



MUSIC FOR THE LITURGY

Sunday, February 5, 2023

Fifth Sunday
In Ordinary Time

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

Gathering: All Creatures Of Our God And King
BB 549

Responsorial Psalm (Psalm 34)

*Taste and see the goodness of the Lord;
O, taste and see the goodness of the
Lord.*

Preparation Christians, Let Us Love One Another
BB 486

Mass Parts Mass Of Creation

Communion Take And Eat BB 359

Recessional: Sent Forth By God's Blessing BB 381



Out of respect for the Lord and in consideration of fellow parishioners, please remember to silence or turn off your cell phones during Mass. Thank you!

UPCOMING SECOND COLLECTIONS

| | |
|-------------|---|
| February 5 | Property Management |
| February 12 | Catholic Schools |
| February 19 | Fuel |
| February 22 | Aid to Churches in Central / Eastern Europe / Africa |
| February 26 | 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.

✠ 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 22, 2023

| | |
|-----------|------------|
| Offertory | \$7,459.10 |
| Fuel | \$1,542.62 |

January 29, 2023

| | |
|-----------|------------|
| Offertory | \$6,478.83 |
|-----------|------------|



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.

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.

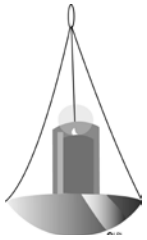
Suggested Weekly Contribution Based on Income

| 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 Light
at Mary Mother of the Church
will burn this week in loving memory of

Michael H. Edwards

by Jim Edwards

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 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.

HELP WANTED TO PUT AWAY TREES

With Lent fast approaching, volunteers are welcome to help prepare the churches on **Sunday, February 19 following the 8:00 AM Liturgy in Newton and the 10:00 AM Liturgy in Plaistow**. Our tasks include taking down our green trees and some light cleanup of the churches in preparation for the Lenten season. All are welcome to lend a hand – our work usually lasts just over an hour if we have all the help we can muster! Please contact the Parish Office for more information – or just stay after Mass!

SUPPORT OUR ADVERTISERS

We appreciate the gracious support of our bulletin by our Advertisers. Please be sure to support our advertisers by calling them first!

If you have a business and would like to place an ad in our bulletin, call 1-800-333-3166.

RETROUVAILLE

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, June 9-11, 2023, August 18-29, 2023, and November 10-11, 2023**. For more information, email 3023@halpourmarriage.org.

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. 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, February 5

10:00 AM Religious Ed – K through 6 *Plaistow*
 11:00 AM Grade 3 Meeting for Parents and Students and Others Who Have Missed Sacraments *Plaistow*

Monday, February 6

7:00 PM Knights of Columbus Meeting *Plaistow*

Tuesday, February 7

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

Wednesday, February 8

Holy Angels Church
 Open All Day For Prayer

Thursday, February 9

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

Saturday, February 11

3:00 PM Sacrament of Reconciliation *Plaistow*

Sunday, February 12

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

RESTROOM BREAKS DURING MASS

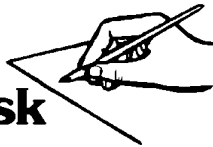
Attention Parents

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.

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, February 4 ~ Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Is 58:7-10; 1 Cor 2:1-5; Mt 5:13-16 (Vigil)

4:00 PM People of the Parish
Plaistow

Sunday, February 5 ~ Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Is 58:7-10; 1 Cor 2:1-5; Mt 5:13-16

8:00 AM People of the Parish
Newton

10:00 AM People of the Parish
Plaistow

Monday, February 6 ~ Paul Miki and Companions,

Martyrs

Gen 1:1-19; Mk 6:53-56

8:00 AM In Thanksgiving for a Favor Received by Bonnie Lajoie
Newton

Tuesday, February 7 ~ Weekday

Gen 1:20—2:4a; Mk 7:1-13

8:00 AM In Thanksgiving for Favors Received by Elaine Kelcourse
Plaistow

Wednesday, February 8 ~ Jerome Emiliani;

Josephine Bahkita, Virgin

Gen 2:4b-9, 15-17; Mk 7:14-23

6:30 PM All Souls Intentions
Plaistow

Thursday, February 9 ~ Weekday

Gen 2:18-25; Mk 7:24-30

8:00 AM People of the Parish
Newton

Friday, February 10 ~ Scholastica, Virgin

Gen 3:1-8; Mk 7:31-37

NO MASS

Saturday, February 11 ~ Our Lady of Lourdes

Gen 3:9-24; Mk 8:1-10 (Day)

Sir 15:15-20; 1 Cor 2:6-10; Mt 5:17-37 (Vigil)

4:00 PM Patrick Foynes by the Lanseigne family
Plaistow

Sunday, February 12 ~ Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sir 15:15-20; 1 Cor 2:6-10; Mt 5:17-37

8:00 AM Joan Burge by the Burge family
Newton

10:00 AM Paul R. Antkowiak (Birthday Remembrance) by his family
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 of 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.



Find us on:
facebook®

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.

**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.**

ST. THOMAS AQUINAS HIGH SCHOOL

St. Thomas Aquinas High School in Dover, NH is a college prep School of Excellence; we are happy to offer campus visits and tours throughout the academic year, and we are accepting applications for Fall 2023 for grades 9-12. For more information about the admission process or to schedule a visit, please contact us at admission@stalux.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.

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

A Men's AA Step Meeting is being on Sunday mornings from 7:00 to 8:00 AM at the St. Luke the Evangelist Parish Hall in Plaistow, NH (Holy Angels). Bring your own coffee. For more information, call 617-921-9899.



DO SOMETHING GOOD WITH US

The Knights of Columbus are a vital and vibrant part of St Luke the Evangelist Parish.

We welcome any practicing Catholic man, 18 or older, to join the Knights.

We are sons, fathers, husbands and grandfathers, whose main purpose is charitable works in support of our parish and community.

Where there is a need, there is a Knight.

Joining is simple – talk to a brother Knight, contact

Dan Sullivan at 603-770-4803, email him at

dans49@comcast.net or you can now join online:

www.kofc.org/joinus

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



Do Something for Lent. Renew your faith.

What is the **Lenten Journey** all about? Prayer, fasting, and almsgiving are called the “three pillars” of the Christian way of life. They help support a full and healthy life. During Lent we try to repair and strengthen these three pillars, which also are called the “three disciplines” because they help people become better disciples of the Lord.

What to do?

Today we continue to welcome sign-ups for small group Scripture sharing during Lent.

We continue to pray together as our 2023 Lenten Journey gets underway. Ask for the Spirit’s guidance as you consider your involvement; pray that our Parish’s Lenten Journey be blessed.



Join a small group! Groups meet six times during the Lenten season to discuss the Lenten Sunday Lectionary readings. You will learn more about Scripture through the resources provided, participate in interesting discussions, meet some wonderful people, and have the opportunity to build up the Body of Christ.

Take the opportunity to sign-up by filling out the registration form on the back and dropping it in the collection basket next week, drop it off at the parish office, or call the Parish Offices at 382-8324.

**Groups begin meeting the week of
February 19**

DISCIPLES ON THE JOURNEY REGISTRATION FORM



Name _____

Address _____

Telephone _____

E-Mail _____ Cell Phone _____

Please check the time and day you prefer

Wednesday Evenings at 7:00 p.m. ____
(February 22 – March 29)

Thursday Afternoons at 1:30 p.m. ____
(February 23 – March 30)

Check if you are willing to be a group leader _____

**GROUP MEETINGS BEGIN
THE WEEK OF FEBRUARY 19**

**GROUPS WILL MEET IN THE CHURCH
HALL**

(Please return this form in the collection basket or bring
to the parish office)

The Gospel at Home

This Week's Gospel: Matthew 5:13-16

Jesus commissions his followers to be “the salt of the earth” and “light to the world.” Salt and light are just as important to us today as they were to people in Jesus’ time. Jesus’ image of salt challenges us to bring out the best in others as salt brings out the best flavors in food. The image of light challenges us to warm and brighten others’ lives like sunlight. It challenges us to live as Jesus did so that our actions shine forth like a lamp on a stand.

Exploring the Gospel Message

Seeds (Preschool): Young children love to be noticed. “Watch me!” they demand. They love to “shine.” Ask your child to tell you what the class learned about what Jesus said about the lamp. Talk together about how the whole family can shine God’s light on all they meet. Ask them what a Saint is and talk about how Saints have shined light on how to live like Jesus.

Promise (Grades K-1): Your child has learned in class that the little things can make a big difference. Jesus calls us to be the light and salt—two little things that make a very big difference. Ask your child to share the story of the little mouse who performed an act of kindness to help the lion. Talk about how each member of the family can make a difference in the home and in the world. Discuss how a little service for each other helps in big ways.

Good News (Grades 2-3): Ask your child to share with the family the story of the Princess Stella and the salt shaker titled, “Please Pass the Salt.” The class learned that Jesus told his followers they were the salt of the earth. Explore ways your family is already salt for the world, and how you can do more to make the world a better place. Add a discussion on the meaning of this week’s vocabulary word: the Body of Christ.

Venture (Grades 4-6): Your youngster’s class discovered what it means to be salt and light for others. Ask your child to share the story of how Kai used his gifts to shed light on issues in his community. Acknowledge the gifts that you see in your young person, and brainstorm ways that your son or daughter can share these gifts with the world. Ask your youngster to share the dilemmas they discussed in class, and talk about how your young person would respond if they found themselves in any similar situations. Also invite your son or daughter to share what the class learned about the Liturgy of the Eucharist at Mass, and who Saint Paul Miki and the Martyrs of Nagasaki are.

Visions (Grades 7-9): This week’s class invited the young people to explore Jesus’ call for his followers to be salt of the earth and light of the world. The Gospel reading comes from the famous Sermon on the Mount. The class learned that working for social justice adds both salt and light to the lives of others. Ask your child to share the story of Boy Scout Griffin Burchard and how he was a light to others. The class also took time to identify problems, make choices, and evaluate their choices in the light of the Gospel. Together, talk about problems that your family may face and discover how you can bring salt and light to the ways you face them. Discuss, too, the light brought to others by artist Chloe Becker.

Pray Together

At a family meal, pray that your family may truly be salt for the earth by making a difference. Pass a salt shaker around the table. While holding the salt shaker, each person can pray in his or her own words for God’s help in making a difference in the life of your family and in the world.





Anointing of the Sick I: The Mystery of Illness

We get hurt. We wear out. The lungs, the eyes, the memory, and any of the many limbs and organs that compose us break or ache. Gloom comes over us then: pity for ourselves, sorrow, depression, anger. But hope can come, too, and courage, and sometimes peace.

All of this is marked and celebrated in the rites of our tradition. With a word and a deed, with touch and breath and spit and mud, Jesus heals those who ail. In every place and time, we who are the church remember and tell stories of healing, anoint the sick with oil and share the one bread even with those who cannot assemble for Mass. Thus the sick and the healthy, the homebound and the spry, saints and sinners are made one and remain one, a single body of many parts.

Anyone who is seriously ill can receive the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick, including the elderly who become weaker, even if no illness is present; those waiting for surgery when a serious condition is the reason for the operation; sick children who have sufficient use of reason to be helped by the celebration; and those who are unconscious or who have lost the use of reason, provided that they probably would have asked for the sacrament had they the use of their faculties. Furthermore, many forms of mental illness are now known to be serious. So the mentally ill may be anointed, provided that they will be helped and not harmed by the rite. If you have questions, consult a priest or other parish leader.

The most complete celebration of the sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick is a communal one, a celebration in which those to be anointed are surrounded and supported by other members of the Christian community, whether at home, or in the house of the church (for those who can leave their beds and come here). In song and in silence, with scriptures and prayers, we strengthen the bonds of love and faith that are stronger than the most lethal disease and more powerful even than death.



Bringing Home the Word

Fifth Sunday of Ordinary Time (A)
February 5, 2023

You Are Really Something!

By Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA

The description of the disciples found in today's Gospel is an impressive compliment—and an even greater challenge. Jesus tells them they are “the salt of the earth” (Matthew 5:13), bringing out the good taste of living. In other words, life would be bland and uninteresting without them. They are also the “the light of the world” (Matthew 5:14), helping people find their way. Without them, others would stumble and fall. Jesus is telling them how important they are in the lives of others. They could each and all say: I am really something!

Sunday Readings

Isaiah 58:7–10

[I]f you lavish your food on the hungry / and satisfy the afflicted;
/ Then your light shall rise in the darkness....

1 Corinthians 2:1–5

I resolved to know nothing while I was with you except Jesus Christ, and him crucified.

Matthew 5:13–16

[Jesus said,] “Just so, your light must shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your heavenly Father.”

Such compliments are also a challenge. What must one do to be salt and light in the lives of others? The Isaian passage provides some suggestions: Share your bread with the hungry; shelter the oppressed and the homeless; clothe the naked; don't turn your back on your own; remove from your midst oppression, false accusation, and malicious speech. In other words, to be salt or light is to meet the needs of the needy. This teaching of Jesus is not as easy to do as it is to talk about.

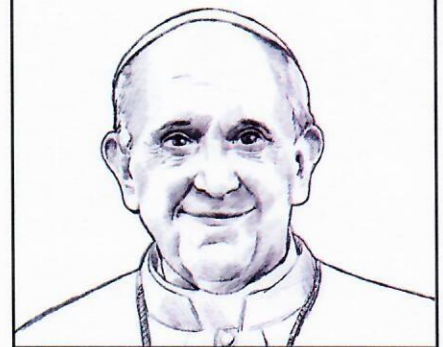
Jesus is speaking to his disciples, his followers. They are not those who are simply curious about this itinerant preacher or remarkable healer. They have chosen to follow him, not merely from place to place, but to model their lives after his. Isn't that what we also claim to be—his followers? Haven't we promised to model our lives after his? If so, as both compliment and challenge he says to us as well, “You are really something!” †

Isn't that what we also claim to be—his followers? Haven't we promised to model our lives after Jesus?

A Word from Pope Francis

I would like to ask you now, how do you want to live? As a lamp that is burning or one that is not? ...As burning lamps! It is truly God who gives us this light and we must give it to others. Shining lamps! This is the Christian vocation.

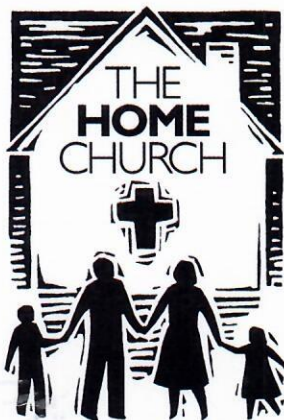
ANGELUS, ROME, FEBRUARY 9, 2014



REFLECTION QUESTIONS

ONE QUESTION REFLECTION

- How is being salt or light a challenge for me?
- In what ways do I already enrich or enlighten the lives of others?



Justice, Mercy, and the Nature of God

By Fr. Ron Rolheiser, OMI

Part I

Anyone who claims to understand God is deceived because we know that God is ineffable. That means that we can know God but never adequately capture God in a concept. God is unimaginable. If God could be understood, then God would be as limited as we are.

God may be ineffable, but God's nature is known. Divine revelation, as seen through nature, as seen through other religions, and especially as seen through Jesus, spells out what's inside God's inexpressible reality.

What's revealed there is both comforting beyond all comfort and challenging beyond all challenge. What's revealed in the beauty of creation, in the compassion that is the hallmark of all true religion—and in Jesus' revelation of his Father—takes us beyond a blind date into a trustworthy relationship. Nature,

religion, and Jesus conspire together to reveal an Ultimate Reality, a Ground of Being, a Creator and Sustainer of the universe, a God who is wise, intelligent, prodigal, compassionate, loving, forgiving, patient, good, trustworthy, and beautiful beyond imagination.

God cannot be deciphered, circumscribed, or captured in human thought; but, from what can be deciphered, we're in good, safe hands. We can sleep well at night. God has our back in the end—both for humanity as a whole and for our own individual lives. As Julian of Norwich prayed: "All shall be well, and all shall be well, and all manner of thing shall be well." God is good.

Part II

The Gospels, as we know, reveal a God who is prodigal beyond all our standards and beyond our imagination. The God of the Gospels is the Sower who, because he has unlimited seeds, scatters those seeds everywhere without discrimination: on the road, in the ditches, in the thornbushes, in bad soil, and in good soil.

Moreover, that prodigal Sower is

also the God of creation, that is, the God who has created and continues to create hundreds of billions of galaxies and billions of human beings. And this prodigal God gives us this perennial invitation: come to the waters, come without money, come without merit because God's gift is as plentiful, available, and as free as the air we breathe.

The Gospel of Luke recounts an incident where Peter, just after he had spent an entire night fishing and had caught nothing, is told to cast out his net one more time and, this time, Peter's net catches so many fish that the weight of the catch threatens to sink two boats. Peter reacts by falling to his knees and confessing his sinfulness. But as the text makes clear, that's not the proper reaction in the face of overabundance. Peter is wrongly fearful, in effect, wanting that overabundance to go away. Rather, Jesus wants him—in the face of too much—to go into the world and share with others that unimaginable grace. †

(Continued next week)

**PRAYER**

Gracious God, Jesus calls us to be salt and light for the world. In his name we ask for your grace that we may be signs of your goodness to all we meet. Amen.

The Redemptorists

This reflection is an excerpt from *Daybreaks: Daily Reflections for Lent and Easter* by Fr. Ron Rolheiser, OMI, available now from Liguori Publications. Visit Liguori.org to learn more and review our complete list of *Daybreaks* authors, including Fr. Byron Miller, CSSR; Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA; Fr. Daniel Horan, OFM, and others.

WEEKDAY READINGS

February 6–11

Monday, St. Paul Miki and Companions:

Gn 1:1–19 / Mk 6:53–56

Tuesday, Weekday:

Gn 1:20–2:4a / Mk 7:1–13

Wednesday, Weekday:

Gn 2:4b–9, 15–17 / Mk 7:14–23

Thursday, Weekday:


Gn 2:18–25 / Mk 7:24–30

Friday, St. Scholastica:

Gn 3:1–8 / Mk 7:31–37

Saturday, Weekday:

Gn 3:9–24 / Mk 8:1–10

Bringing Home
the Word 
February 5, 2023

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