



MUSIC FOR THE LITURGY

Sunday, December 4, 2022
Second Sunday of Advent

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

Gathering: Come, Come, Emmanuel

Responsorial Psalm (Psalm 25)

To you, O Lord, I lift my soul; to you I lift my soul.

Preparation A Voice Cries Out BB 46

Mass Parts Heritage Mass

Communion One Bread, One Body BB 341
 In The Breaking Of The Bread BB 321

Recessional: Ready The Way BB 63
 (All Verses)

✠ 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!

November 20, 2022

Offertory \$6,291.77
Fuel \$1,704.03

November 27, 2022

Offertory \$7,638.00
Christmas Flowers \$1,833.00



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 COLLECTIONS

| | |
|-------------|-----------------------------|
| December 4 | Property Management |
| December 8 | Immaculate Conception |
| December 11 | Retired Religious |
| December 18 | Fuel |
| December 25 | Christmas & Needs of Parish |
| January 1 | Mary, Mother of God |
| January 8 | Property Management |

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.

COLLECTION NOTE

Because of an upcoming change in the Diocesan collection schedule, a Diocesan-wide NH Catholic Appeal will replace certain collections mandated in years past. The Parish **will not** take up a second collection for the **Seminarian Fund (January 8)**. If you use envelopes, please discard these from your box. They will also be removed from the Parish Giving Website.

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 ✠

ADVENT EVENING PRAYER

Join us on Sunday evenings of the Advent season for sung Evening Prayer at 6:00 PM at Mary, Mother of the Church in Newton. The Sacrament of Reconciliation will be available following Evening Prayer.



EARLY BULLETIN DEADLINES

With the holiday season approaching, we have several early bulletin deadlines:

Deadline for the December 18 bulletin is **Monday, December 5 at 12:00 Noon**

Deadline for the December 25 bulletin is **Monday, December 12 at 12:00 Noon**

Deadline for the January 1 bulletin is **Monday, December 19 at 12:00 Noon.**

Deadline for the January 8 bulletin is **Thursday, December 29 at 12:00 Noon.**



IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

The feast of the Immaculate Conception is a Holy Day of Obligation. Our Mass schedule for the holy day is as follows: **Wednesday, December 7 at 6:30 PM in Plaistow and at 8:00 AM in Newton.**

GIVING TREES

Giving Trees are located in the back of both churches. Please take an ornament, buy the item(s) listed, and return it - **with the ornament attached** - to the church or the parish office **no later than December 10-11** (the Third Sunday of Advent).



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.

All are invited to a presentation on *Three Beliefs* at Cotter Hall at St. Michael Parish in Exeter on **Tuesday, November 15 from 7:00 to 9:00 PM.**

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, **December 17, 2022 from 8:00 to 9:00 AM** in the parish hall on the Plaistow campus.

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. 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 / WINTER...

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

✠ WEEKLY CALENDAR ✠

Sunday, December 4

10:00 AM Religious Ed – Grades K-6 *Plaistow*
 6:00 PM Vespers *Newton*
 6:30 PM Sacrament of Reconciliation *Newton*

Monday, December 5

7:00 PM Knights of Columbus *Plaistow*

Tuesday, December 6

6:30 PM The Cultural World of the *Plaistow*
 Old Testament

Wednesday, December 7

Holy Angels Church
 Open All Day For Prayer

Thursday, December 8

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

Saturday, December 10

3:00 PM Sacrament of Reconciliation *Plaistow*

Sunday, December 11

10:00 AM Religious Ed – Grades K-6 *Plaistow*
 6:00 PM Vespers *Newton*
 6:30 PM Sacrament of Reconciliation *Newton*

RESTROOM BREAKS DURING MASS

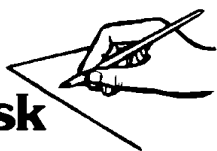
Attention Parents

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.

**From the
 Pastor's Desk**



HOLY ANGELS CEMETERY CLOSED

Holy Angels Cemetery in Plaistow will be closed from December 1, 2022 until Spring 2023. 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, December 3 ~ Second Sunday Of Advent

Is 11:1-10; Rom 15:4-9; Mt 3:1-12 (Vigil)

4:00 PM Eliza and Eugene Ian
 by Andrew Ian and family
Plaistow

Sunday, December 4 ~ Second Sunday Of Advent

Is 11:1-10; Rom 15:4-9; Mt 3:1-12

8:00 AM Thomas Antczak by the Burge family
Newton
 10:00 AM John Delle Chiaie by the Lawrence family
Plaistow

Monday, December 5 ~ Advent Weekday

Is 35:1-10; Lk 5:17-26

8:00 AM Ruth Harrigan (Month's Mind)
Newton

Tuesday, December 6 ~ Nicholas, Bishop

Is 40:1-11; Mt 18:12-14

8:00 AM For the Benefit of Members of the Prayer
 Shawl Committee, Past and Present
 by Barbara Metcalf
Plaistow

Wednesday, December 7 ~ Ambrose, Bishop and
 Doctor of the Church

Is 40:25-31; Mt 11:28-30

6:30 PM Madeleine Aucoin by Cathy Smith
Plaistow

Thursday, December 8 ~ Immaculate Conception of Mary

Gn 3:9-15, 20; Eph 1:3-6, 11-12; Lk 1:26-38

8:00 AM Patricia Bohnwagner (Month's Mind)
Newton

Friday, December 9 ~ Juan Diego Cuauhtlatotzin

Is 48:17-19; Mt 11:16-19

NO MASS

Saturday, December 10 ~ Advent Weekday

Sir 48:1-4, 9-11; Mt 17:9a, 10-13 (Day)

Is 35:1-6a, 10; Jas 5:7-10; Mt 11:2-11 (Vigil)

4:00 PM Deceased Members of the Fogel Family and
 Frank Kelcourse by Elaine Kelcourse
Plaistow

Sunday, December 11 ~ Second Sunday in Advent

Is 35:1-6a, 10; Jas 5:7-10; Mt 11:2-11

8:00 AM Michelina Inzero by the Stanley family
Newton
 10:00 AM Donald Nadeau by Bob and Sandy Nadeau
Plaistow



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 Vigil Light in front of the Blessed Mother icon Mary, Mother of the Church will burn this week in loving memory of

Thomas Antczak
by the Burge family

CANDLES

The Sanctuary Candles in both Newton and Plaistow may be offered in memory or honor of a loved one, as well as the Vigil Light in front of the Blessed Mother Icon in Newton. The suggested offering for each is \$10.00. Please call the Parish Office at 382-8324.

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

SPIRITUAL DIRECTION

Among believers and spiritual seekers from many religious traditions, there is a growing awareness of the importance of spirituality. To respond to this growing awareness, there is need for qualified, compassionate spiritual experts who can accompany and help others explore their faith. Merrimack College's graduate programs in spirituality prepare you for a life of spiritual exploration, engagement, and service. You will acquire the theological knowledge and ministerial experience you need to enrich your own faith and to support others in their spiritual journey. Designed to fit your schedule and meet your needs, our spirituality programs offer evening classes as well as five tracks based on your professional goals and interests. You must choose one of the master's tracks or certificate programs by the time you have completed two of the core courses and/or the year-long seminar or practicum.

The application deadline for the Spring 2023 course is **January 5, 2023**. For more information, go to www.merrimack.edu/spirit.

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

We are truly blessed to have times for Adoration of Our Lord in our Parish. This time of prayer and intercession is not only a source of great grace for the individual, but it is a great source of grace for us as a parish family, as well.

We have many who have made the commitment to spend an hour each week with our Eucharistic Lord, **but** we need more people so there will be at least two people at each hour. We are also looking for people who would be able to substitute.

**Newton – Thursday
8:30 AM – 8:30 PM**

If you can commit to one hour a week in Adoration of our Lord, or if you can be a substitute, please contact Cathy Smith at 603-382-8324, ext. 305 or email her at csmith@stluketheevangelist.net.

The Church in Plaistow is open all day on Wednesdays for people to stop by and pray before the presence of Jesus in the tabernacle.

✕ PARISH DIRECTORY ✕

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

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

❖ Community News ❖



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 non-perishable 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.

CAMPS BERNADETTE AND FATIMA

Summer 2023 Registration Has Begun! New camp families can register for our Summer 2023 season now. Don't delay. Spaces fill quickly! Secure your space and spread payments over several months. New Hampshire Catholic School students and registered New Hampshire parishioners receive 15% off. You won't want to miss out on all of the excitement, joy, and friendships that come with a summer at camp! Contact Andrew Thibault for more information at: (603) 931-5500, ext. 114.

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 at the Sato Center in Hookset, NH. To find out more, contact Mark Collopy at 603-833-7341 or explore www.nhcursillo.org.



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.

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, December 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.



The Knights of Columbus, Council #6617 would like to welcome our 2022 new members.

**Dave Touhey
Charlie Bourouphael
Paul Wilson
Brian Lessard
Tom Dawson**

Consider joining them and the other Knights who have dedicated themselves to **HELPING OUR NEIGHBORS NEED**

For more information about joining, contact Dan Sullivan at 603-770-4803, email him at dans49@comcast.com or you can now join online at www.kofc.org/joinus.

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



**SAINT LUKE THE EVANGELIST PARISH
ADULT FAITH FORMATION
WINTER, 2023**



THE CULTURAL WORLD OF THE NEW TESTAMENT

Understanding the New Testament requires more than a willing heart and open mind. It also assumes that the reader is open to exploring the world view and self-understanding of the New Testament authors and community.

Continuing our discussion from the Fall presentations on the Old Testament, we will attempt to depart from the 21st century and enter the world of our 1st century AD ancestors, perhaps to encounter our faith tradition from a new context. Such a perspective will then allow us to re-inform our reading of the New Testament text with an enriched appreciation of the narrative, setting, and assumptions presumed by the original inspired authors and communities.

One does not have to attend the previous Fall sessions to join us in the Winter session. Required text: New American Bible (NAB), New Revised Standard Version (NRSV) or New Jerusalem Bible (NJB)

Instructor: Rev. Albert Tremblay, obl. SB

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

Group will meet in the Plaistow Church Hall



Name _____

PLEASE PRINT

Address _____

Phone _____

E-Mail _____



Cell Phone _____

**Tuesday evenings, 6:30 – 8:00 PM
Plaistow Church Hall
January 3, 10, 24, 31, February 7, 14**

2022 Christmas Fair Totals

Gross Income: \$22,257

Est. Net Profit: \$19,806

 **Saint Luke**
the Evangelist
Parish 

An outstanding job done by the entire parish community!!!

The success of our annual fair depends/relies/rests ENTIRELY on the participation, donations, encouragement, blood, sweat, tears, and prayers of each and everyone of you. Every year, your generous donations pour in; you sign up and show up to volunteer, and then, what seems to be complete chaos, transforms into a magical, 6-hour display of community spirit, holiday charm, and an impressive 'bottom line'. That is the result of a united front!!

In years past, I've listed out the names of everyone I could remember who helped the fair in some way or another. This year, however, the list is well over 200 people and I am positive I would have still unintentionally forgotten to mention someone from that list. So instead, this year, you all get one huge, very special THANK YOU for every little, or big, way you contributed to the Fair. Your efforts are reflected in the bottom line, as well as etched into my grateful heart. God sees what we do for others and rewards each of us in His own way. May God bless each and everyone of you this holiday season.

Sincerely with Love and Gratitude,

Julie Lamere, Christmas Fair Lead



HELP WANTED:

"Running the Fair" is a HUGE job and the Christmas Craft Fair Lead **needs** one, or more, partners in crime, helper elves, a couple 'gal-Friday's, or assistants extraordinaire. The perfect person (s) will have their own reliable mode of transportation, their own laptop, and be comfortable working with Excel and Word. This person must be reliable, organized, have a flexible schedule, able to make phone calls, enter data, keep lists, cut paper, have a basic knowledge of 'overwhelmed gibberish', and be able to schlep stuff on occasion. Is this you? If yes, please email Julie Lamere at stlukenhfair@gmail.com to set up an informal meeting where we can chat more about ways you might be able to help.

ALSO WANTED: Your BRIGHT IDEAS

Do you have an idea/thought/suggestion that might make our fair more awesome, cool, special, profitable, fun, entertaining, delicious, creative, efficient, effective, etc.? All ideas are appreciated & seriously considered. Even if you think your idea might be "obvious", Email stlukenhfair@gmail.com



Besides sharing Christmas joy through the Giving Tree, our Saint Luke the Evangelist Parish Food Pantry provides Christmas Dinners to needy families in our area. The cost of purchasing items for the baskets typically runs to well over \$2000.00, and with hard times facing so many, we anticipate the need to be even greater than previous years.

If you would like to contribute towards the cost of CHRISTMAS DINNER BASKETS, please place your contribution in an envelope marked *“Christmas dinner baskets,”* and place it in the offering basket. You may also visit the Parish Office or Food Pantry and make a contribution in person.

Thank you for your support of the poor among us.

**SAINT LUKE THE EVANGELIST PARISH
LITURGICAL CALENDAR ADVENT-CHRISTMAS, 2022-23**

GIVING TREE GIFTS DUE DECEMBER 10-11 – Advent 3

| | |
|--|---|
| ADVENT 1 Sunday, November 27 | Regular weekend schedule 6:00 PM Advent Evening Prayer (Newton) 6:30 PM Sacrament of Reconciliation (Newton) |
| ADVENT 2 Sunday, December 4 | Regular weekend schedule 6:00 PM Advent Evening Prayer (Newton) 6:30 PM Sacrament of Reconciliation (Newton) |
| Wednesday, December 7 | Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the BVM Patronal Feast of the USA Holy Day Vigil Liturgy 6:30 PM (Plaistow) |
| Thursday, December 8 | Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the BVM Patronal Feast of the USA Holy Day Liturgy 8:00 AM (Newton) |
| ADVENT 3 Sunday, December 11 | Regular weekend schedule 6:00 PM Advent Evening Prayer (Newton) 6:30 PM Sacrament of Reconciliation (Newton) |
| Wednesday, December 14 | LAST DAY TO RETURN GIVING TREE GIFTS AT PARISH OFFICE |
| ADVENT 4 Sunday, December 18 | Regular weekend schedule 6:00 PM Advent Evening Prayer (Newton) 6:30 PM Sacrament of Reconciliation (Newton) |

Giving Tree gifts due today!

**PARISH OFFICES CLOSED: DEC. 23, 26 & 30
PARISH OFFICE RESUMES REGULAR HOURS AS OF JAN 2**

CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE
(A Holy Day of Obligation)

NOTE CHANGE FROM OUR REGULAR SUNDAY SCHEDULE

Saturday, December 24 VIGIL OF THE NATIVITY
4:00 PM Liturgy (Plaistow)
6:30 PM Liturgy (Newton)

**Sunday, December 25 SOLEMNITY OF THE NATIVITY
OF THE LORD**
9:00 am Liturgy (Newton)

| | |
|-----------------------|---|
| Monday, December 26 | NO MASS |
| Thursday, December 29 | No Adoration at Newton |
| Saturday, December 31 | 4:00 PM Vigil Liturgy, SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD, OCTAVE OF CHRISTMAS <i>(A Holy Day of Obligation)</i> (Plaistow) |
| Sunday, January 1 | SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD OCTAVE OF CHRISTMAS <i>(A Holy Day of Obligation)</i> 8:00 am Liturgy (Newton) 10:00 am Liturgy (Plaistow) 6:00 PM Christmas Evening Prayer (Newton) |
| Saturday, January 7 | 3:00 PM Sacrament of Reconciliation (Plaistow) 4:00 PM Vigil - THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD (Plaistow) |
| Sunday, January 8 | 8:00 am Liturgy, THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD (Newton) 10:00 am Liturgy, THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD (Plaistow) 6:00 PM Christmas Evening Prayer (Newton) |
| Monday, January 9 | 8:00 am Liturgy, BAPTISM OF THE LORD (Newton) 6:00 PM Christmas Evening Prayer (Newton) |

The Gospel at Home

This Week's Gospel: Matthew 3:1-12

In this Sunday's Gospel, John the Baptist urges people to turn toward God. He baptizes people when they want to change their lives. John insists that Baptism expresses a real change of heart and not a shallow safeguard against God's judgment. Note: For this year, the Feast of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary is a Holy Day of Obligation that will be celebrated Thursday, December 8.

Exploring the Gospel Message

Seeds (Preschool): Your child is continuing his or her journey to Jesus' birth by learning more about John the Baptist and preparing for Christmas. The class learned about Mary, the Mother of Jesus. Ask your child to tell you about Jesus' human mother. Talk with your child about how we receive messages from others. Ask your child to show you what he or she drew on the Christmas tree ornament in this week's lesson.

Promise (Grades K-1): In the spirit of John the Baptist's preaching, your child's class discussed their experiences of preparing for an event, such as what it takes to get ready for a new baby in the family; they also talked about how Mary and Joseph got ready for the coming of the Baby Jesus. Your child made a booklet about that preparation. One page of the booklet is a day-by-day calendar. Starting on December 6, the Feast of Saint Nicholas, remind your child to outline one of the boxes on that page each day until Christmas. Discuss how each image relates to your celebration of Advent and Christmas.

Good News (Grades 2-3): This week the class learned how the prophet Isaiah and John the Baptist prepared the way for Jesus. Ask your child to tell you what a prophet does. Talk

about how your family can prepare the way for Jesus by making good choices and doing what is right. Your child can tell you how he or she is committed to making peace.

Venture (Grades 4-6): Ask your youngster to share with the family how the prophet Isaiah described the "Kingdom of Peace." Discuss how your young person will "be a star" during Advent. Let your youngster lead the family in choosing things to do for the coming feast of Christmas. He or she can use the suggestions from the Week 2 Calendar List featured on Page 5.

Visions (Grades 7-9): The lesson this week started with an explanation of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary. That feast day falls on December 8. Your youngster should be able to tell you what the Immaculate Conception refers to. This week your youngster's class also created a Jesse Tree. This activity can help your family focus on the season as a time to prepare for the birth of Jesus and for the rebirth of love in your hearts. Ask your son or daughter to explain the significance of the Jesse Tree to your family, and lead everyone in creating one for your home. Be sure to spend some time talking about John the Baptist's call for all people to have a change of heart as they prepare for the coming Savior.

Pray Together

To celebrate the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, add the Hail Mary prayer to your Advent wreath prayer this week. You may even want to place a statue or picture of Mary in the center of your wreath.



BAPTISM

Baptism is the first of seven sacraments and the way in which a person becomes a member of the Catholic Church.

WHO CAN RECEIVE A CATHOLIC BAPTISM?

Anyone who has not already been baptized can receive the sacrament of Baptism in the Catholic Church. Baptism leaves an *indelible* (permanent) mark on the soul and there is no way nor any reason that one could be or should be re-baptized. There are no age restrictions for baptism; one can be baptized as an infant, or as an adult. In other words, nobody is ever too old or too young to be baptized.



In the Catholic Church today, people are usually baptized as infants by a priest or deacon. There are extreme cases, however, when even an unbaptized person can baptize someone. All that is required is the will to do what the Church does, and to apply the Trinitarian Baptismal formula which is “I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

The Catholic Church recognizes any baptism that uses water and in which the person baptized was baptized with the Trinitarian formula. Some churches do not use the Trinitarian formula for baptism and thus their baptisms are not valid.

THE GIFT OF BAPTISM

When it comes down to it, baptism is a gift from God to humanity. Baptism initiates us into the family of God and cleanses us of sin. We do not need to earn this gift. God gives it freely to all who are open to it. For someone who is baptized as an infant, the personal response of faith comes as the child grows to respond to the graces given in baptism.

Baptism is connected to faith, and this connection is not lost when an infant is baptized. The *Apostolic Tradition* (usually attributed to St. Hippolytus) was written in the early third century. It states: “Baptize first the children, and if they can speak for themselves let them do so. Otherwise, let their parents or other relatives speak for them.” Today, the Church still recognizes the connection between faith and baptism. When a child is baptized, the parents’ faith speaks for the child who is too young to have explicit faith on his or her own. This is why the Church requires a reasonable hope that the parents will raise the child in the Catholic faith before a child is baptized.

WHAT DOES THE GRACE OF BAPTISM ACCOMPLISH?

Baptism forgives all sins that may have been committed prior to a person’s baptism including original sin, mortal sins, and venial sins, and it relieves the punishment for those sins. It makes the newly baptized person “a new creature,” transforming the person into an adopted child of God and a member of Christ. Baptism incorporates a person into the Church, which is the body of Christ. It brings someone into the flock of the faithful and brings them to share in the royal priesthood of Christ (1 Pet. 2:9-10). Catholic baptism gives a share in the common priesthood of all believers, and it also brings about the sacramental bond of the unity of Christians. Last, but certainly not least, baptism leaves an indelible spiritual mark (character) of belonging to Christ on the soul. Nothing anyone can do in terms of sin can erase this mark. Sin may prevent one from being open to the salvation God offers through baptism, but a baptized person will always carry the mark of a Christian on their soul.



Bringing Home the Word

Second Sunday of Advent (A)
December 4, 2022

Creating God's Kingdom

By Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA

At times, God's presence among us is so unspectacular that we need someone else to point it out—someone with a loud voice. That seems to have been the role of John the Baptist. His lifestyle and his message certainly caught everyone's attention. But when he caught their attention, he directed it away from himself to the kingdom of heaven.

He called it a kingdom because that was the government people of his time knew. (Jesus, too, often spoke of his kingdom.) However, the kingdom John referred to is not one of military power

and privilege but a "peaceable kingdom," where animals that are normally feared as predators live with each other in peace. A beautiful picture, but is it a possibility or just fantasy? The people believed that some day one would be born who would rule this way, thus enabling them to become a genuine peaceable kingdom. This kingdom would not be made of animals but of women and men of different races, cultures, and beliefs; women and men who would recognize each other's God-given uniqueness and would create genuine unity from this diversity.

John the Baptist declared that this kingdom "is at hand." Is it? Do we strive to live peacefully with the great diversity of people of our world? Or are we smug as we proclaim: "We have Abraham as our father" (Matthew 3:9), so we are right and you are wrong. The people of John's time should have known better. We should, too. John cries out to them—and to us: "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!" (Matthew 3:2). +

*Do we strive to
live peacefully with
the great diversity
of people of our world?*

Sunday Readings

Isaiah 11:1–10

He shall judge the poor with justice, and decide fairly for the land's afflicted.

Romans 15:4–9

May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to think in harmony with one another, in keeping with Christ Jesus.

Matthew 3:1–12

[John the Baptist said,] "Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths."

A Word from Pope Francis

God changes the desert into a sea, parched ground into springs of water....God turns his gaze to wherever sadness and loneliness abound....He comes to us in difficult situations; he fills our inner emptiness that makes room for him; he visits our existential deserts. The Lord visits us there.

Homily, Athens, December 5, 2021



REFLECTION QUESTIONS



- How open are you to people of different faiths, races, or nations?
- What can you do to make real the peaceable kingdom of heaven?

The Deeper Dramas of Our Relationships

By Fr. John F. Kavanaugh

It is first and foremost in our relationships, our families, our friends, that God is encountered, that faith is given flesh, that our theories of justice are tested out, that our prayer is made real, that dreams are actualized.

Even the great mystic teacher St. Teresa of Ávila insisted on that truth: when people came inquiring about the heights of holy prayer, she would ask how their relationships were going. And the great skeptic Freud knew it, too: the stage of the ordinary, of the family, was where the deepest dramas are played out.

Our most profound sufferings, our greatest heroics, our most significant encounters with God are here with these people we know and love, in their goodness, in their weakness. Where else do we most intimately encounter what Paul calls the “requirements” of love: those crucibles of patience, the winnowing of humility, the courage of forgiveness, the comfort of kindness?

It is easy to love humanity. It is quite another thing to love this particular family, who is so close to me, so like me. But when it happens, there is glory, even if the sword pierces the heart.

- A man entrusts his only son, merely twenty-eight but at the gate of death, to the arms of God.
- A woman sees every one of her brothers and sisters die—and she trusts.



- A young son goes to his parents with news that is first sad, and then is transformed, like a butterfly, into soaring grace.
- A spouse forgives the deep wound of infidelity.
- A child gives the mother a flower, so unexpected, for the first time.
- A husband cares for a wife, who has multiple sclerosis, for twenty years. After she parts from this world, he himself, suddenly unmoored in the abyss of Alzheimer's, is cared for by the daughter he once had to forgive.
- A mother still stands by with her teenager who seems neither kind nor appreciative.

It is all here, in our homes, in the pews of our churches, in our friends, in our families.

Here is the holy ground. Here is the face of God, the smile shining upon us, the kindly gaze upon us. These are arks of the covenant. These are the holy of holies if we only look, like Simeon; if we only see, like Anna; if only, like Mary, we take time to ponder it all in our hearts. +

Excerpted from *Daybreaks: Daily Reflections for Advent and Christmas* by Fr. John F. Kavanaugh, SJ, available from Liguori Publications. Visit Liguori.org to learn more and review our list of *Daybreaks* authors, including Fr. Ron Rolheiser, Sr. Dianne Bergant, Fr. Daniel Horan, and others.

The stage of the ordinary, of the family, is where the deepest dramas play out.

**PRAYER**

Lord Jesus, so that by our words and our actions we may point the way to you, we pray—Be born in us, be born in our world.

The Redemptorists

WEEKDAY READINGS

December 5–10

Monday, Advent Weekday:
Is 35:1–10 / Lk 5:17–26


Tuesday, Advent Weekday:
Is 40:1–11 / Mt 18:12–14

Wednesday, Saint Ambrose:
Is 40:25–31 / Mt 11:28–30

Thursday, Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary: Gn 3:9–15, 20 / Eph 1:3–6, 11–12 / Lk 1:26–38

Friday, Advent Weekday:
Is 48:17–19 / Mt 11:16–19

Saturday, Advent Weekday:
Sir 48:1–4, 9–11 / Mt 17:9a, 10–13

Bringing Home
the **Word** 
December 4, 2022

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