



## MUSIC FOR THE LITURGY

Sunday, July 16, 2023

Fifteenth Sunday In  
Ordinary Time

Seventh Sunday After Pentecost

Gathering: Gather Us In BB 302

Responsorial Psalm (Psalm 100)

*All the earth proclaim the Lord, sing  
your praise to God.*

Preparation Parable BB 691

Mass Parts Mass Of Creation

Communion: Whatsoever You Do BB 627

Recessional: O God, Beyond All Praising BB 547

## ✠ PARISH TITHING ✠

Our Parish needs to take in \$9700.00 each week in order to make ends meet. This amount represents an adjusted budget offertory of \$8500.00 per week plus the combination of budgeted Property and Fuel second collections (\$4800.00 per month divided into 4 weeks or \$1200.00 weekly). Your weekly contribution helps ensure that the Parish remains a vibrant community. Please remember to submit your weekly gift even if you will be away. Consider signing up for electronic giving (see below). Especially in these trying times, your Parish depends on your responsible stewardship and support!

### July 2, 2023

Offertory	\$7,059.45
Property Management	\$1,592.60

### July 9, 2023

Offertory	\$6,108.82
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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.



Find us on:  
**facebook**

St. Luke the Evangelist is 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.

Saint Luke the Evangelist Parish uses **Parish Giving** to provide parishioners with an opportunity to make your offertory and other contributions through Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT). Parish Giving is a simple, secure, and convenient way to manage your stewardship without weekly envelopes and without worries. This program is available to parishioners at no cost. Log on to the St. Luke the Evangelist Parish website at <http://stlukenh.org>, click on the Parish Giving logo, and follow the easy registration instructions.

### UPCOMING SECOND COLLECTIONS

July 16	No Second Collection
July 23	Fuel
July 30	No Second Collection
August 6	Property Management

### 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-involved/giving/nhca/](http://www.catholicnh.org/about/get-involved/giving/nhca/). You can also use your smartphone with the QR code below.

Our Parish target is \$46,740.00. **As of July 3, 2023, we have raised \$26,868.00.** Thank you again for your support of our NH Catholic community and these important diocesan ministries.



### 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.

### 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, **August 19, 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 **August 18-29, 2023 and November 10-11, 2023.** For more information, email [3023@helpourmarriage.org](mailto:3023@helpourmarriage.org).

### **WHILE AWAY THIS SUMMER...**

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

## ✠ WEEKLY CALENDAR ✠

**Wednesday, July 19**  
**Holy Angels Church Open**  
**All Day For Prayer**

<b>10:00 AM</b>	Mystery of God	<b>Plaistow</b>
<b>7:00 PM</b>	Mystery of God	<b>Plaistow</b>
<b>7:00 PM</b>	St. Vincent de Paul Society Meeting	<b>Plaistow</b>

**Thursday, July 20**

<b>8:30 AM – 8:30 PM</b>	Eucharistic Adoration	<b>Newton</b>
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**Saturday, July 22**

<b>3:00 PM</b>	Sacrament of Reconciliation	<b>Plaistow</b>
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### 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).

### 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)

## ✠ MASS INTENTIONS ✠

**Saturday, July 15 ~ Vigil – 15<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time**  
*Is 55:10-11; Rom 8:18-23; Mt 13:1-23 (Vigil)*

<b>4:00 PM</b>	Marci Giallongo by Joe and Ann Marie Sheehan	<b>Plaistow</b>
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**Sunday, July 16 ~ Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

*Is 55:10-11; Rom 8:18-23; Mt 13:1-23*

<b>8:00 AM</b>	John Mack by Dan and Kathy Sullivan	<b>Newton</b>
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<b>10:00 AM</b>	People of the Parish	<b>Plaistow</b>
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**Monday, July 17 ~ Weekday**

*Ex 1:8-14, 22; Mt 10:34—11:1*

<b>8:00 AM</b>	Dennis Schwartz by Cathy Smith	<b>Newton</b>
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**Tuesday, July 18 ~ Camillus de Lellis, Priest**

*Ex 2:1-15a; Mt 11:20-24*

<b>8:00 AM</b>	People of the Parish	<b>Plaistow</b>
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**Wednesday, July 19 ~ Weekday**

*Ex 3:1-6, 9-12; Mt 11:25-27*

<b>6:30 PM</b>	People of the Parish	<b>Plaistow</b>
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**Thursday, July 20 ~ Apollinaris, Bishop and Martyr**

*Ex 3:13-20; Mt 11:28-30*

<b>8:00 PM</b>	People of the Parish	<b>Newton</b>
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**Friday, July 21 ~ Lawrence of Brindisi, Priest and Doctor of the Church; Bl. Francis Jordan Priest and Religious Founder**

*Ex 11:10—12:14; Mt 12:1-8*

**No Mass**

**Saturday, July 22 ~ Mary Magdalene, Apostle**

*Sg 3:1-4b or 2 Cor 5:14-17; Jn 20:1-2, 11-18 (Day)*

*Wis 12:13, 16-19; Rom 8:26-27; Mt 13:24-43 (Vigil)*

<b>4:00 PM</b>	Ellen Schruender by Diane Mahalati	<b>Plaistow</b>
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**Sunday, July 23 ~ Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

*Wis 12:13, 16-19; Rom 8:26-27; Mt 13:24-43*

<b>8:00 AM</b>	John Morrocco by Cathy and Tom Cronin	<b>Newton</b>
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<b>10:00 AM</b>	Donna Hammerstein by Joe and Ann Marie Sheehan	<b>Plaistow</b>
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SAINT LUKE THE  
EVANGELIST PARISH

Grief Share Support  
Group meets on  
Mondays beginning May  
22 at 6:30 PM. Meetings  
are held at the Parish  
Office at 8 Atkinson  
Depot Rd., Plaistow.

Call 603.382-8324 for  
information.

**COLLECTION COUNTERS NEEDED**

We are looking for a few good people to help us with one of our "hidden ministries," the counting of our Parish collections. Volunteers are needed to help count and document collections each week. The counts are usually done on Monday mornings from 9:00 – 10:30 and occasionally on a Tuesday morning when holidays occur. If you think that you might enjoy the company of this dedicated group while sharing in this important ministry, please speak to Fr. Albert for more information.



**ST. LUKE THE EVANGELIST  
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

Religious Education Registration for the 2023-2024 Academic Year for **Grades K through 6** begins in September. Whether your child is currently enrolled or is new to the Program, please call Cathy Smith at 382-8324 for more information.

**PROJECT RACHEL MINISTRY**

If you or someone you know is suffering after abortion, confidential, non-judgmental help is available. Call 6034-663-0192 or email [ProjectRachel@rcbm.org](mailto:ProjectRachel@rcbm.org).

**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 603-382-8324 or by email at [jtremblay@stluketheevangelist.net](mailto:jtremblay@stluketheevangelist.net). If you're new to our parish, registration forms are available at the entrances of both churches. Registration forms can also be found on our website at <http://stlukenh.org>.

**SUPPORT OUR ADVERTISERS**

We appreciate the 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.

**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>



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.

The Knights welcome individuals and families to assist us in our works in the local community. If you want more information, please contact Dan Sullivan at 603-770-4803 or at [dans49@comcast.net](mailto:dans49@comcast.net).



A Men's AA Step Meeting is held 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.

Are you caring for a family member or friend with memory loss? You don't have to face it alone. Join Catholic Charities NH for a five-week online support group, "Caring for Loved Ones with Dementia," **starting Wednesday, July 26.** You will discover a deeper understanding of dementia and practical resources to support your loved one's well-being. To register, please visit [www.cc-nh.org/dementia](http://www.cc-nh.org/dementia). There is no cost. For more information, contact Louise at 603-752-1325, ext. 4573 or email [lmorneau@nh-cc.org](mailto:lmorneau@nh-cc.org)



The Society of St. Vincent de Paul, St. Luke the Evangelist Conference, has been chosen by Hannaford's to participate in their Fight Hunger Bag Program. For the entire month of July, for every \$2.50 bag purchased at Hannaford's in East Hampstead, they will donate \$1 to St. Vincent de Paul. The bags are readily displayed in the middle of the main aisle leading to the cash registers. The Society of St. Vincent de Paul assists those in need in our community. Your generosity will be greatly appreciated.



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.

Remember ~ 100% of your donation is used to help those who need a hand up, not a handout.

Our next meeting on **Wednesday, July 19 at 7:00 PM.**  
We meet downstairs in the Church Hall in Plaistow.  
**New members are always welcome!**

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

# **SAINT LUKE PARISH AND THE NEW HAMPSHIRE CATHOLIC APPEAL FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

## **What is the New Hampshire Catholic Appeal: Future of our Faith II?**

The New Hampshire Catholic Appeal (NHCA) is a combined campaign and fundraising effort with the parishes and ministries of the Church in New Hampshire.

## **What ministries and needs will be included in the New Hampshire Catholic Appeal?**

The following will be funded by the NHCA:

- Catholic Education and Catholic Schools
- Seminarians, Deacons, and Vocations
- Priest Retirement
- *Parable* magazine
- Parish needs (Parish to Parish Support Fund and individual parish support)
- Missionaries abroad and multicultural ministry in N.H.
- Catholic University of America and the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops
- Catholic Charities NH

Many of these needs and ministries were previously funded through second collections. These second collections have been eliminated or consolidated into the NHCA. Parishioners can still give to any of these causes and programs separately, though it does not count towards the overall NHCA Parish goal.

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

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

## **How are the goals for each parish determined?**

The parish NHCA goal is calculated as 10% of the parish average assessable income over the last three fiscal years. Due to Covid concerns, we excluded fiscal year 2020 from the calculation. This year's calculation was 10% of the average assessable income for fiscal years 2022, 2021, and 2019. The goal formula will be reviewed after the 2023 appeal cycle.

## **If the parish goal is exceeded, does the parish get to keep the amount raised over the goal?**

Yes. The NHCA will allow parishes to keep 100% of their revenue over their set goal for the first three years of the appeal. In June 2024, the Diocese will assess whether or not this has been successful or may need adjustments.

## **What happens if a parish does not make their goal?**

If a parish does not reach its goal, it will be assessed (billed) the remainder.



### **Why should I give to the New Hampshire Catholic Appeal if I already give to my parish?**

Your participation helps the entire Church in New Hampshire where the needs are the greatest – recruiting new priests, evangelization, the vulnerable, and more. Your support makes these ministries possible that no one parish could support on its own. Your gift demonstrates your commitment to the greater Church. We are many parts in the Diocese of Manchester but one body in Christ with a common mission.

### **Does my parish have to support the NHCA?**

Yes. Each parish in the diocese has a set goal which represents the parish share of the total Appeal. A good faith effort is requested of all parishes. Additionally, individual parishes can benefit significantly by retaining any funds raised over their set goal; administering fewer second collections; and parishes will see a reduction in fees and administrative costs (assessments) paid to the Diocese.

### **How much should I give?**

Charitable giving reflects our Christian stewardship of treasure. Giving back to God, either through contributions to your parish, the New Hampshire Catholic Appeal, or other worthwhile charities, should require a sacrifice, one that recognizes God's generosity to us individually. Therefore, your gift is a personal decision between you and God and should be made after careful reflection. Please consider the dollars you have donated in the past to the six discontinued 2<sup>nd</sup> collections plus the Catholic Charities NH special collection and the *Parable* magazine drive to help you determine how much to give. The pledge and recurring gift option may make this amount feasible.

### **Should I make a pledge, recurring gift, or a one-time gift?**

Making a pledge or a recurring gift allows you to spread your gift over several months, which may make it easier for you to budget, and may also allow you to give a larger gift.

### **How Should I Give?**

There are many ways that you can give to the New Hampshire Catholic Appeal.

- Donate online with credit/debit card.
- Pledge – submit your pledge (through the gift envelope, or online)
  - All check pledges will receive a monthly reminder.
- Recurring Gift – set up a monthly recurring gift (through the gift envelope, or online)
- Check – make checks payable to the **New Hampshire Catholic Appeal**.
- Cash may be sent in using the gift envelope, but we encourage check or credit card.
- Donate stock – call (603) 663-0136 for broker instructions.
- Donate through your IRA – contact your IRA administrator and have your gift sent directly to the Office of Development and Communications at 153 Ash Street, Manchester, NH 03104 – include your name, and the parish you want the gift credit to go towards.

### **Can Saint Luke parishioners donate using our online giving platform used for parish offertories?**

**No.** At this time, Saint Luke the Evangelist Parish electronic giving is not connected to the NH Catholic Appeal. This is because of the complications of reporting to the Diocese and the tax-deductible reporting that must be done for all donations.



# Bringing Home the Word

*Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)*

July 16, 2023

## So, What's Your Point?

*Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA*

**H**ave you ever explained something carefully and at length, and yet the “listener” misses your point? This seems to be the situation in today’s Gospel. The scene Jesus first described was a familiar one. The people listening to him might have sown seed in this manner themselves. So, what was the point?

First, it is important to recall that a parable is a story with a double meaning. One meaning is literal, the other is metaphoric. The literal meaning of this parable is obvious. So, what’s the point? It is in the second part of the passage that Jesus explains the metaphoric meaning. He tells his disciples that the

seeds represent those who hear the word of the kingdom. Then the reality of life intervenes and each seed (the one who hears the word) must decide how to deal with that reality. One might think, “Very interesting story. I know just what the seed is going through.”

We are now ready to ask, “What’s the real point of the story?” The metaphoric meaning of the parable should pose several questions for each of us. What yield do I produce? Do I appreciate what it means to be a disciple, or is that privilege far from my consciousness? Am I grounded in my faith, or am I religiously rootless? Do I live according to the standards of Jesus, or does the allure of the world entrap me? That’s the point of the story. †

## Sunday Readings

### **Isaiah 55:10–11**

So shall my word be  
that goes forth from my mouth;  
It shall not return to me empty,  
but shall do what pleases me.

### **Romans 8:18–23**

The sufferings of this present time  
are as nothing compared with the  
glory to be revealed for us.

### **Matthew 13:1–23 or 13:1–9**

[Jesus said,] “Whoever has ears  
ought to hear.”

***Do I appreciate what it  
means to be a disciple;  
or is that privilege far  
from my consciousness?***



## ***A Word from Pope Francis***

Concern for the dignity of all... became an essential part of the American spirit. During his visit to the United States in 1987, St. John Paul II reminded all Americans that: “The ultimate test of your greatness is the way you treat every human being, but especially the weakest and most defenseless ones.”

INDEPENDENCE HALL, PHILADELPHIA,  
SEPTEMBER 26, 2015



## REFLECTION QUESTIONS

## ONE? TWO? REFLECTION

- How has the word of the kingdom taken root in your family?
- Is it obvious to others that you are a disciple of Jesus?



# Lower the Volume So You Can Listen

By Kathleen M. Basi

In the absence of clarity, the only way to hold the course is to stay in touch with the One who sees the big picture. Prayer is the foundation of a lived faith.

Sometimes I think past generations had an easier time following God. The Israelites had the finger of the Almighty carving commandments in stone. The early Church had flesh-and-blood encounters with the Son of God. We, on the other hand, have to make do by asking, “What would Jesus do?”

It seems like an easy question until you start trying to answer it. After all, Jesus never told us how to address terrorism, prenatal testing, or the hookup culture. Even perennial problems like poverty require us to distinguish between collective (governmental) and personal responsibility. As we consider the future, how do we discern a Christian response to sticky moral quandaries?

The answer is as deceptively simple as the question. The answer is prayer. But prayer is more than a shopping list tacked to a rosary or Chaplet of the Divine Mercy. Asking God for what we need is



good and holy, but prayer is a two-way street; we also have to listen. Listening requires quiet, and the paradigms that govern modern life leave little room for quiet. Lack of stimulus makes us nervous. We can't exercise without an iPod. We can't eat in restaurants without a widescreen TV in every corner. Smartphones ensure that the web is a touch away at all times.

In many ways, this is a blessing; however, it also means God has to shout to be heard. And although God certainly can shout, it's not his preferred mode of communication. God doesn't inscribe

messages on billboards; he speaks softly to pilgrim hearts (see 1 Kings 19:12)—those who seek to hear his voice in everything they encounter, who take time to “be still and know that I am God” (Psalm 46:11). And therein lies the first challenge—to set aside the background noise that fills modern life.

It may not feel like it, but the moral conundrums of generations past were as much a muddle to the people living through them as ours are now. Their problems look simple because we have the advantage of hindsight. The future will always be shrouded in uncertainty. Confidence comes when we humbly admit we don't have the answers. It comes when we remove distraction and allow our hearts and minds to be molded into a clearer reflection of God

If we reflect God, we can trust that we have direction in our stumbling—even if we can't see the endpoint. †

First published in *Liguorian*, March 2013

## PRAYER

*Creator God, you still speak through your word and through your holy ones. Help us to hear and to heed your voice, we pray in Jesus' name. Amen.*

The Redemptorists

### Sr. Thea on Catholics with “Radical” Ideas

“Catholic Christians came into my community, and they helped us with education, they helped us with health care, they helped us to find our self-respect and to realize our capabilities when the world had told us for so long that we're nothing and would amount to nothing. And I wanted to be a part of that effort. That's radical Christianity, that's radical Catholicism.”

Sr. Thea Bowman, FSPA, *In My Own Words*, copyright 2009, Liguori Publications

## WEEKDAY READINGS

July 17–22

### Monday, Weekday:

Ex 1:8–14, 22 / Mt 10:34–11:1

### Tuesday, Weekday:

Ex 2:1–15a / Mt 11:20–24

### Wednesday, Weekday:

Ex 3:1–6, 9–12 / Mt 11:25–27

### Thursday, Weekday:

Ex 3:13–20 / Mt 11:28–30

### Friday, Weekday:

Ex 11:10–12:14 / Mt 12:1–8

### Saturday, St. Mary Magdalene:

Sg 3:1–4b or 2 Cor 5:14–17 / Jn 20:1–2, 11–18

Bringing Home  
the Word 

July 16, 2023

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