



MUSIC FOR THE LITURGY

Sunday, February 4, 2024

Fifth Sunday In Ordinary Time

Gathering: Holy, Holy, Holy BB 207

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: Whatsoever You Do BB 625

Mass Parts: Mass Of Creation

Communion: Bread For The World BB 325

Recessional: Let All Things Now Living BB 611

✠ 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!

January 28, 2024

Offertory

\$6,243.07



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.

You can also use your smart phone to scan the QR code below. The link will take you directly to Parish Giving so you can donate.



UPCOMING SECOND & SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

- February 4 Property Management
- February 11 Catholic Schools



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/Plaistow** and give us a Like! Please invite fellow parishioners & friends to do the same.

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.**

HELP WANTED TO PUT AWAY TREES

With Lent fast approaching, volunteers are welcome to help prepare the churches on **Sunday, February 11 following the 8:00 AM Liturgy in Newton and the 10:00 AM Liturgy in Plaistow.** Our tasks include taking down our green trees and some light cleanup of the churches in preparation for the Lenten 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 – or just stay after Mass!

BLESSING OF COUPLES

There will be a special blessing of couples at the conclusion of all Liturgies on the weekend of **February 10-11.** Please pray for those married among us and remember those preparing to be married as well.

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!

THANK YOU!!!

THE SNOW DIDN'T STOP US!!!!!!

**GRAND TOTAL FOR 2024:
2,800 POUNDS OF CLOTHING!!!!!!!!!!!!!!**

to be distributed amongst five different organizations in the coming weeks.

This year was the first time in the past 18 years that the weather stopped us from collecting on 2 days. Despite this, we collected the same amount as always, thanks to your support and donations!!!

A special thank you to those who volunteered and to Saint Luke's and Father Albert for allowing us the space to do God's work, year after year.

Thank you in advance, on behalf of all the receiving organizations and I look forward to seeing you again next year!

May God bless you throughout the year,

Kimberly Clenord

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.

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, February 4

10:00 AM Religious Ed – Grades K to 6 *Plaistow*
 11:00 PM Meeting for Grade 3 Parents and Students and ALL who need Sacraments *Plaistow*

Monday, February 5

7:00 PM Knights of Columbus *Plaistow*

Tuesday, February 6

6:30 PM The Gospel of Mark

Wednesday, February 7

Holy Angels Church Open All Day For Prayer

Thursday, February 8

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

Saturday, February 10

3:00 PM Sacrament of Reconciliation *Plaistow*

Sunday, February 11

10:00 AM Religious Ed – Grades K to 6 *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.



The Sanctuary Light at Mary Mother of the Church will burn this week in loving memory of

Suzanne Busch

by Michael and Mary Edwards

The Vigil Light in front of the Blessed Mother icon at Mary Mother of the Church will burn this week in loving memory of

Suzanne Busch

by a Barbara and Jack Brotz



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.

✠ MASS INTENTIONS ✠

Saturday, February 3 ~ Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Jb 7:1-4, 6-7; 1 Cor 9:16-19, 22-23; Mk 1:29-39 (Vigil)

4:00 PM Bonnie Jean Surowiec
 by Ellen and James Lavoie
Plaistow

Sunday, February 4 ~ Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Jb 7:1-4, 6-7; 1 Cor 9:16-19, 22-23; Mk 1:29-39

8:00 AM Suzanne Busch by Barbara and Jack Brotz
Newton
 10:00 AM In Honor of St. Benedict and Our Lady of Lourdes by George Giraldo
Plaistow

Monday, February 5 ~ Agatha, Virgin and Martyr

1 Kgs 8:1-7, 9-13; Mk 6:53-56

8:00 AM Linda Poire by her husband
Newton

Tuesday, February 6 ~ Paul Miki and Companions, Martyrs

1 Kgs 8:22-23, 27-30; Mk 7:1-13

8:00 AM Jim Glendye (Month's Mind)
Plaistow

Wednesday, February 7 ~ Weekday

1 Kgs 10:1-10; Mk 7:14-23

6:30 PM In Thanksgiving for Favors Received
 by Elaine Kelcourse
Plaistow

Thursday, February 8 ~ Jerome Emiliani;

Josephine Bakhita, Virgin

1 Kgs 11:4-13; Mk 7:24-30

8:00 AM All Souls Intentions
Newton

Friday, February 9 ~ Weekday

1 Kgs 11:29-32, 12:19; Mk 7:31-37

No Mass

Saturday, February 10 ~ Scholastica, Virgin

1 Kgs 12:26-32, 13:33-34; Mk 8:1-10 (Day)
Lv 13:1-2, 44-46; 1 Cor 10:31—11:1; Mk 1:40-45 (Vigil)

4:00 PM Adelaide Sullivan by Jeanne Sullivan
Plaistow

Sunday, February 11 ~ Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Lv 13:1-2, 44-46; 1 Cor 10:31—11:1; Mk 1:40-45

8:00 AM Joan Burge by the Burge family
Newton
 10:00 AM Paul R. Antkowiak (Birthday Remembrance)
 by his 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 **rites of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA)** is a process where adults and older children are welcomed into the Catholic Church. Some have never been Baptized, others never received Eucharist or

Confirmation, and others arrive at our door after a long faith journey.

Do you know someone who is thinking about becoming part of our Catholic community? Are you the non-Catholic spouse of a parishioner who is wondering about full communion with the Church? Are you an adult Catholic who for whatever reason, “missed” one or more of the sacraments of initiation while growing up? Do you have children over 7 years of age who were never Baptized, or older children who “missed” sacraments?

The Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (and its adapted form for children) welcomes all kinds of people into the Catholic family. The RCIA is for any adult who is: unbaptized and recognizes a need for spirituality in their life, or Baptized and raised in another Christian tradition but interested in learning about the Catholic faith, or Baptized in the Catholic faith, but never received any formal religious training.

Children of all ages are welcome and participate in age appropriate meetings for their RCIA experience.

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

ASH WEDNESDAY SCHEDULE

February 14, 2024

Mass at 8:00 AM in Newton

Prayer Service at 12:15 PM in Plaistow

Mass at 6:30 PM in Plaistow

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Parents – Please mark your calendars and save these dates!

St. Luke the Evangelist Parish in Plaistow, NH invites children to attend **SCUBA Vacation Bible Camp from June 17 to June 21, 2024.**

Kids will participate in memorable Bible-learning activities, sing catchy songs, play teamwork-building game, engage in fun snack eating experiences, take part in one-of-a-kind Bible Adventures, collect Bible Memory Buddies to remind them to trust Jesus, and each day make a craft to take home and play with all summer.

SCUBA Vacation Bible Camp is for kids from age 4 to 12 and will run from 9:00 AM to 12:00 Noon each day. For more information, call Joyce at 603-382-8324, ext. 303.

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.

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.

✦ 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 jtremblay@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**

In January, the Knights donated \$2,000 to assist our Parish. This is one of the many ways that the Knights provide support to our Parish. We are currently planning for our 2024 St. Jude Gold Open which will be held in early June. This year's Open will help a single mother who suffered a severe stroke and another single mother who is raising two daughters with severe medical issues.

Website: www.kofc6617.org

We are always looking for help. If you would like to help or want more information on the Knights, contact Peter Richards at 603-382-4315 or pmrjs6@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.

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.**



Diocese of Manchester

The Catholic Church in New Hampshire

CONTACT YOUR NH REPRESENTATIVES AND OPPOSE ASSISTED SUICIDE

Real Compassion—NOT SUICIDE—is the Answer

The New Hampshire Legislature is considering a bill (**HB 1283**) to legalize assisted suicide in this state. The public hearing is **February 7 at 10 a.m.** in the House Judiciary Committee.

We know that our priority should be **to care for the patient, not to kill the patient**. As Pope Francis has said, “We must accompany people towards death, but not provoke death or facilitate any form of suicide.” *Catechesis at General Audience*, Feb. 9, 2022.

We are working alongside the NH Coalition for Suicide Prevention, a diverse group that includes health care providers and people with disabilities and their advocates.

Among the many reasons why HB 1283 is a dangerous bill:

- **New Hampshire has a serious suicide crisis**, especially among groups including at-risk teens, veterans with traumatic brain injury and people living with disabilities. In response, the State is trying to eliminate suicide. But HB 1283 would *normalize* suicide as medical care and send a message that dangerously contradicts suicide prevention efforts.
- History shows that laws on state-approved suicide have a natural tendency to expand in scope. HB 1283 applies to people with a terminal illness with 6 months left to live. **If HB 1283 is passed, how would the law be expanded next year and in the years after that?**
- The top reasons given by people who end their lives under Oregon’s assisted suicide law include “fear of being a burden to others” and “loss of independence.” Because these are things that people with disabilities encounter every day, one prominent NH advocate has said that passage of an assisted suicide law is like saying to people with disabilities that “you are better off dead.”
- **An assisted suicide law invites coercion.** Elder abuse and exploitation are already significant problems in this state and nationwide. Assisted suicide puts a new weapon into the hands of exploiters – the opportunity to persuade someone to use the assisted suicide law.

HELP TO STOP STATE-APPROVED SUICIDE

- **Before Feb. 7, sign-in online to register opposition to HB 1283 at:**
gencourt.state.nh.us/house/committees/remotetestimony
- **Contact your House members and respectfully ask them to reject HB 1283.**

Your representatives are listed at:
gencourt.state.nh.us/house/members

For live links and more information:
catholicnh.org/nosuicide

Let us have *true* compassion and recognize and defend the inalienable dignity and value of every human being, at all stages of life and in all conditions of life.



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.

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. 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. Our **Lenten Journey** program helps Discipleship!

Lenten Journey is about SMALL GROUPS... IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO SIGN-UP! We continue to welcome sign-ups for small groups. **On the back of this flyer is a REGISTRATION FORM. Return the form by Monday, February 5th at the office, or call the office at (603) 382-8324, Ext. 305.**

Meetings begin next week! Groups meet six times during the Lenten season to discuss the Lenten Sunday Lectionary readings. You will learn more about Scripture through the resource book provided, participate in interesting discussions, meet some wonderful people and have the opportunity to build up the Body of Christ.



**All group members will pick up their resource booklets
at the first meeting.**

Groups begin meeting NEXT WEEK!

**Wednesday, February 14, 7:00 p.m. after the 6:30 p.m. Mass downstairs in the Church Hall.
Thursday, February 15, at 1:30 p.m. downstairs in the Church Hall**

Ash Wednesday is next Wednesday, February 14!

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)**



Bringing Home the Word

Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time (B)
February 4, 2024

Grin and Bear It

Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA

This harsh bit of advice is more military than religious. However, it does carry some truth. There are times when there is no way to avoid hardship, so all we can do is find some way of dealing with it. This is the situation in today's reading from Job. He experiences life as burdensome. To make matters worse, life is too short to be able to get beyond the difficulty. So what does he do? What might most of us do in similar situations? Complain.

There is really nothing wrong with complaining. The problem is to whom and for how long. A large number of the psalms are complaints or, to use the

theological term, laments. To complain to God can be a profound prayer, for it admits our human inability to fix everything. And, it presumes that God can and just might fix the problem. The psalm response continues this train of thought with a prayer of confidence that God will fix it. The Gospel reading then provides examples of how Jesus did just that.

These are not merely stories of past events. Rather, they trace a profound yet difficult-to-accept religious belief: when we are overwhelmed by hardship, we should turn to God and place our need in God's care, believing that God wants what is best for us. Perhaps the rest is out of our hands, but we must believe that we are in God's hands and, therefore, safe. †

Sunday Readings

Job 7:1-4, 6-7

Is not life on earth a drudgery, / its days like those of a hireling?

1 Corinthians 9:16-19, 22-23

If I preach the gospel, this is no reason for me to boast, for an obligation has been imposed on me.

Mark 1:29-39

[Jesus] told them, "Let us go on to the nearby villages that I may preach there also. For this purpose have I come."

***To complain to God
can be a profound prayer,
for it admits our human
inability to fix everything.***



A Word from Pope Francis

I turn a grateful thought to all those who, in their life and work, are close to the sick every day....And I pray in a special way for all the sick, in every corner of the world, especially for those who are most alone and have no access to healthcare services.

VIDEO MESSAGE, WORLD DAY OF THE SICK, FEBRUARY 11, 2022



REFLECTION
QUESTIONS
QUESTIONS
REFLECTION

- Has hardship ever tested your faith?
- How has your faith helped you in difficult times?

Keeping the Sabbath

Paige Byrne Shortal

Let's consider the Sabbath. People identify themselves by the time they keep. The Jewish people observe their Sabbath on Saturday. In the early church, Jewish Christians distinguished themselves from other Jews by observing Sunday as their Sabbath. The Muslim Sabbath is Friday.

Voltaire, a French rationalist philosopher, wrote: "If you wish to destroy the Christian religion, you must first destroy the Christian Sunday." In his book *Waiting for the Weekend*, Witold Rybczynski describes several attempts to destroy the Sabbath. During the French Revolution, they dispensed with *Anno Domini* (AD, the year of the Lord) and instead, pronounced 1792 (the year of the revolution) as "Year One." A ten-day week was instituted with the tenth day as a holiday. But the revolutionaries underestimated the influence of Christian practice, and the Sabbath was celebrated



in secret until the experiment was deemed a failure.

Joseph Stalin, during the days after the Russian Revolution, attempted a similar attack on Sunday. There would be no more universal rest day. Workers labored four days, on staggered shifts, and had every fifth day off. Even though this gave people twenty more days off a year, it

was unpopular. Everyone worked on a different schedule and family members were never at home on the same day. (Sound familiar?)

In our society, we are also experiencing an attack on the Sabbath. Many activities, formerly reserved for weekdays, now occur on Sundays. The days of the week are less and less distinguishable from one another, especially for those in factory or retail work. Our teenagers are especially vulnerable to Sunday work. We've found that simply informing our son's fast-food employer that he is not available to work on Sundays has not only gained respect for him, but for our church as well.

Observing one day of rest a week protects human beings. Nothing is more restorative as a long, slow Sunday afternoon and evening with no projects, no shopping, no games to attend, no meetings, and maybe no television or internet. Just time together around good food, home chores, and rest. †

Source: A Liguori Publications bulletin, June 27, 2004

Wisdom from Catholic UPDATE

Excerpt from *Jesus' "Mighty Deeds" of Healing in Mark's Gospel* by John R. Barker, OFM

Today we understand the natural world to operate according to impersonal forces or "laws of nature." When someone experiences healing that cannot be explained according to our understanding of these laws, we call it a miracle—as God interfering with the laws of nature. This is not the way people in Jesus' time understood the extraordinary. They believed God's will and purpose supported and guaranteed the world's normal functioning. God's power was always at work, keeping things moving according to divine wisdom. The extraordinary such as a sudden or unexpected healing was considered an eruption of God's power rather than an interruption of the laws of nature. †



Merciful God, encourage those who are facing a long illness, strengthen those who care for the sick, and comfort those who must witness a loved one's suffering. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

The Redemptorists

WEEKDAY READINGS

February 5–10

Monday, St. Agatha:
1 Kgs 8:1–7, 9–13 / Mk 6:53–56

Tuesday, St. Paul Miki and Companions:
1 Kgs 8:22–23, 27–30 / Mk 7:1–13

Wednesday, Weekday:
1 Kgs 10:1–10 / Mk 7:14–23

Thursday, Weekday:
1 Kgs 11:4–13 / Mk 7:24–30

Friday, Weekday:
1 Kgs 11:29–32; 12:19 / Mk 7:31–37

Saturday, St. Scholastica:
1 Kgs 12:26–32; 13:33–34 / Mk 8:1–10