



MUSIC FOR THE LITURGY

Sunday, November 26, 2023

**Our Lord Jesus Christ,
King Of The Universe**

Gathering: Crown Him With Many Crowns BB 733
 Responsorial Psalm (Psalm 97)

*The Lord is King, the Lord is King, the
 most high over all the earth!*

Preparation: Whatsoever You Do BB 627
 Mass Parts: Mass of Creation
 Communion: I Am The Bread Of Life BB 329
 Recessional: To Jesus Christ, Our Sovereign King
 BB 736

✠ 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
 NOVEMBER 19, 2023
 WILL APPEAR IN NEXT WEEK'S BULLETIN**



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



PLEASE HELP US!

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

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



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

UPCOMING SECOND & SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

- | | |
|-------------|------------------------|
| November 26 | Christmas Flowers |
| December 3 | Property Management |
| December 8 | Immaculate Conception |
| December 10 | Retired Religious Fund |
| December 17 | 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

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.



IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

The feast of the Immaculate Conception is a Holy Day of Obligation. Our Mass schedule for the holy day is: **Thursday, December 7 at 6:30 PM in Plaistow and Friday, December 8 at 8:00 AM in Newton.**



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 installing Christmas trees 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 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 18-19.**

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 26

DECORATE CHURCHES FOR ADVENT

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

Tuesday, November 28

6:00 PM Grief Share Group *Plaistow*

Wednesday, November 29

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

Thursday, November 30

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

Saturday, December 2

3:00 PM Sacrament of Reconciliation *Plaistow*

Sunday, December 3

10:00 AM Religious Ed – K to 6 *Plaistow*
6:00 PM Vespers *Newton*
6:30 PM Sacrament of Reconciliation *Newton*

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 25 ~ Our Lord Jesus Christ, King Of The Universe

Ez 34:11-12, 15-17; 1 Cor 15:20-26, 28; Mt 25:31-46 (Vigil)
4:00 PM Theresa Tremblay by Jackie Tremblay
Plaistow

Sunday, November 26 ~ Our Lord Jesus Christ, King Of The Universe

Ez 34:11-12, 15-17; 1 Cor 15:20-26, 28; Mt 25:31-46
8:00 AM Pamela Beaudette (1st Anniversary) by the Stanley family
Newton

10:00 AM Sheila DeSimone by Charlie and Mary Corsetto
Plaistow

Monday, November 27 ~ Weekday

Dn 1:1-6, 8-20; Lk 21:1-4
8:00 AM Joseph L. Krafton by Barbara Metcalf
Newton

Tuesday, November 28 ~ Weekday

Dn 2:31-45; Lk 21:5-11
8:00 AM Gail Collins (Month's Mind)
Plaistow

Wednesday, November 29 ~ Weekday

Dn 5:1-6, 13-14, 16-17, 23-28; Lk 21:12-19
6:30 PM Jerry King by Ann Marie and Joe Sheehan
Plaistow

Thursday, November 30 ~ Andrew, Apostle

Rom 10:9-18; Mt 4:18-22
8:00 AM People of the Parish
Newton

Friday, December 1 ~ Weekday

Dn 7:2-14; Lk 21:29-33
No Mass

Saturday, December 2 ~ Weekday

Dn 7:15-27; Lk 21:34-36 (Day)
Is 63:16b-17, 19b, 64:2-7; 1 Cor 1:3-9; Mk 13:33-37 (Vigil)
4:00 PM In Honor of St. Benedict and Our Lady of Lourdes by George Giraldo
Plaistow

Sunday, December 3 ~ First Sunday of Advent

Is 63:16b-17, 19b, 64:2-7; 1 Cor 1:3-9; Mk 13:33-37
8:00 AM Thomas Antczak by the Burge family
Newton
10:00 AM Albert Chaff by his wife, Rosemary Chaff
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 **RITE 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 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, **December 16, 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 jtrremblay@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 St. Jude Council of the Knights of Columbus allocated \$750 to assist the Giving Tree this year. Five Knights and their families will be pulling tags and purchasing gifts to fulfill the donation made by the Council. The Knights have also purchased several Thanksgiving food baskets for our Food Pantry for Thanksgiving and will be doing the same for Christmas.

**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 November 13, 2023, we have raised \$45,298.00.** 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, December 20 at 7:00 PM.** We meet downstairs in the Church Hall in Plaistow. **New members are always welcome!**

If you seek assistance or need information about the St. Vincent de Paul Society, call 603-382-8324 x315.

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



Saint Luke the Evangelist Parish



Outstanding Job St. Luke's Community!!!!

The success of our annual fair depends/relies/rests ENTIRELY on the participation, donations, encouragement, assistance, and prayers of each and everyone of you. Every year, your generous donations pour in, you sign up and show up to volunteer, and, what seems to be, at times, complete chaos, transforms into a magical, 6-hour display of community spirit, holiday charm, and the power of a united effort. I don't dare list the names of all who helped in one way or another as I'll surely miss someone, so you all get a very special THANK YOU for every little, or big, way you contributed to the Fair. Your efforts are reflected in our bottom line which exceeded years past and expectations with the **net total of \$21,500!!**

Now, with a bit of a heavy heart, I must bid adieu as Fair Lead. It has been my great honor to lead the fair since 2018. I have gained so many skills and have learned so much about fundraising and our parish community. I am so grateful for the experience and proud of what we, as a community, were able to accomplish over the years.

So, the clincher...

The Parish is now actively seeking a 2 or 3 folks to step up as co-leaders for the 2024 fair. I will, of course, walk along side the new 'lead(s)' for the 2024 Fair, as guide and coach, as needed, as they 'learn the ropes'.

Please reach out if you have any inkling of interest, or feel like God may be whispering in your ear "You Can Do This", or even if you simply would like more information.

Email me at StLukeNHFair@gmail.com

May God bless each and everyone of you this holiday season.

Sincerely,

Julie Lamere, Your faithful fair leader



Communion Call



As early as the year 150, the martyr Justin, in writing an explanation of Christian worship to the Roman authorities, described the Sunday Eucharist pretty much as we celebrate it today. At the end of the description, he notes that ministers take the eucharist from the Sunday assembly to those who were unable to be present.

Perhaps these included people who were in prison for living according to the Gospel, and those whose work (Sunday was a work day back then) kept them

away. But almost certainly he meant the sick and the infirm, and those who were otherwise homebound. This is our ancient tradition: to love and cherish and to keep connected with those members of this community who cannot be with us on Sunday.

When illness or infirmity keeps you from the Sunday assembly, Special Ministers of Communion will bring a word of scripture and the body of Christ to you. The best time for this is Sunday, when the minister can come straight from the celebration of Mass. But other times can be arranged. Don't worry about fasting before receiving communion: If you are able to, that's fine. But because of your condition, you are not obligated.

The rite of communion for the sick is simple. It can be very brief if you are not feeling up to more. But normally, it consists of some opening prayers and readings (similar to those at Mass). If you are able, you then offer some prayers for the world and the church. Your family, friends and caregivers can (and should!) participate in the rite. If they would normally receive communion at Mass, then they can share in communion at this time, too. Before and after this simple, powerful rite of communion, you can visit with the minister or not, depending on how you feel.

Sick or infirm, homebound or hospitalized, each baptized person is nonetheless part of this parish, a member of the body of Christ. So don't be afraid that you're being a burden, and don't think that we're so busy we wouldn't have time for you. Regularly sharing in communion is an important part of our life together as the church.

Call the Parish Office at 603 382 8324 for more information.

The Solemnity of Christ the King is a relative latecomer to the liturgical calendar of the Roman Church. The Solemnity was instituted in 1925 by Pope Pius XI, and was specifically designated to be a “spiritual weapon” against what the Pope saw as two forces destructive of that time: secularism and atheism. The early 1900’s were a time where industrial development saw people living in tenement housing and other inhuman conditions without hope (remember the Child Labor Laws of the U.S. and other social reforms are all products of the post-depression years). The Church also recognized that the world was still reeling from the awful reality of the “war to end all wars,” (!) and the consequences of the rise of national and political movements such as communism, nazism, and fascism which were gaining popularity in Europe. The Church saw a great need to point to another reality - the reality and power of Christ as King and Savior of the world.



The notion of Christ as King refers to Jesus’ human royalty as a Son of David and to his royalty as the divine Son of God. Matthew, who’s Gospel we have heard all this year, implicitly unfolds Jesus’ Kingship as he describes the Kingdom of God and those faithful disciples who act in the world to bring that Kingdom to fulfillment.

This day also marks the end of the liturgical year in the Church. The Solemnity of Christ the King, capping the whole year, encourages us to look back to find signs of God’s grace and power, while looking forward to his coming again in glory, while at the same time looking around to see where Christ’s Kingship shows itself in the world today.

***Join us at 6 PM tonight, Sunday, November 26 in Newton
For Evening Prayer and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament
as we honor Christ our King.***



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.



Bringing Home the Word

Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe (A)
November 26, 2023

The Lord Is My Shepherd

Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA

The prominent image for God in today’s readings is the shepherd. This might be an unfamiliar image for city dwellers, but it is a very rich religious image. The Bible tells us that early Israelites were herders, so they knew a lot about shepherds. They knew that shepherds follow the wandering of their sheep and attended to their needs—not the other way around. They knew that shepherds lived with their sheep in the hills for long periods, away from family, friends, and the comforts of life. They knew that shepherds helped birthing and dying. They knew that all of this is a messy, smelly business, and no job for the fastidious.

Many nations of the ancient world, Israel included, thought of their kings as shepherds of the people—leaders who should be willing to do for their people what the shepherd does for the sheep. This explains why, on the feast of Christ the King, we represent our king as a shepherd rather than a victorious military commander, as many kings are. But more than this, throughout his life—at his passion and death, and now in his risen glory—Christ cares for us and leads us as a shepherd does. He embraces the messy, smelly reality of life. He is a shepherd-king, intent on our needs, searching for us when we seem to be lost. How comforting it is to know he carries us on his shoulders. †

A Word from Pope Francis

We will be judged on love... not on feelings, no: we will be judged on works, on compassion....Do I draw near to Jesus present in the persons of the sick, the poor, the suffering, the imprisoned, of those who hunger and thirst for justice? Do I draw near to Jesus present there? This is the question for today.

ANGELUS, ROME,
NOVEMBER 22, 2020



Sunday Readings

Ezekiel 34:11–12, 15–17

For thus says the Lord GOD: Look! I myself will search for my sheep and examine them.

1 Corinthians 15:20–26, 28

The last enemy to be destroyed is death.

Matthew 25:31–46

“Amen, I say to you, what you did not do for one of these least ones, you did not do for me.”

*Christ cares for us
and leads us
as a shepherd does.*



REFLECTION QUESTIONS



- What are you doing to help those who are most in need?
- What more could you do?

Finding God in the Interruptions

Ron Rolheiser, OMI

In a biography of C. S. Lewis, A. N. Wilson describes how Lewis' life was, during virtually all of his productive years, interrupted by the demands of his adoptive mother who made him do all the shopping and housework. Lewis' brother Warnie, who also lived in the household (and who generally refused to let his own agenda be so interrupted), laments this fact in his diaries and suggests that Lewis could have been much more prolific had he not been forced to spend countless hours doing domestic chores.

Lewis himself, however, gives a different assessment. Far from being resentful about these interruptions, he's grateful and suggests that it was precisely these domestic demands that kept him in touch with life in a way that other Oxford dons were not. Wilson agrees. He suggests that it was precisely because of these interruptions, which kept Lewis'



feet squarely on the ground, that Lewis was able to have such empathic insights into the everyday human condition.

We, too, must look for the hand of God in our interruptions. These often appear as a conspiracy of accidents, but through them God guides and tutors us. If we were totally in control of our own agendas, if we could simply plan and execute our lives according to our own

dreams with no unwanted demands, I fear that many of us would slowly and subtly become selfish.

C. S. Lewis once said that we'll spend most of eternity thanking God for those prayers he didn't answer. I suspect we'll also spend a good part of eternity thanking God for those interruptions that derailed our plans. †

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

PRAYER

God of the universe, we pray for the coming of the kingdom of your Son in all places and in the hearts of every human being.

We pray always in Jesus' name. Amen.

The Redemptorists

From Sr. Thea Bowman's Address to the US Bishops' Conference, June 1989

Today we're called to walk together in a new way toward that Land of Promise and to celebrate who we are and whose we aren't. If we, as a Church, walk together—don't let nobody separate you—that's one thing black folk can teach you—don't let folks divide you up—you know, put the lay folk over here and the clergy over here—put the bishops in one room and the clergy in the other room—put the women over here and the men over here. The Church teaches us that the Church is a family of families and the family got to stay together and we know, that if we do stay together—if we walk and talk and work and play and stand together in Jesus' name—we'll be who we say we are—truly Catholic and we shall overcome—overcome the poverty—overcome the loneliness—overcome the alienation and build together a holy city, a new Jerusalem, a city set apart where they'll know that we are here because we love one another. †

WEEKDAY READINGS

November 27—
December 2

Monday, Weekday:
Dn 1:1–6, 8–20 / Lk 21:1–4


Tuesday, Weekday:
Dn 2:31–45 / Lk 21:5–11

Wednesday, Weekday: Dn 5:1–6,
13–14, 16–17, 23–28 / Lk 21:12–19

Thursday, Saint Andrew:
Rom 10:9–18 / Mt 4:18–22

Friday, Weekday:
Dn 7:2–14 / Lk 21:29–33

Saturday, Weekday:
Dn 7:15–27 / Lk 21:34–36

Bringing Home
the Word 
November 26, 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.