

**MUSIC FOR THE LITURGY**

**Sunday, January 22, 2023**

**Third Sunday  
In Ordinary Time**

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

Gathering: Gather Us In BB 302

Responsorial Psalm (Psalm 103)

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

Preparation Ubi Caritas BB 328

Mass Parts Mass Of Creation

Communion One Love Released BB 353  
Bread Of Life BB 364

Recessional: O God Beyond All Praising BB 547

**✠ 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  
JANUARY 15, 2023  
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**

January 22	Fuel
January 29	No Second Collection
February 5	Property Management
February 12	Catholic Schools
February 19	Fuel

**PLEASE HELP US!**

As you leave church, kindly take your Bulletin with you - or return it to the basket at the entrance of the Church, return your music book and Mass card to their proper place, and pick up after yourself as you leave.

**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.

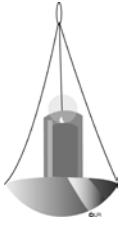
**Suggested Weekly Contribution  
Based on Income**

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 ✠



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

**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.

**BLESSING OF COUPLES**

There will be a special blessing of couples at the conclusion of all Liturgies on the weekend of **February 11-12**. Please pray for those married among us and remember those preparing to be married as well.

**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](mailto: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>.

**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 17<sup>th</sup> 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**

Retrouville (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 Retrouville weekend is **March 10-12, 2023**. For more information, email [3023@halpourmarriage.org](mailto: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.amazonmile.com](http://www.amazonmile.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 22

10:00 AM Religious Ed – K through 6 *Plaistow*  
 11:00 AM Grade 2 Reconciliation Meeting *Plaistow*  
 For Parents and Students

Tuesday, January 24

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

Wednesday, January 25

Holy Angels Church  
 Open All Day For Prayer

Thursday, January 26

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

Saturday, January 28

3:00 PM Sacrament of Reconciliation *Plaistow*

Sunday, January 29

10:00 AM Religious Ed – K to 6 *Plaistow*

RESTROOM BREAKS DURING MASS

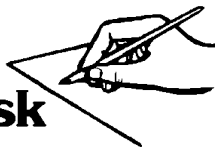
Attention Parents

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 is closed 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 21 ~ Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

*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 (1<sup>st</sup> Anniversary)  
 by Sr. Holly  
*Plaistow*

Monday, January 23 ~ Vincent, Deacon and Martyr;

Marianne Cope, Virgin

*Heb 9:15, 24-28; Mk 3:22-30*

8:00 AM James Maroney (Month's Mind)  
*Newton*

Tuesday, January 24 ~ Francis de Sales, Bishop and

Doctor of the Church

*Heb 10:1-10; Mk 3:31-35*

8:00 AM Arthur Bonin (Month's Mind)  
*Plaistow*

Wednesday, January 25 ~ Conversion of Paul, Apostle

*Acts 22:3-16 or Acts 9:1-22; Mk 16:15-18*

6:30 PM Sr. Madeleine Normand  
 by the Sisters of the Presentation of Mary  
*Plaistow*

Thursday, January 26 ~ Timothy and Titus, Bishops

*2 Tm 1:1-8 or Ti 1:1-5; Mk 4:21-25*

8:00 AM All Souls Intentions  
*Newton*

Friday, January 27 ~ Angela Merici, Virgin

*Heb 10:32-39; Mk 4:26-34*

**NO MASS**

Saturday, January 28 ~ Thomas Aquinas, Priest and

Doctor of the Church

*Heb 11:1-2, 8-19; Mk 4:35-41 (Day)*

*Zeph 2:3, 3:12-13; 1 Cor 1:26-31; Mt 5:1-12a (Vigil)*

4:00 PM Joyce Marroncelli by the  
 St. Vincent de Paul Society  
*Plaistow*

Sunday, January 29 ~ Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

*Zeph 2:3, 3:12-13; 1 Cor 1:26-31; Mt 5:1-12a*

8:00 AM Eileen Meader and Deceased Members of the  
 Pineau family by Joan Meader  
*Newton*

10:00 AM People of the Parish  
*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](http://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](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 [fr.albert@stluketheevangelist.net](mailto:fr.albert@stluketheevangelist.net)  
Cathy Smith [csmith@stluketheevangelist.net](mailto:csmith@stluketheevangelist.net)  
Joyce Szczapa [jszczapa@stluketheevangelist.net](mailto:jszczapa@stluketheevangelist.net)  
Jackie Tremblay [jtremblay@stluketheevangelist.net](mailto:jtremblay@stluketheevangelist.net)  
Val Barczak [mvmbarczak@comcast.net](mailto:mvmbarczak@comcast.net)  
Parish Council [parishcouncil@stluketheevangelist.net](mailto: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 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.

**MAKE 2023 THE YEAR YOU MAKE A DIFFERENCE!**

You can create a brighter future for a child who has experienced abuse or neglect by becoming a CASA volunteer advocate. If you have the heart to help, we'll teach you the rest. Apply now for our January or March training! Learn more at [www.casanh.org](http://www.casanh.org).

**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, February 15 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 you can now join online:

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

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



# Do Something for Lent. Renew your faith.

**Lent begins with Ash Wednesday, February 22, 2023!** This Lent, Saint Luke the Evangelist Parish invites all to renew their faith by participating in the Church's annual retreat time of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving.

This year we are pleased to, once again, utilize the **"Disciples on The Journey"** book for our text.

What is the Lenten Journey about?

**It is about prayer!** Today we begin with prayer as our 2023 Lenten Journey program gets underway. Begin to pray in an active way about the upcoming Lenten season. Ask for the Spirit's guidance as you consider your involvement; pray that our Parish's Lenten Journey through the desert be blessed.

**Consider a small group!** Groups meet during Lent to discuss the upcoming Lenten Sunday Readings, and to share member's experiences of discipleship. We will use a text that follows the Sunday Lenten readings published by the Office of Catechetical Ministry of the Diocese of Victoria, TX. Adults, Families and Youth will learn more about Scripture, participate in interesting discussions, meet some wonderful people, and have the opportunity to build up the Body of Christ.



**What else?** During Lent, special *Paschal Mission* inserts in the weekly bulletin will focus on the Lenten Scriptures and on discipleship in the real world. Sunday Homilies will touch on living Jesus' Gospel and on the questions discussed at Group meetings.

**Small Group sign-ups begin next weekend, January 29!  
Registration Forms will be in the bulletin.**

**Group Meetings begin the week of February 19.**

# The Gospel at Home

## This Week's Gospel: Matthew 4:12-23

The Gospel places the beginning of Jesus' ministry in Galilee, where he spent his time teaching, proclaiming God's Kingdom, and healing the sick. Galilee is situated between the Mediterranean Sea and the Sea of Galilee, and many people who lived there were fishermen. Jesus invited his new friends to leave their nets and follow him. He promised them that they would now be fishing for people instead of fish.

### Exploring the Gospel Message

**Seeds (Preschool):** Your child has learned to appreciate what it means to make friends. Make sure that your child has a clear understanding of ways he or she can be of help to friends and family members. Talk about how being a good friend and member of the family is a good way of following Jesus.

**Promise (Grades K-1):** Your child explored Jesus' work of making friends and calling people together. Jesus calls all of us to make friends, too. Talk to your child about the importance of friends and the need for friendly, loving actions toward other people. Remind one another that such actions bond together the Christian community and the human family.

**Good News (Grades 2-3):** In class, your child learned a little about the geography of where Jesus grew up and lived. Ask your child to share the map and tell the family about how Jesus called people to follow him. Discuss times when family members have been called to do something or to be somewhere. What are some ways your family answers Jesus' call to follow him?

**Venture (Grades 4-6):** Your young person's class learned that Jesus began his mission in his home territory of Galilee. Invite your son or daughter to share some details about Galilee with the family. Talk about how Jesus called Peter, Andrew, James, and John to follow him. Why did these people drop everything to follow Jesus? Share how Jesus calls your family and how you try to follow him. Talk about ways you can help one another be better followers of Jesus. Ask your young person about the discovery of Saint Peter's house.

**Visions (Grades 7-9):** Your youngster's class learned about the characteristics of Galilee's land and people from the time of Jesus. Understanding where Jesus lived helped the class see Jesus in his historical setting. Invite your young person to share with the family what archaeology can teach about Jesus' message. Ask them to share at least one example of God calling one of his prophets or disciples in the Bible.

### Pray Together

Even the youngest children can understand the need for silence. Invite all the members of your families to share a few moments of silent prayer. A good time to do this is just before a family meal, but it can be anytime the whole family is together. You can all hold hands. An adult can remind the family that Jesus calls all of you to follow him. Then spend anywhere from thirty seconds to a minute in silent prayer. (Remember that a minute of silence can feel pretty long to a young child.)





# Bringing Home the Word

Third Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)  
January 22, 2023

## Is Christ Divided?

By Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA

“You’re breaking the back of the body of Christ!” Saint Paul might have said this to members of the Corinthian community who rival each other, claiming that the leader who baptized them is greater than the one who baptized others: “I belong to Paul!” “I belong to Apollos!” “I belong to Cephas!” (1 Corinthians 1:12). This suggests that, based on the one who baptized them, the members thought of themselves as superior. Such rivalry sounds so petty. We should be careful here because some of this rivalry still exists in the Church.

### Sunday Readings

#### Isaiah 8:23—9:3

Upon those who lived in a land  
of gloom,  
a light has shone.

#### 1 Corinthians 1:10–13, 17

I urge you...that all of you agree  
in what you say, and that there be  
no divisions among you.

#### Matthew 4:12–23 or 4:12–17

[Jesus said,] “Repent, for the  
kingdom of heaven is at hand.”

In any healthy group there will be diverse opinions. We all have our own tastes, preferences, cultural habits, and so on. This is true in church music, preaching style, and religious devotion. The relative uniformity of the Church prior to the Second Vatican Council has given way to great diversity. What is different is not necessarily bad. Nor is our preference necessarily superior. Such diversity need not pit us against each other, but sometimes it does. Is Christ divided over points of preference?

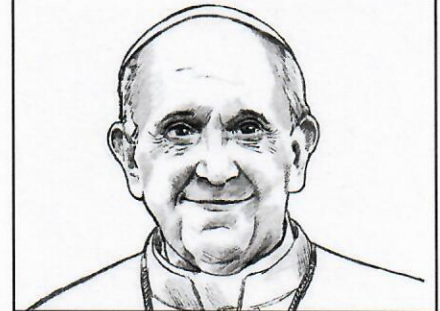
We are all part of the body of Christ. We are all God’s beloved. The diversity among us challenges us to work toward the common good, to “be united in the same mind and in the same purpose” (1 Corinthians 1:10). Let us not divide Christ. +

*We are all part of the  
body of Christ. We are  
all God’s beloved.*

### A Word from Pope Francis

What is important is the journey toward unity. It is very good that theologians study and discuss; that is what specialists are for. But it is also good that we...walk together on the journey. Together. Let us build unity through prayer, works of charity, and mutual cooperation.

Address to an ecumenical delegation,  
Rome, January 17, 2022



### REFLECTION QUESTIONS

### QUESTIONS REFLECTION

- How do you act toward someone who understands faith differently?
- Which religious voices do you listen to? Why?



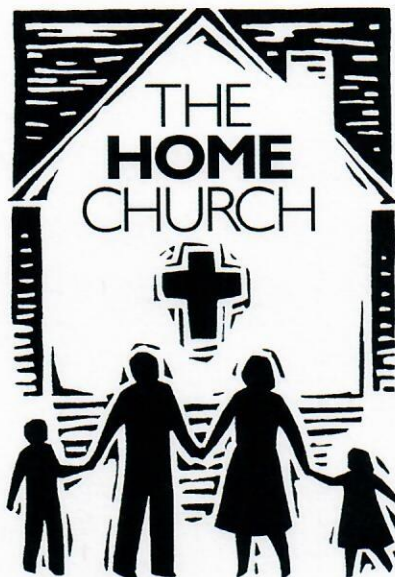
# Harmony

By Paige Byrne Shortal

Saint Paul's letters to the Christians in Corinth are also letters to us. In them, he addresses problems that were particular to that community; problems that recur down through the ages so that we can find striking similarities between the issues in the church at Corinth and those in a modern parish or diocese.

In today's second reading, St. Paul sternly corrects the Corinthians, exhorting them to cease their rivalry in the name of those who first brought them to Christ. He had heard that the Corinthian Christians were boasting: "I belong to Paul," or "I belong to Apollos," or "I belong to Cephas," or "I belong to Christ."

The significance of these divisions is both intellectual and social. Apollos, a brilliant Jewish scholar and engaging speaker, appealed to the educated members of the community who wanted a more sophisticated presentation of the gospel. The Jewish Christians from Palestine boasted of their attachment to Cephas, (the Aramaic name for Peter). The majority of the community were poor and less educated, and they tried to compensate for their lack of social status by aligning themselves to Paul, who brought the gospel to Corinth. Less is known about the "Christ party," but



some scholars think it might refer to the "Gnostics"—those who follow no disciple but claim to receive divine revelation directly from Christ.

Paul begs them to understand that Christ cannot be divided. He is especially pained because he himself is being used as a source of division, and so he asks, "Was Paul crucified for you?"

Saint Paul's letters are not just interesting documents for the student of church history. They are the living word of God and, properly understood, are a source of wisdom and sound advice for

the church in the modern world.

This is the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity (January 18–25). Many Christians feel the pain of the division of the body of Christ and hear the call to unity while still remaining faithful to their home church. In my community we began an effort we call the Combined Christian Choirs—over one hundred singers from twenty-five different congregations, including Lutheran, Presbyterian, Catholic, Methodist, United Church of Christ, Baptist, and several nondenominational churches.

While theologians find the paths to unity and church leaders take the necessary tentative steps, perhaps we people of the Church might prepare the way by singing together. The beauty of the music is often in the blend, the harmony of different voices creating a sound that moves the spirit and makes the difficult task of unity seem not only possible but inevitable. We are one in Christ Jesus; we truly are. +



*God of all people, open our eyes  
to see what we hold in common  
with each other so that we may  
build your kingdom together.  
We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.*

The Redemptorists

***Many Christians feel the pain of the division of the body of Christ  
and hear the call to unity while still remaining faithful  
to their home church.***

## WEEKDAY READINGS

January 23–28

**Monday**, Day of Prayer for the Legal  
Protection of Unborn Children:  
Heb 9:15, 24–28 / Mk 3:22–30


**Tuesday**, St. Frances de Sales:  
Heb 10:1–10 / Mk 3:31–35

**Wednesday**, Conversion of St. Paul:  
Acts 22:3–16 / Mk 16:15–18

**Thursday**, Sts. Timothy and Titus:  
2 Tm 1:1–8 or Ti 1:1–5 / Mk 4:21–25

**Friday**, Weekday:  
Heb 10:32–39 / Mk 4:26–34

**Saturday**, St. Thomas Aquinas:  
Heb 11:1–2, 8–19 / Mk 4:35–41

Bringing Home  
the Word   
January 22, 2023

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