



**MUSIC FOR THE LITURGY**

**Sunday, August 28, 2022**  
**Twenty-Second Sunday In Ordinary Time**

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

Gathering: Sing A New Church BB 425  
 Responsorial Psalm (Psalm 19)  
*Lord, you have the words of everlasting life.*  
 Preparation Pescador de Hombres BB 496  
 Mass Parts Mass Of Creation  
 Communion The Body Of Christ (Cantor)  
 Recessional: They'll Know We Are Christians BB 585

**✠ 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!

**August 21, 2022**

**Offertory \$4,894.15**  
**Fuel \$1,327.40**



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!

**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!

**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.

**UPCOMING SECOND & SPECIAL COLLECTIONS**

August 28 Missionary Co-op  
 September 4 Property Management  
 September 11 Catholic University and USCCB  
 September 18 Fuel  
 September 25 Priest Retirement Fund

**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 ✠

**BACK TO SCHOOL PROGRAM**

The St Luke’s Food Pantry and the St Vincent de Paul Society work together every year to raise funds for a program that helps local families who are struggling financially with back to school shopping. This program is funded by donations from local businesses and individual donations. All of the funds raised during this fundraiser will be used for this program.

If you would like to help, donations can be made to St Luke’s Food Pantry. Please write on the envelope “**Back To School Program**”. Donations may be mailed to the pantry, put in collection basket, or left at the Parish Office. We will also be accepting donations of Kohls, Walmart, Staples, TJ Maxx, or other store cards. We can use backpacks, both larger sizes for grades 5 - 12 and smaller sizes for elementary students, along with any school supplies.

Any help you can give would be most appreciated. Thank you in advance for your help. Together we can make a difference!

**COFFEE AND DONUTS**

With pandemic restrictions fading away, it would be great to return to occasional Coffee and Donuts at Sunday morning Masses.

We are looking for hosts for our Coffee Hours. Host responsibilities include picking up donuts and coffee, placing all items on the serving tables, and clean up after Coffee Hour.

If you are interested in hosting, please send an email to [fr.albert@stluketheevangelist.net](mailto:fr.albert@stluketheevangelist.net) or call the Parish Office at 603-382-8324.

A schedule for Coffee and Donuts is in the works. **Coffee and Donuts can happen only with the help of generous volunteer hosts!**



**ST. LUKE THE EVANGELIST WEBSITE**

Visit our website to view our Weekly Church Bulletin and Upcoming Parish Events:  
<http://stlukenh.org>

**HELP WANTED**

Saint Luke the Evangelist Parish in Newton-Plaistow, NH is searching for a PT custodian for our Preschool-Kindergarten in Plaistow, NH. The position involves routine custodial services after school hours (post 3 PM) Monday through Friday to equal twenty (20) hours per week. The successful candidate must be able to work independently and follow instructions to prepare the school environment for each new learning day. Candidates must be able to work on their feet for most of their time, go up and down stairs, and lift at least twenty-five (25) pounds. Candidates must also complete the Diocese of Manchester protocols for Safe Environment, including a State(s) Criminal background check and Diocesan Safe Environment database training. A full job description and application materials are available by contacting the Parish Office at (603) 382-8324 or [fr.albert@stluketheevangelist.net](mailto:fr.albert@stluketheevangelist.net).



The Sanctuary Candle in Mary, Mother of the Church will burn this week in loving memory of **Bill Lawrence** by a fellow Knight

The Sanctuary Candle in Holy Angels Church will burn this week in loving memory of **James O’Donnell** by Jane Leach and family



**PARISH OFFICE CLOSED**

In observance of the Labor Day holiday, the Parish Office will be **closed on Monday, September 5**. The Office will reopen at 8:30 AM on Tuesday, September 6.

**AMAZONSMILE FOUNDATION**

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.amazonmile.com](http://www.amazonmile.com). For questions, please call the Parish Office at 603-382-8324. Be sure to choose:

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

**WHILE AWAY THIS SUMMER...**

We appreciate all of you who remember to send in your Parish Offertory during the Summer even when on vacation or visiting other parishes. Thank you for remembering that our expenses also continue through the Summer months. We invite others to consider doing the same before or even after you return home.

✠ WEEKLY CALENDAR ✠

Wednesday, August 31  
Holy Angels Church Open  
All Day For Prayer

Thursday, September 1  
8:30 AM – 8:30 PM Eucharistic Adoration **Newton**  
10:00 AM Prayer Shawl Ministry Meeting **Plaistow**

Saturday, September 3  
3:00 PM Sacrament of Reconciliation **Plaistow**

Sunday, September 4  
11:00 AM Religious Ed Registration Sunday **Plaistow**

PRAYER LINE

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

PRAYER LINE INTERCESSORS NEEDED

How does the "Prayer Line" work? Once a prayer request is given, an email is sent to the intercessors who respond by praying for the intention. The request is written on a list. Now that we can meet in person again, several of the intercessors will get together once a week and pray for each person.

If you are interested in being an intercessor, either through an email or meeting in person once a week, please contact Cathy Smith at 603-382-8324 or [csmith@stluketheevangelist.net](mailto:csmith@stluketheevangelist.net). For those who are interested in being part of the group that meets in person, we will gather in the Fall to decide the best day and time to start meeting again.

MEN OF ST. JOSEPH

Our ministry aims to emulate St. Joseph and 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. Join us on Saturday morning, **September 17, 2022 from 8:00 to 9:00 AM** in the parish hall on the Plaistow campus.



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.

✠ MASS INTENTIONS ✠

Saturday, August 27 ~ 22<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time  
*Sir 3:17-18, 20, 28-29; Heb 12:18-19, 22-24a;*  
*Lk 14:1, 7-14 (Vigil)*

4:00 PM Yvette Caron by Norma Amshey  
**Plaistow**

Sunday, August 28 ~ 22<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time  
*Sir 3:17-18, 20, 28-29; Heb 12:18-19, 22-24a;*  
*Lk 14:1, 7-14*

8:00 AM Diane Burke by the Stanley family  
**Newton**

10:00 AM People of the Parish  
**Plaistow**

Monday, August 29 ~ The Passion of John the Baptist  
*1 Cor 2:1-5; Mk 6:17-29*

8:00 AM William Lawrence (Month's Mind)  
**Newton**

Tuesday, August 30 ~ Weekday  
*1 Cor 2:10b-16; Lk 4:31-37*

8:00 AM Katherine Fitzpatrick (Month's Mind)  
**Plaistow**

Wednesday, August 31 ~ Weekday  
*1 Cor 3:1-9; Lk 4:38-44*

6:30 PM Donald Culbert, Jr. by his mother and family  
**Plaistow**

Thursday, September 1 ~ Weekday  
*1 Cor 3:18-23; Lk 5:1-11*

8:00 AM Nancy Couillard (Month's Mind)  
**Newton**

Friday, September 2 ~ Weekday  
*1 Cor 4:1-5; Lk 5:33-39*  
**NO MASS**

Saturday, September 3 ~ Gregory the Great, Pope and Doctor of the Church

*1 Cor 4:6b-15; Lk 6:1-5 (Day)*  
*Wis 9:13-18b; Phlm 9-10, 12-17; Lk 14:25-33 (Vigil)*

4:00 PM Frances Blinn (2<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary)  
by Patricia Morrill  
**Plaistow**

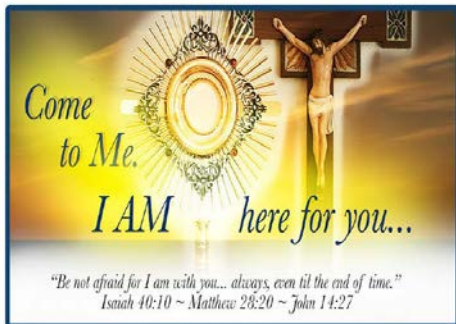
Sunday, September 4 ~ 23<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time  
*Wis 9:13-18b; Phlm 9-10, 12-17; Lk 14:25-33*

8:00 AM Bill Lawrence by Bob and Alice Litwinovich  
**Newton**

10:00 AM Carolyn Wysocki by Colleen Hevehan  
**Plaistow**



**IGNITE NEW HAMPSHIRE**  
**SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 24, 2022**



**REGISTRATION REQUIRED**  
[www.EucharisticRevivalNH.org](http://www.EucharisticRevivalNH.org)

National  
Eucharistic  
Preacher

Holy Mass &  
Eucharistic  
Procession

200 Person Choir

Children's  
Activities

Concessions  
& More!



**ST. LUKE THE EVANGELIST**  
**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

Religious Education Registration for the 2022-2023 Academic Year for **Grades K through 6** begins in September. If your child is currently enrolled, a registration form has been sent home. If your child is new to the Program, please call Cathy Smith at 382-8324 for more information.

**CATECHISTS NEEDED**

Our Religious Education Program is in need of catechists for Sunday mornings. Training will be provided. If you can help, please email Cathy Smith at [csmith@stluketheevangelist.net](mailto:csmith@stluketheevangelist.net).

**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 ❖



**SAINT JUDE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS MONTHLY FOOD DRIVE**

The Knights of Columbus of our Parish are sponsoring a monthly food drive to support the Saint Luke the Evangelist Food Pantry beginning this August. A list of items needed, along with a paper shopping bag, will be distributed at the end of Masses on the 3<sup>rd</sup> weekend of each month to those who wish to participate. We ask that you bring back the non-perishable food items the following weekend (4<sup>th</sup> weekend of the month). You are also welcome to drop off donations at the Parish Office during normal business hours or at one our Parish churches. Monetary donations are also welcome (make checks payable to Saint Luke Food Pantry), or gift cards to local supermarkets. Thank you for reaching out to help families in our community who need assistance. The Knights and the Food Pantry appreciate your generosity and support.

**CHRISTMAS CRAFT FAIR**

Our Annual Christmas Craft Fair will be held on **Saturday, November 5, 2022 from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM**, at 8 Atkinson Depot Road, Plaistow, NH. Watch the weekly bulletins to find out how you can help, donate, volunteer, and participate in St. Luke Parish's biggest (and ONLY) fundraiser! As always, there will be 20+ vendors of high-quality, handcrafted items; plus the Country Store, Silent Auction, Jewelry Table, Cookie Heaven, and FIVE great raffles: 1000 Ca\$h Raffle, Wine Raffle, Quilt Raffle, Penny Sale, and Theme Baskets. The Cafe will serve up breakfast and lunch, and if we're lucky, Santa may stop in from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM for photos! Got questions? Please email [StLukeNHFair@gmail.com](mailto:StLukeNHFair@gmail.com).

**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).

**SCOUT RETREAT**

All Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, American Heritage Girls, and Knights of Columbus Squires in Grades 6-12, and Adult Leaders, are invited to the 40<sup>th</sup> Annual High Adventure Scout Retreat on **Friday, September 16 through Sunday September 18, 2022** at Camp Fatima in Gilmanton Iron Works, NH. This retreat is very active, involving the scouts in a number of fun, interesting, challenging, thought provoking, and faith filled activities. To register, or for more information, send an email to [nhcatholicscouting@gmail.com](mailto:nhcatholicscouting@gmail.com).

**ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS**

A Men's AA Step Meeting is being on Sunday mornings from 7:00 to 8:00 AM at the St. Luke the Evangelist Parish Hall in Plaistow, NH (Holy Angels). Bring your own coffee. For more information, call 617-921-9899.

**St. Vincent de Paul Society**



**Your "Dropped Dollar" Hard At Work**

Thank you for your continued support of the St. Vincent de Paul Society! Please know that your "dropped dollars" are being used wisely to help the poor in our area. Your generosity does not go unnoticed.

Drop-a-Dollar in the St. Vincent de Paul box on your way out of church.

Remember ~ 100% of your donation is used to help those who need a hand up, not a hand out.

Our next meeting on **Wednesday, September 21 at 7:00 PM**. We meet downstairs in the Church Hall in Plaistow. **New members are always welcome!**

If you seek assistance or need information about the St. Vincent de Paul Society, call 603-382-8324 x315.

**Hear, OH LORD, and answer me for I am poor and needy.**



**DO SOMETHING GOOD WITH US**

The Knights of Columbus are a vital and vibrant part of St Luke the Evangelist Parish.

We welcome any practicing Catholic man, 18 or older, to join the Knights.

We are sons, fathers, husbands, and grandfathers, whose main purpose is charitable works in support of our parish and community.

Where there is a need, there is a Knight.

Joining is simple – talk to a brother Knight, contact Dan Sullivan at 603-770-4803, email him at [dans49@comcast.com](mailto:dans49@comcast.com), or you can now join online:

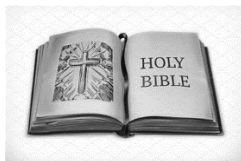
[www.kofc.org/joinus](http://www.kofc.org/joinus)

**THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS  
ST. JUDE COUNCIL  
#6617**

[www.kofc6617.org](http://www.kofc6617.org)



# BRING THE BIBLE TO LIFE AND LIVE SCRIPTURE EVERY DAY!



Join us for six weeks of exploration of the Bible that equips you to apply the message of Scripture to your daily life.

**Six Weeks with the Bible** series, published by *Loyola Press*, is an ideal way to learn important background information on Scripture, experience praying God's Word, and discover the difference the Bible can make in your life today.

Our Fall Bible share groups will be exploring the book of *James* and the theme: *Put Your Faith to Work*. *Loyola Press* states: "The book of James insists that conversion to Christ changes the way we act. In *James: Put Your Faith to Work*, we learn how to apply Jesus' teachings to our lives as members of God's kingdom. Ultimately, we come to understand the book of James as our roadmap for the Christian journey."

If you are interested in joining a group either on Wednesday evenings at 7 p.m., beginning September 21, or Thursday afternoons at 1:30 p.m., beginning September 22; please cut the form at the bottom and complete. Completed forms should be returned either in the collection basket or the parish office no later than Tuesday, September 6. Any questions, contact Cathy Smith at (603) 382-8324 or [csmith@stluketheevangelist.net](mailto:csmith@stluketheevangelist.net)

## Groups will meet downstairs in the Church Hall

(There is an \$8 book fee)

\*\*\*\*\*

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_

### ***James: Put Your Faith to Work*** (check one)

Wednesdays at 7 p.m. \_\_\_\_ Thursdays at 1:30 p.m. \_\_\_\_  
Sept. 21 – Oct. 26                      Sept. 22 – Oct. 27



## **Why don't you think about it too?**

**Parish Giving is a simple, secure and convenient way to manage your stewardship without weekly envelopes and without worries.**

- **Parish Giving allows you to select contribution amounts and special collections right from your own computer or smartphone**
- **You can be a good steward for the Parish even when you are away from the area on a weekend**
- **Parish Giving allows you to print out a report detailing your contributions for the year.**
- **Log on to the St. Luke the Evangelist Parish website <http://stlukenh.org>, click on the Parish Giving logo and follow the easy registration instructions.**

**Parish Giving**

# Help is NEEDED.

If you have ever thought about wanting to give more to our Parish community, share your talents, or become involved in something meaningful; NOW'S YOUR CHANCE!

Over the past couple of years, a few VITAL Craft Fair team members have moved away. Since then, the Craft Fair Lead Coordinator (Julie Lamere) has had to fill the vacated roles as well as LEAD the craft fair effort – that is too much for one set of shoulders.

Currently, Julie is looking to add THREE people to the Craft Fair Team. These individuals will work with Julie to learn about and help with, the following areas:

1. Silent Auction Helping with the Silent Auction sounds like a big deal but be assured, none of the tasks are difficult for any organized person with basic computer skills
2. Jewelry Table Coordinator This person needs to be able to sort jewelry leading up to fair, help with table set-up the day before fair, work the table the day of fair
3. Photographer for Santa & Mrs. Claus  
Super simple: work from 10AM – 2PM (with lunch break) the day of the Fair, be friendly, smile, know how to take a picture on your iPhone and 'send it to print'

Julie Lamere has a 'fairly flexible' schedule and should be able to work with you and your schedule to determine best day/time to get together.

Please email Julie Lamere, craft Fair Lead Coordinator at [StLukeNHFair@gmail.com](mailto:StLukeNHFair@gmail.com) to find out if any of these roles may be the right fit for you.

 **Saint Luke**  
**the Evangelist**  
**Parish**  **Christmas Fair**





St. Luke the Evangelist

CASH Raffle Tickets

are NOW available at  
both churches

1. Take some and sell to family & friends.
2. Return completed stubs & money or check, payable to St. Luke, Cash Raffle on memo line please, in a sealed envelope.
3. Ticket stubs & payment must be returned together in an envelope, to the Parish Office **OR** placed in the collection basket.



# Bringing Home the Word

Twenty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time (C)  
August 28, 2022

## The Power of Humility

by Fr. Mark Haydu, LC

Humility isn't a popular virtue! In fact, among the Greeks and the Romans it wasn't considered a virtue at all. In a list of 147 wise maxims, dated six centuries before Christ, humility wasn't even mentioned. For the ancient Greek or Roman, honor was more of a goal than humility.

Yet the Jewish faith values humility, as illustrated in Old Testament texts like the one we hear today. The humble strength of conducting affairs quietly and justly makes one more loved—more so than someone who gives many gifts.

### Sunday Readings

**Sirach 3:17–18, 20, 28–29**

My son, conduct your affairs with humility, and you will be loved more than a giver of gifts.

**Hebrews 12:18–19, 22–24a**

[Y]ou have approached...the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem,...and Jesus, the mediator of the new covenant....

**Luke 14:1, 7–14**

[Jesus said,] "For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the one who humbles himself will be exalted."

Parents should reflect on this.

As Christians following a Savior who stooped to wash feet, humility is not only recommended but becomes the ideal. Let the first be last. Let the greatest be the servant. Humility is simply living the truth of who we are. We are each both great and insignificant. We can and should use all our knowledge and strength to plant seeds for a better world. But only God gives the growth.

We are creatures and not the Creator. We don't make the rules of life or define right and wrong. We discover, accept, and embrace these laws. A healthy awareness of our limitations doesn't enslave us but sets us free. A humble knowledge of the truth is empowering.

We are amazingly talented people, each uniquely loved and gifted by God. Each of us can achieve, and should strive for, the greatness offered us. Humility makes one capable of true and lasting greatness—just look at Christ.

*Humility is simply living the truth of who we are. We are each both great and insignificant.*

### A Word from Pope Francis

Without humility we will never find God: we will find ourselves. Because a person who has no humility has no horizon in front of him or her. They only have a mirror: they look at themselves. Let us ask the Lord to break this mirror so we can look beyond, to the horizon, where He is.

General Audience, December 22, 2021



### REFLECTION QUESTIONS



- How well do I know myself—both my strengths and my weaknesses?
- Do I see everything as a gift and respond with humility?

# There But for the Grace of God Go I

By Fr. Stephen Rehrauer, CSSR

In Catholic school I learned to repeat the above phrase often. It expresses gratitude for having been spared the sufferings we see others endure. It arouses compassion, moving us to help others shoulder their burdens. If the suffering of others is the result of their own wrong behavior, it teaches humility and solidarity, reminding us that were it not for God's help, we might have fallen into the same wrong patterns of life, bringing similar disgrace upon ourselves.

Lately it seems this phrase has been replaced by a pair of more pernicious ones: "Thank God I'm better off than they are" and "Thank God they finally got what was coming to them."

Studies show that we tend not to help others if we believe they have been the cause of their own suffering. In responding to those whose lives have been ravaged by alcoholism, drug abuse, prostitution, poverty, hunger, AIDS, rape, violent crime, and murder, it matters a great deal to almost everyone whether we see that person as "deserving" or "undeserving" of their fate. When we believe someone has been innocently harmed, it elicits sympathy, which motivates us to help. On the other hand, if we believe that the other "deserves" what is happening as the result of something he or she did, then the emotion elicited is righteous indignation—even satisfaction—at seeing cosmic justice occur, and we



are motivated to deliberately withhold assistance. This tendency seems to be very common across all cultures. And then there's Jesus.

Turning away from another's pain, regardless of its causes, is hardly the moral response the Gospel of Jesus Christ teaches us. Sooner or later we all make wrong choices in our lives. Sometimes our wrong choices flow from a flaw in ourselves; sometimes we are overwhelmed by a situation and really can't see any other way out of the mess we are in; sometimes we just want something so much that we are willing to do whatever it takes to get it. Sin is a constant part of the human condition. Saint Paul reminds his readers constantly that all are sinners, all deserve condemnation, all stand in need of forgiveness, and all need Christ to help them. If God treated us the way we are tempted to treat one another, offering

compassion only to those who "deserve" it, there would be no hope for any of us.

God's justice is mercy. Grace is offered to the sinner precisely as a sinner: one who deserves condemnation and punishment through his own fault but who receives instead compassion and forgiveness. The sinner who returns causes rejoicing in heaven. It is precisely when we have been the cause of our own mess, and *because* we have been the cause of our own mess, that God draws near to us most powerfully and most lovingly in Christ, who is help for the helpless. This is God's *Caritas*. This is the God Jesus came to reveal.

***If God ... offered compassion only to those who "deserve" it, there would be no hope for any of us.***



*Holy and compassionate God, teach us the freedom of humility, the gratification of surrender, the true joy of compassion for others. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.*

The Redemptorists

## WEEKDAY READINGS

August 29–September 3

**Monday**, The Passion of St. John the Baptist:

1 Cor 2:1–5 / Mk 6:17–29

**Tuesday**, Weekday:

1 Cor 2:10b–16 / Lk 4:31–37

**Wednesday**, Weekday:

1 Cor 3:1–9 / Lk 4:38–44

**Thursday**, Weekday:


1 Cor 3:18–23 / Lk 5:1–11

**Friday**, Weekday:

1 Cor 4:1–5 / Lk 5:33–39

**Saturday**, St. Gregory the Great:

1 Cor 4:6b–15 / Lk 6:1–5

Bringing Home  
the Word   
August 28, 2022

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