successfully made a comeback!!!! After last year, not being able to hold the clothing drive as we typically would, we have persevered and have had a very successful collection this year!!! In the course of the cumulative 8-hour collection, we successfully received, processed, and bagged 3,025 lbs. of clothing, which has since been distributed among five different collection sites in the area!!! Although my team of volunteers was about half the size that we typically have due to COVID, the donations were not lacking, thanks to this very generous community! I would like to give my most sincere thanks to those volunteers who did come out, as they annually do, in support of this effort. My husband and I knew that our little princess was home, cheering us on from the sidelines, as we proudly did our part to support our community. We wish you all a healthy and happy New Year with many blessings ahead! We look forward to seeing you again next year for our 17th drive!!! God Bless,
Kimberly Clenord



Let's Pray!

PLEASE JOIN THE KNIGHTS
OF COLUMBUS EVERY
THURSDAY EVENING, 7:00
pm AT
MARY MOTHER OF THE
CHURCH
IN NEWTON, NH

WE PRAY FOR AN END TO
THE PANDEMIC AND THE
RESPECT OF LIFE AND WE
PRAY FOR THE INTENTIONS
OF EACH OTHER AND THE
PARISH.

COME PRAY WITH US.

WWW.KOFC6617.COM

Do Something for Lent. Renew your faith.

What is the **Lenten Journey** all about? Prayer, fasting and almsgiving are called the “three pillars” of the Christian way of life. They help support a full and healthy life of discipleship. During Lent we try to repair and strengthen these three pillars, which also are called the “three disciplines” because they help people become better disciples of the Lord.

The Lenten Journey is about PRAYER.

Prayer is conversation with God. Make a good habit of daily prayer. Read the Psalms; and each Lent try and learn one or two by heart. Try to sing your prayer at home, and make every effort to sing well when you worship with others.



The Lenten Journey is about FASTING. To prepare himself for his life's work, Jesus fasted in the wilderness. As Christians grow up, they need to learn traditional, healthy ways to fast. When we fast, we deny ourselves some food or other good things. We remind ourselves of how dependent we are on God's gifts, which always must be shared fairly and never taken for granted.

The Lenten Journey is about GIVING. Almsgiving means “sharing compassion.” Almsgiving means more than giving away the things we don't need. It means giving away some of the things we do need because someone else also needs them. It means giving of ourselves.

Our **Lenten Journey** is about faith sharing during the Lenten season. It is a way to learn more about your faith and grow as a disciple of the Lord; it is a way to meet fellow parishioners, and to contribute to the life of our Parish.

All are welcome!

What to do?

Today we invite sign-ups for small group Scripture sharing during Lent. We continue to pray together as our 2022 Lenten Journey gets underway. Ask for the Spirit's guidance as you consider your involvement; pray that our Parish's Lenten Journey be blessed.

Join a small group! Groups meet six times during the Lenten season to discuss the upcoming Sunday Lectionary readings. You will learn more about Scripture through the resources provided, participate in interesting discussions, meet some wonderful people, and have the opportunity to build up the Body of Christ.

You will have the opportunity to sign-up by filling out the registration form in this bulletin today and in the coming weeks, or call the Parish Office at 382-8324.

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.

Evangelization – spreading the “Good News” is something everyone can do!

**Group Meetings begin the week of February 27!
Meetings will take place in the Church Hall**

DISCIPLES ON THE JOURNEY REGISTRATION FORM



Name _____

Address _____

Telephone _____

E-Mail _____ Cell Phone _____

Please check the time and day you prefer

Wednesday Evenings at 7:00 p.m. ____
(March 2 – April 6)

Thursday Afternoons at 1:30 p.m. ____
(March 3 – April 7)

Check if you are willing to be a group leader _____

**GROUP MEETINGS BEGIN
THE WEEK OF FEBRUARY 27**

**GROUPS WILL MEET IN THE CHURCH
HALL**

(Please return this form in the collection basket or bring
to the parish office)

The Gospel at Home

This Week's Gospel: Luke 5:1-11

Luke's telling of the call of the disciples focuses on Simon Peter. Jesus tells Peter to cast his net for a catch even though Peter has fished all night without catching a single fish. He does what Jesus suggests and has a tremendous catch. The great catch of fish reminds Peter of his own human weakness and sinfulness. It also is the opportunity for Jesus to call Peter to a new vocation—catching people!

Exploring the Gospel Message

Seeds (Preschool): Your child learned about the call of Peter the fisherman and learned that the followers of Jesus help tell God's Good News. Your child learned about some followers of Jesus from the Americas. Ask your child to tell the family about Saint Oscar Romero, Saint Martin de Porres, and Saint Kateri Tekakwitha. Talk together about little things you can do to be a good follower of Jesus.

Promise (Grades K-1): Your child learned in class that Jesus called men and women to follow him. His disciples helped him spread his message of love to others. Talk about ways your family can spread Jesus' message of love. Ask your child to share the story about Max from this week's lesson. Be sure to hang the mobile your child made in a prominent place where all can see it.

Good News (Grades 2-3): Your child learned the different definitions of the verb "to follow." Ask your child to share the ways that everyone can follow others. Talk about the call Peter received to follow Jesus. Ask your child to share the story "Marielle's New Start" with the family. Ask your child to share his or her Letter to God that they all wrote in class.

Venture (Grades 4-6): This week your youngster learned the ways people spread Jesus' message by acting out a drama.. The class also put together a timeline that shows how people have lived the teaching of Jesus. Ask your child to share the timeline with the family and explain it to you all. Talk about how God has called your family to pass on Sacred Tradition. Ask your youngster about who Robert de Nobili is.

Visions (Grades 7-8): During this week's class, your son or daughter discovered just what a call from God involves. The class also explored God's call to the prophet Isaiah and the Apostle Peter. Talk about how everyone has a vocation and by Baptism each one is called to witness to God's love. Talk, too, about how you can help one another develop and use your gifts and talents to make a difference in the world. Ask about who Sister Jean Dolores Schmidt is.

Pray Together

This week's Gospel dramatizes the vocation of Peter. Each evening this week, pray as a family in your own words for vocations to the priesthood and religious life. Talk about priests, sisters, and brothers who have cared for your family. Say a prayer for those people, too.





Bringing Home the Word

Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time (C)

February 6, 2022

Casting Our Net for Jesus

By Fr. Mark Haydu, LC

Dina Bellotti, painter of *Miraculous Haul of Fishes*, was an artist active for many years in her studio just off the Via della Conciliazione, in front of the Vatican. As a family friend of St. Paul VI, she came to Rome when he became pope. Her works are simple, yet evocative. With a few brush strokes, she brings a scene to life and places us there.

In her painting, Peter appears tired, overworked, and frustrated with the lack of results. A stranger on the shore, Jesus of Nazareth, asks him to cast the net again. Although the logic of fishing

dictates otherwise, Peter follows his hunch and trusts this voice for one more cast.

We've all been there. We work hard to do the right thing. We try to extend God's kingdom, and sometimes it seems our results aren't up to par. If we listen to Jesus, we never come up empty. Sometimes we fish where we're not called, led by our own passions and stubbornness. There we reap what we sow. Other times, we simply go along without heart. We can feel caged by fate or a hopeless situation. But then we wake up to the fact that even there we can love. Even then we can hear his voice, feel his love, and focus on responding to his call. Then miracles can happen!

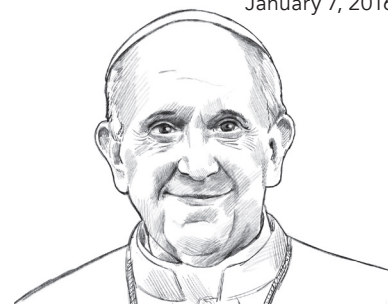
Jesus loves everyone, not because they are saints, but because he wants them to be. So rather than look at why we shouldn't be blessed by him, turn to him, then receive his gratuitous love. Then without fear, share that experience with others as fishers of men. +

***Jesus loves everyone,
not because they are saints,
but because he wants
them to be.***

A Word from Pope Francis

We can make many pastoral plans, conceive of new methods for drawing people close, but if we don't take the path of God who has come in the flesh...then we are not on the path of the good spirit. [Instead, what prevails] is the Antichrist, worldliness, the spirit of the world.

—Morning meditation,
January 7, 2016



Sunday Readings

Isaiah 6:1–2a, 3–8

"Whom shall I send?

Who will go for us?"

"Here I am [Lord]," I said; "send me!"

1 Corinthians 15:1–11 or

1 Corinthians 15:3–8, 11

He was raised on the third day
in accordance with the scriptures.

Luke 5:1–11

[Simon said,] "Master, we have worked hard all night and have caught nothing, but at your command I will lower the nets."

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

QUESTIONS REFLECTION

- Do I invest in my work, home, and social responsibilities as a response to the call of Jesus?
- Should I take more time to regularly quiet my soul so I can hear that call about where to cast my nets?

You Can Be a Stealth Evangelist

By Kathleen M. Basi

My paternal grandmother used to pray the rosary every morning before Mass. On Sundays, when my sisters and I would file into the pew, she would greet us with hugs and kisses, her beads swaying, and then return to her prayer. In adulthood, I learned that she began this practice on the day Pearl Harbor was attacked.

That same grandmother had a magnetic Holy Family statue on the dashboard of her car right up until dashboards stopped being made of metal. I'm pretty sure she taped it down for a while after that.

My maternal grandparents used to invite their grandkids on long RV vacations. I remember praying the rosary on my knees behind the cab of the camper as the interstate unfolded (well before seat-belt laws).

My father used to begin every day with a reflection on Scripture. Often, as my sisters and I tore through the living room looking for shoes and getting breakfast before the country bus arrived, Dad would be sitting in his easy chair with his eyes closed, praying.

My childhood was steeped in the devotions of the Catholic Church, and although I never questioned it then, I realize now that those continuous contacts with the faith of my elders were a silent witness, an unobtrusive evangelization.

I don't think I ever had a conversation on matters of faith with my father's



mother, for instance. Yet I knew her faith was central to her identity.

Usually I interpret that statement attributed to St. Francis—"Preach Jesus, and if necessary use words"—to mean "live a good life, and if people know you're Catholic, you'll be inviting them in." Sometimes, though, it is the overt, yet quiet, practice of our faith that makes the biggest impact on those within our spheres of influence.

Perhaps what we need is a "stealthy" approach to witnessing, one in which we do what nourishes us spiritually without trying either to hide or to display it.

What part of Catholic culture and spirituality is meaningful in your life? Where and when can you set aside a

few minutes in your day for a rosary, for quiet contemplative prayer, for Scripture and Catechism study? Is there space on your cubicle wall for an unobtrusive yet meaningful work of religious art? What about a screen saver with an inspirational message?

If we can find a way simply to be ourselves in the world—devoted Catholic Christians—perhaps we'll find we not only evangelize to others but also to ourselves. +

*I realize now that
continuous contacts
with the faith of my elders
were a silent witness, an
unobtrusive evangelization.*



*Lord, you are the Word made
flesh. Open my heart to share
your message of love and hope
with the people around me.*

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

WEEKDAY READINGS

February 7–12

Monday, Weekday:

1 Kgs 8:1–7, 9–13 / Mk 6:53–56

Tuesday, Weekday:

1 Kgs 8:22–23, 27–30 / Mk 7:1–13

Wednesday, Weekday:

1 Kgs 10:1–10 / Mk 7:14–23

Thursday, St. Scholastica:

1 Kgs 11:4–13 / Mk 7:24–30

Friday, Weekday:

1 Kgs 11:29–32; 12:19 / Mk 7:31–37

Saturday, Weekday:

1 Kgs 12:26–32; 13:33–34 / Mk 8:1–10