# St. Luke the Evangelist

SAINT

### PARISH OFFICE

8 Atkinson Depot Rd., Plaistow, NH 03865

### **EUCHARISTIC LITURGY**

8 Atkinson Depot Road, Plaistow Vigil 4:00 pm; Sunday 10:00 am Tuesday 8:00 am; Wednesday 6:30 pm

> 12 Amesbury Road, Newton Sunday 8:00 am Monday and Thursday 8:00 am

Website: www.stlukenh.org

### HOLY DAY LITURGIES

As Announced

### RECONCILIATION

The Sacrament of Reconciliation is offered in Plaistow on Saturdays from 3:00 to 3:30 pm or by appointment.

**Christian Formation** Ms. Cathy Smith, Adult Faith Formation Mrs. Joyce Szczapa, Rel. Ed. Coordinator Ms. Nancy Ross, RCIA Director

**Music Ministries** Mrs. Valerie Barczak, Music Director Ms. Michaela Barczak, Choir Director

Support Staff Ms. Jackie Tremblay, Office Manager Mr. Glenn Hughes, Facility Manager

Parish Outreach Ministries Saint Luke the Evangelist Food Pantry, Joe & Marie Farren 603-819-4949 Society of Saint Vincent de Paul, Ms. Joan Meader 603-382-8324 ext 315

Pre-School & Kindergarten Mrs. Jean Lanctot, Director 603-382-9783

**Making Estate Plans?** Consider remembering St. Luke the Evangelist in your will.

### SACRAMENTAL LIFE:

BAPTISM
The Sacrament of Baptism is typically celebrated at Sunday Liturgy. Please attend a Baptismal catechesis session prior to scheduling. Contact the Parish Office for details.

MARRIAGE
Please call the Parish Office for an appointment prior to scheduling any date. Diocesan policies require at least six months preparation time before Marriage is

ANOINTING OF THE SICK
Arrangements can be made to celebrate this
Sacrament at any time by contacting the Parish

MINISTRY TO THE HOMEBOUND
Anyone who is unable to attend Mass and who would like to receive the Holy Eucharist should call the Parish Office to make arrangements for a visit.

### RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS

Anyone who is interested in becoming Catholic or who would like to complete the Sacraments of Initiation should call the Parish Office or speak to Nancy Ross for more information.

### ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT:

LUKE

Adoration of our Lord Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament takes place in our parish every week. New adorers are welcome; to sign up for a specific hour, please call the Parish Office.

In Plaistow: Wednesdays - Church open all day In Newton: Thursdays at 8:30 am until 8:30 pm.

### KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS:

Grand Knight, Peter Richards

St. Jude Council 6617 (www.kofc6617.org) meets on the first Monday of the month at 7:00 pm in the Parish Hall in Plaistow. New members are welcome.

### RELIGIOUS EDUCATION:

Religious Education for children begins at Sunday Liturgy with families participating faithfully in the Lord's Day. Sessions for children pre-school through grade 8 are held during the 10 am Liturgy on Sundays as part of a Children's Liturgy of the Word. Sacramental preparation sessions are home based or are held on Sunday morning following the 10 am Liturgy as scheduled. Contact the Religious Education Office for more information or visit www.stlukenh.org.

PARISH VISION STATEMENT

A Roman Catholic Community, we are called by God to be a loving family consecrated through Baptism and transformed by the true presence of Jesus in the Most Holy Eucharist so as to grow in spiritual maturity and in reverence for the Lord.

Out of respect, please remember to silence or turn off your cell phones during Mass. Thank you.



# Welcome!

On behalf of the Parish of Saint Luke the Evangelist, I extend to you and your families the blessings of the Christ who came to live among us, and who lives

with us through the movement of the Holy Spirit, and who will come one day among us again.

Our Parish rejoices in so many blessings as we gather to celebrate Christmas. Even in the shadows of the continuing tragedies of the world; even in the shadows of personal heartbreak and economic worries, the Spirit of the Lord fills us with hope and faith in His loving and compassionate plan.

This special edition of our *Bulletin* was prepared for all who visit Saint Luke the Evangelist over the holiday – especially for those who visit us from near or far, and for those who are searching for a Church home.

During your time with us, I pray you find in our liturgical worship the same welcoming spirit that has so long been the hallmark of our community. May the blessings of Christ, who is our light and our life, rest with you.

Father Albert, obl. SB Pastor

### PLEASE HELP US OUT!

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!

# CHRISTMAS SEASON LITURGICAL SCHEDULE

**December 30-31** is the Feast of the Holy Family. Our Christmas observance will follow the usual calendar with a Vigil Liturgy on Saturday December 30 at 4:00 PM in Plaistow and with Sunday Liturgies at 8:00 in Newton and 10:00 am in Plaistow.

January 1, the Octave Day of Christmas, and the Solemnity of Mary, Τέοποκος - Mother of God, is not a holy day of obligation in the US this year. We will gather for a Vigil Liturgy on Sunday, December 31 at 4:00 PM in Plaistow and on January 1 at 9 am in Newton. We will close the Octave celebration with Christmas Evening Prayer at 6:00 PM in Newton.

January 6-7 is the Solemnity of the Epiphany. Our Liturgical schedule will follow the usual calendar with Vigil Liturgy on Saturday January 6 at 4:00 PM in Plaistow and with Liturgies on Sunday January 7 at 8:00 am



in Newton and 10:00 am in Plaistow We will gather for Epiphany Evening Prayer on Sunday, January 7 at 6:00 PM in Newton.

January 8 is the feast of the Baptism of the Lord and the conclusion of the Christmas season. We will follow the usual weekday schedule and gather for Liturgy on Monday, January 8 at 8:00 am in Newton. We will gather for the final vespers of the Christmas season on Monday, January 8 at 6:00 PM in Newton.



# PARISH OFFICE CLOSED

The Parish Office will be closed on Monday, December 25, Tuesday, December 26, and on Monday, January 1.

# CHRISTMAS MUSIC FOR THE LITURGY

4:00 and 6:30 PM

Gathering: O Come All Ye Faithful

Music Issue 99

The Glory to God Doxology is found in the inside cover of your Music Issue

Psalm Response:

All the ends of the earth have seen the saving power of God. Psalm 98

Preparation of the Gifts: O Little Town Of Bethlehem

Music Issue 85

Communion:

(4 PM) Silent Night

Music Issue 81

Hark, the Herald Angels Sing Angels, We Have Heard On High

Music Issue 102 Music Issue 87

Closing: Joy To The World

Music Issue 86

9:00 am

Gathering: O Come All Ye Faithful

Music Issue 99

The Glory to God Doxology is found in the inside cover of your Music Issue

Psalm Response: All the ends of the earth have seen the saving power of God. Psalm 98

Preparation of the Gifts: Hark, The Herald Angels Sing

Music Issue 92

Communion: Silent Night

Away in A Manger

Music Issue 81

Music Issue 76

Communion Meditation

What Child Is This

Music Issue 96

Child of the Poor

Music Issue 97

Closing: Joy To The World

Music Issue 86

Thank you Music Director, Val Barczak and Choir Director Michaela Barczak, Instrumentalists, Cantors and Choir members!

# GUIDELINES FOR THE RECEPTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

FOR CATHOLICS: As Catholics, we fully participate in the celebration of the Eucharist when we receive Holy Communion. We are encouraged to receive Communion devoutly and frequently. In order to be properly disposed to receive Communion, participants should not be conscious of grave sin and normally should have fasted for one hour. A person who is conscious of grave sin is not to receive the Body and Blood of the Lord without prior sacramental confession except for a grave reason where there is no opportunity for confession. In this case, the person is to be mindful of the obligation to make an act of perfect contrition, including the intention of confessing as soon as possible (Canon 916). A frequent reception of the Sacrament of Penance is encouraged for all.

FOR OUR FELLOW CHRISTIANS: We welcome our fellow Christians to this celebration of the Eucharist as our brothers and sisters. We pray that our common baptism and the action of the Holy Spirit in this Eucharist will draw us closer to one another and begin to dispel the sad divisions that separate us. We pray that these will lessen and finally disappear, in keeping with Christ's prayer for us "that they may all be one" (Jn 17:21). Because Catholics believe that the celebration of the Eucharist is a sign of the reality of the oneness of faith, life, and worship, members of those churches with whom we are not yet fully united are ordinarily not admitted to Holy Communion. Eucharistic sharing in exceptional circumstances by other Christians requires permission according to the directives of the diocesan bishop and the provisions of canon law (canon 844 § 4). Members of the Orthodox Churches, the Assyrian Church of the East, and the Polish National Catholic Church are urged to respect the discipline of their own Churches. According to Roman Catholic discipline, the Code of Canon Law does not object to the reception of communion by Christians of these Churches (canon 844 § 3).

FOR THOSE NOT RECEIVING HOLY COMMUNION: All who are not receiving Holy Communion are encouraged to express in their hearts a prayerful desire for unity with the Lord Jesus and with one another.

FOR NON-CHRISTIANS: We also welcome to this celebration those who do not share our faith in Jesus Christ. While we cannot admit them to Holy Communion, we ask them to offer their prayers for the peace and the unity of the human family.

Committee on the Liturgy - National Conference of Catholic Bishops/United States Catholic Conference, 3211 4th Street, N.E., Washington, DC 20017-1194 © United States Catholic Conference



## **CHRISTMAS COLLECTION**

There will be a special second collection at all Christmas Liturgies, December 24-25 for the works of the Parish.

Our Parish needs to take in \$9700.00 each week 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 are away. Consider signing up for electronic giving (see below). Especially in these trying times, your Parish depends on your responsible stewardship and support!

# Your generosity and support are appreciated.



### CHRISTMAS FLOWERS

Donations are gratefully accepted to help defray the cost of Christmas Flowers.

One can make a donation or memorial offering by enclosing an envelope

marked "CHRISTMAS FLOWERS" in the regular offering. A list of names of donors and memorials will be published in the coming weeks.

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 <a href="http://stlukenh.org">http://stlukenh.org</a>, click on the Parish Giving logo, and follow the easy registration instructions.

## FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTION STATEMENT

If you would like an "end of year" financial statement of your contributions to the church for the past year, please make a notation on your contribution envelope, or call the Parish Office at 603-382-8324, or email Jackie in the Parish Office at <a href="mailto:itemblay@stluketheevangelist.net">itemblay@stluketheevangelist.net</a>. Financial statements are issued on a request only basis.

### THANK YOU to MR. JIM!

Thank you to Knight of Columbus and allaround good guy Jim Edwards who donated a new 12 ft Christmas Tree to the Newton church in memory of his special friend, Suzanne Busch who recently passed away.



### WHILE AWAY THIS WINTER...

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



# Did you know that dates for Mass Intentions are available for 2024?

If you would like to request a Mass for a deceased loved one or friend, or in thanksgiving for a significant life event, please

contact the Parish Office. Suggested donation is \$10 per Mass.

### **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.



Our Parish target was \$46,740.00. As of November 13, 2023, we have met our 2023 goal! Thank you again for your support of our NH Catholic community and these important diocesan ministries.



St. Luke the Evangelist is 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.

### 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.

## EUCHARISTIC ADORATION AT SAINT LUKE

For Catholics, the "real presence" of the Lord in the Eucharist is a touchstone for prayer and a challenge celebrated both in the



reception of the Eucharist and in silent adoration before the Sacrament.

We hold weekly Eucharistic Adoration on Thursdays, from 8:30 am through 8:30 PM at the church in Newton.

Church Canon Law states someone must be in attendance in Church any time the Blessed Sacrament is exposed for veneration.

### ADORERS NEEDED AT ADORATION

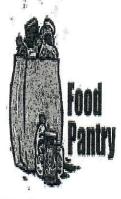
We are truly blessed to have times for Adoration of Our Lord in our Parish. This time of prayer and intercession is not only a source of great grace for the individual but is a great source of grace for us as a parish family. We have many who have made the commitment to spend an hour each week with our Eucharistic Lord. 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 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.

### **CURSILLO**

If you have a desire to know Jesus more closely, a Cursillo is for you. The Cursillo weekend is a short course in Christianity. The purpose of the weekend is to facilitate a meaningful personal encounter with Christ and his body, the Church. Cursillo weekends are being offered at the Sarto Center in Hookset, NH. To find out more, contact Mark Collopy at 603-833-7341 or explore www.nhcursillo.org.

## **COMMUNITY OUTREACH**



Saint Luke the Evangelist Parish Food Pantry serves the communities of Plaistow, Atkinson, East Kingston, Kingston, and Newton. We also reach out to help families in Haverhill on this side of Route 495 who are long standing clients. The Pantry works with local groups such as the Knights of Columbus, the Lions Club and the Saint Vincent de Paul Society as well as with other local faith communities to continue Jesus' mission to help the poor and feed the hungry.

During the month of November, the Parish distributed Thanksgiving Baskets to area families, and we repeated this activity at Christmas time. Our Pantry also coordinates the Giving Tree at Christmas which collects gifts from the Parish community, local businesses and faith communities and generous contributors and distributes to families in need. We are grateful to Parishioners and local communities for all their assistance.

Still looking for a charitable gesture at Christmas? Consider a gift of personal care products (shampoo, toothpaste, toothbrushes, etc.) for the Pantry. We also welcome cash donations - our Pantry spends upwards of \$1500.00 per month to help the hungry! Make checks out to: Saint Luke the Evangelist Food Pantry.

## **GIVING TREES**

Thanks to all who took ornaments from the Giving Tree this year. You have helped to make the Christmas season brighter for children of the community and for many people who are struggling to make ends meet. Your generosity is truly appreciated!

A special thanks to all the Food Pantry Volunteers who work so hard during the holiday season!



### **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 3<sup>rd</sup> week of every month with the general collection of non-perishable items happening the following (4<sup>th</sup>) 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!



## KIMBERLY' 18TH ANNUAL HOLIDAY CLOTHING DRIVE

Kim Clennord of our Parish is back and collecting clothes! We will be collecting clothing and nonperishable food items on January 6 and 7 at Holy Angels Church in Plaistow (in the Parish Hall), from 12:00 to 4:00 PM each day. We are accepting CLEAN clothing of any size, any season, any decade. Any donations of socks or underwear must be new and packaged. If you have any questions, concerns, or would like to volunteer, please contact me at: kimberly-andrade@comcast.net.

### REPORTING ABUSE

If you or anyone you know has been sexually abused as a minor by a priest, deacon, member of a religious institute, or Church employee or volunteer, we encourage you to report the matter to the Division for Children, Youth & Families at (800) 894-5533 and/or local law enforcement.

The Diocese of Manchester's Office for Healing and Pastoral Care offers pastoral support, outreach, and professional assistance to persons and families of those persons who report having been sexually abused by people representing the Church. The Office for Healing and Pastoral Care can be contacted at 603-668-0014, ext. 233 or 1-800-475-5585, ext. 233.

### SAFE ENVIRONMENT IN PARISHES

Any Parish volunteer 18 and older must complete procedures in compliance with the Diocese of Manchester "Promise to Protect

- Pledge to Heal" Programs. Volunteers who work regularly with children (Religious Education Catechists and Aides, youth ministry volunteers, scouting leaders) must complete the above paperwork, attend a "Protecting God's Children" workshop and undergo a criminal background check. Please contact Cathy Smith at the Parish Office



for more information. The Diocese of Manchester regularly sponsors the Protecting God's Children Workshop. Additional sessions can be found by visiting the Diocesan website at www.catholicchurchnh.org.



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.

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

### GIVE BACK REUSABLE BAG PROGRAM

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul, St. Luke the Evangelist Parish, has been chosen by **Shaw's**, 4 Plaistow Road, Plaistow, NH to participate in the *Give Back Where It Counts Reusable Bag Program*. For the entire month of December, for every \$3.00 bag purchased at **Shaw's in Plaistow**, they will donate \$1.00 to St. Vincent de Paul. The bags will be displayed near the self-checkout or ask a customer service representative for help.

### RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AT SAINT LUKE THE EVANGELIST

### Discipleship is a lifelong journey.

Lifelong faith formation provides opportunities and experiences throughout the entire life span to strengthen our relationship with and knowledge of God. A commitment to lifelong faith formation serves to enhance our understanding of Scripture and of our Tradition. It sustains us in living as disciples of Jesus Christ.

Our Religious Education Program represents more than religious instruction for children. We believe in extending the classroom experience to the worship life of the community, to the life of the child at school, at home or with friends, and into the larger community. Our community has a commitment to adult education and faith formation, designed to present the Church's rich history and teaching in an adult format. We also offer an extensive program in "scripture study" that involves reflecting on and learning more about God's Word, revealed in the Bible and shared with the Church through the readings of the Lectionary, the cycle of readings used at Liturgy. The Parish also offers programs derived from the Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults and the Rite for Christian Initiation for Children. These programs welcome non-Baptized persons and persons wishing to join the Church.



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 ageappropriate meetings for their RCIA experience.

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

### **NEED A SACRAMENT?**

There will be a meeting for all ages for anyone needing one or more of the Sacraments (Baptism, Confirmation, Eucharist). This meeting will include the parents of the children who will receive Confirmation/Eucharist this Spring.

The meeting will be on Sunday, February 4, after the 10 a.m. Mass, downstairs in the church hall. Any questions call Cathy Smith at (603) 382-8324, Ext. 305 or email at csmith@stluketheevangelist.net



### PARENTS BAPTISM PREPARATION

Baptisms are typically celebrated at Sunday Liturgy at Saint Luke's. Families wishing to celebrate Baptism in the Church must be **REGISTERED** (according to Church Canon law) and **PRACTICING** (attending Sunday Mass) for 3 full months before a Baptism can

be scheduled. The use of the envelope system is always optional, however it does guarantee a manner of accountability. For most families, the Pastor or staff can easily verify attendance during these three months. Baptismal Sponsors (godparents) are also regulated by Church Canon Law. Sponsors must be at least 16, fully initiated (having received Baptism, Eucharist, and Confirmation), and be practicing Catholics living Christian lives consistent with the Church's teaching. Please contact the Parish Office with questions.

### MARRIAGE IN THE CHURCH

Did you know that all Catholics are required to be married in the Church as a condition of the validity of their marriage?

Any Catholic married in a civil ceremony (JP) or in any religious ceremony other than a Catholic one (unless specifically excepted by the Bishop) is not living out the Sacrament of Marriage in its fullness according to the teaching of the Church. Contact Father Albert in the Parish Office for more information and assistance — there are ways in which your situation may be resolved!



### MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER

"By your perseverance you will secure your lives." The modern world can wear down marriage. Let Worldwide

Marriage Encounter help you persevere. For more information, additional dates and to register, call 800-710-WWME, or visit our webpage at

www.wwmenewengland.org

## **HOSPITAL VISITATION**

If you or someone you know is in the hospital and wants to receive a visit, please contact the Parish Office at 603-382-8324. If you or someone you know faces a hospital admission, make sure they know to inform the hospital



that they are Catholic and are members of Saint Luke the Evangelist Parish, Newton-Plaistow. If a person cannot make this information known at the time of admission, a family member may be able to make that information known to the hospital staff.

### RETROUVAILLE

Marriage problems? Poor communication? Stress at home? RETROUVAILLE CAN HELP!

RETROUVAILLE is a program designed to help struggling couples save their marriage - an alternative to divorce or separation that actually works. Even if you are already headed down that path, this program can help heal and renew your relationship. End the loneliness and rediscover the love that brought you together with a Retrouvaille weekend. For more information, please contact Retrouvaille at 1-800-470-2230 or visit the website at <a href="www.retrouvaille.org">www.retrouvaille.org</a> All inquiries are confidential.



### **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 in Plaistow (Holy Angels.) Masks are required. Bring your own coffee. For more information, call Joe at 617-921-9899.

### 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-mensretreat.