	MUSIC FOR THE LITURGY Sunday, October 23, 2022 Thirtieth Sunday In Ordinary Time
4:00 PM 8:00 AM 10:00 AM	
Gathering:	Gather Your People BB 313
Responsorial Psa	alm (Psalm 34)
	Taste and see the goodness of the Lord; O taste and see the goodness of the Lord.
Preparation	You Have Called Us BB 647
Mass Parts	Mass Of Creation
Communion	One Bread, One Body BB 337 One Love Released BB 353
Recessional:	O God, Almighty Father BB 708



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 COLLECTIONS

<u></u>	
October 23	World Missions
October 30	Archdiocese for Military Serv.
November 1	All Saints Day
November 6	Property Management
November 13	Catholic Campaign for Human
	Development
November 20	Fuel

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.

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	

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!

Offertory	<u>October 9, 2022</u>	\$6,739.20
Offertory Fuel	<u>October 16, 2022</u>	\$7,036.94 \$1,632.00



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 <u>http://stlukenh.org</u>, click on the Parish Giving logo, and follow the easy registration instructions.

HURRICANE RELIEF

All Catholics in the US are invited to help in the aftermath of the destruction caused by Hurricane Fiona and Hurricane Ian in the US Territory of Puerto Rico and the State of Florida. Visit <u>www.catholiccharitiesusa.org</u> to learn how to help. Local Catholic Charities in the various Dioceses affected by the storms are already assisting people to rebuild their lives. Thank you for your prayers and concern for the people of Puerto Rico and Florida.

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	\$18.70	\$19.50	\$21.00
\$10.00	\$12.50	\$13.00	\$14.00
\$5.00	\$6.25	\$6.50	\$7.00

✤ PARISH NEWS ✤



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.

ALL SAINTS DAY

All Saints Day is a holy day of obligation. Liturgies will be celebrated on Monday, October 31 at 6:30 PM in Plaistow and on Tuesday, November 1 at 8:00 AM in Newton.



ALL SOULS DAY

We will remember all of our loved ones who have died at a Mass of Remembrance on **Wednesday**, **November 2 at 6:30 PM in Plaistow**. All are invited to attend.

THE BOOK OF THE NAMES OF THE DEAD

Throughout November, a special *Book of the Names of the Dead* will be open near the Baptismal Font & Paschal Candle for parishioners to record the names of the faithful departed. It is a visible sign that the faithful departed remain with us as part of the Church. You are welcome to record names of loved ones and the dates of their death.



END OF LIFE PLANNING

Three Beliefs is a document from the Diocese of Manchester that gives valuable assistance to Catholics and others on end-of-life issues. *Three Beliefs* explains Catholic teaching on life-sustaining treatment and care and includes the New Hampshire Advance Directive form modified in such a way to make it consistent with both Catholic teaching and New Hampshire law. *Three Beliefs* contains a helpful FAQ section and wallet cards that include important information for healthcare providers.

The New Hampshire Advance Directive form was revised by a law that is consistent with Catholic teaching and the changes to the New Hampshire form. If you completed an advance directive before 2021 and your intentions for your end-of-life care have not changed, you do not need to complete a new form as long as your advance directive was valid when it was executed. For example, if you completed the October 2007 version of *Three Beliefs* and signed the document before two witnesses or a notary public or justice of the peace, you do not need to complete a new advance directive form.

Copies of *Three Beliefs* are available at the church entrance.

MEN OF ST. JOSEPH

Our ministry aims to emulate St. Joseph and become better husbands, fathers, sons and brothers. We gather together for sharing among men to help us become a better person, a better family man, and a better member of the Church. Join us on Saturday morning, **October 22, 2022 from 8:00 to 9:00 AM** in the parish hall on the Plaistow campus.

AMAZONSMILE FOUNDATION

Saint Luke the Evangelist Parish has been issued a **\$92.84** donation from the AmazonSmile Foundation as a result of AmazonSmile activity between April 1 and June 30, 2022.

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 <u>www.amazonsmile.com</u>. For questions, please call the Parish Office at 603-382-8324. Be sure to choose:

St Luke the Evangelist Parish, Plaistow.

WHILE AWAY THIS FALL...

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

✤ WEEKLY CALENDAR ✤

Sunday, October 23 10:00 AM Religious Ed – K to 6 Plaistow Tuesday, October 25 6:30 PM The Cultural World of the Old Testament Plaistow Wednesday, October 26 Holy Angels Church Open All Day For Prayer 7:00 PM Letter of James Plaistow Thursday, October 27 8:30 AM – 8:30 PM Eucharistic Adoration Newton 1:30 PM Letter of James Plaistow Saturday, October 29 3:00 PM Sacrament of Reconciliation Plaistow Sunday, October 30 10:00 AM Religious Ed - K to 6 Plaistow



DON'T FORGET.... Turn your clocks back one hour before going to bed on Saturday, November 5!

The Sanctuary Candle in Holy Angels Church will burn this week in loving memory of **Phillip Jackson** by the St. Vincent de Paul Society



Page 3

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!

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.

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 <u>itremblay@stluketheevangelist.net</u> or 603-382-8324.

St. Luke, Newton-Plaistow, NH

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday.	October 22 ~ 30 th Sunday in Ordinary Time
Sir 35:1 4:00 PM	2-14, 16-18; 2 Tm 4:6-8, 16-18; Lk 18:9-14 (Vigil)
<u>Sunday, O</u>	ctober 23 ~ 30 th Sunday in Ordinary Time
Sir 35:1	2-14, 16-18; 2 Tm 4:6-8, 16-18; Lk 18:9-14
8:00 AM	Fr. Conrad Salach, OFM Conv.
	by Charlie and Lisa Angwin
40.00.000	Newton
10:00 AM	Jack Harrigan by the Prayer Shawl Committee <i>Plaistow</i>
	ctober 24 ~ Anthony Mary Claret, Bishop
-	2—5:8; Lk 13:10-17 Manual Diag Dackage (Manukia Mind)
8:00 AM	Manuel Dias Pacheco (Month's Mind) <i>Newton</i>
Tuesday, C	October 25 ~ Weekday
	1-33; Lk 13:18-21
8:00 AM	Paul Antkowiak (Month's Mind)
	Plaistow
<u>Wednesda</u>	<u>y, October 26 ~ Weekday</u>
Eph 6:1	-9; Lk 13:22-30
6:30 PM	
	Plaistow
<u>Thursday,</u>	<u> October 27 ~ Weekday</u>
Eph 6:1	0-20; Lk 13:31-35
8:00 AM	
	Newton
Friday, Oct	ober 28 ~ Simon and Jude, Apostles
Eph 2:1	9-22; Lk 6:12-16
	NO MASS
	<u> October 29 ~ Weekday</u>
	8b-26; Lk 14:1, 7-11 (Day)
	22—12:2; 2 Thes 1:11—2:2; Lk 19:1-10 (Vigil)
4:00 PM	Kevin Gallant (Birthday Remembrance) by his family
	Plaistow
Sunday O	ctober 30 ~ 31 st Sunday in Ordinary Time
Wis 11:	22—12:2; 2 Thes 1:11—2:2; Lk 19:1-10
8:00 AM	Doreen Burge by the Burge family
	Newton
10:00 AM	The Souls in Purgatory by Linda Huberdeau
	Plaistow



CREMATION AND THE CHURCH

On October 25, 2016, the Vatican Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith published a new instruction on the burial of the dead and on the conservation of the ashes in cases of cremation. The instruction reiterated the longheld view that the Church is not opposed to the practice of cremation, though it continues to recommend that the bodies of the deceased be buried in cemeteries or other sacred places. However, the new document insists that ashes should not be kept in private homes, and that the scattering of ashes in the air, on land, or at sea is not permitted. The instruction also insisted that cremains may not be divided among various family members, nor may they be preserved in mementos, pieces of jewelry, or other objects.



ALL SOULS INTENTIONS

The month of November is a time when the Church traditionally prays in a special way for the faithful departed. The celebration of All Souls Day on November 2 is a joyful and poignant reminder that we worship and live in communion with those who have gone before us in faith.

All Souls envelopes are available at the entrance of both Churches. Any intentions listed on the envelopes will be remembered at Liturgies offered as "All Souls Intentions" throughout the coming liturgical year. All Souls envelopes can be deposited in the regular collection basket at your convenience.

The Holy Liturgy can be offered for any deceased Catholic person. Please contact the Parish Office at 603-382-8324 to inquire about scheduling. Exact dates cannot always be accommodated, so calling early for the coming year is advised. The suggested donation for an announced commemoration is \$10.00 payable to Saint Luke Parish.

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 <u>**Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults</u>** 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.</u>

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.

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

Fr. Albert Tremblay Cathy Smith Joyce Szczapa Jackie Tremblay Val Barczak Parish Council fr.albert@stluketheevangelist.net <u>csmith@stluketheevangelist.net</u> jszczapa@stluketheevangelist.net jtremblay@stluketheevangelist.net mvmbarczak@comcast.net parishcouncil@stluketheevangelist.net

St. Luke, Newton-Plaistow, NH

✤ 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. A list of items needed, along with a paper shopping bag, will be distributed at the end

of Masses on the 3rd weekend of each month to those who wish to participate. We ask that you bring back the nonperishable food items the following weekend (4th 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.



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.



THANK YOU!

St. Vincent de Paul would like to thank everyone who supported our Annual Appeal and our Mum Fundraiser. We sold out! A special thank you also to Newton Greenhouse for the gorgeous mums they delivered.

Your support and generosity will go a long way in helping those in need in our community.

Our next meeting on **Wednesday**, **November 16 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.

THANK YOU FROM THE FOOD PANTRY

We are very grateful to all of the businesses and individuals who donated backpacks, gift certificates, and made donations to our Annual Back To School Assistance Program. The Food Pantry was able to help 36 families, including 78 children, with their back to school shopping. Thank you so much for helping to make this program a success!

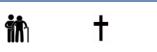
Joe and Marie Farren

CURSILLO

If you have a desire to know Jesus more closely, a Cursillo is for you. The Cursillo weekend is a short course in Christianity. The purpose of the weekend is to facilitate a meaningful personal encounter with Christ and his body, the Church. The three day weekend is also the bridge connecting the faithful with the supportive post-Cursillo community, where we live our faith joyfully with our fellow Christians. Cursillo weekends are being offered **October 13-16 for men** and **November 3-6 for women** at the Sato Center in Hookset, NH. To find out more, contact Mark Collopy at 603-833-7341 or explore www.nhcursillo.org.

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.





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 <u>dans49@comcast.com</u> or you can now join online at <u>www.kofc.org/joinus</u>.

THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS ST. JUDE COUNCIL #6617 www.kofc6617.org



THE CULTURAL WORLD OF THE OLD TESTAMENT



The world of the Old Testament is essentially alien to even the most avid readers of the Bible. So often, prejudices, assumptions and images generated by our own culture govern our reading of the Jewish Scriptures. Anyone who has read the Book of Exodus and then seen the famous movie "The Ten Commandments" can easily agree!

We will explore some of the cultural traditions and customs that were part of the society of the ancient Mediterranean world. The World of the Old Testament course is an invitation for adults to learn more about the Mediterranean culture of our ancestors in the faith to better understand the Bible.

Instructor: Rev. Albert Tremblay, obl. SB **Tuesday evenings, 6:30 – 8:00 PM** Plaistow Church Hall October 25, November 1, 8, 22, 29, December 6, 13

Please contact fr.albert@stluketheevangelist.net or call 603.382.8324 to register.

Name		PLEASE PRINT
		_ (
Address	Phone	
E-Mail	Cell Phone	

Group will meet in the Plaistow Church Hall

October 25, November 1, 8, 22, 29, December 6, 13

BAPTISM IS ONE OF THE SEVEN SACRAMENTS OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH.

Sacraments are celebrations and milestones in our relationship with God and are a must for a Catholic to go through in his/her life. Participating in sacraments is also God's way to show us His graces and love that invites us to salvation with Him.



Children receive baptism primarily to remove original sin but also as a way to initiate a child into the family of the Church. Infant baptism has been debated for centuries. First, let us appeal to the Bible. John 3:5 says, "Jesus answered, 'Amen, amen, I say to you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit.'" Note that Jesus says "no one" can enter heaven in that passage. In the spirit of brevity here is the short answer straight from the Catechism: "The practice of infant Baptism is an immemorial tradition of the Church. There is explicit testimony to this practice from the second century on, and it is quite possible that, from the beginning of the apostolic preaching, when whole "households" received baptism, infants may also have been baptized," (Acts 16:15,33; 18:8; 1 Corinthians 1:16). (Catechism of the Catholic Church, paragraph 1252)

WHAT IS THE ROLE OF SPONSORS OR GODPARENTS?

Sponsors or Godparents for Catholic Baptism are like Sponsors for Confirmation. They assist in the faith development of the person being baptized. Sponsors or Godparents can also be helpful through their prayers and example, helping the child's parents fulfill their own promise to raise the child in the faith. Therefore, the faith of the Sponsors is important in fulfilling the baptismal promise of being raised in the Catholic faith. Sponsors must be able to show the value of the community of faith by their own example as active and committed members of the Church.

WHEN ARE BAPTISMS CELEBRATED?

Since Baptism incorporates a person as a member of the Body of Christ, the ideal time for the Sacrament's celebration is when the community gathers on Sunday (or Saturday evening) for Mass.

The Rite of Baptism during Mass consists of a welcome for the candidate at the beginning of Mass, and the actual Baptism immediately following a Profession of Faith. Baptisms are scheduled for the 4:00 pm vigil Liturgy on Saturday (Plaistow), or the 8:00 am (Newton) or 10:00 am (Plaistow) Liturgies on Sunday.

There are certain Liturgical celebrations (Christmas, RCIA dates, First Eucharist dates) and Liturgical seasons (notably Lent) when Baptism is not celebrated. There are unusual circumstances when Baptism is celebrated outside of Mass. Accommodations are made to help you and your family celebrate with our Parish family in an appropriate way. The Parish assists parents in these special cases.

A Baptism preparation session for parents is required to celebrate the Sacrament of Baptism. Call the Parish Office at (603) 382-8324 for more information.





Family Guide October 23, 2022 30th Sunday in Ordinary Time

The Gospel at Home

This Week's Gospel: Luke 18:9-14

Pharisees were the religion teachers of Jesus' time. They taught Jews their religious traditions and challenged them to apply the Law to their lives. In Sunday's Gospel story, Jesus criticizes a Pharisee's self-righteousness. In Jesus' time, few people liked tax collectors because they collaborated with the Roman government. Jesus' story challenges us to examine how we view others and how God views us.

Exploring the Gospel Message

Seeds (Preschool): This week, your child spent time looking at similarities and differences—in plants, in homes, and in people. Jesus' message is that all people are important. Ask to see your child's lesson booklet, and let him or her tell you about the lesson. Share with your child some ways your family can show that all people are children of God. Be sure your child understands why the tax collector's prayer was the better way.

Promise (Grades K–1): This week's session taught your child to recognize that all people are important because God loves them. Talk about what your child chose as his or her favorite color, food, and book. How did your child draw your family, and who did your child choose as their VIP? Talk about ways your family can show other families just how important they are. Make extra efforts this week to ask your child about the things that are important to him or her.

Good News (Grades 2–3): Your child has gained a sense that the saints show ways to follow Jesus. (The Feast of All Saints is Tuesday, November 1.) The session also helped your child understand that all people—living and dead—are special in God's sight. As a family, you might play the "Praise or Putdowns Game" that appears on the last page of the lesson booklet. Talk about ways you can help one another appreciate how God sees all people.

Venture (Grades 4–6): This week the class learned what makes people great in God's eyes. Ask your child to share the Gospel reading of the Pharisee and the tax collector in their own words and tell what the story means. Talk together about what it means to be holy. Talk about ways your family can treat everyone as important. Ask your child how Saint Katharine Drexel did so.

Visions (Grades 7–9): The equality of all people in God's eyes and the dignity of every human being were central themes in this week's lesson. Take the opportunity to talk about how your family treats other people with dignity. Remind one another that the value of every human life is the basis for Catholic social teaching. Talk about World Mission Day and how your family can fulfill our mission like Saint Teresa of Calcutta.

Pray Together

Together read the Gospel parable of the Pharisee and the tax collector. Then spend a moment or two in silence, and then repeat three times the prayer, "Lord, have mercy on us!"







Please present this certificate at the time of payment to have up to 25% of your check's value, excluding tax and tip, donated to the organization above. Not to be used with other coupons or discounts, Tickets are not to be distributed in the restaurant or within the perimeter of the parking area. Valid only for the date listed above. unodoughraisers.com

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Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time (C) October 23, 2022

A Simple Sinner, or Simply a Sinner?

By Fr. Mark Haydu, LC

 \mathbf{C} cholars tell us that no other Gospel **J** talks more about prayer than St. Luke's. Last Sunday's Gospel insisted that we persevere in our prayer. This week we are admonished to pray with humility and sincerity of heart. The prayer of a humble soul does pierce the clouds and rises to the throne of God (see Sirach 35:21).

The Pharisee, Jesus' example of pride, doesn't kneel, bow his head, or sit listening for God's word. Rather, he "takes up his position" and speaks

Sunday Readings

Sirach 35:12-14, 16-18

Give to the Most High as he has given to you, generously, according to your means.

2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18

[Paul said,) "I have competed well; I have finished the race; I have kept the faith."

Luke 18:9-14

[Jesus] then addressed this parable to those who were convinced of their own righteousness and despised everyone else.

a prayer "to himself," listing all of his sacrifices and virtues, apparently as evidence of how much he deserves God's blessings. We can almost read in his words the conviction of how lucky God is to have a Pharisee like him.

In contrast, the tax collector, considered by the Jews to be a sinner and collaborator with evil, slips into the back of the temple. He won't even lift his eyes up to God, as he is ashamed and keenly aware of his unworthiness. He only recalls his sins, beats his chest in penance, and asks for mercy. And, we are told, he goes home "justified." This is the power of humility before God. It is the necessary condition of our salvation and justification.

When we observe someone with Pharisaic presumption it produces in us an interior rejection. Yet, when we witness the vulnerability and self-effacement of one who admits weakness, we are moved to compassion and ready to forgive. If we who are imperfect respond like this, how much more will God respond with mercy to even the most hardened sinners who pray to him with a sincere heart? +

Humility is necessary to our salvation.

A Word from **Pope Francis**

How many times do those who are prominent...raise up walls to increase distances, making other people feel even more rejected? Or by considering them backward and of little worth, they despise their traditions, erase their history, occupy their lands, and usurp their goods....Alleged superiority, ...oppression and exploitation, exist today! HOMILY, ROME, OCTOBER 27, 2019





- Am I more like the selfrighteous Pharisee or the humble tax collector?
- Do I think of myself as superior to anyone? Who? Why?

Harvesting Our Blessings

By Valerie Schultz

¬ oday, when peaches and watermelon are plentiful at any grocery store in January, asparagus is available in August, and grapes are a year-round food staple, it can be difficult to appreciate the importance of the seasonal harvest during the time of Jesus. Jesus lived closer to the earth than we do in third-millennial America. The harvest was the essential indicator of the quality of your nutritional life for the rest of the year; indeed, it foretold whether you would be able to feed your family at all. A good harvest was a time of festivals and thanksgiving for all God had brought to fruition.

When our children were young, we planted a garden every spring. While we were never able to sustain ourselves with what we grew (there were times, in fact, when I think it would have been cheaper to buy the amount we harvested at the grocery store), the care and cultivation of our produce taught us patience.

The long summer of watering and weeding taught us that delayed gratification is the sweetest fruit. Even the pests who sometimes stole our vegetables had a lesson to teach us: share! Learning how things grew berries on vines, apples on trees, carrots underground—helped our children appreciate the wonder of our



God-given earth. They learned there is no such thing as a cupcake bush and that nothing tastes better than a ripe raspberry still warm from the sun.

Parables of the harvest abound in the Gospels. Beloved are the stories of the sower and the seed that fell on different soils (Luke 8:4–15); of the separation of the grain from the weeds (Matthew 13:24–30); of the tiny mustard seed (Matthew 13:31–32); of the withered fig tree (Mark 11:20–24); of the vine and the branches (John 15:1–8). "By their fruits you will know them," says Jesus (Matthew 7:20).

We gardeners relate to the biblical harvest. We know a garden can bring an embarrassment of riches. Friends shake their heads at our recurring baskets of tomatoes. Neighbors close their blinds when we approach with an armload of zucchini. The freezer groans under the weight of frozen herbs and fruits. We are so rich, so blessed!

The harvest is a Christian metaphor for the blessings we reap when we give our lives to Christ. The light of faith ripens us as we age. If we are gardeners of love, the harvest of a life of following Jesus yields a generous bounty of compassion, kindness, and care for our neighbor. "The harvest is abundant but the laborers are few" (Matthew 9:37), says Jesus, calling us to labor in his harvest. Our response to that call makes all the difference. +

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Forgiving God, when we are tempted to imagine ourselves superior to others, please gently correct us and help us see others as you see them. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

The Redemptorists

WEEKDAY READINGS

October 24–29

Monday, Weekday: Eph 4:32—5:8 / Lk 13:10–17 Tuesday, Weekday: Eph 5:21–33 / Lk 13:18–21 Wednesday, Weekday: Eph 6:1–9 / Lk 13:22–30 **Thursday,** Weekday: Eph 6:10–20 / Lk 13:31–35

Friday, Sts. Simon and Jude: Eph 2:19–22 / Lk 6:12–16

Saturday, Weekday: Phil 1:18b–26 / Lk 14:1, 7–11



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