



MUSIC FOR THE LITURGY

Sunday, September 17, 2023

Twenty-Fourth Sunday In Ordinary Time

Sixteenth Sunday After Pentecost

Gathering: Gather Us In BB 302

Responsorial Psalm (Psalm 34)

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

Preparation Christ, Be Our Light BB 601

Mass Parts Mass of Creation

Communion Ubi Caritas BB 483

Recessional: Sent Forth By God's Blessing BB 381

✠ 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!

September 3, 2023

Offertory \$7,044.39
Property Management \$1,496.30

September 10, 2023

Offertory \$5,924.34



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 17	Fuel
September 24	No Second Collection
October 1	Property Management
October 8	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 28, 2023, we have raised \$37,568.00.** Thank you again for your support of our NH Catholic community and these important diocesan ministries.



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.

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 FALL...

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

✠ WEEKLY CALENDAR ✠

Sunday, September 17

ST. VINCENT de PAUL APPEAL
AND SALE OF MUMS AFTER MASSES

11:00 AM Catechist Meeting *Plaistow*

Tuesday, September 19

6:30 PM Finance Council Meeting *Plaistow*

Wednesday, September 20

Holy Angels Church
Open All Day For Prayer

7:00 PM The Book of Job *Plaistow*

Thursday, September 21

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

1:30 PM The Book of Job *Plaistow*

Saturday, September 23

11:00 AM Walk for the Poor *Plaistow*

3:00 PM Sacrament of Reconciliation *Plaistow*

Sunday, September 24, 2023

10:00 AM Religious Ed – Grades 1 to 6 *Plaistow*

11:00 AM Coffee and Donuts *Plaistow*

12:00 PM Parish Council Meeting *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.

PROJECT RACHEL MINISTRY

If you or someone you know is suffering after abortion, confidential, non-judgmental help is available. Call 603-4-663-0192 or email ProjectRachel@rcbm.org.

✠ MASS INTENTIONS ✠

Saturday, September 16 ~ 24th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sir 27:30—28:7; Rom 14:7-9; Mt 18:21-35 (Vigil)

4:00 PM Thomas Dominic Salafia, Sr.
by Eric Jones
Plaistow

Sunday, September 17 ~ 24th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sir 27:30—28:7; Rom 14:7-9; Mt 18:21-35

8:00 AM People of the Parish
Newton

10:00 AM Karen, Lillian, and John Murphy
by Carole Lueders
Plaistow

Monday, September 18 ~ Weekday

1 Tm 2:1-8; Lk 7:1-10

8:00 AM People of the Parish
Newton

Tuesday, September 19 ~ Januarius, Bishop and Martyr

1 Tm 3:1-13; Lk 7:11-17

8:00 AM Jeanne Marcinkowski (Month's Mind)
Plaistow

Wednesday, September 20 ~ Andrew Kim Tæ-gõn, Priest, and Paul Chõng Ha-sang, and Companions, Martyrs

1 Tm 3:14-16; Lk 7:31-35

6:30 PM Sheila DeSimone (Month's Mind)
Plaistow

Thursday, September 21 ~ Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist

Eph 4:1-7, 11-13; Mt 9:9-13

8:00 AM George Schiller (Month's Mind)
Newton

Friday, September 22 ~ Weekday

1 Tm 6:2c-12; Lk 8:1-3

No Mass

Saturday, September 23 ~ Pius of Pietrelcina, Priest

1 Tm 6:13-16; Lk 8:4-15 (Day)

Is 55:6-9; Phil 1:20c-24, 27a; Mt 20:1-16a (Vigil)

4:00 PM Phillip and Natalie Gagnon
by the Lanseigne family
Plaistow

Sunday, September 24 ~ 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Is 55:6-9; Phil 1:20c-24, 27a; Mt 20:1-16a

8:00 AM Wallace Antczak by the Burge family
Newton

10:00 AM Paul G. Antkowiak (1st Anniversary)
by his family
Plaistow





WELCOME IN CHRIST!

Saint Luke the Evangelist Parish invites all to a deeper love of Jesus and to a fullness of communion with the Church. The **rites of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA)** is a process where adults and older children are welcomed into the Catholic Church. Some have never been Baptized, others never received Eucharist or

Confirmation, and others arrive at our door after a long faith journey.

Do you know someone who is thinking about becoming part of our Catholic community? Are you the non-Catholic spouse of a parishioner who is wondering about full communion with the Church? Are you an adult Catholic who for whatever reason, "missed" one or more of the sacraments of initiation while growing up? Do you have children over 7 years of age who were never Baptized, or older children who "missed" sacraments?

The Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (and its adapted form for children) welcomes all kinds of people into the Catholic family. The RCIA is for any adult who is: unbaptized and recognizes a need for spirituality in their life, or Baptized and raised in another Christian tradition but interested in learning about the Catholic faith, or Baptized in the Catholic faith, but never received any formal religious training.

Children of all ages are welcome and participate in age appropriate meetings for their RCIA experience.

Contact Father Albert or Cathy Smith in the Parish Office at 603.382.8324 for more information.



The Sanctuary Light at Mary, Mother of the Church will burn this week in loving memory of **Mateo Intervalo** by Tess Moulaison

The Sanctuary Light at Holy Angels Church will burn this week in loving memory of **Kathleen Anne McCarthy** by her family



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

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.

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.

✦ 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 jtremlay@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 lead a Rosary every Thursday night starting at 7:00 PM at Mary, Mother of the Church in Newton. The Knights invite all of our parish members to join us. The main intention of the Rosary is for an end to the war in Ukraine. The intention of the Rosary on the third Thursday of the month is for Respect for Life. Personal intentions that you have are gladly accepted to be included in that week's Rosary.

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**



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.

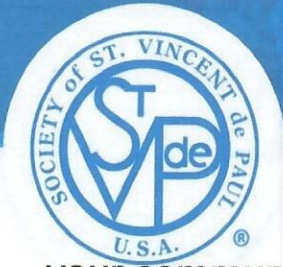
Drop-a-Dollar in the St. Vincent de Paul box on your way out of church.

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

Our next meeting on **Wednesday, September 27 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.**



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

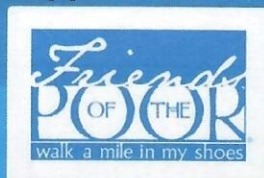
Option 2 - Walk "Virtually" ANYTIME from September 23 through October 7, 2023, virtually. Walk your dog, do a family walk, family bike ride or hike, walk on your treadmill at the gym, walk around your neighborhood – just please WALK! Send us a picture of you walking, (if you want) and we will post it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

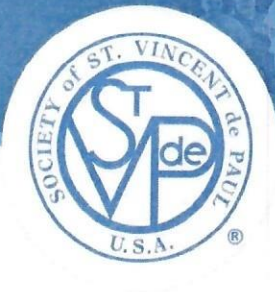
If you have any questions, please contact Margaret Madeiros madeirosm22@yahoo.com or Susan Mokray suziqmo@aol.com

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

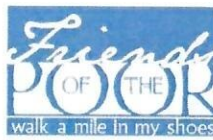


Walker/Runner Pledge Sheet

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			



DONATION DROP OFF BEGINS in TWO WEEKS !!!

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

Can You Donate??

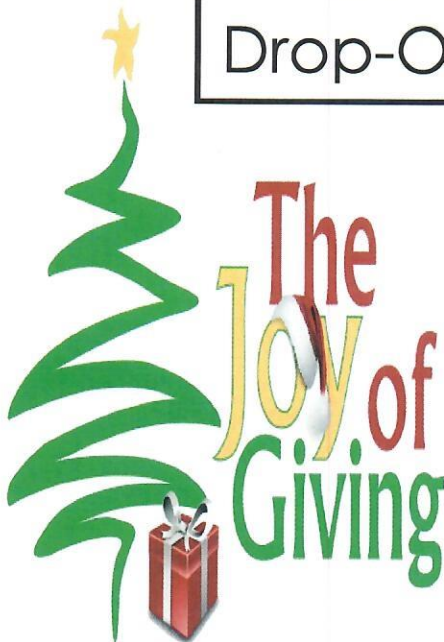
New and/or Like-New items WINE Antiques and/or Collectibles
WINE Gift Cards Newly Knitted/Crocheted Items Lottery Tickets
Fun Gadgets WINE Original Artwork Tootsie Roll Lollipops
New TOYS Theme Baskets WINE New Power Tools Jewelry

DONATION DROP-OFF DATES

SATURDAYS from 3:00PM-5:00PM **September 9, 16, 23, 30**

SUNDAYS from 10:00AM-12:00PM **September 10, 17, 24, & October 1**

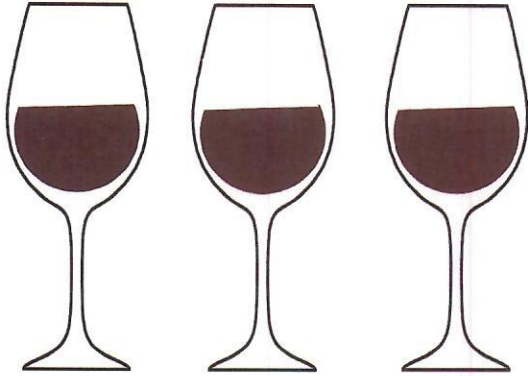
Drop-Off will be **CLOSED** October 7 & 8



DROP OFF LOCATION

Downstairs Parish Hall
PLAISTOW

Raffle Tickets! Get Your Raffle Tickets HERE!!”



WINE RAFFLE

1st Prize: 50+ bottles of WINE!!

2nd Prize: 12 bottles of wine of various types.

One (1) for \$10.00, THREE (3) for \$25.00, or FIVE (5) for \$40.00

QUILT RAFFLE

One (1) ticket for \$3.00, THREE (3) for \$5.00 or FIVE (5) chances to WIN for \$10.00

White, Green, Yellow Quilt, approx. 79" x 69"
Made by Cathy Cronin



RAFFLE TICKET ORDER FORM

Make your check payable to: St. Luke's Parish, Pop the form and check in an envelope marked WINE RAFFLE and drop it in the collection basket - OR ... Mail to:

St. Luke the Evangelist Parish, Attn: RAFFLES, 8 Atkinson Depot Rd., Plaistow, 03865

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Raffle	Quantity of Tickets	Total \$
WINE Raffle	_____	\$_____
QUILT Raffle	_____	\$_____
	Total Owed	\$_____

NEW HAMPSHIRE CATHOLIC APPEAL
FUTURE OF OUR FAITH II:
Many Parts, One Body



It's Not Too Late to Make Your Gift!

WWW.CATHOLICNH.ORG/NHCA

As of June 2023, the NHCA has raised over \$2.5 million across the state – more than halfway to the collective \$3.8 million goal!

A gift to the New Hampshire Catholic Appeal 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.

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

**Please remember to include the name of your parish*

Securities/Stocks, IRAs, Donor Advised Funds, and Bequests: A gift to the New Hampshire Catholic Appeal is tax-exempt under the Diocese of Manchester (EIN: 02-6004670). Please contact Bevin Kennedy at the Diocese of Manchester for more information on DAFs or legacy gifts (bkennedy@rcbm.org; 603-663-0136).

Learn more or donate online!





Anointing of the Sick I: The Mystery of Illness

We get hurt. We wear out. The lungs, the eyes, the memory, and any of the many limbs and organs that compose us break or ache. Gloom comes over us then: pity for ourselves, sorrow, depression, anger. But hope can come, too, and courage, and sometimes peace.

All of this is marked and celebrated in the rites of our tradition. With a word and a deed, with touch and breath and spit and mud, Jesus heals those who ail. In every place and time, we who are the church remember and tell stories of healing, anoint the sick with oil and share the one bread even with those who cannot assemble for Mass. Thus the sick and the healthy, the homebound and the spry, saints and sinners are made one and remain one, a single body of many parts.

Anyone who is seriously ill can receive the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick, including the elderly who become weaker, even if no illness is present; those waiting for surgery when a serious condition is the reason for the operation; sick children who have sufficient use of reason to be helped by the celebration; and those who are unconscious or who have lost the use of reason, provided that they probably would have asked for the sacrament had they the use of their faculties. Furthermore, many forms of mental illness are now known to be serious. So the mentally ill may be anointed, provided that they will be helped and not harmed by the rite. If you have questions, consult a priest or other parish leader.

The most complete celebration of the sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick is a communal one, a celebration in which those to be anointed are surrounded and supported by other members of the Christian community, whether at home, or in the house of the church (for those who can leave their beds and come here). In song and in silence, with scriptures and prayers, we strengthen the bonds of love and faith that are stronger than the most lethal disease and more powerful even than death.



Bringing Home the Word

Twenty-fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)
September 17, 2023

Limitless Forgiveness

Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA

What makes seven such an important number? It's the symbolism. It signifies wholeness, completeness, and totality. So, seventy-seven (or seventy times seven in some Bible translations) suggests infinity. Peter was exaggerating when he suggested that he might forgive his brother seven times. He presumed that if he acted in this way, his behavior would demonstrate the immeasurable extent of his personal graciousness. Jesus' response implied that there should be no end to our forgiving another. To underscore the significance of this magnanimity, Jesus offered God (in the guise of the king who forgave a huge debt) as the exemplar of forgiving.

Forgiving another's offense against us could well be one of the most difficult things we are asked to do. To ask for forgiveness does not seem as difficult. After all, when we bump into a perfect stranger in an elevator, we say, "Forgive me." But to forgive someone who has deliberately offended us, who has dishonored our sense of personal dignity, as slight as that offense might be, is neither as easy nor as casual a gesture. And yet, we must.

We all carry debts to others. Both the first reading and the Gospel passage remind us that the debts owed to us by others in no way compare with the debt we owe God, and yet God shows us compassion and forgives us. If we are grateful children of a compassionate God, we will want to be like God and we will forgive others. †

Sunday Readings

Sirach 27:30—28:7

Remember the covenant of the Most High, and overlook faults.

Romans 14:7–9

Whether we live or die, we are the Lord's.

Matthew 18:21–35

Jesus answered, "I say to you, [forgive] not seven times but seventy-seven times."

*Jesus taught there
should be no end to our
forgiving one another.*



A Word from Pope Francis

How much suffering, how many wounds, how many wars could be avoided if forgiveness and mercy were the style of our life! Even in families....It is necessary to apply merciful love to all human relationships: between spouses, between parents and children, within our communities, in the Church and also in society and politics.

ANGELUS, ROME, SEPTEMBER 13, 2020



REFLECTION QUESTIONS

QUESTIONS REFLECTION

- When you pray, "forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us," do you mean it?
- Who does it hurt when we fail to forgive?

From Forgiven to Forgiver

Fr. Henri Nouwen

Perhaps the most radical statement Jesus ever made is: "Be compassionate as your Father is compassionate." God's compassion is described by Jesus not simply to show me how willing God is to feel for me, or to forgive me my sins and offer me new life and happiness, but to invite me to become like God and to show the same compassion to others as he is showing to me. If the only meaning of the story were that people sin but God forgives, I could easily begin to think of my sins as a fine occasion for God to show me his forgiveness. There would be no real challenge in such an interpretation. I would resign myself to my weaknesses and keep hoping that eventually God would close God's eyes to them and let me come home, whatever I did. Such sentimental romanticism is not the message of the Gospels.

What I am called to make true is that whether I am the younger or the elder son, I am the son of my compassionate Father. I am an heir. No one says it more clearly than Paul when he writes: "The Spirit himself joins with our spirit to bear witness that we are children of God. And if we are children, then we are heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, provided that we share his sufferings, so as to share his glory." Indeed, as son and heir I am to become successor. I am destined to step into my Father's place and offer to others the same compassion that he has offered me. The return to the Father is ultimately the challenge to become the Father. †

From *The Return of the Prodigal Son*

Avoid All Forms of Self-Rejection

Fr. Henri Nouwen

You must avoid not only blaming others but also blaming yourself. You are inclined to blame yourself for the difficulties you experience in relationships. But self-blame is not a form of humility. It is a form of self-rejection in which you ignore or deny your own goodness and beauty.

When a friendship does not blossom, when a word is not received, when a gesture of love is not appreciated, do not blame it on yourself. This is both untrue and hurtful. Every time you reject yourself, you idealize others. You want to be with those whom you consider better,

stronger, more intelligent, more gifted than yourself. Thus you make yourself emotionally dependent, leading others to feel unable to fulfill your expectations and causing them to withdraw from you. This makes you blame yourself even more, and you enter a dangerous spiral of self-rejection and neediness.

Avoid all forms of self-rejection. Acknowledge your limitations, but claim your unique gifts and thereby live as an equal among equals. That will set you free from your obsessive and possessive needs and enable you to give and receive true affection and friendship. †

From *The Inner Voice of Love*



Merciful God, give us generous hearts and open minds that we may forgive others as we have been forgiven. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

The Redemptorists

WEEKDAY READINGS

September 18–23

Monday, Weekday: 1 Tm 2:1–8 / Lk 7:1–10

Tuesday, Weekday: 1 Tm 3:1–13 / Lk 7:11–17

Wednesday, Sts. Andrew Kim Tae-gŏn, Priest, and Paul Chŏng Ha-sang, and Companions: 1 Tm 3:14–16 / Lk 7:31–35

Thursday, St. Matthew:

Eph 4:1–7, 11–13 / Mt 9:9–13

Friday, Weekday:

1 Tm 6:2c–12 / Lk 8:1–3

Saturday, St. Pius of Pietrelcina:

1 Tm 6:13–16 / Lk 8:4–15