



MUSIC FOR THE LITURGY

Sunday, August 13, 2023

Nineteenth Sunday In Ordinary Time

Eleventh Sunday After Pentecost

Gathering: All Are Welcome BB 421
 Responsorial Psalm (Psalm 19)
Lord, you have the words of everlasting life.
 Preparation In Every Age BB 472
 Mass Parts Mass of Creation
 Communion In The Breaking Of The Bread BB 321
 Recessional: Take The Word Of God With You BB 382

✠ 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!

August 6, 2023

Offertory \$11,794.05
Property Management \$ 1,483.00



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. Thanks for being attentive and respectful! F. Albert.



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.

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 & SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

August 13 No Second Collection
 August 15 Assumption of Mary
 August 20 Fuel
 August 27 Missionary Co-op

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. **As of July 31, 2023, we have raised 33,213.00.** Thank you again for your support of our NH Catholic community and these important diocesan ministries.



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. Instead, we gather together for sharing among men to help each of us to become 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 of the Plaistow campus.



CHRISTMAS CRAFT FAIR

Our Annual Christmas Craft Fair will be held on **Saturday, November 4, 2023 from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM** at 8 Atkinson Depot Rd., Plaistow, NH.

Watch weekly bulletins to find out how you can help, donate, volunteer, and participate in St. Luke Parish's biggest (only) fundraiser!

We will host 20 wonderful vendors of high-quality, handcrafted items, as well as FIVE great raffles: \$1000 Ca\$h Raffle, Wine Raffle, Quilt Raffle, Penny Sale, and Theme Baskets, PLUS our SILENT AUCTION with 100 outstanding auction items!

Plan to visit each of our fantastic church-run tables: Cookie Heaven, Lollipop Game, Jewelry Table, Country Store, and our table of gently used Holiday Décor.

Also, we cannot say enough good things about the St. Luke Café!! Every year they serve up the most delicious choices for breakfast and lunch! COME HUNGRY!!

Lastly, if we're lucky, Santa will stop in from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM to take photos with all those who are young at heart.

Got Questions? Please EMAIL the Fair Coordinator directly at StLukeNHFair@gmail.com



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.

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 ✠

Tuesday, August 15

6:00 PM Finance Council Meeting *Plaistow*

Wednesday, August 16

Holy Angels Church Open All Day For Prayer

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

Thursday, August 17

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

Saturday, August 19

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

3:00 PM Sacrament of Reconciliation *Plaistow*



The Sanctuary Light at Holy Angels Church will burn this week in loving memory of **George Moulaison** by Tess Moulaison and family

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, August 12 ~ Nineteenth Sunday in Ord. Time

1 Kgs 19:9a, 11-13a; Rom 9:1-5; Mt 14:22-33 (Vigil)

4:00 PM John L. Carrigan by Justine
Plaistow

Sunday, August 13 ~ Nineteenth Sunday in Ord. Time

1 Kgs 19:9a, 11-13a; Rom 9:1-5; Mt 14:22-33

8:00 AM Elizabeth Cronin by Jack and Barbara Brotz
Newton

10:00 AM George Moulaison by Tess Moulaison and family
Plaistow

Monday, August 14 ~ Maximilian Kolbe, Priest & Martyr

Dt 10:12-22; Mt 17:22-27 (Day)

1 Chr 15:3-4, 15-16, 16:1-2; 1 Cor 15:54b-57; Lk 11:27-28 (Vigil)

6:30 PM People of the Parish
Plaistow

Tuesday, August 15 ~ The Assumption of the Blessed

Virgin Mary

Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab; 1 Cor 15:20-27; Lk 1:39-56

8:00 AM Arthur Hawxhurst by his family
Newton

Wednesday, August 16 ~ Stephen of Hungary

Dt 34:1-12; Mt 18:15-20

6:30 PM Adrienne King by Joe and Ann Marie Sheehan
Plaistow

Thursday, August 17 ~ Weekday

Jos 3:7-10a, 11, 13-17; Mt 18:21—19:1

8:00 AM People of the Parish
Newton

Friday, August 18 ~ Weekday

Jos 24:1-13; Mt 19:3-12

No Mass

Saturday, August 19 ~ John Eudes, Priest

Jos 24:14-29; Mt 19:13-15 (Day)

Is 56:1, 6-7; Rom 11:13-15, 29-32; Mt 15:21-28 (Vigil)

4:00 PM Erma Cambria by her friends at Chandler Place
Plaistow

Sunday, August 20 ~ Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Is 56:1, 6-7; Rom 11:13-15, 29-32; Mt 15:21-28

8:00 AM Angelina Antczak by the Burge family
Newton

10:00 AM Mary Patricia Lyons (1st Anniversary) by Gerard Lyons
Plaistow



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.



HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION

On Tuesday, August 15, the Church celebrates the Feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary which is a holy day of obligation. Mass will be celebrated in our parish on Monday, August 14 at 6:30 PM in Plaistow and on Tuesday, August 15 at 8:00 AM in Newton. Please note that our regular daily Masses on those dates will NOT be celebrated.

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.

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. 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.

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 ❖



**KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS
ST. JUDE COUNCIL #6617
MONTHLY FOOD DRIVE**

The Knights of Columbus of our Parish sponsor a monthly food drive to support the Saint Luke the Evangelist Food Pantry. A list of items needed, along with a paper shopping bag, are distributed at the end of Masses on the third

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 reaching out to help families in our community who need assistance. The Knights and the Food Pantry appreciate your generosity and support.

**KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS
HAPPENINGS**

The St. Jude Council recently held its Tootsie Roll Drive. Over \$6,000 was collected for the express purpose of assisting the mentally and physically challenged in our local area and in New Hampshire. The St. Jude Council partnered with the Haverhill Clubhouse, which is a day facility helping adults with mental health conditions, and with the Kimi Nichols Center in Plaistow, which helps adults with developmental and intellectual challenges. Funds collected were also donated to New Hampshire Special Olympics and to Camp Fatima in NH that holds a summer camp for children with special needs.

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.

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



ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

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

CARING FOR LOVED ONES WITH DEMENTIA

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," meeting on Wednesdays. You will discover a deeper understanding of dementia and practical resources to support your loved one's wellbeing. There is no cost. For more information, contact Louise at 603-752-1352, ext. 4573 or email lmorneua@nh-cc.org.



**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 603-382-8324 for more information.

CATECHISTS NEEDED

Our Religious Education Program is in need of catechists for Sunday mornings. Training will be provided. If you can help, please email Cathy Smith at csmith@stluketheevangelist.net.

**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, August 16 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.

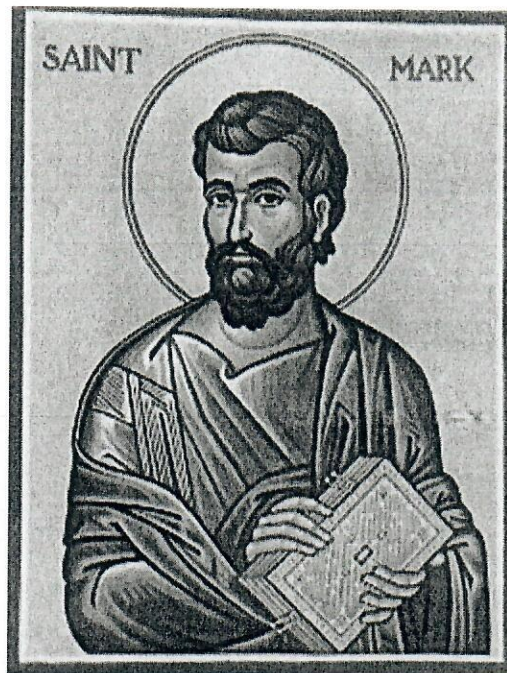
**Hear, OH LORD, and answer me
for I am poor and needy.**

SAINT LUKE THE EVANGELIST PARISH

**FALL 2023
ADULT FAITH FORMATION**

THE GOSPEL OF MARK

**TUESDAYS, 6:30 – 8 PM
Holy Angels Church Hall, Plaistow**



In the coming Liturgical year B the Church will hear many selections from the Gospel of Mark. This adult formation session will focus on the major themes of Mark and will feature a close reading of the Gospel text from a historical-critical and narrative perspective.

Materials for the course will be provided, a personal Bible (NAB or NRSV) is recommended. Contact the Parish Office at fr.albert@stluketheevangelist.net or call 603.382.8324 for more information.

Class meetings: September 5, 12, 26, October 3, 10, 24, November 7, 14



GOSPEL OF MARK Fall, 2023

NAME: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

Drop in the collection basket at Church, or visit the Parish Office.

You are also welcome to register on-line at fr.albert@stluketheevangelist.net

THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO MARK



This shortest of all New Testament gospels is likely the first to have been written, yet it often tells of Jesus' ministry in more detail than either Matthew or Luke (for example, the miracle stories at Mk 5:1–20 or Mk 9:14–29). Mark recounts the ministry of Jesus of Nazareth in a rapid, almost breathless style, where one incident follows directly upon another. In this narrative, Mark stresses Jesus' message about the kingdom of God now breaking into human life as good news (Mk 1:14–15) and Jesus himself as the gospel of God (Mk 1:1; 8:35; 10:29). Jesus is the Son whom God has sent to rescue humanity by serving and by sacrificing his life (Mk 10:45).

The opening verse about good news in Mark (Mk 1:1) serves as a title for the entire book. The action begins with the appearance of John the Baptist, a messenger of God attested by scripture. But John points to a mightier one, Jesus, at whose baptism God speaks from heaven, declaring Jesus his Son. The Spirit descends upon Jesus, who eventually, it is promised, will baptize “with the Holy Spirit.” This presentation of who Jesus really is (Mk 1:1–13) is rounded out with a brief reference to the temptation of Jesus and how Satan's attack fails. Jesus as Son of God will be victorious, a point to be remembered as one reads of Jesus' death and the enigmatic ending to Mark's Gospel.

The Gospel of Mark ends in the most ancient manuscripts with an abrupt scene at Jesus' tomb, which the women find empty (Mk 16:1–8). His own prophecy of Mk 14:28 is reiterated, that Jesus goes before the disciples into Galilee; “there you will see him.” These words may imply resurrection appearances there, or Jesus' parousia there, or the start of Christian mission, or a return to the roots depicted in Mk 1:9, 14–15 in Galilee. Other ancient authors have attached additional endings after Mk 16:8, providing Mark's text with as many as six additional endings.

Traditionally, the Gospel of Mark is said to have been written shortly before A.D. 70 in Rome, at a time of impending persecution and when destruction loomed over Jerusalem. Its audience seems to have been Gentile, unfamiliar with Jewish customs (hence Mk 7:3–4, 11). The book aimed to equip such Christians to stand faithful in the face of persecution (Mk 13:9–13), while going on with the proclamation of the gospel begun in Galilee (Mk 13:10; 14:9). Modern research often proposes as the author an unknown Hellenistic Jewish Christian, possibly in Syria, and perhaps shortly after the year 70.

Donations for Our Christmas Fair

Our Parish-Run Tables **DEPEND ON YOUR GENEROSITY**

Can You Donate??

New and/or Like-New items WINE Antiques and/or Collectibles
WINE Gift Cards Newly Knitted/Crocheted Items Lottery Tickets
Fun Gadgets WINE Original Artwork Tootsie Roll Lollipops
New TOYS Theme Baskets WINE New Power Tools Jewelry

DONATION DROP-OFF DATES

The following SATURDAYS from 3:00PM-5:00PM
September 9, 16, 23, 30 and October 14

The following SUNDAYS from 10:00AM-12:00PM
September 10, 17, 24 and October 1, 15

Drop-Off **CLOSED** October 7 & 8

DROP OFF LOCATION

Downstairs Parish Hall PLAISTOW

LAST DAY DONATIONS ACCEPTED

Sunday, October 15, 10:00AM-12:00PM



St. Luke the Evangelist

CASH Raffle Tickets

are available at entrances
of both churches

1. Take some and sell to family & friends.
2. Return completed stubs & money or check, payable to St. Luke, Cash Raffle on memo line please, in a sealed envelope.
3. Ticket stubs & payment must be returned together in an envelope, to the Parish Office **OR** placed in the collection basket.

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 2nd 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

Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)
August 13, 2023

Who Are the People of God?

Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA

This is still an unresolved theological issue. For so long the resolute answer of many was: the Roman Catholic Church is the people of God. However, the Second Vatican Council's Decree on Ecumenism (*Unitatis Redintegratio*) opened the Church's understanding to include all Christian denominations, paraphrasing Ephesians 4:4-5: "There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling; one Lord, one faith, one Baptism" (UR 2). The council went even further in the Dogmatic Constitution on the Church (*Lumen Gentium*), "calling together a people made up of

Jew and Gentile, making them one, not according to the flesh but in the Spirit. This was to be the new People of God" (LG 9).

To be united with Protestants is one thing; to be united with Jews is quite another. For centuries, many interpreted the New Testament to say that the Jews lost favor with God. Such thinking supported—even caused—various forms of anti-Semitism, ethnic and religious persecution, and killings. We realized how wrong this thinking was. Vatican II quotes today's second reading and later states: "This sacred synod wants to foster and recommend...mutual understanding and respect which is the fruit, above all, of biblical and theological studies as well as of fraternal dialogues" (Declaration on the Relationship of the Church to Non-Christian Religions [*Nostra Aetate*], 4).

We may have corrected some grievous errors in this matter, but we have not gotten much further than Paul did in resolving the issue. However, he experienced "great sorrow and constant anguish in my heart" (Romans 9:2) because of the separation. Do we? †

"[Christ called] together a people made up of Jew and Gentile, making them one."

A Word from Pope Francis

When we have strong feelings of doubt and fear and we seem to be sinking, in life's difficult moments where everything becomes dark, we must not be ashamed to cry out like Peter: "Lord, save me." To knock on God's heart, on Jesus' heart. "Lord, save me." It is a beautiful prayer!

ANGELUS, ROME, AUGUST 9, 2020



Sunday Readings

1 Kings 19:9a, 11-13a

Elijah...stood at the entrance of the cave. A voice said to him, Why are you here, Elijah?

Romans 9:1-5

I speak the truth in Christ, I do not lie; my conscience joins with the holy Spirit.

Matthew 14:22-33

Peter said to [Jesus] in reply, "Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water."

REFLECTION QUESTIONS



- Do most Christians think of Jesus and the original disciples as Jewish?
- Could the Holocaust have happened if they did?

Obstacles to Faith

Daniel P. Horan, OFM

One of my greatest weaknesses is a lack of patience. I struggle to be patient with others and myself, and that struggle sometimes carries over into my relationship with God. My prayer can feel rushed or demanding, my thoughts unwilling to focus on God, who is my dialogue partner, and my ears unwilling to open and hear the Spirit. During these experiences of impatience in the spiritual life, it can feel as though my heart is anything but firm because it is so restless.

Pope Francis once delivered a homily during a weekday Mass in which he talked about the hidden obstacles to conversion. Although there are people who resist being open to conversion, blocking the change that comes with embracing the will of God, Pope Francis invites us to reflect on those ways most of us unthinkingly prevent the Spirit's action in our hearts and lives.

He calls the first kind of obstacle



“empty words.” These are the ways we talk the talk of Christianity but fail to walk the walk. Jesus regularly warned his followers that it isn't enough to simply proclaim affiliation with him without also living one's faith in action. Pope Francis reminds us that we close ourselves off to genuine conversion when we offer empty words but do not care for the least among us (Matthew 25).

“Words that justify” form the second kind of hidden obstacle. This is a kind of mindset or attitude that makes excuses and self-satisfying reasons for why further investment in the life of Christian discipleship isn't needed in my case. I convince myself that all is fine and foreclose the possibility that God may be inviting me to a deeper commitment.

The third hidden obstacle is that of “accusatory words.” This is when we blame others in order to justify the status quo or accuse others of sinfulness, wrongdoing, or ill will so we don't have to look at ourselves and truly examine our consciences. Pope Francis points to the famous Gospel episode of the Pharisee and the tax collector to illustrate this. How often do we find ourselves in the Pharisee's shoes? What can we do to shift our attention toward those obstacles we would rather not see but still need to overcome?” †

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We're in the midst of the sea, in a boat that seems fragile, and there are howling winds and enormous waves that threaten to capsize us. This is the life of every person at some point. Jesus is there to help us negotiate the trials and as long as we keep our eyes on him, we can walk on water; that is, we can do the impossible. When we focus on the strength of the winds and the depth of the waves and how wet and cold we are, then we panic and grasp and clutch and sink.

Paige Byrne Shortal

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For those hoping for what seems impossible: healing, reconciliation, justice, peace among the nations and within communities and families. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

The Redemptorists

WEEKDAY READINGS

August 14–19

Monday, St. Maximilian Kolbe:
Dt 10:12–22 / Mt 17:22–27


Tuesday, The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary: Rv 11:19a; 12:1–6a, 10ab / 1 Cor 15:20–27 / Lk 1:39–56

Wednesday, Weekday:
Dt 34:1–12 / Mt 18:15–20

Thursday, Weekday: Jos 3:7–10a, 11, 13–17 / Mt 18:21–19:1

Friday, Weekday: Jos 24:1–13 / Mt 19:3–12

Saturday, Weekday: Jos 24:14–29 / Mt 19:13–15

Bringing Home
the **Word** 

August 13, 2023

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