

MUSIC FOR THE LITURGY

Sunday, January 15, 2023

**Second Sunday
In Ordinary Time**

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

Gathering: All Are Welcome BB 421

Responsorial Psalm (Psalm 103)

*Loving and forgiving are you, Oh Lord;
slow to anger, rich in kindness, loving
and forgiving are you.*

Preparation Christ, Be Our Light BB 601

Mass Parts Mass Of Creation

Communion Eye Has Not Seen BB 473
One Bread, One Body BB 341

Recessional: Lord, You Give The Great Commission
BB 380

✠ 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!

January 1, 2023
Solemnity of Mary \$12,198.12

January 8, 2023
Offertory \$5,817.48
Property Management \$1,437.00



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

January 15	No Second Collection
January 22	Fuel
January 29	No Second Collection
February 5	Property Management
February 12	Catholic Schools

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.

NEW HAMPSHIRE CATHOLIC APPEAL

The Diocese of Manchester has created a new annual New Hampshire Catholic Appeal (NHCA) to enable the Catholic Church in New Hampshire to meet the increasing needs of parishes, retired clergy, seminarians, Catholic schools, and much more. Our parish will begin participating in the NHCA in May 2023. Additional information will be made available in the future.

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 ✠

PARISH OFFICE CLOSED

In observance of the Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday, the Parish Office will be closed on **Monday, January 16**. The office will reopen on Tuesday, January 17.

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.

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 jtremblay@stluketheevangelist.net or call 603-382-8324. If you are new to our parish, registration forms are available at the entrances of both churches. You can also find a registration form on our website at <http://stlukenh.org>.

MARCH FOR LIFE

Individual parish or school groups may travel to the national March for Life in Washington, D.C. in January, but there will be no Manchester diocesan pilgrimage this year. Bishop Libasci is asking those involved in prayer and advocacy for the cause of life to consider focusing their efforts locally. **As such, persons not travelling to the March for Life in D.C. are invited to attend Mass at St. Joseph Cathedral with Bishop Libasci on the day of the March, January 20, 2023, at 12:10 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, **January 21, 2023 from 8:00 to 9:00 AM** in the parish hall on the Plaistow campus.

CLOTHING DRIVE

Kimberly's 17th Annual Holiday Give Away!!!

WE DID IT!!!!!!

GRAND TOTAL FOR 2023:

2,775 POUNDS OF CLOTHING! along with 6 bags of non-perishable food items for the food pantry!

The above will be distributed amongst potentially 8 different locations/organizations, all with missions to serve those who are less fortunate and underserved.

As always, I would be nothing without the support from my family and volunteers and without those who have been so generous with their donations year after year. Thank you on behalf of all of the receiving organizations and I look forward to seeing you again next year!

May God bless you throughout the year,

Kimberly Clenord

RETROUVILLE

A Lifeline For Married Couples

Retrouvaille (pronounced Retro-vi) means rediscovery in French. This program helps couples put their broken pieces back together and rediscover their love for each other. This program starts with a weekend which teaches couples a new form of communication called Dialogue and lets couples know that they are not alone. Our next Retrouvaille weekend is March 10-12, 2023. For more information, email 3023@halpourmarriage.org.

AMAZONSMILE FOUNDATION

Saint Luke the Evangelist Parish was issued a **\$107.39** donation from the AmazonSmile Foundation as a result of AmazonSmile program activity between July 1 and September 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 www.amazonsmile.com. For questions, please call the Parish Office at 603-382-8324. Be sure to choose:

Saint Luke the Evangelist Parish, Plaistow.

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, January 15
 10:00 AM Religious Ed – K through 6 *Plaistow*

Monday, January 16
 PARISH OFFICE CLOSED

Tuesday, January 17
 6:00 PM Finance Council Meeting *Plaistow*

Wednesday, January 18
 Holy Angels Church
 Open All Day For Prayer
 7:00 PM St. Vincent de Paul Society Meeting *Plaistow*

Thursday, January 19
 8:30 AM – 8:30 PM Eucharistic Adoration *Newton*

Saturday, January 21
 8:00 AM Men of St. Joseph *Plaistow*
 3:00 PM Sacrament of Reconciliation *Plaistow*

Sunday, January 22
 10:00 AM Religious Ed – K to 6 *Plaistow*
 11:00 AM Grade 2 Reconciliation Meeting *Plaistow*
 For Parents and Students

RESTROOM BREAKS DURING MASS

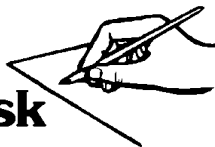
Attention Parents

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, January 14 ~ Second Sunday in Ordinary Time
Is 49:3, 5-6; 1 Cor 1:1-3; Jn 1:29-34 (Vigil)

4:00 PM Phyllis M. O'Grady by the Lajoie family
Plaistow

Sunday, January 15 ~ Second Sunday in Ordinary Time
Is 49:3, 5-6; 1 Cor 1:1-3; Jn 1:29-34

8:00 AM Jack Ronan by his wife, Susan
Newton

10:00 AM People of the Parish
Plaistow

Monday, January 16 ~ Weekday
Heb 5:1-10; Mk 2:18-22

8:00 AM All Souls Intentions
Newton

Tuesday, January 17 ~ Anthony, Abbot
Heb 6:10-20; Mk 2:23-28

8:00 AM Elaine Brasseur by Elaine Antkowiak
Plaistow

Wednesday, January 18 ~ Weekday
Heb 7:1-3, 15-17; Mk 3:1-6

6:30 PM Sr. Theresa Lawrence by the Sisters of the Presentation of Mary
Plaistow

Thursday, January 19 ~ Weekday
Heb 7:25—8:6; Mk 3:7-12

8:00 AM People of the Parish
Newton

**Friday, January 20 ~ Fabian, Pope and Martyr:
 Sebastian, Martyr**

Heb 8:6-13; Mk 3:13-19
 NO MASS

Saturday, January 21 ~ Agnes, Virgin and Martyr
Heb 9:2-3, 11-14; Mk 3:20-21 (Day)

Is 8:23—9:3; 1 Cor 1:10-13, 17; Mt 4:12-23 (Vigil)
 4:00 PM People of the Parish
Plaistow

Sunday, January 22 ~ Third Sunday in Ordinary Time
Is 8:23—9:3; 1 Cor 1:10-13, 17; Mt 4:12-23

8:00 AM People of the Parish
Newton

10:00 AM Joyce Gauthier (1st Anniversary)
 by Sr. Holly
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.**

FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTION STATEMENT

If you would like an “end of year” financial statement of your contributions to the parish for 2022, **please call Jackie** at the Parish Office at 382-8324. **Financial Statements are issued on a request only basis.**

MARRIAGE IN THE CHURCH

Did you know that all Catholics are required to be married in the Church as a condition of the validity of their marriage? Any Catholic married in a civil ceremony (JP) or in any religious ceremony other than a Catholic one (unless specifically excepted by the Bishop) is not living out the Sacrament of Marriage in its fullness according to the teaching of the Church. Contact Father Albert in the Parish Office for more information and assistance.

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

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.

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.

28TH 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 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.



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, January 18 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.

RESPECT LIFE
respect • love • protect

JOIN MEMBERS OF THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS
THIS THURSDAY EVENING,
JANUARY 19 AT 7:00 PM AT
MARY MOTHER OF THE CHURCH
NEWTON, NH

AS A GIFT FROM GOD, EVERY HUMAN LIFE IS SACRED FROM CONCEPTION TO NATURAL DEATH.

TOGETHER WE WILL PRAY AND DEDICATE THE ROSARY FOR THE RESPECT FOR LIFE.

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



WINTER ORDINARY TIME

What do the words Ordinary Time mean? Dorothy Day said, “The words ‘Ordinary Time’ in our prayer books put me in a state of confusion and irritation. To me, no time is *ordinary*.” She was right.

The Ordinary in Ordinary Time refers to ordinal—counted—time, not to a lack of something to celebrate. The Church document, *General Norms for the Liturgical Year and Calendar*, says: “Apart from those seasons having their own distinctive character [Advent, Christmastime, Lent, Triduum and Eastertime], 33 or 34 weeks remain in the yearly cycle that do not celebrate a specific aspect of the mystery of Christ. Rather, especially on the Sundays, they are devoted to the mystery of Christ in all its aspects.” (#43)

How do we celebrate “the mystery of Christ in all its aspects”? We gather every Sunday. Sunday is our original feast day. Christians have gathered every Sunday—the day of Christ’s resurrection, the first day of the week—ever since there were Christians.

Each year there are two blocks of Ordinary Time, one in the winter between Christmastime and Lent, and the other in summer and fall, from Pentecost through Christ the King. When we gather on Sundays in Ordinary Time, as always, we hear the scriptures proclaimed. We systematically read through the Gospels. The first readings from the first testament of the Bible were chosen for their relationship to the Gospel passages. The second readings come from the various letters of the second testament of the Bible. The mystery of Christ “in all its aspects” unfolds.

What is the heart of our Sunday celebration? We do our eucharist; that is, we do our thanksgiving. We praise and thank God for all creation; we pray for the whole world, as we remember Christ’s life, death and resurrection. We share the bread and wine, the body and blood. We are sent forth to be the body and blood of Christ in our homes, our workplaces, our neighborhoods, our towns, our cities, our country, our world.

“What happens in our churches every Sunday is the fruit of our week. What happens as the fruit of the week past is the beginning of the week to come. Sunday is simultaneously a point of arrival and departure for Christians on their way to the fullness of the kingdom. This is not ordinary at all. This is the fabric of Christian living.”

(Saint Andrew Bible Missal [Brooklyn: William J. Hirten Co., 1982.] © 1997, Archdiocese of Chicago. Liturgy Training Publications, 1800 North Hermitage Avenue, Chicago IL 60622-1101; 1-800-933-1800.
Text by G. Thomas Ryan.

The Gospel at Home

This Week's Gospel: John 1:29-34

In this Sunday's Gospel, John the Baptist announces the beginning of Jesus' ministry. John gives us a picture of who Jesus is and what he has come to do. The lamb, the animal that symbolizes the Israelite's liberation from Egypt, shows that Jesus' mission is to give his life for us. The Gospels show us that Jesus is filled with the Holy Spirit of God from the beginning of his ministry. This week, your family will learn to recognize the Spirit of God in your family life and in the life of the Church.

Exploring the Gospel Message

Seeds (Preschool): Your child has learned that the five senses are great gifts for experiencing God's creation. Talk with your child about the ways we learn about creation through sight, sound, touch, smell, and taste. We learn about the world in the same way Jesus did when he was on Earth.

Promise (Grades K-1): In this week's lesson, John the Baptist tells your child that Jesus is the Son of God. Jesus' spirit is the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is with you and your child. Discuss ways your child can share the Holy Spirit with others.

Good News (Grades 2-3): Your child learned this week that Jesus is full of the Holy Spirit of God. Ask your child to tell you all how John the Baptist recognized Jesus. Talk about how the Holy Spirit helps your family to be good and faithful Church members. Ask how others can know your child's class has the Holy Spirit, and whether your child's actions show how the Spirit works in him or her.

Venture (Grades 4-6): The class explored how they feel the presence of God. In the Gospel about John the Baptist he talks about what happened when he baptized Jesus. Ask your young person what John saw. As a family, talk about each of the Seven Sacraments. Invite your youngster to recite which sacraments are the Sacraments of Initiation, the Sacraments of Healing, and the Sacraments of Service.

Visions (Grades 7-9): This week's lesson focused the class's attention on the seven principles of Catholic social teaching. Your youngster began by exploring people's needs, especially those who live in poverty. Invite your son or daughter to share with the family some of the principles he or she has learned. As a family, talk about how aware you are of the social Gospel of the Church. Share ways in which you and your family can be more aware of how your actions reflect the Gospel commitment to justice, solidarity, and peace.

Pray Together

Try to join in a morning prayer or an evening prayer together each day for a week. The prayer does not have to be formal or structured, and it certainly does not need to be long. During the prayer, invite the Holy Spirit into your family and ask the Holy Spirit to help you be faithful members of the Church. At the end of the prayer, let every family member mark each other on the forehead with the Sign of the Cross.





BLOOD DONORS NEEDED

**BEGIN 2023 BY DOING SOMETHING REALLY GOOD
AND SO URGENTLY NEEDED**

THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS - ST. JUDE COUNCIL #6617
WILL BE HOSTING A RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE AND INVITE YOU, YOUR
FAMILY AND FRIENDS TO ANSWER THE CALL AND CONSIDER DONATING AS
OUR NATION FACES A SEVERE BLOOD SHORTAGE, THE NEED IS REAL.

NEWTON TOWN HALL 2 TOWN HALL RD. NEWTON NH
Friday January 27, 2023 12:00 Noon - 5 PM

DONATING IS SIMPLE



Registration

Make an appointment Pre registration for an appointment time is required. You can pre-register by going to WWW.redcrossblood.org. or call **1-800-733-2767**
On the date and time of your appointment you will sign in, show an ID, and be asked to read some required information.



Health History and Mini-Physical

Answer some questions online or in a private interview, and receive a general health check.



The Donation

You'll be seated comfortably while a pint of blood is drawn. The actual donation only takes 8-10 minutes.



Refreshment and Recovery

After donating, you can enjoy a snack and a drink (They are free) for 10-15 minutes before resuming your day. The entire donation process takes about an hour.

Hebrews 13:16

Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.

OK YOU'RE ON THE FENCE

WHY NOT COME JOIN US AT ONE OF OUR MONTHLY MEETINGS AND SEE WHAT WE ARE ALL ABOUT. THE KNIGHTS MEET THE FIRST MONDAY OF THE MONTH IN THE CHURCH HALL IN PLAISTOW. MEETINGS BEGIN AT 7:00 pm AND LAST ABOUT AN HOUR.

WE ARE ALL CALLED FOR SOMETHING. MAYBE YOU ARE BEING CALLED TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN YOUR LIFE, YOUR FAMILY LIFE, YOUR PARISH, YOUR COMMUNITY.

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO JOIN
CONTACT DAN SULLIVAN AT 603-770-4803
OR EMAIL HIM AT dans49@comcast.net



**KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS
COUNCIL #6617**



Bringing Home the Word

Second Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)
January 15, 2023

Proud Servants of God

By Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA

“My servant” is an identification a lot of people will shy away from. A servant seeks to accomplish someone else’s goals, and the adjective “my” suggests belonging to another. Yet all of today’s readings describe individuals who are proud to be servants—servants of God. What makes this kind of servant something to which all of us can aspire?

As a servant of God, Isaiah became “a light to the nations that [God’s] salvation may reach to the ends of the earth” (Isaiah 49:6). As a servant of God, Paul became “an apostle of Christ Jesus,” proclaiming the good news of God’s love “to the church of God that is in Corinth.”

As a servant of God, John the Baptist prepared the way so that Jesus “might be made known to Israel” (John 1:31). These servants sought to accomplish God’s goals for the fulfillment of others. It is in such commitment to others that we ourselves are fulfilled. Ask any parent, spouse, or good friend if this is not the case.

We might not want to be the servant of another, but what a privilege it is to be called to be a servant of God, a light to others, to proclaim God’s love and make Jesus known. By our baptism, we have all been so called. We enlighten others by the way we live with integrity. The unselfishness of our lives proclaims the good news of Christ Jesus. Authentic Christian living makes him known to the world. That’s what it means to be a servant of God. +

Sunday Readings

Isaiah 49:3, 5–6

I will make you a light to the nations, that my salvation may reach to the ends of the earth.

1 Corinthians 1:1–3

Paul, called to be an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God...

John 1:29–34

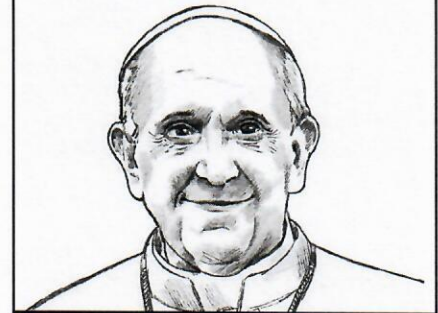
The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him and said, “Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world.”

*What a privilege it is
to be called
to be a servant of God,
a light to others,
to proclaim God’s love
and make Jesus known.*

A Word from Pope Francis

John saw something shocking: the beloved Son of God in solidarity with sinners; and the Holy Spirit made him understand the unprecedented novelty... While in all religions it is man who offers and sacrifices something to God...[it] is God who offers his own Son for the salvation of humanity.

Angelus, Rome, January 19, 2020



REFLECTION QUESTIONS



- How do you personally benefit by serving others?
- Are you careful to take care of your own needs even as you serve others?

Care for the Caregiver

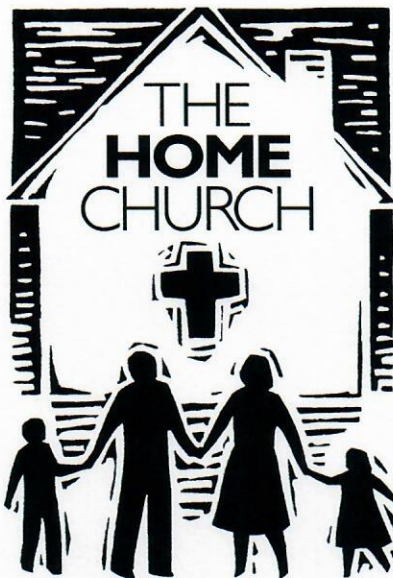
By Fr. Byron Miller, CSsR

A counselor told his gloomy new patient, “Lighten up! You need a good laugh. Go to the circus and enjoy a performance by Giggles the Clown.” Replied the patient, “I am Giggles the Clown.”

According to an article in *Time* last August, suicides in this country are at their highest number in thirty years. Sixteen million people in the US are affected by clinical depression, making it “the leading cause of disability in the world, costing the US economy alone \$210 billion a year in lost productivity [and] missed days of work.”

More surprising than melancholic clowns are members of the cloth with clinical depression. A study by the Clergy Health Initiative at Duke Divinity School says Methodist ministers were twice as likely to be depressed than the general public. Mental health specialists cite guilt about not doing enough, doubts about one’s call to ministry, and “vicarious trauma” as possible factors. “Bearing witness to another person’s trauma can itself be traumatic and can activate feelings and behaviors associated with earlier traumatic experiences clergy may have had in their own lives,” according to a study published in *MentalHealth.org*. It asserts that vicarious trauma affects clergy as it does professional caregivers and first responders.

However, a growing number of people today assume the role of caregiver, not as a profession but as a responsibility to a family member or friend who is sick,



elderly, disabled, or dying. In a 2015 report, “Caregiving in the US,” 39 percent of adults are caregivers, and of these, sixty percent are women. Nearly half of caregivers assist a parent or parent-in-law; one in ten care for a spouse. Round-the-clock caregivers are more likely to experience stress in their duties, which can also lead to secondary traumatic stress (STS) or “compassion fatigue.” Symptoms include mental and physical exhaustion, numbness in interacting with others, and difficulty in finding fulfillment in work.

Compassion literally means “to suffer together.” Jesus was moved with compassion, but he also withdrew to pray and rest with his disciples. He told them: “Come away by yourselves to a deserted

place and rest a while. People were coming and going...and they had no opportunity even to eat” (Mark 6:31)

So a message to caregivers—professional or otherwise—on the verge of compassion fatigue and vicarious trauma: Take care of yourself as you care for others. This isn’t selfishness, but prudence. It’s hard to give what you don’t have. For this reason, Mother Teresa required her sisters to take a mandatory year off from their caregiving duties every four to five years. In F. Scott Fitzgerald’s *Absolution*, the priest, teetering on a nervous breakdown, tells the kid who is trying to make a confession: Go to an amusement park but don’t get up close, “because if you do, you’ll only feel the heat and the sweat and the life.”

Lighten your load, caregivers! Go to the circus, amusement park, movies—or chapel—wherever numbness can be prevented in you. For it’s in feeling the heat, the sweat, and the life that the Way, the Truth, and the Life is found! +

This reflection is from an issue of *Liguorian*, a bimonthly magazine published by the Redemptorists. To subscribe or purchase a gift subscription, go to Liguorian.org or call 866-848-2492.



Creator God, help us to find holy balance as we seek to attend to others and take care of ourselves. We pray in Jesus’ name. Amen.

The Redemptorists

WEEKDAY READINGS

January 16–21

Monday, Weekday:

Heb 5:1–10 / Mk 2:18–22

Tuesday, St. Anthony:

Heb 6:10–20 / Mk 2:23–28

Wednesday, Weekday:

Heb 7:1–3, 15–17 / Mk 3:1–6

Thursday, Weekday:


Heb 7:25—8:6 / Mk 3:7–12

Friday, Weekday:

Heb 8:6–13 / Mk 3:13–19

Saturday, St. Agnes:

Heb 9:2–3, 11–14 / Mk 3:20–21

Bringing Home
the Word 
January 15, 2023

© 2023 Liguori Publications, a ministry of the Redemptorists. One Liguori Drive, Liguori, MO 63057. Scripture quotations in this publication are from the *New American Bible*, revised edition, © 2010, 1991, 1986, 1970 Confraternity of Christian Doctrine, Washington, DC. The Pope Francis quotation is used with permission and copyright © 2023 *Libreria Editrice Vaticana*. All rights reserved. 1-800-325-9521. Liguori.org.