



MUSIC FOR THE LITURGY

Sunday, September 24, 2023

Twenty-Fifth Sunday In Ordinary Time

Seventeenth Sunday After Pentecost

Gathering: Table Of Plenty BB 311

Responsorial Psalm (Psalm 34)

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

Preparation Hosea BB 665

Mass Parts Mass of Creation

Communion Bread Of Life BB 364

Recessional: We Are The Light Of The World BB 603

✠ 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
SEPTEMBER 17, 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/Plastow** and give us a Like! Please invite fellow parishioners & friends to do the same.

UPCOMING SECOND & SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

| | |
|--------------|----------------------|
| September 24 | No Second Collection |
| October 1 | Property Management |
| October 8 | No Second Collection |
| October 15 | Fuel |

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 September 11, 2023, we have raised \$38,408.00.** 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 24

10:00 AM Religious Ed – Grades 1 to 6 *Plaistow*
 11:00 AM Coffee and Donuts *Plaistow*
 12:00 PM Parish Council Meeting *Plaistow*

Tuesday, September 26

6:30 PM The Gospel of Mark *Plaistow*

Wednesday, September 27

**Holy Angels Church
 Open All Day For Prayer**

7:00 PM The Book of Job *Plaistow*
 7:00 PM St. Vincent de Paul Society Meeting *Plaistow*

Thursday, September 28

8:30 AM – 8:30 PM Eucharistic Adoration *Newton*
 1:30 PM The Book of Job *Plaistow*

Saturday, September 30

3:00 PM Sacrament of Reconciliation *Plaistow*

Sunday, October 1, 2023

10:00 AM Religious Ed – Grades 1 to 6 *Plaistow*
 12:00 PM Blessing of Pets *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 23 ~ 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time

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

Monday, September 25 ~ Weekday

Ezr 1:1-6; Lk 8:16-18

8:00 AM People of the Parish
Newton

Tuesday, September 26 ~ Cosmas and Damian, Martyrs

Ezr 6:7-8, 12b, 14-20; Lk 8:19-21

8:00 AM People of the Parish
Plaistow

Wednesday, September 27 ~ Vincent de Paul, Priest

Ezr 9:5-9; Lk 9:1-6

6:30 PM James Nault by Kathy Doran
Plaistow

Thursday, September 28 ~ Wenceslaus, Martyr;

Lawrence Ruiz and Companions, Martyrs

Hg 1:1-8; Lk 9:7-9

8:00 AM People of the Parish
Newton

**Friday, September 29 ~ Michael, Gabriel, and Raphael,
 Archangels**

Dn 7:9-10, 13-14 or Rv 12:7-12a; Jn 1:47-51

No Mass

**Saturday, September 30 ~ Jerome, Priest and Doctor of
 the Church**

Zec 2:5-9, 14-15a; Lk 9:43b-45 (Day)

Ez 18:25-28; Phil 2:1-11; Mt 21:28-32 (Vigil)

4:00 PM Jeanne Marcinkowski by Rachel Lanseigne
Plaistow

Sunday, October 1 ~ 26th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Ez 18:25-28; Phil 2:1-11; Mt 21:28-32

8:00 AM People of the Parish
Newton
 10:00 AM Deceased Members of the Fogel Family and
 Frank Kelcourse by Elaine Kelcourse
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 **Deceased Members of the O'Donnell Family and for the Intentions of Samuel Raby** by their family

The Sanctuary Light at Holy Angels Church will burn this week in loving memory of

Paul G. Antkowiak
(1st Anniversary)
by his 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 **Wallace Antczak** by the Burge 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.

PET BLESSING

All God's
Creatures



In honor of Saint Francis of Assisi, patron saint of the environment and a special friend to all God's creatures, we will have a **DRIVE-UP Blessing of Pets on Sunday, October 1 from 12:00 Noon to 1:00 PM**

in the parking lot on the school side of the church in Plaistow. Bring your fur baby, scaly or feathered friend for a ride, pray for God's protection, and off you go!

✘ 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, **October 21, 2023 from 8:00 to 9:00 AM** in the parish hall of the Plaistow campus.

PARISH OFFICE CLOSED

In observance of the Columbus Day holiday, the Parish Office **will be closed on Monday, October 9**. The office will reopen on Tuesday, October 10 at 8:30 AM.

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 jtremblay@stluketheevangelist.net or call 603-382-8324. If you are new to our parish, registration forms are available at the entrances of both churches. You can also find a registration form on our website at <http://stlukenh.org>.

**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.**

LAST DATES

for DONATION DROP OFF

SEPT. 30 & OCT. 1

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

New/Like New Items

Bottles of WINE

Gift Cards

Lottery Tickets

Jewelry

Theme Baskets

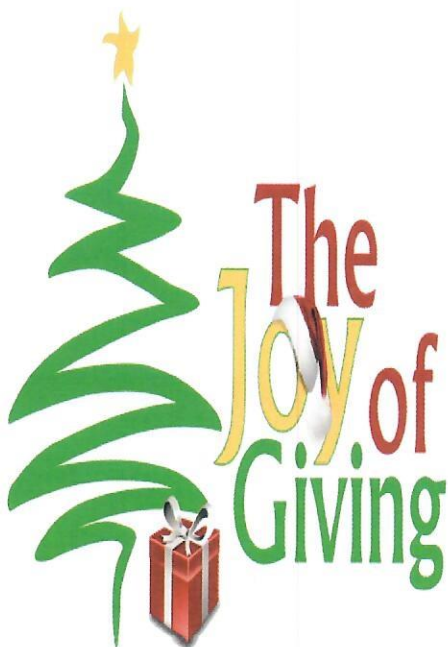
Tootsie Roll Lollipops

New TOYS

New Power Tools

Newly Knitted/Crocheted Items

Antiques and/or Collectibles
(NO Vases or Drinking glasses)



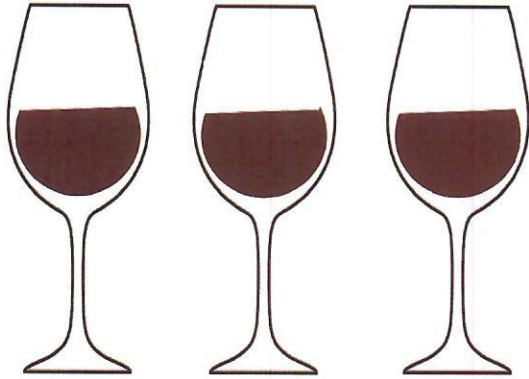
DROP OFF LOCATION

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 | \$_____ |

ST. LUKE THE EVANGELIST PARISH ANNUAL CHRISTMAS CRAFT FAIR

VOLUNTEER SIGN-UP SHEET

Return no later than Oct. 15

| | |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------|
| Name: _____ | Best time to reach you: _____ |
| Day-time phone: _____ | Evening phone: _____ |
| E-mail: _____ | |

Please indicate below how you'll help and donate.

THURSDAY, 11/2

Carry, load & unload many tables & boxes onto trucks/trailers/cars from Parish Hall to Parish Center

This job involves working as a team, paying attention, and above all, having a friendly CAN-DO spirit.

Teams will carry & load (onto/into vehicles) 20 tables (some heavy/some light), a chair, a rolled rug, & MANY boxes of donations, from Parish Hall, and then, unload them at Parish Center. These volunteers must be able to negotiate stairs while carrying awkward items and do a fair bit of walking.

_____ **4:30PM – 5:30PM** SIX (6) Robust volunteers needed. _____

If you have one, please name 'favorite person' with whom you will work.

Also, may we utilize your vehicle to transport the items from Parish Hall to Parish Center? If yes, what are you driving? TRUCK ___ w/TRAILER ___ SUV or MINIVAN ___ a 4-door Sedan ___ a Hatchback ___

FRIDAY, 11/3

Decorate Stage & Hang Banners

_____ **3PM-5PM** – Four (4) volunteers total, TWO (2) must be comfortable using a step ladder.

_____ I am comfortable going up and down a step ladder.

Help Arrange Merchandise on Parish Tables

Volunteers are needed between the hours of 1PM and 7PM to help arrange merchandise at the Parish Tables.

Please indicate the timeframe that you can help. I am available from _____ to _____

I will deliver PERISHABLE donations DIRECTLY to Parish Center on Friday, 11/3 between 1PM-7PM.

_____ **Cookie Heaven:** _____

What kind of cookies will you bake? How many dozen can we count on?

_____ **Country Store:** _____

Can you bake and donate Breads? Pies? Do you can your own fresh vegetables? Do you make your own jam/jelly?

Turn over for more opportunities to volunteer!!

ST. LUKE THE EVANGELIST PARISH ANNUAL CHRISTMAS CRAFT FAIR

VOLUNTEER SIGN-UP SHEET

Our fair provides our parish community with the great opportunity to work together towards a common goal, and it's success is largely dependent upon what YOU directly contribute. As Lead Coordinator, I am very grateful for how generously you all have donated time, talents, and goods to the Fair in years past. Without YOU this fair is not possible! Can you contribute again this year? Thank you for your donations, your physical assistance, and your participation. ~ Julie Lamere

SATURDAY, 11/4 THE DAY OF THE FAIR

PARKING ATTENDENT - Parking is 'staffed' 7AM - 2PM. Your info will be passed on to Ray Viglione.

_____ I am available from _____ to _____

PARISH TABLE HELP – During the Fair, please indicate your preferred shift. You will be placed where needed most.

_____ Early AM SHIFT, 7:30AM – 9:30AM

_____ AM SHIFT, 8:30AM – 12:30PM

_____ PM SHIFT, 12:00PM – 3:30PM

LUNCH BREAKS – we need to fill many lunch breaks, feel free to sign up for more than 1 shift.

_____ 11:30AM – 12:00PM

_____ 12:00PM – 12:30PM

_____ 12:30PM – 1:00PM

_____ Sign Me Up for ALL THREE (3) LUNCH BREAK SHIFTS!!!

POST FAIR TASKS

_____ 3:30PM-5PM – Help "After Fair" with Silent Auction – monitor tables as bids are tallied, organize items, etc.

_____ 3:30PM-5PM – Muscle needed to breakdown fair and/or bring specific tables back to Parish Hall as labeled.

_____ 3:30PM-5PM – We need TWO Trucks (or SUVs) sign-up if we can utilize yours!

_____ 3:30PM-5PM – I have an open trailer as well

Assignments will be confirmed via email/phone, be sure to provide BOTH on this form. Arrive 5 minutes early for your confirmed shift. Be sure to check-in with the Volunteer Coordinators for badge & assignment.

SUNDAY, 11/5, THE DAY AFTER...

_____ **10AM-12PM** – FOUR (4) people are needed to help the Silent Auction Coordinators with prize distribution at Parish CENTER. This task involves walking and carrying light items.

If you would like more specific information about anything fair-related, please email: stlukenhfair@gmail.com

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

Twenty-fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)
September 24, 2023

It's Not Fair!

Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA

The story in the Gospel doesn't sound fair. Some people worked from early morning until evening; others joined them at the end of the workday. But they all got the same pay. How can that be fair? Perhaps fairness isn't the point of the story. But then, what is?

The landowner, symbolizing God, hired the workers "after agreeing with them for the usual daily wage" (Matthew 20:2). If the earliest workers presumed that the agreed-upon wage would be changed, does that make God unfair? Those workers expected God to conform to what they considered just—and justice certainly is a very important value. However, God acted out of divine generosity—a quality we hope to

benefit from but which might engender resentment when it is bestowed upon others.

As difficult as this story might seem to us, it raises some important questions about ourselves. Perhaps the story is not so much about God as it is about our own attitudes. If we are faithful to what we believe is God's will for us, do we then presume that God owes us some kind of compensation? Do we expect that God will act according to our standards of retributive justice (this-for-that) rather than restorative justice (bring-it-back-to-life)? Do we resent God's graciousness toward others?

It is better that we all look to God for generosity than for justice. If we do, we will find, as the psalm response tells us: "The Lord is gracious and merciful" (Psalm 145:8). †

Sunday Readings

Isaiah 55:6-9

For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways.

Philippians 1:20c-24, 27a

For to me life is Christ, and death is gain.

Matthew 20:1-16a

[Jesus said,] "Thus, the last will be first, and the first will be last."

*Do we resent
God's graciousness
toward others?*



A Word from Pope Francis

Let us remember who was the first canonized saint in the Church: the Good Thief. He "stole" Paradise at the last minute of his life: this is Grace. This is what God is like, even with us. Instead, those who seek thinking of their own merits fail; those who humbly entrust themselves to the Father's mercy...find themselves first.

ANGELUS, ROME, SEPTEMBER 20, 2020



REFLECTION QUESTIONS



- Do you look to God for generosity or justice?
- Would it help to pray for the grace to remember that everything is a gift from God?

Our Life: Prayer, Community, and Service

Paige Byrne Shortal

Many folks have a gut-level “Not fair!” reaction to today’s Gospel. The laborers who show up at dusk and work for an hour are paid the same as those who come at dawn and work all day? You’ve got to be kidding!

This parable is not about working conditions in first-century Palestine, but just for a moment, let’s say it is. Have you ever seen folks standing by the side of the road with a sign, “Will work for food!” and thought, *Why don’t they get a job? Why are they so lazy?* Have you ever tried standing on a highway entrance ramp from early morning until the sun goes down? Standing there in the cold or in the rain without a hot cup of coffee or a sandwich? That’s a more difficult day than I had today.

Consider those laborers in the parable who were waiting in the marketplace to be hired, even at the end of the day, hoping against hope to earn enough to put a little food in their mouths and the mouths of the children. Are we so sure they are undeserving?

I was talking with my friend Bob about this reading. Upon retirement, Bob decided to get more involved with the St. Vincent de Paul Society. He was first attracted to their mission statement: “Inspired by Gospel values, the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, a Catholic lay organization, leads women and men to join together to grow spiritually by offering person-to-person service to



those who are needy and suffering in the tradition of its founder, Blessed Frederick Ozanam, and patron, St. Vincent de Paul.” (Important side note: Our Church’s annual memorial to St. Vincent de Paul will take place on September 27.)

Bob pointed out to me the three essential elements: spirituality, faith community, and service. The combination of the three is significant. There are organizations for enhancing one’s spiritual life, clubs for providing fellowship, and plenty of not-for-profit groups for service. The three elements together provide necessary balance and what is needed for the Christian life: prayer, community, and service.

Serving the poor is a Gospel mandate. Jesus talks about it often. The only picture of the last judgment in the Gospels is described in Matthew 25: “I was hungry and you gave me food....Just as you did

it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.”

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul offers a way to serve even for people like me: people who are frankly afraid of encountering the poor, of not knowing what to say, of the inconvenience, of not being able to help very much.

We who live well can be blind to the poor whom Jesus calls his brothers and sisters. When I die, I want to hear Jesus say, “I was hungry and you gave me food...so come on in and join the party!” †

***Serving the poor
is a Gospel mandate!
The Society of St. Vincent
de Paul offers ways
to do just that.***



*Wondrous God, we ask for
the grace to see as you see
and to reflect your face
to each person we meet.
We pray in Jesus’ name. Amen.*

The Redemptorists

WEEKDAY READINGS

September 25–30

Monday, Weekday:

Ezr 1:1–6 / Lk 8:16–18

Tuesday, Weekday:

Ezr 6:7–8, 12b, 14–20 / Lk 8:19–21

Wednesday, St. Vincent de Paul:

Ezr 9:5–9 / Lk 9:1–6

Thursday, Weekday:


Hg 1:1–8 / Lk 9:7–9

Friday, Sts. Michael, Gabriel and Raphael:

Dn 7:9–10, 13–14 or Rv 12:7–12a / Jn 1:47–51

Saturday, St. Jerome:

Zec 2:5–9, 14–15a / Lk 9:43b–45

Bringing Home
the **Word** 

September 24, 2023

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