



MUSIC FOR THE LITURGY

Sunday, May 12, 2024

Seventh Sunday of Easter

Gathering: O God, Beyond All Praising BB 545

Responsorial Psalm (Psalm 145)

*Sing a joyful song to the Lord! Alleluia!
Let the heavens and earth rejoice!
Alleluia! Alleluia!*

Sprinkling Rite: *God, you have moved upon the waters, you have sung in the rush of wind and flame; and in your love, you have called us sons and daughters, make us people of the water and your name.*

Preparation: Christ the Lord BB 583

Mass Parts Mass Of The Resurrection

Communion: Take And Eat BB 364

Recessional: Hail Thee, Festival Day BB 737

✠ 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!

May 5, 2024

Offertory	\$5,705.39
Property Management	\$1,629.30



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

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

May 12	Catholic Communications
May 19	Fuel
May 26	No Second Collection



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.

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

ST. LUKE FOOD PANTRY

Items most needed in the Food Pantry include pasta and sauce, ramen noodles, peanut butter and jelly, soups, canned fruit and vegetables, cereal, crackers, snack items, cookies and treats for kids, pancake mix and syrup, canned meats, tuna and canned fish. These are staple food items which are used all the time and there is never have enough of. Other items requested include toiletries, toilet paper, paper towels, pet food, laundry soap, dish soap and cleaners.

Gifts cards or checks made out to St Luke Food Pantry are always useful and welcome. Thank you for your support of our Food Pantry!



New Hampshire Catholic Appeal 2024

This year's New Hampshire Catholic Appeal begins this week; we hope you'll help us meet our goal of \$46,979.00! Thank you for your support!

COLLECTION COUNTERS NEEDED

We are looking for a few good people to help us with one of our "hidden ministries," the counting of our Parish collections. Volunteers are needed to help count and document collections each week. The counts are usually done on Monday mornings from 9:00 – 10:30 and occasionally on a Tuesday morning when holidays occur. If you think that you might enjoy the company of this dedicated group while sharing in this important ministry, please speak to Fr. Albert for more information.



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.

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. If you're new to our parish, registration forms are available at the entrances of both churches.



BLESSING OF MOTHERS

A special blessing of mothers will be given at all Masses on the weekend of **Mother's Day, May 12, 2023.**

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.

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!

WHILE AWAY THIS SPRING...

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

✠ WEEKLY CALENDAR ✠

Wednesday, May 15

Holy Angels Church Open
All Day For Prayer

7:00 PM St. Luke Outreach Ministry Meeting **Plaistow**

Thursday, May 16

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

Saturday, May 18

3:00 PM Sacrament of Reconciliation **Plaistow**

Sunday, May 19

11:00 AM VBS Volunteer Meeting **Plaistow**

6:00 PM Evening Prayer and Benediction **Plaistow**

6:30 PM Pentecost Reception **Plaistow**

PARISH OFFICE CLOSED

In observance of the Memorial Day holiday, the Parish Office will be **closed on Monday, May 27, 2024**. The office will reopen on Tuesday, May 28 at 8:30 AM.

Our regular office hours are 8:30 AM to 12:00 Noon and 1:00 to 4:30 PM on Monday through Thursday. We are closed on Fridays.

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 Jim Edwards

RADIO CATÓLICA

Escuche Radio Católica
WGUA 98.1 FM con una
programación 24 horas al día.
Música, oraciones, Misas,
información y formación en la
fe. Teléfono en cabina
978-683-1030. Oficina y línea
de oración 978-688-9811.
Descargue nuestra aplicación
en su celular."



✠ MASS INTENTIONS ✠

Saturday, May 11 ~ Seventh Sunday of Easter

Acts 1:15-17, 20a, 20c-26; 1 Jn 4:11-16; Jn 17:11b-19
(Vigil)

4:00 PM Betty O'Hara by Armand and Rachel Lanseigne
Plaistow

Sunday, May 12 ~ Seventh Sunday of Easter

Acts 1:15-17, 20a, 20c-26; 1 Jn 4:11-16; Jn 17:11b-19

8:00 AM Suzanne Busch by Jim Edwards
Newton

10:00 AM Linda Poire by her husband
Plaistow

Monday, May 13 ~ Our Lady of Fatima

Acts 19:1-8; Jn 16:29-33

8:00 AM Stacia Simmons (Month's Mind)
Newton

Tuesday, May 14 ~ Matthias, Apostle

Acts 1:15-17, 20-26; Jn 15:9-17

8:00 AM Dr. Albert and Delia Consentino and
Martin M. Feuer by Eleanor Feuer
Plaistow

Wednesday, May 15 ~ Isidore

Acts 20:28-38; Jn 17:11b-19

6:30 PM Sr. Maria Christilla (Muriel C. Pelletier
by the Sisters of the Presentation of Mary
Plaistow

Thursday, May 16 ~ Easter Weekday

Acts 22:30, 23:6-11; Jn 17:20-26

8:00 AM All Souls Intentions
Newton

Friday, May 17 ~ Easter Weekday

Acts 25:13b-21; Jn 21:15-19

No Mass

Saturday, May 18 ~ John I, Pope and Martyr

Acts 28:16-20, 30-31; Jn 21:20-25 (Day)

Acts 2:1-11; 1 Cor 12:3b-7, 12-13; Jn 15:26-27, 16:12-15
(Vigil)

4:00 PM Rick Field by Jackie Tremblay
Plaistow

Sunday, May 19 ~ Seventh Sunday of Easter

Acts 2:1-11; 1 Cor 12:3b-7, 12-13; Jn 15:26-27, 16:12-15

8:00 AM Michael LeDuc (3rd Anniversary)
by the Stanley family
Newton

10:00 AM Donna Hammerstein (1st Anniversary)
by her mother, Carole Lueders
Plaistow



THE GOD MINUTE

Every morning a small group of priests, religious, and lay people start their day in prayer. Soft music, sacred scripture, and a thoughtful reflection are weaved into a 10-minute prayer called "The God Minute." It's then uploaded for you to access and pray along with us on your own time. And it's free. Listen with your coffee in the morning, while driving to work, or taking a walk. See how easy and beautiful prayer can be!



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.

MAYBE IT'S TIME

To re-connect with your Church

To re-new yourself and others through the unique power of the Holy Spirit who guides us in Love and Truth. If you are a baptized Catholic, have received your First Communion, but decided against Confirmation as a teen, maybe NOW IS THE TIME for you to re-consider **Confirmation**.

Maybe you weren't ready when you were sixteen years old. Maybe you didn't want to be pressured into it by your family and peers. Maybe you weren't sure that Catholic is who you wanted to be. Maybe you were just beginning to doubt that what you were taught as a child -- about God, Jesus, the Holy Spirit, the Virgin Mary, the Eucharist, the saints, eternal life -- was all too good to be true. Maybe you were overwhelmed with school commitments, personal disappointments, and feeling that God really didn't care if you were Catholic anyway.

God *does* care about you. *For some reason*, God chose you to be born into a family that would bring you to the Catholic Church for Baptism. So maybe -- just maybe -- now...it's time....to make your own choice. **Confirmation**. If you are 18 or over and were never Confirmed, contact the Parish Office. With a little time and reflection, practicing Catholics can be prepared to celebrate the gift of the Spirit in their lives.

Maybe it's your time. Call 603 382 8324.

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.

✠ PARISH DIRECTORY ✠

Parish Office	603-382-8324
Parish Prayer Line	603-382-8324 x 314
St. Luke's Outreach Ministry	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



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. Shopping lists and bags are provided on the 3rd week of every month with the general collection of non-perishable items happening the following (4th) weekend. Food donations can also be left in the plastic totes at the rear of either church or brought to the Parish Office any time they are open. Prefer not to shop? Gift cards or checks can be made out to Saint Luke Food Pantry anytime. Your generosity and support are greatly appreciated!

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS HAPPENINGS

The Knights just bought a new upright freezer and a new full refrigerator for the Food Pantry. This is the 5th new freezer that the Knights have purchased in the last 18 months for the pantry. The new freezers have increased storage capacity, eliminated the need to defrost, and have saved on the monthly electricity bill.

The Knights also helped an elderly parishioner clean up her yard after several very large pine branches fell during the recent storm.

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.

**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.

RETROUVAILE

A Lifeline For Married Couples

Does your marriage need help? We are a marriage program that continues after the initial weekend with follow-up sessions that further develop the concepts that we introduce on the weekend. Some of the topics we cover are: Communication Skills, Conflict Management, Family of Origin, Forgiveness and Trust, Love and Commitment, Marriage as a Vocation, Intimacy and Sexual Relationship. Email us at NewEngland@HelpOurMarriage.org or call 508-271-7155. Our next weekend is scheduled for:

**May 31-June 2, 2024
Tewksbury, MA**

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.



**Saint Luke the Evangelist
OUTREACH MINISTRY**

Your "Dropped Dollar" Hard At Work

Thank you for your continued support of St. Luke's Outreach Ministry! Please know that your "dropped dollars" are being used wisely to help the poor in our area. Your generosity does not go unnoticed.

Thank you for your generosity in supporting our Easter Lily fundraiser. It was a complete success, as we sold out! St. Luke's Outreach Ministry appreciates your kindness in supporting our good works in assisting those in need in our community.

Our next meeting on **Wednesday, May 15 at 7:00 PM.** We meet downstairs in the Church Hall in Plaistow.
New members are always welcome!

If you seek assistance or need information about St. Luke's Outreach Ministry, call 603-382-8324 x315.

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



AMERICAN RED CROSS

Give Blood, Save a Life

BLOOD DRIVE

Newton Town Hall

2 Town Hall Road
Newton, NH 03858

Friday, May 17, 2024
12:00 Noon - 5:00 pm

SPONSORED BY THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS,
COUNCIL 6617



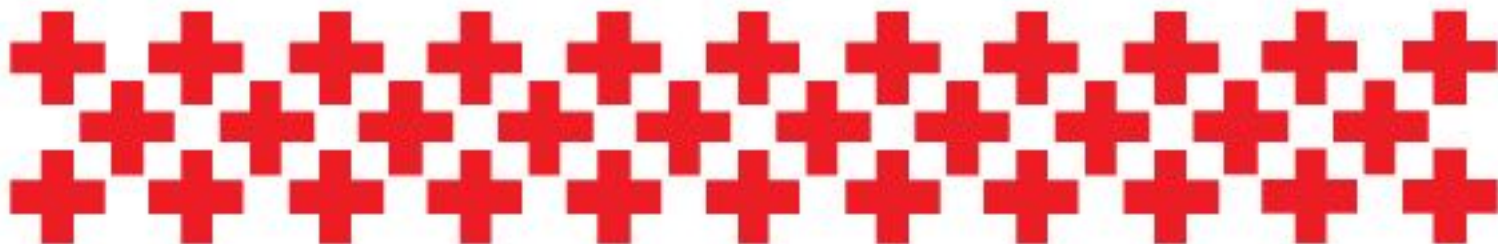
To schedule an appointment, please call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or visit redcrossblood.org

Maximize your blood donation. Help more patients.

If you are an eligible type O,B - or A - donor, consider making a Power Red donation.

Red blood cells are the most commonly transfused blood component.

Streamline your donation experience and save up to 15 minutes by visiting RedCrossBlood.org/RapidPass to complete your pre-donation reading and health history questions on the day of your appointment.



KNIGHT OF COLUMBUS

YOU - YES YOU! CHECK THIS OUT.

DID YOU KNOW THAT THE KNIGHTS ARE A GROUP OF EVERYDAY GUYS FROM YOUR PARISH, THAT HAVE COME TOGETHER TO SUPPORT THE PARISH AND SURROUNDING AREAS BY SIMPLY DOING THINGS TO HELP OUT.

WE MEET THE FIRST MONDAY OF EVERY MONTH, IN THE PARISH HALL ON THE PLAISTOW CAMPUS, STARTING AT 7:00 PM.

HEAR WHAT WE HAVE GOING ON, MEET SOME OF THE MEMBERS, IT'S PROBABLY SOMEONE SITTING NEXT TO YOU AT MASS EVERY SUNDAY, MAYBE THERE IS AN EVENT YOU WOULD LIKE TO PARTICIPATE WITH, HELP PLAN, HAVE AN IDEA. WE COULD USE THE HELP. ALL ARE WELCOME.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR OUR NEXT MEETING ON

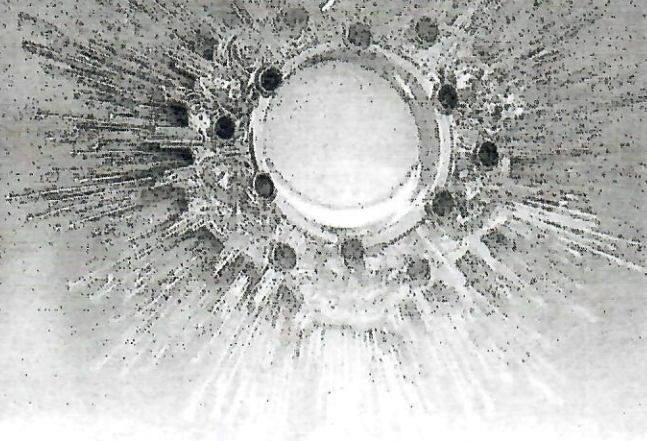
JUNE 2nd.

HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!

2024 NEW HAMPSHIRE CATHOLIC APPEAL

FUTURE OF OUR FAITH II

One Bread, One Body



Our Church. Your Impact!

WWW.CATHOLICNH.ORG/NHCA

Please support the 2024 New Hampshire Catholic Appeal to allow us to continue to work toward a more sustainable and collaborative Church in New Hampshire! Your gift supports these vital ministries that keep our faith thriving in New Hampshire:

- Community Services program at Catholic Charities New Hampshire which provides transformative change through case management and compassionate guidance
- Seminarian education and formation and support of the permanent diaconate
- Catholic education
- Care for our retired clergy
- Vibrant parishes
- Evangelization and catechesis at home with *Parable Magazine*
- Faith formation through campus ministry and Totus Tuus
- Multicultural Ministry
- Catholic cemeteries



"I am again so very grateful for your past support of all our New Hampshire Catholic ministries and services over the years. Your gifts have made a tremendous difference in our faith tradition throughout our diocese. Thanks to you, we are working to establish a stable future for the Catholic Church in New Hampshire. A future where we all grow our shared faith together in One Bread, One Body."

The New Hampshire Catholic Appeal (NHCA) funds imperative Community Services of Catholic Charities NH – enabling them to serve immediate needs at the local level, seminarians, *Parable Magazine*, parishes, Catholic formation – especially for youth and young adults, caring for our retired clergy, Catholic cemeteries, Catholic education, and missionaries abroad and multicultural ministry. The NHCA will provide these ministries with the resources needed to carry out their important missions – but only with your continued help."

+Most Reverend Peter A. Libasci, D.D.
Tenth Bishop of Manchester



Each parish has an NHCA goal, and every dollar raised above that goal will be rebated to the parish for any needs of the parish.

To learn more or donate online, please scan this QR code or go to www.catholicnh.org/nhca

NEW HAMPSHIRE CATHOLIC APPEAL

Our Parish 2024 goal is \$46,979.00. The Parish keeps any income raised above our set fundraising goal. Goals are set by the Diocese at 10% of the average of the last three years of our assessable income (excluding the pandemic shut down year of 2020).

Approximately 95%, of the New Hampshire Catholic Appeal (NHCA) revenue will go towards ministry, education, and parishes. The goal is for less than 5% of revenue to be spent on administering the NHCA. The intent of the Diocese is to keep these costs as low as possible. No funds will go towards diocesan administration, the bishop's office, or any clergy abuse settlements/litigation.

Many Diocesan second collections have been eliminated. The second collections eliminated in 2023 are the Seminary Fund, the Catholic education collection, the Parish to Parish Support Fund, the NH Missionaries Abroad and Migrant & Refugee Ministry in NH, the Catholic University of America and USCCB, the NH Priest Retirement Fund and the annual drive for *Parable* Magazine. In addition, the annual appeal for Catholic Charities will no longer take place since the Catholic Appeal takes the place of the Catholic Charities Appeal of years past.

Many of these needs and ministries were previously funded through second collections. These second collections have been eliminated or consolidated into the NHCA. Parishioners can still give to any of these causes and programs separately, though it does not count towards the overall NHCA Parish goal.



**TAKE
NOTE!**

Gifts to Catholic Charities NH separately do not count toward the Catholic Appeal Parish Goal.

How Should I Give?

There are many ways that you can give to the New Hampshire Catholic Appeal.

- Donate online with credit/debit card.
- Pledge – submit your pledge (through the gift envelope, or online)
All check pledges will receive a monthly reminder.
- Recurring Gift – set up a monthly recurring gift (through the gift envelope, or online)
- Check – make checks payable to the **New Hampshire Catholic Appeal.**
- Cash may be sent in using the gift envelope, but we encourage check or credit card.
- Donate stock – call (603) 663-0136 for broker instructions.
- Donate through your IRA – contact your IRA administrator and have your gift sent directly to the Office of Development and Communications at 153 Ash Street, Manchester, NH 03104 – include your name, and the parish you want the gift credit to go towards.

Can Saint Luke parishioners donate using our online giving platform?

No. At this time, Saint Luke the Evangelist Parish electronic giving is not connected to the NH Catholic Appeal. This is because of the complications of reporting to the Diocese and the tax-deductible reporting that must be done for all donations.

SAINT LUKE PARISH AND THE NEW HAMPSHIRE CATHOLIC APPEAL FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is the New Hampshire Catholic Appeal: Future of our Faith II?

The New Hampshire Catholic Appeal (NHCA) is a combined campaign and fundraising effort with the parishes and ministries of the Church in New Hampshire.

What ministries and needs will be included in the New Hampshire Catholic Appeal?

The following will be funded by the NHCA:

- Catholic Education and Catholic Schools
- Seminarians, Deacons, and Vocations
- Priest Retirement
- *Parable* magazine
- Parish needs (Parish to Parish Support Fund and individual parish support)
- Missionaries abroad and multicultural ministry in N.H.
- Catholic University of America and the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops
- Catholic Charities NH

Many of these needs and ministries were previously funded through second collections. These second collections have been eliminated or consolidated into the NHCA. Parishioners can still give to any of these causes and programs separately, though it does not count towards the overall NHCA Parish goal.

→ Gifts to Catholic Charities NH separately do not count toward the Catholic Appeal Parish Goal.

Saint Luke the Evangelist Parish 2024 goal is \$46,979.00

How are the goals for each parish determined?

The parish NHCA goal is calculated as 10% of the parish average assessable income over the last three fiscal years. Due to Covid concerns, we excluded fiscal year 2020 from the calculation. This year's calculation was 10% of the average assessable income for fiscal years 2022, 2021, and 2019. The goal formula will be reviewed after the 2023 appeal cycle.

If the parish goal is exceeded, does the parish get to keep the amount raised over the goal?

Yes. The NHCA will allow parishes to keep 100% of their revenue over their set goal for the first three years of the appeal. In June 2024, the Diocese will assess whether or not this has been successful or may need adjustments.

What happens if a parish does not make their goal?

If a parish does not reach its goal, it will be assessed (billed) the remainder.

Why should I give to the New Hampshire Catholic Appeal if I already give to my parish?

Your participation helps the entire Church in New Hampshire where the needs are the greatest – recruiting new priests, evangelization, the vulnerable, and more. Your support makes these ministries possible that no one parish could support on its own. Your gift demonstrates your commitment to the greater Church. We are many parts in the Diocese of Manchester but one body in Christ with a common mission.

Does my parish have to support the NHCA?

Yes. Each parish in the diocese has a set goal which represents the parish share of the total Appeal. A good faith effort is requested of all parishes. Additionally, individual parishes can benefit significantly by retaining any funds raised over their set goal; administering fewer second collections; and parishes will see a reduction in fees and administrative costs (assessments) paid to the Diocese.

How much should I give?

Charitable giving reflects our Christian stewardship of treasure. Giving back to God, either through contributions to your parish, the New Hampshire Catholic Appeal, or other worthwhile charities, should require a sacrifice, one that recognizes God's generosity to us individually. Therefore, your gift is a personal decision between you and God and should be made after careful reflection. Please consider the dollars you have donated in the past to the six discontinued 2nd collections plus the Catholic Charities NH special collection and the *Parable* magazine drive to help you determine how much to give. The pledge and recurring gift option may make this amount feasible.

Should I make a pledge, recurring gift, or a one-time gift?

Making a pledge or a recurring gift allows you to spread your gift over several months, which may make it easier for you to budget, and may also allow you to give a larger gift.

How Should I Give?

There are many ways that you can give to the New Hampshire Catholic Appeal.

- Donate online with credit/debit card.
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Bringing Home the Word

Ascension of the Lord (B)

May 12, 2024

Up in Heaven

Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA

The message of this feast is that Jesus was taken up into heaven. Just what does this mean? Is heaven “up there” along with the moon and the stars? Cosmology would question that. Today’s readings also indicate that Jesus is seated at God’s right hand. Is this science, or is it a concrete image used to explain something more marvelous than words can describe?

Traditionally, the place of honor is at the dignitary’s right hand (decided by a right-hander, no doubt). That Jesus sits at God’s right hand means he enjoys the place of highest honor. The responsorial psalm refers to this exalted place as the

throne of God. “Throne” suggests king. Thus, the readings tell us that Jesus, who is now exalted with divine honor, is above everything else. Finally, to say that heaven is “above” means that it is beyond earth, perhaps not in actual distance, but in distinction and glory. Thus, Jesus’ ascension means the risen Lord is no longer limited by the restrictions of earth’s space and time but now enjoys the highest honor with God everywhere and always.

This is the message the disciples were sent to preach. This is the message we also are sent to preach. But how are we to do it? By the way we live our lives. Emmanuel Célestin Cardinal Suhard of Paris (1874–1949) wrote: “To be a witness...means to live in such a way that one’s life would not make sense if God did not exist.” Do our lives show that we believe this? †

Sunday Readings

Acts 1:1–11

[A]s they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him from their sight.

Ephesians 1:17–23 or Ephesians 4:1–13 or 4:1–7, 11–13

I...urge you to live in a manner worthy of the call you have received, with all humility and gentleness.

Mark 16:15–20

Jesus said to his disciples: “Go into the whole world and proclaim the gospel to every creature.”



A Word from Pope Francis

Do we really think we can build peace by destroying the other? In the name of God who created all human beings equal in rights, duties and dignity...I make an appeal for calm and, for those who are responsible to put a stop to the clamor of weapons and to follow the paths of peace....

REGINA CAELI, ROME, MAY 16, 2021



REFLECTION QUESTIONS

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

- Who witnesses to God’s goodness in my life?
- Am I such a witness by how I live?

When You Seek to Be the Perfect Mom

Agnes Bojaxhiu, now known worldwide as “Mother Teresa,” was born in Macedonia in 1910. A Sister of Loreto, she was sent to India, where she spent years educating wealthy girls. Teresa began to experience a series of visions in which Jesus asked her to serve the poorest of the poor. She did just that for the rest of her life, founding the Missionaries of Charity. She was canonized in 2016.

When I have visited a friend whose house is spotless and whose life seems perfectly organized, I feel more than a twinge of inferiority. I’m forever behind on everything that needs to be done, and our house looks like a toy factory merged with a laundromat that blew up. *Why can’t I keep up?* I wonder. I want to be the organized, efficient, got-it-



together mom. I want my child to have a household that runs like a machine, with a mom who juggles everything calmly and expertly.

Saint Teresa of Calcutta has insight to share with those of us seeking after perfection. She once said that we are not all called to do great things, but we are called to do little things with great love. Not with great efficiency, not even with great skill. Great love. Saint Teresa should help us realize that when our children grow up, we want more than anything for them to remember feeling happy and loved because of the little things. To remember a mom who made time to play in the sandbox, dance in the kitchen, and read to them in bed. We want them to recall a mom who did these littlest things with the greatest love. †

Source: *Saints on Call: Everyday Devotions for Moms* by Christine Gibson, © 2011, (820342) available at Liguori.org.

Wisdom from Catholic UPDATE

From “The Liturgical Year: How Christians Celebrate Time”
by Sandra DeGidio, OSM

The Church year...is the way we Christians add a religious or spiritual dimension to the natural seasons, months, weeks, and days. It was only after the resurrection that Jesus’ followers finally understood the saving activity of Christ within the story of his life, words, and works. Because of this understanding, the first Christians gathered on Sunday in Jesus’ name to break bread and share the stories of the redeeming work of Christ. By the end of the first century, a Church manual called the *Didache* instructed Christians to come together every Sunday (the Lord’s Day) for giving thanks, proclaiming the word, and breaking bread. The first day of the week, the day Christ rose, gave shape to the week and to the year. †

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*Lord Jesus, send us your Spirit
that we may be your witnesses
to our families, friends, neighbors,
and all whom we meet, we pray.
Amen! Alleluia!*

The Redemptorists

WEEKDAY READINGS

May 13–18

Monday, Easter Weekday:
Acts 19:1–8 / Jn 16:29–33


Tuesday, St. Matthias:
Acts 1:15–17, 20–26 / Jn 15:9–17

Wednesday, Easter Weekday:
Acts 20:28–38 / Jn 17:11b–19

Thursday, Easter Weekday:
Acts 22:30; 23:6–11 / Jn 17:20–26

Friday, Easter Weekday:
Acts 25:13b–21 / Jn 21:15–19

Saturday, Easter Weekday:
Acts 28:16–20, 30–31 / Jn 21:20–25

Bringing Home
the Word 

May 12, 2024

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