



MUSIC FOR THE LITURGY

Sunday, May 21, 2023
Seventh Sunday of Easter

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

Gathering: O God, Beyond All Praising BB 547
Responsorial Psalm (Psalm 118)

This day was made by the Lord; let us rejoice, let us be glad! This day was made by the Lord; let us rejoice in salvation.

Sprinkling Rite: *God, you have moved upon the waters, you have sung in the rush of wind and flame; and in your love, you have called us sons and daughters, make us people of the water and your name.*

Preparation Here I Am, Lord BB 395
Mass Parts Storrington Mass
Communion: Take And Eat BB 359
Recessional: Holy God, We Praise Thy Name BB 197



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!

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!

May 7, 2023

Offertory	\$6,834.99
Property Management	\$1,525.30

COLLECTION AMOUNTS FOR
MAY 14, 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). 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 COLLECTION

May 21	Fuel
May 28	No Second Collection



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.

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 ✠

NEW HAMPSHIRE CATHOLIC APPEAL

Thank you on behalf of Saint Luke the Evangelist Parish for making a donation to the New Hampshire Catholic Appeal. If you have not made a donation to the Appeal, You can do so by filling out a donation envelope found in the pews or at the church entrance. You can make an online gift by visiting www.catholicnh.org/about/get-nvolved/giving/nhca/. You can also use your smartphone with the QR code below.

Our Parish target is \$46,740.00. Thank you again for your support of our NH Catholic community and these important diocesan ministries.



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL MEETING AND REGISTRATION

On **Sunday, June 4 and Sunday, June 11** following the 10:00 AM Mass, parents and volunteers are invited to attend information meetings in the Plaistow Church Hall. Come and see an exciting preview of our Stellar Vacation Bible School 2023!!!!

CATHOLIC CHARITIES NH ONLINE SUPPORT GROUP – SURVIVING SEPARATION OR DIVORCE

Are you struggling with life changes, isolation, and difficulties resulting from separation or divorce? Catholic Charities NH is hosting a five-week online support group called “Surviving Divorce and Separation.” This group is designed for individuals who are facing new realities during or after separation or divorce. You will have the opportunity to both receive and offer support to others experiencing similar situations, and together, discover that you are not alone. **Sessions will be held on Wednesdays, beginning May 24th, from 5:30-6:30 p.m. via Zoom.** To learn more or to register, please visit www.cc-nh.org/separation.

BLESSING OF FATHERS

A special blessing of fathers will be given at all Masses on the weekend of **Father’s Day, June 18, 2023.**



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, **June 17, 2023 from 8:00 to 9:00 AM** in the parish hall on the Plaistow campus.



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 Fr. Albert at the parish office for more information.

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

WHILE AWAY THIS SPRING...

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

✠ WEEKLY CALENDAR ✠

Sunday, May 21		
10:00 AM	Confirmation and First Eucharist	<i>Plaistow</i>
Wednesday, May 24		
Holy Angels Church Open All Day For Prayer		
Thursday, May 25		
8:30 AM – 8:30 PM	Eucharistic Adoration	<i>Newton</i>
Saturday, May 27		
3:00 PM	Sacrament of Reconciliation	<i>Plaistow</i>
Sunday, May 28		
6:00 PM	Vespers	<i>Plaistow</i>
6:30 PM	Pentecost Reception	<i>Plaistow</i>

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.

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.

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

✠ MASS INTENTIONS ✠

Saturday, May 20 ~ Seventh Sunday of Easter

Acts 1:12-14; 1 Pt 4:13-16; Jn 17:1-11a (Vigil)

4:00 PM Roy Lajoie (3rd Anniversary)
by his wife and family
Plaistow

Sunday, May 21 ~ Seventh Sunday of Easter

Acts 1:12-14; 1 Pt 4:13-16; Jn 17:1-11a

8:00 AM Kenneth Jenkins by the Statezni family
Newton

10:00 AM CONFIRMATION and FIRST EUCHARIST
Plaistow

Monday, May 22 ~ Rita of Cascia, Religious

Acts 19:1-8; Jn 16:29-33

8:00 AM Marjorie Thompson (Month's Mind)
Newton

Tuesday, May 23 ~ Easter Weekday

Acts 20:17-27; Jn 17:1-11a

8:00 AM Adelaide Sullivan by Grace Bukowski
Plaistow

Wednesday, May 24 ~ Easter Weekday

Acts 20:28-38; Jn 17:11b-19

6:30 PM Norman Lambert by the Brotz family
Plaistow

Thursday, May 25 ~ Bede the Venerable, Priest and

Doctor of the Church; Gregory VII, Pope;

Mary Magdalene de' Pazzi, Virgin

Acts 22:30, 23:6-11; Jn 17:20-26

8:00 PM James Polito by Joan Meader
Newton

Friday, May 26 ~ Philip Neri, Priest

Acts 25:13b-21; Jn 21:15-19

No Mass

Saturday, May 27 ~ Augustine of Canterbury, Bishop

Acts 28:16-20, 30-31; Jn 21:20-25 (Day)

Gn 11:1-9; Rom 8:22-27; Jn 7:37-39 (Vigil)

4:00 PM Roy Lajoie (Birthday Remembrance)
by his wife and family
Plaistow

Sunday, May 28 ~ Pentecost

Acts 2:1-11; 1 Cor 12:3b-7, 12-13; Jn 20:19-23

8:00 AM Deceased Members of the Ballard and
Justin families by Charlie and Lisa Angwin
Newton

10:00 AM Veronica Webster by her daughters
Plaistow





**GRIEF SHARE COMING TO
SAINT LUKE PARISH**

Our Parish will begin GriefShare, a Christ-centered program that focuses on grief topics associated with the death of a loved one. The DVD seminar features nationally respected grief experts and real-life stories of people, followed by a small group discussion about what was viewed. Past participants have related how helpful the information and follow up discussions were to them.

Many grieving people find they are only beginning the work of healing when friends or family have returned to their daily life routines. Too often people, including Christians, tend to ignore or "tough out" their grief instead of allowing it to do the God given work for which it is intended. Don't allow fear of what others may think keep you from what could help you. Confidentiality is very much a part of this program.

Whether your bereavement experience is recent or not so recent, you will find encouragement, comfort and help in grieving the death of a spouse, child, parent, sibling, other family member, or friend. No matter what the cause of your loved one's death, this is an opportunity to be around people who understand what you are feeling. You will learn how to recognize the symptoms of being stuck in grief and that you do not need to live in bondage to certain emotions. You will learn valuable information about facing your new normal in life and renewing your hope for the future.

Group meetings run for 13 weeks and will begin at **6:30 PM on Monday, May 22**. Meetings will be held in the Parish Office living room, which is handicap accessible. Please contact the Parish Office for more information or to register.

EARLY BULLETIN DEADLINE

Below are the early deadlines for submissions to our June bulletins:

For the June 4 bulletin – Tuesday, May 30



SCHEDULE

- May 10: St. Joseph Cathedral, Manchester
- May 11: Our Lady of the Mountaintops, North Conway
- May 12: St. Anne, Berlin
- May 13-14: North American Martyrs, Colebrook
- May 15: St. Denis, Hanover
- May 15: Aquinas House, Dartmouth College
- May 16: Parish of the Holy Spirit, Keene
- May 17: St. Martin, Somersworth
- May 18: Immaculate Conception, Nashua
- May 19-20: St. Andre Bessette, Laconia
- May 20: New Hampshire Catholic Expo Come and see the variety of Catholic organizations, ministries, programs and retailers in New Hampshire! St. Andre Bessette Parish Laconia

EucharisticRevival@rcbm.org faceofthefamily.org

PARISH OFFICE CLOSED

In observance of the Memorial Day holiday, the Parish Office will be closed on **Monday, May 29**. The office will reopen at 8:30 AM on Tuesday, May 30.

EUCHARISTIC 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.

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.

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.

FEELIN'
TOSSED
ABOUT?

tether together at our 2023
PILLARS of LIFE
YOUNG ADULT RETREAT **EARLY BIRDS
SAVE \$15!**
6/2-4 @ St. A's

Join us June 2-4 at St. Anselm Abbey
Led by The Daughters of Mary, Mother of Healing Love
and The Benedictine Monks of St. Anselm Abbey
First 20 Registrants Save \$15
~Discount for Doubles~
REGISTER TODAY! vitanova.org/pillars-of-life-retreat

**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 handout.

Our next meeting on **Wednesday, June 21 at 7:00 PM.**
We meet downstairs in the Church Hall in Plaistow. **New
members are always welcome!**

If you seek assistance or need information about the
St. Vincent de Paul Society, call 603-382-8324 x315.

**Hear, OH LORD, and answer me
for I am poor and needy.**



DO SOMETHING GOOD WITH US

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

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

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

Where there is a need, there is a Knight.

Joining is simple – talk to a brother Knight, contact

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

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

www.kofc.org/joinus

**KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS
ST. JUDE COUNCIL #6617
WWW.KOFC6617.ORG**



Saint Luke the Evangelist



**Congratulations and our prayers
to our newly-Confirmed and first
Communicants!!**

**Abby Coles
Reese Coles
Ava Kaylin MacNeill
Maggie O'Beirne
John Sykora
Zechariah Wilson**

"May God's Spirit dwell within you"



CONFIRMATION AND EUCHARIST

What is “the Restored Order”?

An increasing number of dioceses in the United States are adopting a restored order policy for the celebration of the sacraments of Confirmation and Eucharist. This means, quite simply, that it becomes standard policy for Catholics who were baptized in infancy to receive Confirmation *before* First Communion, not *after*. Practically speaking, this means that the two sacraments are received at the First Communion Mass, with Confirmation being celebrated after the homily.



Why is it referred to as “the Restored Order”?

During the first 500 years or so of the history of the Roman Catholic Church (and still today in the Christian churches of the East), it was always the case that the sacraments of Christian initiation were celebrated in an invariable sequence: Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist. And it was almost always the case that all three sacraments were celebrated together at the same time, even with infants. Following the lead of official documents that were issued by the Church after the Second Vatican Council, more and more dioceses are restoring this original order to the celebration of the sacraments of Christian initiation.

Isn't Confirmation a sacrament of maturity that should come after First Communion as a child grows older?

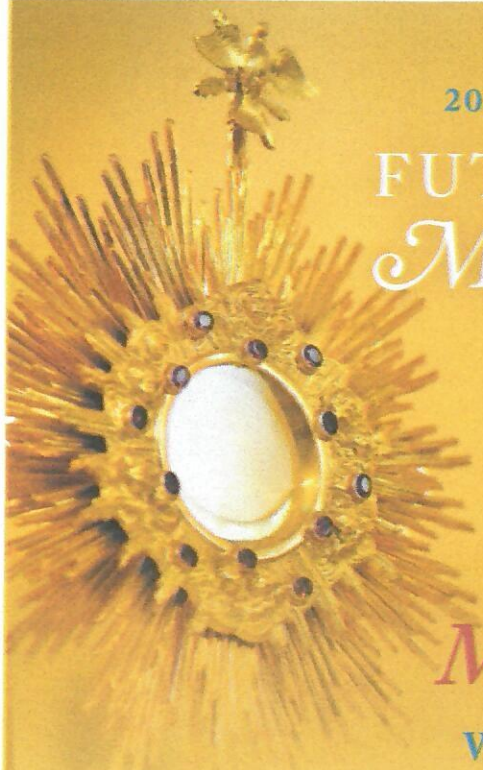
Not really. Confirmation is actually the completion of Baptism (by the full gift of the Holy Spirit). To celebrate Confirmation requires nothing more by way of age-appropriate maturity than to receive the Eucharist. Remember, there is a legitimate, parallel practice in Eastern churches of fully initiating even infants with all three sacraments. The maturity that is required for receiving any of the sacraments of Christian initiation is only what is age-appropriate. The Church expects interior dispositions of readiness, such as understanding freedom, that are realistic at any given age, nothing more.

When we are used to a different practice after more than a thousand years, why is the Church now going back to the original sequence?

Restored order is more than just a fascination with the way it used to be. In fact, there are some very significant theological and liturgical reasons for restoring the integrity of the three sacraments of Christian initiation—all celebrated in proper order, even at the same time. The RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) requires that children and adults in the catechumenate receive all three sacraments together, even if the children are younger than the age at which the Catholic children of the parish are routinely confirmed. Putting the celebration of Confirmation between Baptism and Eucharist better expresses its role as the completion of Baptism. As a matter of fact, the sacrament that is the culmination of a person's Christian initiation is the Eucharist, not Confirmation. Theologically, it is the gift of the Holy Spirit given in all its fullness at Confirmation that best prepares one to receive Eucharist, and thus to be most fully joined to the Body of Christ.

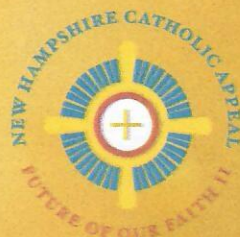
Is it wrong, then, to be Confirmed after receiving Eucharist?

Of course not. The Church has many ways of celebrating the mysteries of God's love in the sacraments. But because Rome so strongly encourages restoring the order of celebrating the sacraments of Christian initiation, don't be surprised if more and more communities restore the original sequence of the three sacraments of Christian initiation.



2023 NEW HAMPSHIRE CATHOLIC APPEAL

FUTURE OF OUR FAITH II: *Many Parts, One Body*



Make Your Gift Today!

WWW.CATHOLICNH.ORG/NHCA

A gift to the New Hampshire Catholic Appeal: Future of Our Faith II will enable the Catholic Church in New Hampshire to meet the increasing needs of parishes, Catholic schools, retired clergy, seminarians and much more. Each dollar is carefully stewarded to provide the maximum cost effectiveness for our ministries.

Your gift supports these essential ministries that keep our faith thriving in New Hampshire

- Increasing and supporting vocations (seminarian education, formation, and support of the permanent diaconate)
- Making Catholic education affordable, accessible, and available to all who desire it
- Catholic Charities New Hampshire
- Caring for our retired clergy
- Vibrant parishes
- Evangelization and catechesis at home with *Parable* magazine
- Missionaries abroad and multicultural ministry in New Hampshire



Learn more or donate online!

"We are building upon our first Future of our Faith campaign from 1995 with this annual diocesan-wide appeal which will fund vital ministries of our Church. By consolidating many Catholic collections, appeals, and causes into this one appeal effort, we move forward as **one Church; one body in Christ**. With your help, the NHCA will provide these ministries with the resources needed to carry out their important missions."

– Most Reverend Peter A. Libasci, D.D.
Tenth Bishop of Manchester





A gift to the New Hampshire Catholic Appeal: Future of Our Faith II will enable the Catholic Church in New Hampshire to meet the increasing needs of parishes, Catholic schools, retired clergy, seminarians and much more. Each dollar is carefully stewarded to provide the maximum cost effectiveness for our ministries.

Your gift supports these essential ministries that keep our faith thriving in New Hampshire.

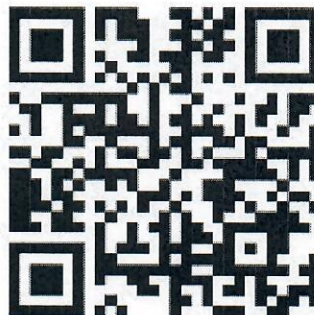
- Increasing and supporting vocations (seminarian education, formation, and support of the permanent diaconate)
- Making Catholic education affordable, accessible, and available to all who desire it
- Catholic Charities New Hampshire
- Caring for our retired clergy
- Vibrant parishes
- Evangelization and catechesis at home with *Parable* magazine
- Missionaries abroad and multicultural ministry in New Hampshire

WAYS TO GIVE

Make Your Gift Online

www.catholicnh.org/NHCA

Make a one-time gift, pledge, or give a monthly recurring gift using a credit or debit card.



Pay by Cash or Check

Make your check payable to the **New Hampshire Catholic Appeal** and mail to:
New Hampshire Catholic Appeal
P.O. Box 5456 Manchester, NH 03108

Check pledges will receive monthly reminders.
All pledges will be a maximum of 10 months and should be paid in full by March 31, 2024.

➔ **Saint Luke the Evangelist Parish goal is \$46,740.00**

➔ **Gifts to Catholic Charities NH separately do not count toward the Catholic Appeal Parish Goal.**

Securities/Stocks, IRAs, Donor Advised Funds and Bequests

We are grateful for your consideration of these types of important gifts. Please call the Development Office for more information on how to plan your gift at 603-663-0136. Please consult your legal representative or tax advisor first to maximize your benefit.

Wine

Yeast causes bread dough to rise. Wine is also a product of the action of yeast, which is a kind of fungus. It turns the sugar in grape juice into alcohol, which eventually kills the yeast and stops the process.

The process is bubbly and sometimes even explosive. No wonder people once thought that “spirits” had invaded the juice! Christians think wine is a wonderful symbol for the action of God’s own Spirit, who brings joy, honesty, friendship, unity—and great “explosions” of creative energy!

The alcohol helps keep the wine from spoiling. Nutritious foods with a long shelf-life—such as wine—were especially valuable in the days before refrigeration. But alcohol can make people intoxicated. Alcohol kills yeast and can kill people, too.

The Bible’s book of Sirach (31:28–29) tells us that wine can inspire communion or conflict:

Wine drunk at the proper time and in moderation is rejoicing of heart and gladness of soul.

Wine drunk to excess leads to bitterness of spirit, to quarrels and mumbling.

Wine is one of many good things in life that can be used for harmful purposes. Learning how to put good things to good use is part of growing up.

The night before he died, Jesus shared a cup of wine among his disciples. He commanded them to do the same in his memory. This wine is Christ’s blood, God’s Holy Spirit, poured out for the life of the world.



BAPTISM IS ONE OF THE SEVEN SACRAMENTS OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH.

Sacraments are celebrations and milestones in our relationship with God and are a must for a Catholic to go through in his/her life. Participating in sacraments is also God's way to show us His graces and love that invites us to salvation with Him.

WHY ARE CHILDREN BAPTIZED?

Children receive baptism primarily to remove original sin but also as a way to initiate a child into the family of the Church. Infant baptism has been debated for centuries. First, let us appeal to the Bible. John 3:5 says, "Jesus answered, 'Amen, amen, I say to you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit.'" Note that Jesus says "no one" can enter heaven in that passage. In the spirit of brevity here is the short answer straight from the Catechism: "The practice of infant Baptism is an immemorial tradition of the Church. There is explicit testimony to this practice from the second century on, and it is quite possible that, from the beginning of the apostolic preaching, when whole "households" received baptism, infants may also have been baptized," (Acts 16:15,33; 18:8; 1 Corinthians 1:16). (Catechism of the Catholic Church, paragraph 1252)

WHAT IS THE ROLE OF SPONSORS OR GODPARENTS?

Sponsors or Godparents for Catholic Baptism are like Sponsors for Confirmation. They assist in the faith development of the person being baptized. Sponsors or Godparents can also be helpful through their prayers and example, helping the child's parents fulfill their own promise to raise the child in the faith. Therefore, the faith of the Sponsors is important in fulfilling the baptismal promise of being raised in the Catholic faith. Sponsors must be able to show the value of the community of faith by their own example as active and committed members of the Church.

WHEN ARE BAPTISMS CELEBRATED?

Since Baptism incorporates a person as a member of the Body of Christ, the ideal time for the Sacrament's celebration is when the community gathers on Sunday (or Saturday evening) for Mass.

The Rite of Baptism during Mass consists of a welcome for the candidate at the beginning of Mass, and the actual Baptism immediately following a Profession of Faith. Baptisms are scheduled for the 4:00 pm vigil Liturgy on Saturday (Plaistow), or the 8:00 am (Newton) or 10:00 am (Plaistow) Liturgies on Sunday.

There are certain Liturgical celebrations (Christmas, RCIA dates, First Eucharist dates) and Liturgical seasons (notably Lent) when Baptism is not celebrated. There are unusual circumstances when Baptism is celebrated outside of Mass. Accommodations are made to help you and your family celebrate with our Parish family in an appropriate way. The Parish assists parents in these special cases.

A Baptism preparation session for parents is required to celebrate the Sacrament of Baptism. Call the Parish Office at (603) 382-8324 for more information.





Bringing Home the Word

Ascension of the Lord (A)

May 21, 2023

Where Are You Looking?

By Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA

Are we, like the disciples, looking in the wrong direction? As they looked up to heaven, they probably realized what they had lost. Jesus was no longer in their midst. But then, the Easter stories all tell us that they never really understood his risen presence with them. And so they were asked: “Why are you standing here looking at the sky?” (Acts 1:11).

Are we also looking up to heaven when we should be looking out to the world? Of course, it is right that we reflect on Jesus’ ascension. However, today’s understanding of the universe

helps us realize that the biblical account of Jesus’ ascension into heaven may be a way of saying that he is glorified with God. As Paul says, he has been granted the place of honor at God’s right hand, “far above every principality, authority, power, and dominion” with “all things beneath his feet” (Ephesians 1:21–22). Jesus, now with God, radiates the full splendor of his resurrection.

We must turn to the Gospel passage to get the fullness of the story of the ascension. Jesus did not say: “Watch what is going to happen.” Instead he told them to go out: “Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations” (Matthew 28:19). We might know these words so well that we miss their forcefulness. In effect, Jesus is telling them: go out to the whole world and tell them what you have seen and heard. I did what it was for me to do; now it is up to you to do the rest. Don’t worry, “I am with you always” (Matthew 28:20). Look where you’re going, not where I went. †

Sunday Readings

Acts 1:1–11

As they were looking on, [Jesus] was lifted up, and a cloud took him from their sight.

Ephesians 1:17–23

And he put all things beneath his feet and gave him as head over all things to the church.

Matthew 28:16–20

[Jesus said,] “Make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the holy Spirit.”

Turn to the Gospel passage in Matthew to get the fullness of the story of the ascension.

A Word from Pope Francis

We must ask the Lord...to grant us the gift of wisdom, that wisdom of God that teaches us to see with God’s eyes, to feel with God’s heart, to speak with God’s words. And so, with this wisdom, let us go forward, let us build our family, let us build the Church....

GENERAL AUDIENCE, ROME,
APRIL 9, 2014



REFLECTION QUESTIONS

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

- Have I ever missed a blessing because I was too busy looking elsewhere?
- Do I turn my blessings into burdens?

A Formula for Contentment

By Fr. Byron Miller, CSsR

Next week we celebrate Pentecost Sunday. On the day of Pentecost, the giddy disciples of Jesus were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak about the mighty acts of God in various tongues. “They were all astounded and bewildered, and said to one another, ‘What does this mean?’ But others said, scoffing, ‘They have had too much new wine.’ Then Peter stood up with the Eleven, raised his voice, and proclaimed to them, ‘You who are Jews, indeed all of you staying in Jerusalem. Let this be known to you, and listen to my words. These people are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only nine o’clock in the morning’” (Acts 2:12–15).

Alleluia! The word itself is so peculiar it sounds like we’re either speaking in tongues, babbling like a child, or inebriated. *Hallelujah* is a transliteration of two Hebrew terms meaning, “Praise the Lord!” It’s an attempt to express our inexpressible happiness after a sobering Lenten season. “In the presence of the mystery that we celebrate on Easter, the mystery of our redemption, our usual intelligible vocabulary is inadequate; when faced with the super abundant mercy of God we can only stammer in amazement like children,” wrote



Balthasar Fischer in *Signs, Words, and Gestures* (Pueblo Publishing Co., 1981).

Yet, the sheer repetition of *Alleluia* throughout the Easter season won’t instill happiness in the one uttering it, if a personal experience of God’s profound love and mercy is lacking. How can our ecstatic hearts keep from singing *Alleluia*, if to know God is to feel elation? This, of course, begs the question: What makes us happy?

On a trip to Tokyo in 1922, Albert Einstein discovered he was without money to tip a bellboy. Sensing the gravity of the faux pas, he scribbled a formula for happiness on a piece of paper—not as famous as his $E = mc^2$ —but isn’t it all relative? His handwritten

note read: “A calm and modest life brings more happiness than the pursuit of success combined with constant restlessness.” Last year, the note sold for \$1.56 million at an auction in Jerusalem.

Is there a secret formula for happiness? According to Earnie Larsen, “The two deepest desires most people have are: to love and be loved and to believe they are worthwhile and know someone else believes that also. In other words, to be happy we need someone to love, something to do, and something to look forward to.” Happiness, then, isn’t winning a few bucks in the lottery. It’s playing ball with your grandson. Happiness isn’t determined by our number of friends on Facebook, but in befriending our Redeemer who tied a towel around his waist, poured water into a basin, and washed his disciples’ feet. After performing this service, the master-turned-attendant tipped us with a formula for contentment: “I have given you a model to follow, so that as I have done for you, you should also do” (John 13:15). †



Lord Jesus, show us where to look for you and open our eyes to recognize your presence among us, we pray. Amen! Alleluia!

The Redemptorists

This article was previously published in Liguorian, a bimonthly magazine published by the Redemptorists. To subscribe or purchase a gift subscription, visit Liguorian.org or call 866-848-2492.

WEEKDAY READINGS

May 22–27

Monday, Easter Weekday:

Acts 19:1–8 / Jn 16:29–33

Tuesday, Easter Weekday:

Acts 20:17–27 / Jn 17:1–11a

Wednesday, Easter Weekday:

Acts 20:28–38 / Jn 17:11b–19

Thursday, Easter Weekday:


Acts 22:30; 23:6–11 / Jn 17:20–26

Friday, St. Philip Neri:

Acts 25:13b–21 / Jn 21:15–19

Saturday, Easter Weekday:

Acts 28:16–20, 30–31 / Jn 21:20–25

Bringing Home
the Word 

May 21, 2023

© 2023 Liguori Publications, a ministry of the Redemptorists. One Liguori Drive, Liguori, MO 63057. Scripture quotations in this publication are from the *New American Bible*, revised edition, © 2010, 1991, 1986, 1970 Confraternity of Christian Doctrine, Washington, DC. The Pope Francis quotation is used with permission and copyright © 2020 *Libreria Editrice Vaticana*. All rights reserved. 1-800-325-9521. Liguori.org.