

**MUSIC FOR THE LITURGY**  
**Sunday, December 18, 2022**  
**Fourth 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: Maranatha BB 67  
 Mass Parts: Heritage Mass  
 Communion: Ubi Caritas BB 328  
 Seed, Scattered And Sown BB 333  
 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!

**COLLECTION AMOUNTS FOR  
 DECEMBER 11, 2022  
 WILL APPEAR IN NEXT WEEK'S BULLETIN**



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 18 Fuel  
 December 25 Christmas & Needs of Parish  
 January 1 Mary, Mother of God  
 January 8 Property Management  
 January 15 No Second Collection

**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.



**CLOTHING DRIVE**

**Kimberly's 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Holiday Give Away!!!**

Another year, another collection!!! I am so happy to be able to continue what started as a confirmation project 17 years ago, and now has become a well known annual event! We will be collecting clothing and nonperishable food items on January 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> at Holy Angels Church Hall (downstairs from the church), from 12:00 to 4:00 PM each day.

We will be accepting donations for Catie's Closet, Ruth's House, Emmaus House, Epilepsy Foundation, Wish Project, and Saint Luke's Food Pantry. We are accepting CLEAN clothing of any size, any season, any decade. Any donations of socks or underwear must be new and packaged.

If you have any questions, concerns, or would like to volunteer, please contact me at: [kimberly-andrade@comcast.net](mailto:kimberly-andrade@comcast.net).

Thank you so much for your continued support throughout the years! May God continue to bless you all, and I wish you and your families a safe and healthy holiday season!

Kimberly Clenord



The Sanctuary Candle in Holy Angels Church will burn this week in loving memory of **Mark Hammond & Paul O'Leary** by Colleen Hammond

The Vigil Light in front of the Blessed Mother icon at Mary Mother of the Church will burn this week in loving memory of **Wallace 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.

**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, **January 21, 2023 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.amazonsmile.com](http://www.amazonsmile.com). For questions, please call the Parish Office at 603-382-8324. Be sure to choose:

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

**GIVING TREES**

Thanks to all who took ornaments from the Giving Tree this year. You have helped to make the Christmas season brighter for children of the community and for many people who are struggling to make ends meet. Your generosity is truly appreciated!



**WHILE AWAY THIS WINTER...**

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

✠ WEEKLY CALENDAR ✠

**Sunday, December 18**

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

**Tuesday, December 20**

6:00 PM Finance Council Meeting *Plaistow*

**Wednesday, December 21**

Holy Angels Church

Open All Day For Prayer

7:00 PM St. Vincent de Paul Society Meeting *Plaistow*

**Thursday, December 22**

NO ADORATION IN NEWTON

**Saturday, December 24**

NO SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

**NO ADORATION**

There is NO Adoration in Newton on Thursday, December 22 or on Thursday, December 29. Adoration in Newton will resume on Thursday, January 5, 2023.

**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](mailto: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 17 ~ Fourth Sunday Of Advent**

*Is 7:10-14; Rom 1:1-7; Mt 1:18-24 (Vigil)*

4:00 PM Mark Hammond and Paul O'Leary  
 by Colleen Hammond  
*Plaistow*

**Sunday, December 18 ~ Fourth Sunday Of Advent**

*Is 7:10-14; Rom 1:1-7; Mt 1:18-24*

8:00 AM Wallace Antczak by the Burge family  
*Newton*  
 10:00 AM Jesselyn Driscoll by her family  
*Plaistow*

**Monday, December 19 ~ Late Advent Weekday**

*Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a; Lk 1:5-25*

8:00 AM John Malone (Month's Mind)  
*Newton*

**Tuesday, December 20 ~ Late Advent Weekday**

*Is 7:10-14; Lk 1:26-38*

8:00 AM All Souls Intentions  
*Plaistow*

**Wednesday, December 21 ~ Peter Canisius, Priest and Doctor of the Church**

*Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a; Lk 1:39-45*

6:30 PM Madeleine Aucoin by the Parish  
*Plaistow*

**Thursday, December 22 ~ Late Advent Weekday**

*1 Sm 1:24-28; Lk 1:46-56*

8:00 AM Brunhilde Convery (Month's Mind)  
*Newton*

**Friday, December 23 ~ John of Kanty, Priest**

*Mal 3:1-4, 23-24; Lk 1:57-66*

NO MASS

**Saturday, December 24 ~ Late Advent Weekday**

*2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Lk 1:67-79 (Day)*

*Is 62:1-5; Acts 13:16-17, 22-25; Mt 1:1-25 (Vigil)*

4:00 PM People of the Parish  
*Plaistow*  
 6:30 PM People of the Parish  
*Newton*

**Sunday, December 25 ~ The Nativity Of The Lord**

*Is 52:7-10; Heb 1:1-6; Jn 1:1-18*

9:00 AM People of the Parish  
*Newton*



**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.**

**EARLY BULLETIN DEADLINES**

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

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.**

**PARISH OFFICE CLOSED**

The Parish Office will be **closed on Monday, December 26.** The office will reopen at 8:30 AM on Tuesday, December 27. Our regular office hours are Monday through Thursday from 8:30 AM to 12:00 Noon and from 1:00 to 4:30 PM. The office is closed on Fridays.

**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)

**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](http://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](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. 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.

### 28<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL ST. JUDE GOLF OPEN

The Knights of Columbus are seeking a potential recipient(s) for the 2023 Open which will be held in early June. The Open provides help to an individual(s) or family(s) who are facing financial hardship through no fault of their own. Do you know of anyone in the area that may benefit from the 2023 Open? If you do, please contact the Grand Knight, Peter Richards at 603-382-4315 or [pmpjps6@comcast.net](mailto:pmpjps6@comcast.net) for additional information.

### 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](http://www.nhcursillo.org).



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.

### 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.**



### 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.net](mailto:dans49@comcast.net), or join online at [www.kofc.org/joinus](http://www.kofc.org/joinus)

**THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS**  
**ST. JUDE COUNCIL #6617**  
[www.kofc6617.org](http://www.kofc6617.org)





**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**

<b>ADVENT 1</b> Sunday, November 27	Regular weekend schedule 6:00 PM Advent Evening Prayer (Newton) 6:30 PM Sacrament of Reconciliation (Newton)
<b>ADVENT 2</b> 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)
<b>ADVENT 3</b> Sunday, December 11	Regular weekend schedule 6:00 PM Advent Evening Prayer (Newton) 6:30 PM Sacrament of Reconciliation (Newton)
Giving Tree gifts due today!	
Wednesday, December 14	<b>LAST DAY TO RETURN GIVING TREE GIFTS AT PARISH OFFICE</b>
<b>ADVENT 4</b> Sunday, December 18	Regular weekend schedule 6:00 PM Advent Evening Prayer (Newton) 6:30 PM Sacrament of Reconciliation (Newton)

**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 1:18-24

Joseph faces a dilemma in this Sunday's Gospel. He is engaged to Mary, but she is pregnant and Joseph is not the father. By legal right, Joseph could accuse Mary of adultery and subject her to the punishment of death by stoning. Instead, Joseph takes her and Baby Jesus to live with him as his wife and adopted son. They form a family circle in which Mary and Joseph raise and nurture Jesus. Matthew points Jesus out as Emmanuel, meaning, "God-with-us," which fulfills Isaiah's ancient description of the Messiah.

## Exploring the Gospel Message

**Seeds (Preschool):** This week the class learned that an angel spoke to Joseph about Mary and Jesus. The class also talked about waiting for Jesus. Talk with your child about how the wait is almost over. The class also made and decorated paper Christmas trees. Display your child's tree in a prominent place in the home. Attach the final flamed candle to your child's little Advent wreath and discuss all of the ways your family has prepared for Christmas during Advent.

**Promise (Grades K-1):** Christmas is just days away, and your child will be filled with anticipation. Waiting gets harder and harder as Christmas nears. Ask your child to share the stories of Joseph and Mary with the angels. Be sure to ask why Joseph and Mary gave Jesus his name. You can also tell your child about his or her name. Talk as a family about all the ways you each have said yes to God's will like Mary and Joseph did. Pray for God's help to continue saying yes to him in your lives.

**Good News (Grades 2-3):** This week your child's class learned about Joseph's fears and excitement leading up to the birth of Jesus. Ask your child to share with the family the Gospel

story of Joseph and the angel. Your child also made a "Christmas Prayers Centerpiece." Display this on your kitchen table to remind you to pray together each day leading up to Christmas day.

**Venture (Grades 4-6):** Your youngster learned about some of the symbols of the Christmas season. Ask him or her to tell the family about these symbols. One symbol children strongly associate with Christmas is gifts. Ask your young person to tell your family the story of Amy and Darcy's bus ride and discuss how the girls must have felt when Darcy gave Amy her book. Finally, spend some time talking about Saint Joseph—the foster father of Jesus. What do the Gospels say about him? Be sure to include a simple prayer to Saint Joseph, such as: "Dear Saint Joseph, help us follow in the footsteps of Jesus."

**Visions (Grades 7-9):** The theme of this week's lesson was dreaming. The word dream often is a symbol for what people hope for the future. Ask your young person to share with you the story of Martin the Shoemaker and how Martin met Jesus. These days before Christmas are a good time to talk about your hopes and dreams for your family, your Church, your community, and for the world. The class also celebrated *Las Posadas*, a traditional Spanish Advent event. Ask your child to share what they learned about *Las Posadas*, and lead your family through the script on page 5.

## Pray Together

When your conversation is over, ask for Mary and Joseph to pray for Jesus and the Holy Spirit to watch over your family as you try to follow the example set by the Holy Family. Finish by praying an Our Father and a Hail Mary together.





# **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.



## **WHY ARE CHILDREN BAPTIZED?**

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.



# Bringing Home the Word

Fourth Sunday of Advent (A)  
December 18, 2022

## He Is One of Us

By Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA

The Incarnation means God is one of us. He is made of our flesh and blood; he laughs, sings, and loves people. Though we believe he is God, he is still one of us. We can choose him to be on our team, trusting he will play to win.

When identifying ourselves, we normally tell others what we do. Societies like the one to which Jesus belonged usually identified themselves by tracing ancestry. As Isaiah tells us today, Jesus belonged to the house of David. Paul says that he was of David “according to the flesh” (Romans 1:3). The Gospel identifies Joseph as a “son of David” (Matthew 1:20). Since Jesus was considered Joseph’s legal son, he

also was a “son of David.” Joseph is told that the child will be called Emmanuel, which means “God is with us” (Matthew 1:23). Thus, Incarnation means God is with us in a unique way in this man who is one of us. The Incarnation also gives extraordinary dignity to material creation, of which we are all a part and of which he is a part as well, for he is one of us. In other words, Emmanuel (God with us) is a Child of earth.

Like Joseph, we cannot fully comprehend what has happened. We can only stand with him in awe as this wondrous mystery unfolds before us. As we await Christmas, we wait for him to appear. When he comes, we will be amazed to see that he is really one of us. +

### A Word from Pope Francis

Joseph trusts God totally.... This unshakable trust in God that enabled him to accept a humanly difficult...situation. Joseph understands, in faith, that the child born in Mary’s womb is not his child, but the Son of God, and he, Joseph, will be [the] guardians.

Angelus, Rome, December 22, 2019



## Sunday Readings

### Isaiah 7:10-14

The Lord himself will give you a sign.

### Romans 1:1-7

Through [Jesus Christ] we have received the grace of apostleship.

### Matthew 1:18-24

“Behold, the virgin shall be with child and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel,” which means “God is with us.”

*Though we believe  
Jesus is God,  
he is still one of us.*



- How does knowing that Jesus is one of us make a difference in your life?
- What religious sentiments fill your mind and heart as we approach Christmas?

# What the World Needs

By Emily Blasik

As corny as it may sound, the last two months of the year are my favorites out of the twelve. From the start of November on, it's as if something changes in the air.

The change is subtle, but I start to see it everywhere: I see it on early-morning walks before the sun has fully risen, when the grass is wet beneath my feet, and the weather is cool enough even in the South to warrant a cup of hot cocoa.

I see it on the face of every young child in anticipation of Santa's arrival. I feel it driving to work with the radio turned up, each song chanting like a countdown of the time before Christmas.

I relish it in the window displays of my favorite city storefronts.

People are nicer this time of year. They seem to be more patient and less bogged down by the weight of their world. And it's been my experience that even those who claim to hate Christmas music or the cold or the other trappings of the season can't help but smile a little brighter come December.

But why? What is it about this season that makes us a little giddy, despite ourselves? For me, it's the collective anticipation that springs to life in everyone I encounter. As a society,



holidays tend to captivate us, so we plan and prepare tirelessly. We love it because it's exciting to have something to look forward to. The stockings are hung on our mantles, the gifts are bought and wrapped with care, the cookies are baked and decorated—all a foretaste of and ways to celebrate what's ahead.

Our celebrations and holiday traditions hold deep meaning. For us, as Christians, who recognize the importance of this holiday season, the joy simply can't be contained. And it shouldn't be! It's meant to be shared. Christmas carols and cakes are great, but the news of our Savior's birth is enough to change us all, believers and nonbelievers alike. As a community in need of hope and light and love, we await his precious coming like a child awaits Christmas morning—with anxious hearts and sleepless eyes—because we know it's what this world needs most.

So light your candles. Prepare your homes. Loudly sing the hymns of Advent. Be joyful and anticipate the coming of Christ with all you have. Is there a better reason to celebrate? +

This article is from *Liguorian*, a bimonthly magazine published by the Redemptorists. To subscribe or give a gift subscription, go to [Liguorian.org](http://Liguorian.org) or call 866-848-2492.

Next week our churches will fill with those who don't come regularly, sometimes referred to as Christmas and Easter (C&E) Catholics. In one parish, just before the collection, the pastor suggested that those who were sitting change places with those who were standing. (He even offered his seat in the sanctuary!) Make the strangers welcome. Maybe they'll come back.



*Lord Jesus, so that the world may put away the weapons of war and embrace the ways of peace, love, and holiness, we pray—Be born in us, be born in our world.*

The Redemptorists

## WEEKDAY READINGS

December 19–24

**Monday**, Advent Weekday:  
Jgs 13:2–7, 24–25a / Lk 1:5–25


**Tuesday**, Advent Weekday:  
Is 7:10–14 / Lk 1:26–38

**Wednesday**, Advent Weekday:  
Sg 2:8–14 or Zep 3:14–18a / Lk 1:39–45

**Thursday**, Advent Weekday:  
1 Sm 1:24–28 / Lk 1:46–56

**Friday**, Advent Weekday:  
Mal 3:1–4, 23–24 / Lk 1:57–66

**Saturday**, Advent Weekday (Morning):  
2 Sm 7:1–5, 8b–12, 14a, 16 / Lk 1:67–79

Bringing Home  
the **Word** 

December 18, 2022

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