



MUSIC FOR THE LITURGY

Sunday, November 12, 2023

Thirty-Second Sunday In Ordinary Time

Twenty-Fourth Sunday After Pentecost

Gathering: Gather Us In BB 302

Responsorial Psalm (Psalm 103)

Loving and forgiving are you, O Lord; slow to anger, rich in kindness, loving and forgiving are you.

Preparation Christ, Be Our Light BB 601

Mass Parts Mass of Creation

Communion Unless A Grain Of Wheat BB 504

Recessional: Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee BB 555



Out of respect for the Lord and in consideration of fellow parishioners, please remember to silence or turn off your cell phones during Mass. Thank you!

PLEASE HELP US!

As you leave church, kindly take your Bulletin with you - or return it to the basket at the entrance of the Church, return your music book and Mass card to their proper place, and pick up after yourself as you leave. Thanks for being attentive and respectful! F. Albert.



St. Luke the Evangelist is now on Facebook! Go to www.facebook.com/stlukenh.org/ or **St. Luke the Evangelist Parish – Newton/Plastow** and give us a Like! Please invite fellow parishioners & friends to do the same.

✠ 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!

November 1, 2023

All Saints Day \$1,028.00

November 5, 2023

Offertory \$6,231.57

Property Management \$1,463.30



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

UPCOMING SECOND & SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

November 12	Catholic Campaign for Human Development
November 19	Fuel
November 26	Christmas Flowers
December 3	Property Management

Suggested Weekly Contribution Based on Income

Annual Income	5% Commitment annually/ weekly	3% Commitment annually/ weekly
\$100,000	\$5,000/ \$100	\$3,000/ \$60
\$75,000	\$3,750/ \$75	\$2,250/ \$45
\$60,000	\$3,000/ \$60	\$1,800/ \$36
\$50,000	\$2,500/ \$50	\$1,500/ \$30
\$40,000	\$2,000/ \$40	\$1,200/ \$24
\$30,000	\$1,500/ \$30	\$900/ \$18
\$25,000	\$1,250/ \$25	\$750/ \$15
\$15,000	\$750/ \$15	\$450/ \$9

Suggested Weekly Contribution Based on a Percentage Increase

Your Current Offertory Contribution	25% Increase	30% Increase	40% Increase
\$75.00	\$93.75	\$97.50	\$105.00
\$50.00	\$62.50	\$65.00	\$70.00
\$40.00	\$50.00	\$52.00	\$56.00
\$35.00	\$43.75	\$45.50	\$49.00
\$30.00	\$37.50	\$39.00	\$42.00
\$25.00	\$31.25	\$32.50	\$35.00
\$20.00	\$25.00	\$26.00	\$28.00
\$15.00	\$18.75	\$19.50	\$21.00
\$10.00	\$12.50	\$13.00	\$14.00
\$5.00	\$6.25	\$6.50	\$7.00

ALL SOULS INTENTIONS

The month of November is a time when the Church traditionally prays in a special way for the faithful departed. The celebration of All Souls Day on November 2 is a joyful and poignant reminder that we worship and live in communion with those who have gone before us in faith.

All Souls envelopes are available at the entrance of both Churches. Any intentions listed on the envelopes will be remembered at Liturgies offered as "All Souls Intentions" throughout the coming liturgical year. All Souls envelopes can be deposited in the regular collection basket at your convenience.

The Holy Liturgy can be offered for any deceased Catholic person. Please contact the Parish Office at 603-382-8324 to inquire about scheduling. Exact dates cannot always be accommodated, so calling early for the coming year is advised. The suggested donation for an announced commemoration is \$10.00 payable to Saint Luke Parish.

THE BOOK OF THE NAMES OF THE DEAD

Throughout November, a special *Book of the Names of the Dead* will be open near the Baptismal Font & Paschal Candle for parishioners to record the names of the faithful departed. It is a visible sign that the faithful departed remain with us as part of the Church. You are welcome to record names of loved ones and the dates of their death.



UPCOMING CHRISTMAS FAIRS

St. Kathryn Parish, 4 Dracut Road, Hudson, NH on **Saturday, November 11, 2023** from 9:00 AM to 6:00 PM and **Sunday, November 12, 2023** from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM

Holy Redeemer Parish, 4 Green Street, Merrimac, MA on **Saturday, November 18** from 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM, Nativity Hall, Merrimac

St. Patrich Parish, 12 Main Street, Pelham, NH on **Saturday, December 2, 2023** from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM

HELP WANTED – ADVENT PREPARATIONS

Volunteers are invited to help do some rearranging and decorating on **Sunday, November 26 following the 8:00 AM Liturgy in Newton and the 10:00 AM Liturgy in Plaistow**. Our tasks include Advent decorating and book change-over in both of the churches in preparation for the Advent season. All are welcome to lend a hand – our work usually lasts just over an hour if we have all the help we can muster! Please contact the Parish Office for more information.

EARLY BULLETIN DEADLINES

With the holiday season approaching, we have several early bulletin deadlines:

Deadline for the November 26 bulletin is **Monday, November 13 at 12:00 Noon**

Deadline for the December 3 bulletin in **Monday, November 20 at 12:00 Noon**

Deadline for the December 10 bulletin is **Monday, November 27 at 12:00 Noon**

Deadline for the December 17 bulletin is **Monday, December 4 at 12:00 Noon**

Deadline for the December 24 bulletin is **Monday, December 11 at 12:00 Noon**

Deadline for the December 31 bulletin is **Monday, December 18 at 12:00 Noon**.

Deadline for the January 7 bulletin is **Monday, December 18 at 12:00 Noon**.

GIVING TREES

Giving Trees will be located in the back of both churches beginning on the weekend of **November 11-12**.

Please take an ornament, buy the item(s) listed, and return it - **with the ornament attached** - to the church or the parish office **no later than December 9-10** (the Second Sunday of Advent).



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, November 12

10:00 AM Religious Ed – K to 6 *Plaistow*

Tuesday, November 14

6:00 PM Grief Share Group *Plaistow*

6:30 PM The Gospel of Mark *Plaistow*

Wednesday, November 15

Holy Angels Church
Open All Day For Prayer

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

Thursday, November 16

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

Saturday, November 18

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

3:00 PM Sacrament of Reconciliation *Plaistow*

Sunday, November 19

10:00 AM Religious Ed – K to 6 *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!

SAINT LUKE THE EVANGELIST PARISH

Grief Share Support Group meets on Tuesdays beginning October 24 from 6:00 to 8:00 PM. Meetings are held at the Parish Office at 8 Atkinson Depot Rd., Plaistow. Call 603-382-8324 for information.

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.

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.

✠ MASS INTENTIONS ✠

Saturday, November 11 ~ 32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Wis 6:12-16; 1 Thes 4:13-18; Mt 25:1-13 (Vigil)

4:00 PM Jay Knowles by Bob and Alice Litwinovich
Plaistow

Sunday, November 12 ~ 32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Wis 6:12-16; 1 Thes 4:13-18; Mt 25:1-13

8:00 AM Paul Caiazza by Bob and Alice Litwinovich
Newton

10:00 AM Deceased Members of the Fogel Family and Frank Kelcourse by Elaine Kelcourse
Plaistow

Monday, November 13 ~ Frances Xavier Cabrini, Virgin

Wis 1:1-7; Lk 17:1-6

8:00 AM Ron Metcalf by Barbara Metcalf
Newton

Tuesday, November 14 ~ Weekday

Wis 2:23—3:9; Lk 17:7-10

8:00 AM The Intentions of Anne Mantsios by Kathy Doran
Plaistow

Wednesday, November 15 ~ Albert the Great, Bishop and

Doctor of the Church

Wis 6:1-11; Lk 17:11-19

6:30 PM In Thanksgiving for Fr. Albert on his Name Day by Bonnie Lajoie
Plaistow

Thursday, November 16 ~ Margaret of Scotland;

Gertrude, Virgin

Wis 7:22b—8:1; Lk 17:20-25

8:00 AM The Intentions of Barbara Metcalf by Bob and Alice Litwinovich
Newton

Friday, November 17 ~ Elizabeth of Hungary, Religious

Wis 13:1-9; Lk 17:26-37

No Mass

Saturday, November 18 ~ Dedication of the Basilicas of

Saints Peter and Paul, Apostles;
Rose Philippine Duchesne, Virgin

Wis 18:14-16, 19:6-9; Lk 18:1-8 (Day)

Prv 31:10-13, 19-20, 30-31; 1 Thes 5:1-6; Mt 25:14-30 (Vigil)

4:00 PM Geraldine and Dennis Miele by the Lanseigne family
Plaistow

Sunday, November 19 ~ 33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Prv 31:10-13, 19-20, 30-31; 1 Thes 5:1-6; Mt 25:14-30

8:00 AM Bonnie Drelich by Bob and Alice Litwinovich
Newton

10:00 AM Jesselyn and Donald Driscoll by their 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 **RCIA** (Rites of Christian Initiation for Adults) 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 COMPASSIONATE FRIENDS

The Compassionate Friends provide support for bereaved families after the loss of a child, grandchild, or sibling—any age, any cause. Visit our website at www.tcfnewburyport.org.

VITA NOVA – MEN’S RETREAT

Join other Catholic men for fellowship and spiritual growth as they explore *Surrendering To Divine Providence* on **January 5-7, 2024**. For more information, go to www.vitanova.org/catholic-mens-retreat.

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, **November 18, 2023 from 8:00 to 9:00 AM** in the parish hall in Plaistow.

ADORERS NEEDED AT 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 is a great source of grace for us as a parish family. We have many who have made the commitment to spend an hour each week with our Eucharistic Lord. Adoration takes place each Thursday in Newton from 8:30 AM to 8:30 PM. **We are currently looking for someone to be at the 11:30 AM through the 12:30 PM hour.** We also need people at other times so we can have 2 people at each hour. 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 a 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.

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. For more information, email 3023@helpourmarriage.org.

✦ 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



MONTHLY FOOD DRIVE

**Sponsored by the Knights of Columbus
St. Jude Council #6617**

The Knights of Columbus and Saint Luke the Evangelist Food Pantry would like to thank our parishioners for the ongoing support to feed those in need. Over the last two months, support has been provided to 135 families. That represents 118 children under the age of 18 and 111 adults over the age of 60, for a total of 370 individuals served. Shopping lists and bags are provided on the 3rd week of every month with the general collection of non-perishable items happening the following (4th) weekend. Food donations can also be left in the plastic totes at the rear of either church or brought to the Parish Office any time they are open. Prefer not to shop? Gift cards or checks can be made out to Saint Luke Food Pantry anytime. Your generosity and support are greatly appreciated!

**KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS
HAPPENINGS**

The Knights, working in association with the Kingston Lions Club, installed a handicap ramp for a single Mom. The Mom suffered a severe stroke a few years back due to a rupture in her brain. She has been wheelchair bound since. Her caregiver and her mother have been using a portable metal ramp that was unstable and not really suitable for this situation. The estimates for constructing a new ramp was something the family couldn't afford. The Knights were thrilled to partner with the Lions to get this urgent need taken care of for this family!

**THE KNIGHTS OF
COLUMBUS
ST. JUDE COUNCIL
#6617**



ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

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

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 October 16, 2023, we have raised \$40,963.00.** Thank you again for your support of our NH Catholic community and these important diocesan ministries.



**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, November 15 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.**



Once again this year our Saint Luke the Evangelist Parish Food Pantry will provide Thanksgiving Food Baskets to needy families in our area. The cost of purchasing items for all of the baskets typically runs to well over \$1500.00, and with hard times facing so many, we anticipate the need to be even greater than previous years.

If you would like to contribute towards the cost of Thanksgiving Baskets, please place your contribution in an envelope marked "***THANKSGIVING BASKETS,***" and place it in the offering basket. You may also visit the Parish Offices and contribute in person.

Thank you for your support of the poor among us.

What are...

Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist

Bishop Thomas J. Tobin
Diocese of Youngstown in Ohio

THEOLOGICAL/HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE

In 1971 extraordinary ministers of the Eucharist were first permitted in the United States. At that time the Congregation of the Sacraments responded to a request of the American bishops to allow laypersons to assist priests in giving Holy Communion.

In January 1973, Pope Paul VI, in the instruction "Immensae Caritatis," extended this permission to the universal Church. He wrote: "Present-day conditions demand that greater access to Holy Communion should be made possible so that the faithful, by sharing more fully in the fruits of the sacrifice of the Mass, might dedicate themselves more readily and effectively to God and to the good of the Church. First of all, provision must be made lest reception become impossible or difficult owing to a lack of a sufficient number of ministers."

The institution of this ministry responds to the condition in the Church today whereby Catholics are encouraged to share in communion at every Eucharist in which they participate, and under both species, and the large number of persons who are coming forward to partake of the body and blood of Christ.

In any parish, qualified persons who have been nominated for service as extraordinary ministers of the Eucharist must receive mandate from the Diocesan bishop. The pastor forwards the names of the persons to the bishop asking that they be named for service as extraordinary ministers. This requirement distinguishes the extraordinary minister of the Eucharist from other liturgical ministers and emphasizes the extraordinary nature of this ministry.

Extraordinary ministers are commissioned to function within their own parish for a period of three years. The commission expires after three years or if the person moves away from his or her parish. The commission is

renewable by again requesting the endorsement from the bishop. Commissioning should take place during a parish celebration according to the rite provided in the Book of Blessings. The commission may be revoked by the pastor if the individual no longer fulfills the requirements for this ministry established below.

RESPONSIBILITY/PURPOSE

"Extraordinary ministers may distribute Holy Communion at Eucharistic celebrations only when there are no ordained ministers present or when those ordained ministers present at a liturgical celebration are truly unable to distribute Holy Communion. They may also exercise this function at Eucharistic celebrations where there are particularly large numbers of the faithful and which would be excessively prolonged because of an insufficient number of ordained ministers to distribute Holy Communion." (Instruction on Certain Questions Regarding the Collaboration of the Non-Ordained Faithful in the Sacred Ministry of Priests)

Extraordinary ministers are also used in order that the sick or homebound may receive communion with the frequency recommended in the revised rite for the *Pastoral Care of the Sick*. Any person who regularly takes communion to the sick is to be trained and commissioned. An individual may be commissioned for only this aspect of the ministry or may perform this service within the Eucharistic assembly. To establish the connection between the Sunday assembly and the homebound and sick of the parish, extraordinary ministers ideally are sent from the Sunday celebration of the Eucharist to take communion to them.

SELECTION/DISCERNMENT

Extraordinary ministers are to be fully initiated Catholics (having received Baptism, Eucharist & Confirmation, be at least 16 years of age, and lead lives in harmony with the undertaking of this ministry including participating in the sacramental life of the Church. If married, a Minister must have been married validly in the Catholic Church. The Pastor, Parish staff, and Pastoral Council assist in discerning parishioners to fulfill this ministry.



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.

CREMATION?

While burial or entombment of the body remains the preference and is encouraged by the Church, cremation may be chosen for sufficient reason. The Revised Code of Canon Law states: “The Church earnestly recommends the pious custom of burial be retained; but it does not forbid cremation, unless this is chosen for reasons which are contrary to Christian teaching.” (CIC, c. 1176.3)

When is Cremation Allowed? Cremation may be requested for hygienic, economic or other reasons of a public or private nature. Some examples include: transfer of the remains to a distant place, possible avoidance of considerable expense, a severe psychological fear of burial in the ground or in a tomb. The selection of cremation was the specific choice of the individual before death. When requested by the family of the deceased for what also might be determined as an appropriate pastoral reason.

If a body is to be cremated, is it preferable that cremation take place after the Funeral Liturgy?

It is recommended that priority be given to the celebration of the Eucharistic Liturgy with the body of the deceased present.

Can a body be cremated prior to the Funeral Liturgy? What arrangements are different?

In the Diocese of Manchester, it is permitted to celebrate the funeral liturgy in the presence of the cremated remains. The cremated remains are to be accorded the same respect given to the corporeal remains of a human body. This includes the way they are carried, the care and attention to appropriate placement and transport, and their final disposition. The container in which the cremated remains are placed should be dignified in nature. The cremated remains are to be positioned on a suitable table in the same place where the casket is usually positioned. They may also be placed near the Paschal Candle during the funeral liturgy. The candle and the cremated remains may be placed in the sanctuary so as to be visible to all.

What is required for the proper and reverent disposition of cremated remains?

Cremated remains are to be buried or inurned. They should not be buried on private land, but are to be buried in a cemetery or entombed in a mausoleum or columbarium. **The practice of scattering cremated remains on the sea, from the air, or on the ground is not permitted.** If burial takes place at sea, according to local custom, the cremated remains are to be kept intact in a solid and durable container, and not scattered.

Keeping the cremated remains in a private home, funeral home or any other place is not considered to be the reverent disposition that the Church requires. **The integrity of the cremated remains is always to be respected.** The cremated remains of one deceased person may not be mixed with the cremated remains of another person. It is not permitted to divide the cremated remains and retain, inter or entomb them in more than one place.

It is also not permitted to divide the cremated remains in such a way that they are contained in lockets or jewelry. Any other practice which violates the integrity of the cremated remains and impedes reverent and proper burial/disposition is prohibited. Whenever possible, appropriate memorialization should be utilized at the place of burial.

Consult your cemetery office for all available options for the respectful burial, disposition and memorialization of cremated remains.



Bringing Home the Word

Thirty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)
November 12, 2023

Everybody Wants to Go to Heaven, but Nobody Wants to Die

Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA

This is the title of a bluegrass song as well as a book on bioethics. It's a clever title, and there is some profound truth in it. Death, which is so natural for living things, seems so unnatural to human beings, who cling tenaciously to life. One would think that believers who hold that Christ conquered death would be comforted by that faith. However, that isn't always the case. It's not that they don't believe; it's that they don't understand what they believe. But that

is the difference between understanding and believing.

This is the problem described in Paul's letter today. The Thessalonians believed that, through his resurrection, Christ conquered death. Then why did some among them begin to die? Did those dying lack faith? No, Paul insists. Jesus, who died and rose, embraces those who have died and who will rise with him. Did the people fully understand this? Do we? Isn't this a question of faith—and trust?

Paul thought that he and other believers could still be alive when the rising would happen, and they were not. Or were they? Doesn't our faith give us hope that we—both the living and the dead—will be embraced by God's mercy? Doesn't something wondrous occur when those who have "fallen asleep" wake up in the glory of God? Still, we might not understand all of this, but we are called to believe, and in believing we are told to "console one another with these words" (1 Thessalonians 4:18). †

Our faith gives us hope that we—both the living and the dead—will be embraced by God's mercy.

A Word from Pope Francis

Jesus wants to tell us that we must be prepared for the encounter with him. Not only for the final encounter, but also for the everyday great and small encounters, with a view to that encounter for which the *lamp of faith* is not enough; we also need the *oil of charity* and good works.

ANGELUS, ROME, NOVEMBER 8, 2020



Sunday Readings

Wisdom 6:12–16

Resplendent and unfading is Wisdom, and she is...found by those who seek her

1 Thessalonians 4:13–18 or 4:13–14

If we believe that Jesus died and rose, so too will God, through Jesus, bring with him those who have fallen asleep.

Matthew 25:1–13

[Jesus said,] "Therefore, stay awake, for you know neither the day nor the hour."

REFLECTION QUESTIONS



- What about death frightens you?
- In considering death, remind yourself that God loves you and that the risen Christ will embrace you.

The Power of a Candle

Fr. Ron Rolheiser, OMI

In South Africa, prior to the abolition of apartheid, people used to light candles and place them in windows as a sign of hope that one day this injustice would be overcome. At one point, the authorities began to crack down on this practice. It became illegal to have a lit candle in your window, as illegal as carrying a firearm. Children joked: “The government is afraid of candles!”

Eventually, as we know, apartheid was overcome. Reflecting upon the forces that helped overthrow it, it is fairly evident that candles, lit religious candles, were more powerful, ultimately, than were firearms. Hope is more powerful than any army. But what is hope?

Many mistake wishing for hope. They are not at all the same. Wishing is fantasy. I can wish that I might win a million dollars, but that is not connected to any reality. It is simple daydreaming. You do not light a candle for a daydream.

Hope is based upon the promise of God that says that—human sin notwithstanding—justice, peace, love, harmony, gentleness, and graciousness will, eventually, become reality.

To light a candle, then, is to say that gentleness and graciousness are ultimately more powerful than threats, torture, and guns. To light a candle is to proclaim to the world that our real allegiance is given to something and to someone beyond them. In retrospect, the



government's paranoia about candles was well-founded. A lit candle is a powerful statement of hope. †

From Daybreaks: Daily Reflections for Advent and Christmas, Ronald Rolheiser, OMI (813375)



O God, you who promised that death is not the end of life, give faith to the doubtful, courage to the fearful, and comfort to the suffering, we pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

The Redemptorists

Be Like Him

When we convince ourselves that the pain or suffering of another person is simply not our problem, then we lack the pity that moves Jesus to feed the hungry crowds. Jesus, who is both fully divine and human, lives up to the divine relationship by constantly showing sympathy, compassion, love, and mercy. Jesus prioritizes this sense of unbound relationship and concern for the lived realities of all women and men, symbolized in one case by the people before him who hunger for food. (See Matthew 15:32 and Mark 8:2). May this be a time for us to stop being like the disciples who are closed off to the needs of others and strive to be more like Christ in every encounter we have and with every person we meet. †

Daybreaks: Daily Reflections for Advent and Christmas, Daniel P. Horan (827303)

These reflections were excerpted from *Daybreaks: Daily Reflections for Advent and Christmas*, available from Liguori Publications. Visit Liguori.org to learn more and review our complete list of Daybreaks authors, including Fr. Byron Miller, CSsR; Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA; Fr. John Kavanaugh, SJ, and others.

WEEKDAY READINGS

November 13–18

Monday, St. Frances Xavier Cabrini:
Wis 1:1–7 / Lk 17:1–6

Tuesday, Weekday:
Wis 2:23–3:9 / Lk 17:7–10

Wednesday, Weekday:
Wis 6:1–11 / Lk 17:11–19

Thursday, Weekday:
Wis 7:22b–8:1 / Lk 17:20–25

Friday, St. Elizabeth of Hungary:
Wis 13:1–9 / Lk 17:26–37

Saturday, Weekday:
Wis 18:14–16; 19:6–9 / Lk 18:1–8

Bringing Home
the **Word** 
November 12, 2023

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