



## MUSIC FOR THE LITURGY

Sunday, February 13, 2022

The Sixth Sunday  
In Ordinary Time

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

Gathering: Gather Us In BB 303

Responsorial Psalm (Psalm 34)

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

Preparation As The Deer Longs BB 508

Mass Parts Mass of Creation

Communion Gift Of Finest Wheat BB 329  
Whatsoever You Do BB 624

Recessional: We Are The Light Of The World BB 601

## ✠ 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!

**February 6, 2022**

Offertory	<b>\$8,897.52</b>
Property Management	<b>\$1,384.95</b>



## 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!

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.

## UPCOMING SECOND & SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

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
March 13	CRS and Catholic Home Missions

## 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.**

### 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  
**Mary 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 13**  
 10:00 AM Religious Ed – PreK to 8 *Plaistow*

**Tuesday, February 15**  
 6:00 PM Finance Council Meeting *Plaistow*

**Wednesday, February 16**  
 Holy Angels Church  
 Open All Day For Prayer  
 7:00 PM St. Vincent de Paul Society Meeting *Plaistow*

**Thursday, February 17**  
 8:30 AM – 8:30 PM Eucharistic Adoration *Newton*

**Saturday, February 19**  
 3:00 PM Sacrament of Reconciliation *Plaistow*

**Sunday, February 20**  
 10:00 AM Religious Ed – PreK to 8 *Plaistow*

### PARISH OFFICE CLOSED

In observance of the Presidents Day holiday, the Parish Office will be **closed on Monday, February 21**. The Office will reopen at 8:30 AM on Tuesday, February 22.

### 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, February 12 ~ Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time**  
*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*

**Monday, February 14 ~ Cyril, Monk; Methodius, Bishop**  
*Jas 1:1-11; Mk 8:11-13*

8:00 AM People of the Parish  
*Newton*

**Tuesday, February 15 ~ Weekday**

*Jas 1:12-18; Mk 8:14-21*

8:00 AM Sr. Elizabeth Anne Lee (7<sup>th</sup> Anniversary)  
 by Nancy and Jerry Lee  
*Plaistow*

**Wednesday, February 16 ~ Weekday**

*Jas 1:19-27; Mk 8:22-26*

6:30 PM For Michael and his recovery  
*Plaistow*

**Thursday, February 17 ~ The Seven Holy Founders  
 of the Servite Order**

*Jas 2:1-9; Mk 8:27-33*

8:00 AM People of the Parish  
*Newton*

**Friday, February 18 ~ Weekday**

*Jas 2:14-24, 26; Mk 8:34—9:1*

No Mass

**Saturday, February 19 ~ Weekday**

*Jas 3:1-10; Mk 9:2-13 (Day)*

*1 Sm 26:2, 7-9, 12-13, 22-23; 1 Cor 15:45-49; Lk 6:27-38 (Vigil)*

4:00 PM Leo Blinn by Patricia Morrill  
*Plaistow*

**Sunday, February 20 ~ Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time**

*1 Sm 26:2, 7-9, 12-13, 22-23; 1 Cor 15:45-49; Lk 6:27-38*

8:00 AM Joan Burge by the Burge family  
*Newton*

10:00 AM Arthur Hawxhurst by his family  
*Plaistow*



### **HELP WANTED TO PUT AWAY TREES**

With Lent fast approaching, volunteers are welcome to help prepare the churches on **Sunday, February 27 following the 8:00 AM Liturgy in Newton and the 10:00 AM Liturgy in Plaistow.** Our tasks include taking down our green trees and some light clean up of the churches in preparation for the Lenten season. All are welcome to lend a hand – our work usually lasts just over an hour if we have all the help we can muster! Please contact the Parish Office for more information – or just stay after Mass!

### **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.

### MARDI GRAS WINE FESTIVAL

Saint Thomas the Aquinas Parish in Derry is holding "A Mardi Gras Wine Festival" featuring New Hampshire wineries. There will be live music, raffles, masks, food, games, and a door prize. The event will be held in the Aquinas Center on **February 26, 2022 from 6:00 to 9:00 PM**. Tickets are \$40 a person and \$70 a couple. Tickets are available at the St. Thomas Aquinas Parish Office. For more information, call 603-432-5000.

### KENTUCKY DERBY BALL

Run for the Roses! Break out the Mint Juleps and Big Hats for the St. Joseph Catholic School 2022 Annual Fundraising Gala. This event will be held on **Saturday, March 19, 2022 from 5:30 to 11:30 PM** at the Castleton Banquet & Conference Center. Dinner, drinks, dancing, live and silent auctions, and more! \$65 per ticket now, \$75 starting on March 1. Go to [SJRCSAUCTION22.GIVESMART.COM](http://SJRCSAUCTION22.GIVESMART.COM) for tickets and more information.

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](http://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. 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.

## What to do?

Today we continue to welcome 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 Lenten 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.

**Take the opportunity to sign-up by filling out the registration form on the back and dropping it in the collection basket next week, drop it off at the parish office, or call the Parish Offices at 382-8324.**

**Groups begin meeting the week of  
February 27**



# **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 6:17, 20-26

In this week's Gospel, Luke gives us the Beatitudes taught by Jesus. Blessed are the poor, the hungry, those who weep, those who are hated and rejected by others because of Jesus. Jesus also cautions those who are rich, well-fed, happy, and liked by others.

## Exploring the Gospel Message

**Seeds (Preschool):** Your child learned this week that Jesus loves everyone and that he wants all of us to belong. Talk about ways we can tell others about the love of Jesus. Also, have your child show you the heart puppet he or she made in class. Talk about who your heart belongs to.

**Promise (Grades K–1):** What makes us happy was the topic featured in your child's class this week. One thing that always makes us happy is following Jesus. Have your child show the drawing of Jesus and him or her from class. How can we include everyone like Jesus does?

**Good News (Grades 2–3):** Have a discussion with your child about what makes us happy. Ask your child to tell you what he or she learned from the story, "A Valentine for Mr. Pinch." Be sure to have your child show the booklet about "The Beatitudes: Jesus' Map to Happiness." What does Jesus teach about true happiness?

**Venture (Grades 4–6):** Is it fair the way food is distributed in the world? Your youngster should have some thoughts on that from class this week. Ask your young person about the organization called Kindness to Action. What do coins symbolize in that organization? Talk about how the Beatitudes teach us to see through God's eyes, and how we can hear the cries of the poor. Consider playing "The Promised Land" game with the family.

**Visions (Grades 7–8):** Ask your young teen how they feel blessed by life. He or she can also tell you about Sister Mary Antona Ebo, who was called to God and justice in a story the class read this week. Talk about how the Beatitudes challenge our ideas of success. Identify together who the poor are today. Consider playing a round of "Rich and Poor, A Beatitudes Game" that the class learned about this week.

## Pray Together

Jesus challenged the conventional ideas about how to be happy and successful when he taught the Beatitudes. Pray for yourself and your family to be more like those who Jesus says are blessed in the eyes of God.







## CONFIRMATION AND EUCHARIST

### What is “the Restored Order”?

An increasing number of dioceses in the United States are adopting a restored order policy for the celebration of the sacraments of Confirmation and Eucharist. This means, quite simply, that it becomes standard policy for Catholics who were baptized in infancy to receive Confirmation *before* First Communion, not *after*. Practically speaking, this means that the two sacraments are received at the First Communion Mass, with Confirmation being celebrated after the homily.



### Why is it referred to as “the Restored Order”?

During the first 500 years or so of the history of the Roman Catholic Church (and still today in the Christian churches of the East), it was always the case that the sacraments of Christian initiation were celebrated in an invariable sequence: Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist. And it was almost always the case that all three sacraments were celebrated together at the same time, even with infants. Following the lead of official documents that were issued by the Church after the Second Vatican Council, more and more dioceses are restoring this original order to the celebration of the sacraments of Christian initiation.

### Isn't Confirmation a sacrament of maturity that should come after First Communion as a child grows older?

Not really. Confirmation is actually the completion of Baptism (by the full gift of the Holy Spirit). To celebrate Confirmation requires nothing more by way of age-appropriate maturity than to receive the Eucharist. Remember, there is a legitimate, parallel practice in Eastern churches of fully initiating even infants with all three sacraments. The maturity that is required for receiving any of the sacraments of Christian initiation is only what is age-appropriate. The Church expects interior dispositions of readiness, such as understanding freedom, that are realistic at any given age, nothing more.

### When we are used to a different practice after more than a thousand years, why is the Church now going back to the original sequence?

Restored order is more than just a fascination with the way it used to be. In fact, there are some very significant theological and liturgical reasons for restoring the integrity of the three sacraments of Christian initiation—all celebrated in proper order, even at the same time. The RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) requires that children and adults in the catechumenate receive all three sacraments together, even if the children are younger than the age at which the Catholic children of the parish are routinely confirmed. Putting the celebration of Confirmation between Baptism and Eucharist better expresses its role as the completion of Baptism. As a matter of fact, the sacrament that is the culmination of a person's Christian initiation is the Eucharist, not Confirmation. Theologically, it is the gift of the Holy Spirit given in all its fullness at Confirmation that best prepares one to receive Eucharist, and thus to be most fully joined to the Body of Christ.

### Is it wrong, then, to be confirmed after receiving Eucharist?

Of course not. The Church has many ways of celebrating the mysteries of God's love in the sacraments. But because Rome so strongly encourages restoring the order of celebrating the sacraments of Christian initiation, don't be surprised if more and more communities restore the original sequence of the three sacraments of Christian initiation.



# Bringing Home the Word

Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time (C)  
February 13, 2022

## Pursuing a Higher Moral Standard

By Fr. Mark Haydu, LC

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus offers a rather radical call to holiness. Many of us have a hard time accepting that we are all called to such levels of morality. Yet, read to whom Jesus is speaking here. The Gospel says his audience is everyone: his apostles, his disciples, and a large number of other people from around the region. The Second Vatican Council offers a reminder when it says, “Fortified by so many and such powerful means of salvation, all the faithful, whatever their condition or state, are called by the Lord,

each in his own way, to that perfect holiness whereby the Father himself is perfect” (Dogmatic Constitution on the Church [*Lumen Gentium*], 11).

A key to progress in any personal area is keeping hungry, never being fully satisfied. The same goes for our faith and relationship with our Lord. If our goal is to be comfortable, to follow the path of least resistance, then mediocrity is our goal. Jesus is anything but mediocre. He proposes to us a high moral standard that isn’t reached by coasting.

Our souls are hungry by design. They are never fully satisfied in this life because we desire the Infinite—we desire God.

Luckily, our Lord not only proposes a high moral ideal of holiness, but he also gives us his very Spirit so we can reach the heights he proposes. And so, we can pray with St. Augustine, “Give me what you command, and command what you will.” +

***Jesus is anything but mediocre. He proposes to us a high moral standard that isn’t reached by coasting.***

## A Word from Pope Francis

Missionary discipleship is a call from God for today’s busy and complicated world, a constant setting out with Jesus...Only a Church which is bride, mother, and servant—one that has renounced the claim to control what is not her own work but God’s—can remain with Jesus.

—Journey to Colombia, September 7, 2017



## Sunday Readings

### Jeremiah 17:5–8

Blessed are those who trust in the LORD; / the LORD will be their trust.

### 1 Corinthians 15:12, 16–20

Now Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.

### Luke 6:17, 20–26

And raising his eyes toward his disciples [Jesus] said: “Blessed are you who are poor, for the kingdom of God is yours.”

## REFLECTION QUESTIONS

QUESTIONS  
REFLECTION

- Do I consider myself a Catholic who is tending and working toward holiness?
- Would Jesus consider me a Catholic who is tending and working toward holiness?

# Hope Springs Eternal

By Fr. Byron Miller, CSsR

**Q. Why did a loyal fan of an under-performing team in the National Football League stipulate in his will that six of their players be his pallbearers?**

**A. The fan wanted them to let him down one last time.**

**D**o you sometimes feel let down and hopeless? Are you anxious about the direction of our nation and world?

The 1960s was a decade of significant change in society that created varying levels of anxiety, fear, and restlessness for some people. In extreme cases, it instigated tragedy.

Texas Governor John Connally was in the vehicle with John F. Kennedy when the president was assassinated in 1963.

In trying to find meaning in this tragic event, Connally said the president was given a task in death that he couldn't do in life: "to so shock and so stun the nation, the people, and the world of what's happening to us." He described this "happening" as a "cancerous growth that's been permitted to expand and enlarge itself...that breeds the hatred, the bigotry, the intolerance and indifference, the lawlessness that is, I think, an outward manifestation of what occurred here in Dallas."

Some may wonder if our country today is immune to shock. What stuns a post-9/11 America numbed by the violence we've endured since the assassinations and upheavals at home and abroad in the sixties?



Has the cancer that breeds hatred, bigotry, intolerance, and lawlessness been allowed to spread for decades? Was the fearmongering and bitterness among Americans in a particularly divisive election campaign just another "outward manifestation" of this pathological growth?

To paraphrase G. K. Chesterton: If things feel hopeless, then hope means hoping; otherwise, it isn't a virtue at all.

Because we're rooted in the sure and certain hope of the resurrection—"In hope we were saved" (Romans 8:24)—the theological virtue of hope assures us that God ultimately won't let us down, not even when we are laid to rest in our graves!

Hope motivates us to transform

hatred, bigotry, and intolerance rather than transmit it.

Pope Francis told a Swedish newspaper that every human being transmits hatred through malicious speech and is potentially a terrorist by simply using abusive language. "I am speaking of a deceitful and hidden form of terrorism that uses words as bombs that explode, causing devastation in peoples' lives....It is a way of creating space for yourself by destroying others," he said.

Governor Connally's remarks in 1966 seem apropos fifty years later: "I'm not the least fearful of any foreign enemy so long as we have within ourselves not hate but human understanding, not passion and prejudice but reason and tolerance, and not ignorance but knowledge and the willingness to use that knowledge."

Such an arsenal helps disarm hidden and not-so-hidden forms of terrorism and fear. +

***If things feel hopeless,  
then hope means hoping;  
otherwise, it isn't a virtue  
at all.***

**PRAYER**

***Lord, you never forget us;  
you answer all our needs.  
Keep me from being anxious  
about many things.***

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

## WEEKDAY READINGS

February 14–19

**Monday**, Sts. Cyril and Methodius:

Jas 1:1–11 / Mk 8:11–13

**Tuesday**, Weekday:

Jas 1:12–18 / Mk 8:14–21

**Wednesday**, Weekday:

Jas 1:19–27 / Mk 8:22–26

**Thursday**, Weekday:


Jas 2:1–9 / Mk 8:27–33

**Friday**, Weekday:

Jas 2:14–24, 26 / Mk 8:34–9:1

**Saturday**, Weekday:

Jas 3:1–10 / Mk 9:2–13

Bringing Home  
the **Word** 

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