

# MUSIC FOR THE LITURGY

Sunday, February 12, 2023

Sixth Sunday  
In Ordinary Time

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

Gathering: As We Gather At Your Table BB 315  
Responsorial Psalm (Psalm 34)

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

Preparation Prayer Of St. Francis BB 534  
Mass Parts Mass Of Creation  
Communion The Body Of Christ (Cantor)  
Recessional: How Can I Keep From Singing BB 446



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 12 Catholic Schools  
February 19 Fuel  
February 22 Aid to Churches in Central / Eastern Europe / Africa  
February 26 No Second Collection  
March 5 Property Management

## PLEASE HELP US!

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

## ✠ 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  
FEBRUARY 5, 2023  
WILL APPEAR IN NEXT WEEK'S BULLETIN



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  
**Mary A. Edwards**  
by Jim Edwards

The Sanctuary Light  
at Holy Angels Church  
will burn this week in loving memory of  
**Paul R. Antkowiak**  
(Birthday Remembrance)  
by his family



The Vigil Light in front of the  
Blessed Mother icon  
at Mary Mother of the Church  
will burn this week in loving memory of  
**Joan Burge**  
by the Burge family

### CANDLES

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

### 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.

### 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, **February 16, 2023 from 8:00 to 9:00 AM** in the parish hall on the Plaistow campus.

### 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.

### 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!

### 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>.

### 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](mailto:3023@halpourmarriage.org).

### AMAZONSMILE FOUNDATION

The **AmazonSmile Foundation** is discontinuing its AmazonSmile program on February 26, 2023. Thank you so much to all who participated!

### 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 12

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

### Tuesday, February 14

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

### Wednesday, February 15

#### Holy Angels Church

#### Open All Day For Prayer

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

### Thursday, February 16

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

### Saturday, February 17

8:00 AM Men of St. Joseph *Plaistow*

3:00 PM Sacrament of Reconciliation *Plaistow*

### Sunday, February 19

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

## FREE TONER CARTRIDGES

The Parish Office has 2 new (unused) laser printer cartridges for the taking – compatible with HP LaserJet Pro M304/M404n/dn/dw or MFP M428dw/fdn/fdw. Call the Office for more details.

## RESTROOM BREAKS DURING MASS

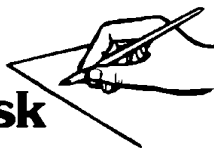
### Attention Parents

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, February 11 ~ Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

*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*

### Monday, February 13 ~ Weekday

*Gn 4:1-15, 25; Mk 8:11-13*

8:00 AM Walter and Leo F. Metcalf by Barbara Metcalf  
*Newton*

### Tuesday, February 14 ~ Cyril, Monk, and Methodius,

#### Bishop

*Gn 6:5-8, 7-15, 10; Mk 8:14-21*

8:00 AM All Souls Intentions  
*Plaistow*

### Wednesday, February 15 ~ Weekday

*Gn 8:6-13, 20-22; Mk 8:22-26*

6:30 PM Patrick Foynes (Month's Mind)  
*Plaistow*

### Thursday, February 16 ~ Weekday

*Gn 9:1-13; Mk 8:27-33*

8:00 AM People of the Parish  
*Newton*

### Friday, February 17 ~ The Seven Holy Founders of the

#### Servite Order

*Gn 11:1-9; Mk 8:34—9:1*

**NO MASS**

### Saturday, February 18 ~ Weekday

*Heb 11:1-7; Mk 9:2-13 (Day)*

*Lv 19:1-2, 17-18; 1 Cor 3:16-23; Mt 5:38-48 (Vigil)*

4:00 PM Joe Thompson (5<sup>th</sup> Anniversary) by Robin Thompson  
*Plaistow*

### Sunday, February 19 ~ Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

*Lv 19:1-2, 17-18; 1 Cor 3:16-23; Mt 5:38-48*

8:00 AM Betty Nappi by the Stanley family  
*Newton*

10:00 AM Rick Field by Jackie Tremblay  
*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.**

### BUSTED HALO

Busted Halo is a unique media resource sponsored by the Paulist Fathers of the US that utilizes a relevant and accessible voice to help people understand the Catholic faith, put it into practice in their everyday lives, and share it with others. Check out their site, podcasts and videos at [www.bustedhalo.com](http://www.bustedhalo.com).

### 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	<a href="mailto:fr.albert@stluketheevangelist.net">fr.albert@stluketheevangelist.net</a>
Cathy Smith	<a href="mailto:csmith@stluketheevangelist.net">csmith@stluketheevangelist.net</a>
Joyce Szczapa	<a href="mailto:jszczapa@stluketheevangelist.net">jszczapa@stluketheevangelist.net</a>
Jackie Tremblay	<a href="mailto:jtremblay@stluketheevangelist.net">jtremblay@stluketheevangelist.net</a>
Val Barczak	<a href="mailto:mvmbarczak@comcast.net">mvmbarczak@comcast.net</a>
Parish Council	<a href="mailto:parishcouncil@stluketheevangelist.net">parishcouncil@stluketheevangelist.net</a>



## ❖ Community News ❖



### SAINT JUDE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS MONTHLY FOOD DRIVE

The Knights of Columbus of our Parish are sponsoring a monthly food drive to support the Saint Luke the Evangelist Food Pantry. A list of items needed, along with a paper shopping bag, will be distributed at the end of Masses on the 3<sup>rd</sup> weekend of each month to those who wish to participate. We ask that you bring back the non-perishable food items the following weekend (4<sup>th</sup> weekend of the month). You are also welcome to drop off donations at the Parish Office during normal business hours or at one 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/](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.

**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.**

### PARISH OFFICE CLOSED

In observance of the Presidents’ Day holiday, the Parish Office will be closed on **Monday, February 20**. The office will reopen at 8:30 AM on Tuesday, February 21.

Our regular office hours are Monday through Thursday from 8:30 AM to 12:00 Noon and from 1:00 to 4:30 PM.

### 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).

### 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.



JOIN MEMBERS OF THE  
KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS  
THIS THURSDAY  
EVENING, FEBRUARY 16  
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](http://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. Our **Lenten Journey** program helps Discipleship!

**Lenten Journey is about SMALL GROUPS... IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO SIGN-UP!** We continue to welcome sign-ups for small groups. On the back of this flyer is a REGISTRATION FORM. Return the form by Monday, February 13<sup>th</sup> at the office, or call the office at 382-8324.

**Meetings begin next week!** Groups meet six times during the Lenten season to discuss the Lenten Sunday Lectionary readings. You will learn more about Scripture through the resource book provided, participate in interesting discussions, meet some wonderful people and have the opportunity to build up the Body of Christ.



**All group members will pick up their resource booklets  
at the first meeting.**

**Groups begin meeting NEXT WEEK!**

**Wednesday, February 22, 7:00 p.m. after the 6:30 p.m. Mass downstairs in the Church Hall.**

**Thursday, February 23, at 1:30 p.m. downstairs in the Church Hall**

**Ash Wednesday is next Wednesday, February 22!**



# **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 5:17-37

The Law of Moses contains 613 laws. Some of these laws are simple, basic, you-shall or you-shall-not commands, of which the Ten Commandments are typical. Some of these laws govern worship. A good many of the 613 laws are what-if laws that apply the Commandments to everyday life. In the Gospel, Jesus' New Law asks people to deepen their keeping of the laws and to follow his new Law of Love.

### Exploring the Gospel Message

**Seeds (Preschool):** Rules give children a way to know they belong. They experience rules by being members of a family and a class that keep the same rules they do. Talk about family rules with your child. Share why the rules are important for everyone. Be sure to pray the Our Father, which was part of this week's lesson, and help your child become familiar with the family Bible.

**Promise (Grades K-1):** The class learned how families keep rules. Ask your child what Jesus' Law of Love is. Your child learned how God's family keeps rules, so talk about your family's rules and how they help. The Word of the Week is the Ten Commandments, so consider listing those important rules in a prominent place in your home.

**Good News (Grades 2-3):** This week, your child learned to recognize good moral actions. Your child also learned what the Ten Commandments and Christian morality are and how they help all to do what is right. Talk about how Jesus' teaching deepens the Commandments, and how the rules you have in your family help all of you make right decisions and care for one another.

**Venture (Grades 4-6):** Your young person learned that there is a similarity between the Ten Commandments and the rules every family needs to live by. The class read a story of a middle schooler who went against his conscience to fit in with the popular crowd. Invite your young person to summarize the story for the family, and affirm that it is important to listen to your conscience when making decisions. Talk about how you can apply Jesus' Law of Love to the arguments and conflicts your family might have. Take a few moments to ask one another's forgiveness for hurtful words or actions. When you finish your conversation, you may want to share a sign of peace, like you do at Sunday Mass.

**Visions (Grades 7-9):** This week's class began with a look at the Ten Commandments. Your youngster also explored ways to manage feelings of anger and ways to seek forgiveness. Invite him or her to share the story "Anh's Anger" with the family. Talk together about Jesus' new Law of Love and how important it is for a Christian to show love for God by loving one's neighbor as well. Discuss the importance of following moral laws and how these laws help people show love for one another. Talk, too, about how Saint Paul's letter to the Corinthians continues to help Christians today.

### Pray Together

Plan a special treat for the whole family. Before you share the treat together, share words of love and appreciation with one another. Then, ask God to bless your family with the gift of enduring love. Enjoy the treat, then hold hands and thank God in a prayer for all he has given and done to bless your family.







## **Anointing of the Sick**

### **Celebrating the Sacrament**

The Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick is a celebration in which those who are seriously ill or infirm 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. The sacrament may be celebrated in the context of a Mass, or on its own, depending on the needs of the person who is sick.

The celebration opens with brief introductory rites that help us remember that God is with us and that we are the body of Christ. Then follows a liturgy of the word, in which we hear scriptures that shed light on the meaning of sickness and suffering and the

compassion of our God, who suffers with us. Depending on the needs of the person who is sick, one brief passage or two or three readings and a psalm may be used.

Then the rite continues. The gathered church surrounds the person who is sick with the prayer of faith. In response to God's word, a litany is prayed. Then, the priest does the laying on of hands, an ancient sign of the moving of the Holy Spirit to heal and save. Others may join in this ancient prayer gesture. This is done in silence. Then a prayer is said over the oil of the sick. Finally, the priest anoints the head and the hands, and sometimes other parts of the body (the feet, for example, or the part of the body that is in pain) of the one who is sick. While anointing the sick person's head, the priest says "Through this holy anointing, may the Lord in his love and mercy help you with the grace of the Holy Spirit." And all answer "Amen!" While anointing the hands, the priest says, "May the Lord who frees you from sin save you and raise you up." And again, all answer "Amen!" If other parts of the body are anointed, no words are said. A final prayer is then said.

The Liturgy of the Eucharist, or simply the giving of communion, may follow. Or the rite ends with a blessing. If you or someone you know needs the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick anointing, please call the Parish Office at 603 382 8324.





# Bringing Home the Word

Sixth Sunday of Ordinary Time (A)

February 12, 2023

## Choose One

By Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA

**L**aw, wisdom, or virtue. Choose One. Today's first reading talks about wisdom. Throughout life, options are placed before us. Which should we pick? Life or death? Good or evil? How do we know which one to choose? Actually, we learn to choose through experience, either our own or the experience of those who have gone before us and left us their insights within our traditions—whether social, political, or religious. Some of these

traditions come to us as advice, others as law. One might say that law is really the expression or codification of social, political, or religious traditions. So, to follow the law is really to obey a certain kind of codified wisdom.

When St. Paul speaks about wisdom, he is referring to wisdom that comes from following the directives of God, not merely the insights gained through experience. He calls that a mature wisdom as opposed the wisdom of this age. It is the kind of wisdom we find in Jesus, who lived his life for others, a kind of wisdom that some might consider foolish.

In the Gospel, Jesus insists that he is not abolishing law but fulfilling it. He urges us to go deeper into law and find wisdom, to go even deeper into human wisdom, and there to find virtue. Law deals with exteriors; virtue addresses the inner heart. Law forbids murder; virtue forbids hatred. Where do you live? In law? In wisdom? Or in virtue? Choose one. †

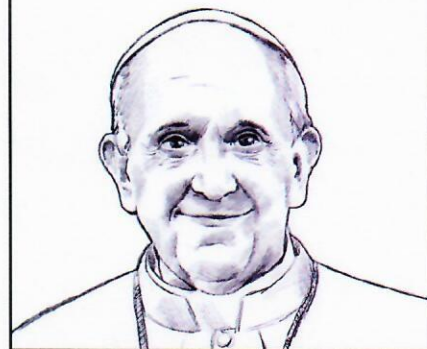


***To follow the law is really to obey a certain kind of codified wisdom.***

## A Word from Pope Francis

By accepting the Law of God in our heart, one understands that, when one does not love one's neighbor, to some extent one kills oneself and others, because hatred, rivalry and division kill the fraternal charity that is the basis of interpersonal relationships. And this applies to what I have said about war and also about gossip, because words kill.

ANGELUS, ROME, FEBRUARY 16, 2020



## REFLECTION QUESTIONS

**ONE QUESTION REFLECTION**

- Am I too casual about rules and laws or too strict?
- What virtues shape my life?

## Sunday Readings

### Sirach 15:15–20

Before everyone are life and death, / whichever they choose will be given them.

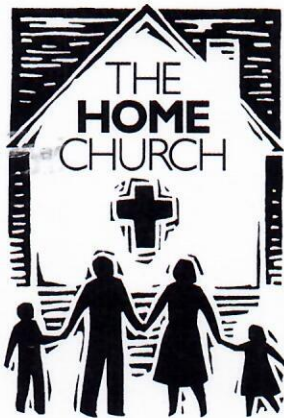
### 1 Corinthians 2:6–10

"What eye has not seen, and ear has not heard, / and what has not entered the human heart, / [is] what God has prepared for those who love him...."

### Matthew 5:17–37 or 5:20–22a, 27–28, 33–34a, 37

I tell you, unless your righteousness surpasses that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will not enter into the kingdom of heaven.





# Justice, Mercy, and the Nature of God

By Fr. Ron Rolheiser, OMI

(continued from last week)

## Part III

**T**he Gospels recount an incident where Jesus goes to the synagogue on a Sabbath, stands to read, and quotes a text from Isaiah—except he doesn't quote it fully. He omits a part that would have been known to his listeners. It describes Isaiah's vision of what will be the sign that God has finally broken into the world and irrevocably changed things.

For Isaiah, the sign that God is now ruling the earth will be good news for the poor, consolation for the brokenhearted, freedom for the enslaved, grace abundant for everyone, and vengeance on the wicked. Notice, though, when Jesus quotes this, he leaves out the part about vengeance and seeing the wicked punished.

In heaven we will be given what we're owed and more (unmerited gifts, forgiveness we don't deserve, joy beyond imagining), but it seems we will not be given that catharsis we so much want here on earth: the "joy" of seeing the wicked punished.

We know we need God's mercy, but if grace is true for us, it has to be true for everyone. If forgiveness is given to us, it must be given to everybody. And if God does not avenge our misdeeds, God must not avenge the misdeeds of others, either. Such is the logic of grace and such is the love of God, to whom we must attune ourselves.

## Part IV

Some day you will have to face your Maker! We've all heard that phrase. The hour will come when we will stand alone before God with no place to hide, no room to rationalize, and no excuses to offer for our weaknesses and sin. We will stand in a searing light, naked and exposed, and all we ever did, good and bad, will stand with us in that light. That prospect, however vaguely felt, makes for a dark corner in every person's mind.

But searing judgment of our souls is meant to be a daily occurrence, not a single traumatic moment at the end of our lives. We are meant to bring ourselves, with all our complexities and weaknesses, into God's full light every day. Genuine prayer brings us into that searing light.

We are meant to face God like this every day, not just at the moment of our death. So we should set aside time each day to put ourselves into God's presence without words and without images, where—naked, stripped of everything, silent, exposed, hiding nothing, completely vulnerable—we simply sit, full face, before God's judgment and mercy.

By doing this, we will preempt any traumatic encounter at the time of our death and we will begin, here and now, to enjoy more fully God's empathic embrace. †

(continued next week)



*Abiding God, may we be faithful  
to the law of love your son  
revealed to the world. We pray in  
Jesus' name. 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](http://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 13–18

### Monday, Weekday:

Gn 4:1–15, 25 / Mk 8:11–13

### Tuesday, Sts. Cyril and Methodius:

Gn 6:5–8; 7:1–5, 10 / Mk 8:14–21

### Wednesday, Weekday:

Gn 8:6–13, 20–22 / Mk 8:22–26

### Thursday, Weekday:


Gn 9:1–13 / Mk 8:27–33

### Friday, Weekday:

Gn 11:1–9 / Mk 8:34–9:1

### Saturday, Weekday:

Heb 11:1–7 / Mk 9:2–13

Bringing Home  
the Word   
February 12, 2023

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