



**MUSIC FOR THE LITURGY**

Sunday, January 21, 2024

**Third Sunday In Ordinary Time**

Gathering: All Are Welcome BB 318

Responsorial Psalm (Psalm 27)

*The Lord is my light and my salvation; of whom should I be afraid; of whom should I be afraid.*

Preparation: Christ, Be Our Light BB 599

Mass Parts: Mass Of Creation

Communion: Remember Your Love BB 659

Recessional: They'll Know We Are Christians BB 584

**✠ 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  
JANUARY 14, 2024  
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.



St. Luke the Evangelist is now on Facebook! Go to [www.facebook.com/stlukenh.org/](http://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.

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**

January 21	Fuel
January 28	No Second Collection
February 4	Property Management
February 11	Catholic Schools
February 14	Aid Churches in Europe/Africa

**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

**TAX TIME SUGGESTION**

Did you know? If you are 72 or older and need to take a “required minimum distribution (RMD)” from an IRA retirement account, a direct distribution to a qualified charitable organization, such as Saint Luke the Evangelist Parish, can save you money on your taxes. Such a donation will count toward your required minimum distribution but will be excluded from taxable income. Ask your tax preparer or IRA trustee for more details.

**FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTION STATEMENT**

If you would like an “end of year” financial statement of your contributions to the parish for 2023, **please call Jackie** at the Parish Office at 603-382-8324. **Financial Statements are issued on a request only basis.**

**SUPPORT OUR ADVERTISERS**

We appreciate the support of our bulletin by our Advertisers. Please be sure to support our advertisers by calling them first! If you have a business and would like to place an ad in our bulletin, call 1-800-333-3166.

**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 603-382-8324 or by email at [jtremblay@stluketheevangelist.net](mailto:jtremblay@stluketheevangelist.net). If you’re new to our parish, registration forms are available at the entrances of both churches. Registration forms can also be found on our website at <http://stlukenh.org>.

**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!

**END OF LIFE PLANNING**

*Three Beliefs* is a document from the Diocese of Manchester that gives valuable assistance to Catholics and others on end-of-life issues. *Three Beliefs* explains Catholic teaching on life-sustaining treatment and care and includes the New Hampshire Advance Directive form modified in such a way to make it consistent with both Catholic teaching and New Hampshire law. *Three Beliefs* contains a helpful FAQ section and wallet cards that include important information for healthcare providers.

The New Hampshire Advance Directive form was revised by a law that is consistent with Catholic teaching and the changes to the New Hampshire form. If you completed an advance directive before 2021 and your intentions for your end-of-life care have not changed, you do not need to complete a new form as long as your advance directive was valid when it was executed. For example, if you completed the October 2007 version of *Three Beliefs* and signed the document before two witnesses or a notary public or justice of the peace, you do not need to complete a new advance directive form.

Copies of *Three Beliefs* are available at the church entrance. También están disponibles ediciones en Español.

**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)

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.

**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.

✠ WEEKLY CALENDAR ✠

Sunday, January 21

10:00 AM Religious Ed – Grades K to 6 *Plaistow*  
 11:00 AM First Reconciliation Meeting for  
 Parents and Students *Plaistow*

Tuesday, January 23

6:30 PM The Gospel of Mark *Plaistow*

Wednesday, January 24  
**Holy Angels Church Open  
 All Day For Prayer**

Thursday, January 25

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

Saturday, January 27

3:00 PM Sacrament of Reconciliation *Plaistow*

Sunday, January 28

10:00 AM Religious Ed – Grades K to 6 *Plaistow*  
 12:00 PM Parish Council Meeting *Plaistow*

**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](mailto:csmith@stluketheevangelist.net).



**HOLY ANGELS CEMETERY CLOSED**

Holy Angels Cemetery in Plaistow is closed from December 2023 until Spring 2024. This decision comes as result of the real dangers of snow and ice in the Cemetery and the costs to Parishioners to inter during the winter months. Please contact the Parish Office with any questions.

**PROJECT RACHEL MINISTRY**

If you or someone you know is suffering after abortion, confidential, non-judgmental help is available. Call 603-663-0192 or email [ProjectRachel@rcbm.org](mailto:ProjectRachel@rcbm.org).

✠ MASS INTENTIONS ✠

Saturday, January 20 ~ Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

*Jon 3:1-5, 10; 1 Cor 7:29-31; Mk 1:14-20 (Vigil)*  
 4:00 PM Pamela Jean McGinnity by Debra and John Graf  
*Plaistow*

Sunday, January 21 ~ Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

*Jon 3:1-5, 10; 1 Cor 7:29-31; Mk 1:14-20*

8:00 AM Vincent and Ruth Early  
 by Dan and Kathy Sullivan  
*Newton*

10:00 AM Bernie Gosselin by his family  
*Plaistow*

Monday, January 22 ~ Weekday

*2 Sm 5:1-7, 10; Mk 3:22-30*

8:00 AM Jack Ronan (3<sup>rd</sup> Anniversary) by his wife, Susan  
*Newton*

Tuesday, January 23 ~ Vincent, Deacon and Martyr  
 Marianne Cope, Virgin

*2 Sm 6:12b-15, 17-19; Mk 3:31-35*

8:00 AM Raylene Comeau (Month's Mind)  
*Plaistow*

Wednesday, January 24 ~ Francis de Sales, Bishop,  
 Religious Founder, and Doctor of the Church

*2 Sm 7:4-17; Mk 4:1-20*

6:30 PM Norman Landry (Month's Mind)  
*Plaistow*

Thursday, January 25 ~ The Conversion of Paul,  
 Apostle

*Acts 22:2-16 or 9:1-12; Mk 16:15-18*

8:00 AM All Souls Intentions  
*Newton*

Friday, January 26 ~ Timothy and Titus, Bishops

*2 Tm 1:1-8 or Ti 1:1-5; Mk 4:26-34*

*No Mass*

Saturday, January 27 ~ Angela Merici, Virgin

*2 Sm 12:1-7a, 10-17; Mk 4:35-41 (Day)*

*Dt 18:15-20; 1 Cor 7:32-35; Mk 1:21-28 (Vigil)*

4:00 PM Robert Hoppler by Rachel Lanseigne  
*Plaistow*

Sunday, January 28 ~ Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

*Dt 18:15-20; 1 Cor 7:32-35; Mk 1:21-28*

8:00 AM Eileen Meader by Joan Meader  
*Newton*

10:00 AM Gail A. Collins by Charles and Mary Corsetto  
*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](http://www.tcfnewburyport.org).

**NEED MARRIAGE HELP?**

WE HAVE WEEKENDS COMING UP

**Feb 2-4, 2024**

**Alton Bay on Lake  
Winnepesaukee, NH**

**More Than Just a Retreat, We are  
a 3-Phase Marriage Help Program**

*Retrouvaille: A Lifeline For Married Couples*



**HelpOurMarriage.org**  
**508-271-7155**



**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 also need people at all 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](mailto: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.**

**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 10:00 AM Mass**, downstairs in the church hall. Any questions? Call Cathy Smith at (603) 382-8324, Ext. 305 or email her at [csmith@stluketheevangelist.net](mailto:csmith@stluketheevangelist.net).

**✦ 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](mailto:fr.albert@stluketheevangelist.net)  
Cathy Smith [csmith@stluketheevangelist.net](mailto:csmith@stluketheevangelist.net)  
Joyce Szczapa [jszczapa@stluketheevangelist.net](mailto:jszczapa@stluketheevangelist.net)  
Jackie Tremblay [jtremblay@stluketheevangelist.net](mailto:jtremblay@stluketheevangelist.net)  
Val Barczak [mvmbarczak@comcast.net](mailto:mvmbarczak@comcast.net)  
Parish Council [parishcouncil@stluketheevangelist.net](mailto: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 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!

**KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS  
HAPPENINGS**

The Knights purchased a number of large turkeys and desserts to assist our Food Pantry with their food baskets for Thanksgiving. The Knights also purchased 15 food baskets for Christmas. Finally, the Knights increased their Giving Tree donations from \$750 to \$1000 to help fulfill the requests of children in need in our local community.

Website: [www.kofc6617.org](http://www.kofc6617.org)

For more information on the Knights, contact Peter Richards at 603-382-4315 or [pmrps6@comcast.net](mailto:pmrps6@comcast.net).

**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.

**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](http://www.nhcursillo.org).

**WINTER WEATHER CLOSINGS**

Saint Luke the Evangelist Parish Office, Holy Angels Cemetery Office, Saint Luke Food Pantry, and the Parish Liturgical schedule complies with the longstanding inclement weather policy of Saint Luke Religious Education Program and Holy Angels Pre-School-Kindergarten: **If the Timberlane and/or Sanborn regional school districts close because of inclement weather, ALL Parish Offices and Parish programs will be closed or suspended. All activities by any Parish or non-Parish groups will be cancelled for that day/evening on both campuses.** In the event of a weather related closing, the scheduled weekday Liturgy will not be held and the intention (if any) will be moved to a conveniently available date. **Sunday (or Saturday evening) liturgies can never be cancelled, but all are advised to use prudence when deciding to travel to Church during winter storms.**

**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, February 21 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.**

# Do Something for Lent. Renew your faith.

What is the **Lenten Journey** all about? Prayer, fasting and almsgiving are called the “three pillars” of the Christian way of life. They help support a full and healthy life of discipleship. During Lent we try to repair and strengthen these three pillars, which also are called the “three disciplines” because they help people become better disciples of the Lord.

## **The Lenten Journey is about PRAYER.**

Prayer is conversation with God. Make a good habit of daily prayer. Read the Psalms; and each Lent try and learn one or two by heart. Try to sing your prayer at home, and make every effort to sing well when you worship with others.

**The Lenten Journey is about FASTING.** To prepare himself for his life’s work, Jesus fasted in the wilderness. As Christians grow up, they need to learn traditional, healthy ways to fast. When we fast, we deny ourselves some food or other good things. We remind ourselves of how dependent we are on God’s gifts, which always must be shared fairly and never taken for granted.

**The Lenten Journey is about GIVING.** Almsgiving means “sharing compassion.” Almsgiving means more than giving away the things we don’t need. It means giving away some of the things we do need because someone else also needs them. It means giving of ourselves.



Our **Lenten Journey** is about faith sharing during the Lenten season. It is a way to learn more about your faith and grow as a disciple of the Lord; it is a way to meet fellow parishioners, and to contribute to the life of our Parish.

*All are welcome!*

# What to do?

Today we invite sign-ups for small group Scripture sharing during Lent. We continue to pray together as our 2024 Lenten Journey gets underway. Ask for the Spirit's guidance as you consider your involvement; pray that our Parish's Lenten Journey be blessed.

***Join a small group!*** Groups meet six times during the Lenten season to discuss the upcoming Sunday Lectionary readings. You will learn more about Scripture through the resources provided, participate in interesting discussions, meet some wonderful people, and have the opportunity to build up the Body of Christ.

**You will have the opportunity to sign-up by filling out the registration form in this bulletin today and in the coming weeks, or call the Parish Office at (603) 382-8324, Ext. 305.**

***What else?*** During Lent, special *Paschal Mission* inserts in the weekly bulletin will focus on the Lenten Scriptures and on discipleship in the real world. Sunday Homilies will touch on living Jesus' Gospel and on the questions discussed at Group meetings.

***Evangelization – spreading the “Good News” is something everyone can do!***

**Group Meetings begin the week of February 11!  
Meetings will take place in the Church Hall**

# **DISCIPLES ON THE JOURNEY REGISTRATION FORM**



Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_

**Please check the time and day you prefer**

Wednesday Evenings at 7:00 p.m. \_\_\_\_  
(February 14 – March 20)

Thursday Afternoons at 1:30 p.m. \_\_\_\_  
(February 15 – March 21)

Check if you are willing to be a group leader \_\_\_\_\_

**GROUP MEETINGS BEGIN  
THE WEEK OF FEBRUARY 11  
GROUPS WILL MEET IN THE CHURCH  
HALL**

**(Please return this form in the collection basket or bring  
to the parish office)**





## **Anointing of the Sick I: The Mystery of Illness**

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

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

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

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



# Bringing Home the Word

Third Sunday in Ordinary Time (B)  
January 21, 2024

## The Fish That Didn't Get Away

Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA

We have all heard stories about the extraordinary fish that got away. We might even have such a story of our own. Two of today's readings are fish stories, but with a slight twist. They are also "call narratives." Last week we reflected on the call to listen and to follow; this week it is a call to go out to bring God's mercy to others. This is a call to "catch" others, as one might catch fish—a metaphor that would have delighted fisher people.

In the beginning of the Jonah story, the prophet did not catch fish; one caught him. Later, the word he preached was very successful, his own spitefulness notwithstanding. The Ninevites were the sworn enemies of the Israelites, and Jonah did not want them to repent, but to be punished by God. Nevertheless, God's mercy was stronger than Jonah's spite. In the Gospel, Jesus calls his followers to set down their fishing nets and to launch into a life of catching people with the word of God. There is an eagerness here that is absent in the Jonah story. Furthermore, the disciples left their primary commitment—their patriarchal family—to accept Jesus' invitation.

As Pope Francis declared, we are all missionary disciples. Are we eager to respond, as were Jesus' disciples? Or do we think we should attend only to those whom we judge to be deserving? If so, have we forgotten that no one deserves God's mercy? It is a free gift to all. †

**Jesus calls his followers to launch into a life of catching people with the word of God.**



## A Word from Pope Francis

Let us not ignore God's word. It is a love letter, written to us by the One who knows us best. In reading it, we again hear his voice, see his face, and receive his Spirit. That word brings us close to God. Let us...carry it with us always, in our pocket, on our phone.

HOMILY, ST. PETER'S BASILICA,  
JANUARY 24, 2021



## Sunday Readings

### Jonah 3:1-5, 10

The people of Nineveh believed God; they proclaimed a fast and all of them, great and small, put on sackcloth.

### 1 Corinthians 7:29-31

I tell you, brothers, the time is running out.... For the world in its present form is passing away.

### Mark 1:14-20

Jesus said to them, "Come after me, and I will make you fishers of men." Then they abandoned their nets and followed him. [Jesus said,] "You are Simon the son of John; you will be called Cephas (which is translated Peter)."

## REFLECTION QUESTIONS



- Does the way you live witness to a merciful, loving God?
- Is there some change you should make?

# Living Our Faith

Hosffman Ospino

There is not one exclusive way of living our relationship with Jesus Christ in the everyday. For some, the ideal model is that of monastic life in which men and women dedicate their lives to prayer and contemplation in a monastery, away from any distraction. For others, the ideal model is that of missionary life, bringing the message of the Gospel to distant lands in the midst of many challenges. Both models are attractive, and both continue to be sources of life for Christian communities around the world.

However, only a relatively small group of Christians are called to live their faith according to these two models. The majority of disciples of Jesus are called to give witness to our faith



somewhere in the middle, a point where contemplation and mission coincide in the here and now of ordinary life. For most Christians, this middle point is the daily experience of family life, work, and

social relations through which we hope to make the world a better place.

We discover there are many ways of encountering God and bringing others to participate in that encounter in the everyday. The wisdom of the Christian community has affirmed that each baptized person has the responsibility of living our faith mirroring the life of Christ in our own particular way. Consequently, Christian disciples embody the values of the Gospel according to the uniqueness of our circumstances. On the one hand, we share the same faith, believe in the same Lord, and await the same salvation. On other hand, we live our faith in the distinctiveness of our relationships and our decisions or states of life.

God continues to invite us to respond to the divine revelation with the gift of faith. We join Peter and Christians who have declared for generations that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of the Living God. As we proclaim with joy at the Easter Vigil, “This is our faith! This is the faith of the Church! We are proud to profess it, in Christ Jesus our Lord!” †

From *Peter’s Catechism* (pages 26–27; 39), available at [Liguori.org](http://Liguori.org).

## Wisdom from Catholic UPDATE

From “The Joy of Being Catholic” by Kathy Coffey

### Answers from Catholics: What about the Church brings you joy?

- “Sometimes I can’t sleep or I’m feeling blue. Then I remind myself that somewhere in the world, the Mass is happening. Bread and wine are being consecrated into the Christ’s body and blood. Knowing that buoys me.”
- “The faith offers us a healthy way to approach death. The ritual comforts us by saying, ‘It’s not the end; we’ll see this person again.’”
- “The best thing is the companions—Jesus, the prophets, the desert dwellers, the saints, each other!”
- “I can find good people other places, but not this remarkable liturgy.”
- “I think of the Catholic Church as a massive family. We’re all welcome.” †

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*Faithful God, give us the grace to witness to your presence so that others may know you are a loving, merciful God. We pray in Jesus’ name. Amen.*

The Redemptorists

## WEEKDAY READINGS

January 22–27

**Monday**, Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children:  
2 Sm 5:1–7, 10 / Mk 3:22–30

**Tuesday**, Weekday:  
2 Sm 6:12b–15, 17–19 / Mk 3:31–35

**Wednesday**, St. Francis de Sales:  
2 Sm 7:4–17 / Mk 4:1–20

**Thursday**, Conversion of St. Paul:  
Acts 22:3–16 or Acts 9:1–22 / Mk 16:15–18

**Friday**, Sts. Timothy and Titus:  
2 Tm 1:1–8 or Ti 1:1–5 / Mk 4:26–34

**Saturday**, Weekday:  
2 Sm 12:1–7a, 10–17 / Mk 4:35–41