



MUSIC FOR THE LITURGY

Sunday, September 3, 2023

Twenty-Second Sunday In Ordinary Time

Fourteenth Sunday After Pentecost

Gathering: Lift High The Cross BB 717

Responsorial Psalm (Psalm 34)

*Taste and see the goodness of the Lord;
Oh taste and see the goodness of the Lord.*

Preparation Prayer Of St. Francis BB 534

Mass Parts Mass of Creation

Communion Unless A Grain Of Wheat BB 504

Recessional: Lord, You Give The Great Commission BB 380

✠ PARISH TITHING ✠

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

**COLLECTION AMOUNTS FOR
AUGUST 27, 2023
WILL APPEAR IN NEXT WEEK'S BULLETIN**



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.

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.



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.

UPCOMING SECOND & SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

September 3	Property Management
September 10	No Second Collection
September 17	Fuel
September 24	No Second Collection

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/. You can also use your smartphone with the QR code below.

Our Parish target is \$46,740.00. **As of August 14, 2023, we have raised \$35,543.00.** Thank you again for your support of our NH Catholic community and these important diocesan ministries.



PARISH OFFICE CLOSED

In observance of the Labor Day holiday, the Parish Office will be **closed on Monday, September 4**. The Office will reopen at 8:30 AM on Tuesday, September 5.

Our regular office hours are Monday through Thursday from 8:30 AM to 12:00 Noon and from 1:00 to 4:30 PM. The Parish Office is closed on Fridays.

SPIRITUAL EXERCISES OF ST. IGNATIUS

Do you sense Jesus inviting you to “come away” with him for a while? Do you desire to learn how to pray more deeply? Do you wonder how this can happen in the busyness of your daily life? The 19th Annotation of the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius might be just what you are looking for. This retreat is commonly called, “The Retreat of Daily Life”. It begins in mid-September and ends in mid-May. We meet weekly on Wednesdays and there is a choice of morning or evening sessions. The sessions are about 1 & 1/2 hours long. We now hold the retreat on Zoom which is very convenient as you can experience the retreat from the comfort of your home. If you would like more information about the retreat, you can visit our website at www.ManresaWayMaine.org.



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

WHILE AWAY THIS SUMMER / FALL...

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

✠ WEEKLY CALENDAR ✠

Monday, September 4
PARISH OFFICE CLOSED

Tuesday, September 5
6:30 PM The Gospel of Mark *Plaistow*

Wednesday, September 6
Holy Angels Church
Open All Day For Prayer

Thursday, September 7
8:30 AM – 8:30 PM Eucharistic Adoration *Newton*
10:00 AM Prayer Shawl Ministry Meeting *Plaistow*

Saturday, September 9
3:00 PM Sacrament of Reconciliation *Plaistow*

Sunday, September 10
11:00 AM Religious Ed Registration *Plaistow*

RESTROOM BREAKS DURING MASS

Attention Parents

Please be sure to accompany your young children when they need to use the restroom during Mass. This is for their safety and your peace of mind!

PRAYER LINE

St. Luke's offers a prayer line as a resource for those seeking prayer assistance. To submit your prayer request please call Cathy Smith at 603-382-8324, ext. 314 or email her at csmith@stluketheevangelist.net.

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.

RETROUVAILLE

A Lifeline For Married Couples

Retrouvaille (pronounced Retro-vi) means rediscovery in French. This program helps couples put their broken pieces back together and rediscover their love for each other. This program starts with a weekend which teaches couples a new form of communication called Dialogue and lets couples know that they are not alone. Our next Retrouvaille weekend is **November 10-11, 2023**. For more information, email 3023@helpourmarriage.org.

✠ MASS INTENTIONS ✠

Saturday, September 2 ~ 22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time
Jer 20:7-9; Rom 12:1-2; Mt 16:21-27 (Vigil)

4:00 PM Jayne Lickteig-Ringuette (Month's Mind)
Plaistow

Sunday, September 3 ~ 22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time
Jer 20:7-9; Rom 12:1-2; Mt 16:21-27

8:00 AM Ruth Early by Dan and Kathy Sullivan
Newton

10:00 AM Mother Carmen Barbe, pm
by the Sisters of the Presentation of Mary
Plaistow

Monday, September 4 ~ Weekday

1 Thes 4:13-18; Lk 4:16-30

8:00 AM People of the Parish
Newton

Tuesday, September 5 ~ Weekday

1 Thes 5:1-6, 9-11; Lk 4:31-37

8:00 AM Deceased Members of the Fogel family and Frank Kelcourse by Elaine Kelcourse
Plaistow

Wednesday, September 6 ~ Weekday

Col 1:1-8; Lk 4:38-44

6:30 PM Norman Landry (Month's Mind)
Plaistow

Thursday, September 7 ~ Weekday

Col 1:9-14; Lk 5:1-11

8:00 AM People of the Parish
Newton

Friday, September 8 ~ The Nativity of the Blessed

Virgin Mary

Mi 5:1-4a or Rom 8:28-30; Mt 1-16, 18-23

No Mass

Saturday, September 9 ~ Peter Claver, Priest

Col 1:21-23; Lk 6:1-5 (Day)

Ez 33:7-9; Rom 13:8-10; Mt 18:15-20 (Vigil)

4:00 PM Deceased Members of the O'Donnell family
by Jane Leach
Plaistow

Sunday, September 10 ~ 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Ez 33:7-9; Rom 13:8-10; Mt 18:15-20

8:00 AM People of the Parish
Newton

10:00 AM Jesselyn and Donald Driscoll by their family
Plaistow



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.

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.

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>.

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.



The Sanctuary Light at Mary, Mother of the Church will burn this week in loving memory of **Deceased Members of the O'Donnell Family and for the Intentions of Samuel Raby** by their family

SANCTUARY CANDLES AND VIGIL LIGHT

The Sanctuary Candles in both Newton and Plaistow, as well as the Vigil Light in front the Blessed Mother icon in Newton, may be offered in memory or in honor of a loved one. The suggested offering for each is \$10.00. Please call the Parish Office at 603-382-8324.

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 Knights were recently approached by the Red Cross to increase our Blood Drives from two (2) per year to four (4) per year. The Knights gladly accepted the request from the Red Cross. The next Blood Drive will be held on **Friday, September 15 from 11:00 AM to 4:00 PM** at the Newton Town Hall. Pre-registration is encouraged by calling 1-800-733-2767 or by visiting www.RedCrossBlood.org. If you would like to help the Knights at a Blood Drive, please call John Tucker at 603-974-2177 for more information.

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.

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, **September 16, 2023 from 8:00 to 9:00 AM** in the parish hall of the Plaistow campus.



**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, September 20 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, O LORD, and answer me
for I am poor and needy.**

BRING THE BIBLE TO LIFE AND LIVE SCRIPTURE EVERY DAY!



Join us for six weeks of exploration of the Bible that equips you to apply the message of Scripture to your daily life.

Six Weeks with the Bible series, published by *Loyola Press*, is an ideal way to learn important background information on Scripture, experience praying God's Word, and discover the difference the Bible can make in your life today.

Our Fall Bible share groups will be exploring the book of *Job* and the theme: *A Good Man Asks Why*. *Loyola Press* states: "The book of *Job* helps us work through one of the most difficult questions that confronts us in life: Why do bad things happen to good people? In *Job: A Good Man Asks Why*, author Kevin Perrotta walks us through the key points in the book of *Job* and helps us understand suffering, justice, and love in a new light."

If you are interested in joining a group either on Wednesday evenings at 7 p.m., beginning September 20, or Thursday afternoons at 1:30 p.m., beginning September 21; please cut the form at the bottom and complete. Completed forms should be returned either in the collection basket or the parish office no later than Tuesday, September 12. Any questions, contact Cathy Smith at (603) 382-8324 or csmith@stluketheevangelist.net

Groups will meet downstairs in the Church Hall

(There is an \$8 book fee)

Name _____

Address _____ Phone _____

E-Mail _____ Cell Phone _____

Job: A Good Man Asks Why (check one)

Wednesdays at 7 p.m. ____ Thursdays at 1:30 p.m. ____
Sept. 20 – Oct. 25 Sept. 21 – Oct. 26



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.



FRIENDS OF THE POOR® WALK/RUN SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

Ever wonder how you can make a difference for those in your community?

Saint Vincent de Paul's Annual Fundraiser, the Walk for the Poor, is our largest fundraiser. This year, the need is greater than it has ever been. We all know more people are struggling financially than ever before. They are looking for a hand up to get them through this rough patch. This is where the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul can help. We give that hand up - to help pay rent, put food on their table, get their car repaired to be able to go to work, keep their home heated, get medicine they require, etc. We want to have the funds to be able to help anyone who asks, but we need your help in doing that! Please consider joining our walk this year. We would love to see families walking to help other families. We encourage people to walk in memory of a loved one - what a beautiful way to be remembered. Every dollar raised goes directly to helping people in our community.

This year, there are two options for our walk: Option 1 - Walk with us on September 23, 2023. **NEW LOCATION**—Our Walk will be in the St Luke the Evangelist Church Parking Lot. (8 Depot Rd, Plaistow NH). The parking lot will be used for the walk only— cars will be parking in the lot on the other side of the church. The walk area will be marked off. We encourage children to join the walk with tricycles, bikes, scooters etc. Each lap is .2 of a mile— walk/run/jog/ride for one lap or 100 laps for this great cause. Registration is at 10 a.m. with the walk beginning at 11 a.m.- to 1pm. You may come at any time from 11 to 1 to join us. Water, Gatorade, and tee-shirts will be available.

OR

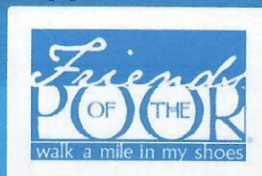
Option 2 - Walk "Virtually" ANYTIME from September 23 through October 7, 2023, virtually. Walk your dog, do a family walk, family bike ride or hike, walk on your treadmill at the gym, walk around your neighborhood – just please WALK! Send us a picture of you walking, (if you want) and we will post it on our Facebook page.

Both options require you to fill out a simple registration form at <https://www.fopwalk.org/event/2863>
Please visit our visit our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/SVDPSI>

If you have any questions, please contact Margaret Madeiros madeirosm22@yahoo.com or Susan Mokray suziqmo@aol.com

The Friends of the Poor® Walk/Run is a national event coordinated by the Development Team at the National Council of the United States Society of St. Vincent de Paul.

Will you walk a mile with us to support our mission to help the poor in our community?



www.fopwalk.org



Walker/Runner Pledge Sheet

Walker's Full Name:

SVdP Conference/Council Name:

	Donor's Name	Donor's Address	Pledge \$ Amount	Paid
0	Example: Bob Smith	1212 Main Street, Anytown, MO 12345	25.00	✓
1				
2				
3				
4				
5				
6				
7				
8				
9				
10				
11				
	Total			





Bringing Home the Word

Twenty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)
September 3, 2023

The Cost of Discipleship

Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA

In 1937, *The Cost of Discipleship* by a German Lutheran pastor, Dietrich Bonhoeffer, was published. The book reflected on the Sermon on the Mount, and the demands it outlined led to Bonhoeffer’s arrest and eventual death at the hands of the Nazis. It can be very dangerous to be faithful to Jesus’ way of life. This shouldn’t surprise us. Jesus’ teaching cost Jesus his life.

Though the Gospel reading does not provide us with a program of action, it repeats Jesus’ charge to take up our cross and follow him. This cross is different for each of us; it makes very personal

demands. We are called to lose our life for his sake. This was true at the time of Jesus; it is true today.

This was true at the time of the prophet Jeremiah as well. He was called to proclaim God’s word to his own people. They would not listen. Instead, “I am an object of laughter; / everyone mocks me” (Jeremiah 20:7). The prophet wants relief from his prophetic responsibility. Who wouldn’t? What follows is quite moving. He makes up his mind that he will stop talking about God—but he can’t. “It [the word of God] is as if fire is burning in my heart... / I grow weary holding back” (Jeremiah 20:9). That is the cost Jeremiah had to pay. The cross was the cost Jesus paid. And what of us? †

A Word from Pope Francis

Let us make sure that the cross hanging on the wall at home, or that little one that we wear around our neck, is a sign of our wish to be united with Christ in lovingly serving our brothers and sisters, especially the littlest and most fragile. The cross is the holy sign of God’s Love.

ANGELUS, ROME, AUGUST 30, 2020



Sunday Readings

Jeremiah 20:7–9

All day long I am an object of laughter; / everyone mocks me.

Romans 12:1–2

Be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that you may discern what is the will of God.

Matthew 16:21–27

[Jesus said,] “Get behind me, Satan! You are an obstacle to me. You are thinking not as God does, but as human beings do.”

The cross every person has to take up is different for each one of us.



REFLECTION QUESTIONS



- What is the cost of discipleship for you?
- What in your life might be the cross you are being asked to bear?

A Balanced Perspective

Kathleen Basi

We live in a world where science reveals wonders as distant as the far reaches of the universe and as intimate as the center of our own DNA. We prize knowledge and revere those who help us reach greater understanding of the world and ourselves.

It's good to seek wisdom, but focusing too much on intellect makes it easy to get jaded about the things that defy scientific testing. We think we should be able to pull apart the strands of the universe and reduce everything to its components. When we can't, we start worrying that we're being "taken for a ride."

Yet mystery surrounds us. For instance, after decades of research, scientists still uncover new components to human breast milk. In every age, humans have looked to the night sky with wonder and awe, marveling at the size of the universe and our own tiny place within it. And who contemplates



the death of a child without asking, *Why?*

Mystery is part of the human experience. It can inspire awe; it can deepen grief; it can challenge our faith. As we long to understand the earth, so we long to understand the One who made us. Yet some things will always remain unfathomable. The tension between these two opposing realities will not be resolved on this side of eternity.

The deeper we dig, the more we will understand about God. Yet the more we understand, the more layers of mystery are revealed.

Frustrating, as it may seem, that's a good thing. Greater understanding allows us to exercise control over our surroundings. Yet the more control we impose, the easier it is to forget that every breath is a gift from God. Contemplating all that cannot be understood offers a much-needed balancing perspective—namely, that there is a bright center of the universe, and *I am not it*.

As hard as it may be, living the faith means accepting—even embracing the reality that not all things can be known and understood. At least, not right now. The poet Rainer Maria Rilke said it beautifully, in his *Letters to a Young Poet*, when he spoke of being patient toward the unknown, embracing the questions within, and living in the moment to uncover the answers. †

Published in *Liguorian*, September 2015

Living Our Passages Well

Death is a passage to new life. That sounds very beautiful, but few of us desire to make this passage. It might be helpful to realize that our final passage is preceded by many earlier passages. When we are born, we make a passage from life in the womb to life in the family. When we go to school, we make a passage from life in the family to life in the larger community. When we get married, we make a passage from a life with many options to a life committed to one person. When we retire, we make a passage from a life of clearly defined work to a life asking for new creativity and wisdom. Each of these passages is a death leading to new life. When we live these passages well, we are becoming more prepared for our final passage.

Fr. Henri Nouwen, *Bread for the Journey*, IMOH



Gracious God, as we celebrate Labor Day, we pray, encourage us in our work, calm us in our rest, and inspire us in our prayer. Amen.

The Redemptorists

WEEKDAY READINGS

September 4–9

Monday, Weekday:

1 Thes 4:13–18 / Lk 4:16–30

Tuesday, Weekday:

1 Thes 5:1–6, 9–11 / Lk 4:31–37

Wednesday, Weekday:

Col 1:1–8 / Lk 4:38–44

Thursday, Weekday: Col 1:9–14 / Lk 5:1–11


Friday, Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary:

Mi 5:1–4a or Rom 8:28–30 /

Mt 1:1–16, 18–23 or 1:18–23

Saturday, St. Peter Claver:

Col 1:21–23 / Lk 6:1–5

Bringing Home
the **Word** 

September 3, 2023

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