

**MUSIC FOR THE LITURGY**

**Sunday, June 16, 2024**

**Eleventh Sunday In Ordinary Time**

- Gathering: Gather Your People BB 310  
 Responsorial Psalm (Psalm 103)  
*Loving and forgiving are you, O Lord; slow to anger, rich in kindness, loving and forgiving are you.*  
 Preparation: Christ Before Us BB 416  
 Mass Parts: Mass Of Creation  
 Communion: Gift Of Finest Wheat BB 344  
 Recessional: How Can I Keep From Singing BB 447

**✠ 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!

June 9, 2024  
**Offertory \$6,466.95**



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**

June 16	Fuel
June 23	No Second Collection
June 30	Works of the Holy Father



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

2024 NEW HAMPSHIRE CATHOLIC APPEAL  
FUTURE OF OUR FAITH II

*One Bread,  
One Body*

We thank all who made their gift to the *New Hampshire Catholic Appeal: Future of our Faith II* this weekend. Your gift will enable the Catholic Church in New Hampshire to meet the increasing needs of parishes, Catholic schools, retired clergy, seminarians and much more.

If you were not able to make your gift yet, please visit the website at [www.catholicnh.org/nhca](http://www.catholicnh.org/nhca) or bring your gift an drop it in the collection basket at Mass next weekend using the special envelopes provided in the pews and at the church entrances. We thank you on behalf of all who will come to know the loving hand of Christ and our Church through your generosity.





**SAINT LUKE THE EVANGELIST  
FOOD PANTRY**

Thank you for your support of our Food Pantry!

Items most needed in the Food Pantry at the moment:

- |                   |                           |
|-------------------|---------------------------|
| Pasta             | Hot and cold cereal       |
| Pasta sauce       | Crackers & snack items    |
| Ramen noodles     | Cookies & treats for kids |
| Peanut butter     | Pancake mix and syrup     |
| Jam and Jelly     | Canned meats              |
| Canned soup       | Tuna fish                 |
| Canned fruit      | Shelf stable milk         |
| Canned vegetables |                           |

Consider donating personal care products (shampoo, toothpaste, toothbrushes, etc.) or household cleaning products, paper towels, toilet tissue, or facial tissue. Pet food is always welcome!

**Checks made out to *St. Luke Food Pantry*** are always useful and welcome. Our Pantry spends upwards of \$1,000.00 per month to help the hungry!

**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.

**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.

**BLESSING OF FATHERS**

A special blessing of fathers will be given at all Masses on the weekend of **Father's Day, June 16, 2024.**



**WHILE AWAY THIS SUMMER...**

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

✠ WEEKLY CALENDAR ✠

**Sunday, June 16**

11:00 AM VBS Volunteer Meeting *Plaistow*

**Monday, June 17**

9:00 AM Vacation Bible School *Plaistow*

**Tuesday, June 18**

9:00 AM Vacation Bible School *Plaistow*

6:00 PM Finance Council Meeting *Plaistow*

**Wednesday, June 19**

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

9:00 AM Vacation Bible School *Plaistow*

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

**Thursday, June 20**

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

9:00 AM Vacation Bible School *Plaistow*

**Friday, June 21**

9:00 AM Vacation Bible School *Plaistow*

**Saturday, June 22**

3:00 PM Sacrament of Reconciliation *Plaistow*

**EARLY BULLETIN DEADLINE**

Because of the Fourth of July holiday, the July 7 bulletin must be submitted early. All announcements going into the July 7 bulletin must be received at the Parish Office **no later than 12:00 Noon on Tuesday, June 25.**



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

**Suzanne Busch**

by Jim Edwards

**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).

**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, June 15 ~ Eleventh Sunday in Ordinary Time**

*Ez 17:22-24; 2 Cor 5:6-10; Mk 4:26-34 (Vigil)*

4:00 PM Deceased Members of the Fogel Family and Frank Kelcourse by Elaine Kelcourse *Plaistow*

**Sunday, June 16 ~ Eleventh Sunday in Ordinary Time**

*Ez 17:22-24; 2 Cor 5:6-10; Mk 4:26-34*

8:00 AM Suzanne Busch by Jim Edwards *Newton*

10:00 AM Jim Glendye by the Knights of Columbus *Plaistow*

**Monday, June 17 ~ Weekday**

*1 Kgs 21:1-16; Mt 5:38-42*

8:00 AM Suzanne Busch by Stephanie Stanley *Newton*

**Tuesday, June 18 ~ Weekday**

*1 Kgs 21:17-29; Mt 5:43-38*

8:00 AM All Souls Intentions *Plaistow*

**Wednesday, June 19 ~ Romuald, Abbot**

*2 Kgs 2:1, 6-14; Mt 6:1-6, 16-18*

6:30 PM Daniel Dube by the Sisters of the Presentation of Mary *Plaistow*

**Thursday, June 20 ~ Weekday**

*Sir 48:1-14; Mt 6:7-15*

8:00 AM The Intentions of Edith Fournier by Daniel and Jean Lloyd *Newton*

**Friday, June 21 ~ Aloysius Gonzaga, Religious**

*2 Kgs 11:1-4, 9-18, 20; Mt 6:19-23*

*No Mass*

**Saturday, June 22 ~ Paulinus of Nola, Bishop**

**John Fisher, Bishop and Thomas More, Martyrs**

*2 Chr 24:17-25; Mt 6:24-34 (Day)*

*Jb 38:1, 8-11; 2 Cor 5:14-17; Mk 4:35-41 (Vigil)*

4:00 PM Jesselyn and Donald Driscoll by the McKinney family *Plaistow*

**Sunday, June 23 ~ Twelfth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

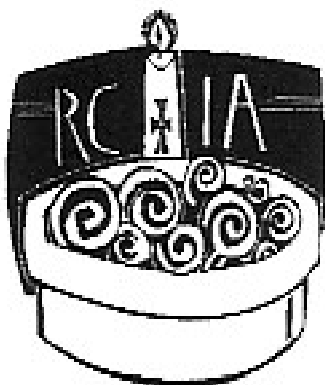
*Jb 38:1, 8-11; 2 Cor 5:14-17; Mk 4:35-41*

8:00 AM Marie Reilly by the LeDuc family *Newton*

10:00 AM The Intentions of the 2024 Jubilarians of the Sisters of the Presentation of Mary *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.

**CONFIRMATION**

**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. 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 want to talk about the Sacrament of Confirmation, contact the Parish Office. With a little time and reflection, practicing Catholic 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 at [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.**

**✘ 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 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 29<sup>th</sup> St. Jude Golf Open was held recently. We had a sell-out of 144 golfers who enjoyed 18 holes of a scramble format, contests, a Steak Barbeque put on by the Knights, and our largest Silent Auction ever. We also had a record amount of sponsorships. The Open was a huge financial success! We are helping a single mother from Plaistow whose twin daughters are suffering from a very rare genetic defect. We are also helping a single mother from Kingston who suffered a very severe stroke. The Knights also installed a handicap ramp for her late last year.

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.

**RETROUVILLE**

**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](mailto:NewEngland@HelpOurMarriage.org) or call 508-271-7155. Our next weekend is scheduled for:

**August 23-25, 2024**

**THE CURSILLO WEEKEND**

Cursillo is an invitation for you to experience the love of Jesus Christ on a personal level and to bring this love and joy into your daily life. The next 2024 dates for the men's weekends will be October 3 to 6 and December 5 to 8. The next women's weekends will be June 6 to 9 and November 7 to 10. For more information, contact Rick or Kathy Garon at 603-490-5522 or 603-490-8090.



**Saint Luke the Evangelist  
OUTREACH MINISTRY**

**Your "Dropped Dollar" Hard At Work**

Thank you for your continued support of the St. Luke 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.

Drop-a-Dollar in the St. Luke Outreach Ministry 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, June 19 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.**



# *An Invitation To Live Out Your Faith*

*The St. Jude Council #6617 KofC is extending an invitation to  
YOU to join us either as a fellow Brother Knight  
or an associate member.*

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This is an invitation to help YOU live out your faith with likeminded people.  
This is something that can be done individually, as a couple or as a family.

We are flexible and only ask you to do what you can, when you can so “I’m too busy or  
don’t have time”, is not an excuse to say no to your faith and shouldn’t get in the way of  
***DOING GOOD!***

Our mission is simple – To help those in need in our local community, to assist our  
Parish and to strengthen our Faith. Bishop Peter Libasci and a Brother Knight refers  
to the Knights as *“The strong arm of the Church”*.

*Here’s a listing of what we have done over the past year:*

## *Food Pantry:*

- Monthly Food Drives
- Volunteer assistance to load and unload inbound food shipments
- Purchased several refrigerators and freezer
- Purchased Food Baskets during Easter, Thanksgiving and Christmas
- \$1,000 Donation to purchase gifts for the Christmas Giving Tree
- \$1,300 Donation to our Food Pantry

## *Parish:*

- Beautification projects
- \$2,000 Donation to our Parish financially
- \$2,500 Donation to purchase a new copier/printer
- Serve as Ushers, Ministers and various Parish Committees
- Stations of the Cross – Soup Supper

## *Respect Life:*

- \$1,200 Financial Aid to assist pregnancy care centers in NH and MA
- Educational presentation on Respect Life and prayer session
- NH March for Respect Life

## *Community:*

- Working with the Plaistow Lions purchased and installed special pool steps to allow an 11 year old girl with cancer to enjoy her pool
- The 28th annual St Jude Open raised over \$20,000 to help 3 local families and individuals who were in dire financial need
- College Scholarships - given out in the community and Parish
- Assisted local elderly and disabled people with yard clean ups and miscellaneous small projects around their homes.
- Installed a handicap ramp for a single Mom who had a severe stroke
- Tootsie Roll Drive – raised over \$5,000 to assist local organizations that serve the mentally and physically challenged.
- St Patrick's & Italian Meal Festival to raise funds for our charity work
- 5 Blood Drives
- Promoting and Donating to Haven NH, donations to Huasta House of Hope, Mission of New Generations, various missionary work and many, many other organizations and individuals.

## *Council:*

- \$3,000 Financial Aid to 4 Seminarians and 1 Postulate
- Spiritual Reflections & Weekly Rosary
- Memorial Mass for our Deceased Members
- Summer BBQ & Christmas Party

Please don't pass up this chance to strengthen your faith and to answer the call we hear regularly at Mass "to help the least among us". We have a great bunch of people who are very welcoming and work very well together.

*What better day than TODAY to consider joining us!*

For more information, please contact us through one of the following resources:

**JOIN HERE:** <https://www.kofc.org/secure/en/join/join-kofc.html>

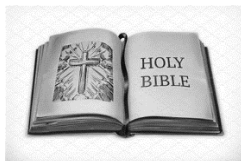
**KofC Council Page:** <https://uknight.org/CouncilSite/index.asp?CNO=6617>

or simply call or email the Grand Knight, Peter Richards  
at 603-382-4315, or [pmpj6@comcast.net](mailto:pmpj6@comcast.net).

*VIVAT JESUS! (Jesus Lives!)*



# BRING THE BIBLE TO LIFE AND LIVE SCRIPTURE EVERY DAY!



Join us for five weeks of *Threshold Bible Study* from *Twenty-Third Publications*.

*Threshold Bible Study* is a dynamic, informative, and inspiring way to enter into a deeper relationship with God through Scripture.

Our Summer Bible share groups will be exploring the theme: *Questions Jesus Asks*. **Twenty-Third Publications** states: "One of the most striking characteristics of Jesus' ministry is the way he continually asks questions of those he encounters. While Jesus' questions do not demand quick and easy answers, they evoke new understandings, help listeners see different perspectives, and ultimately change lives."

If you are interested in joining a group either on Wednesday evenings at 7 p.m., beginning July 10, or Thursday afternoons at 1:30 p.m., beginning July 11, please cut the form at the bottom and complete. Completed forms should be returned either in the collection basket or the parish office no later than Monday, June 24. Any questions, contact Cathy Smith at (603) 382-8324 or [csmith@stluketheevangelist.net](mailto:csmith@stluketheevangelist.net)

## Groups will meet downstairs in the Church Hall

(There is a \$13 book fee)

\*\*\*\*\*

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

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

### QUESTIONS JESUS ASKS (check one)

Wednesdays at 7 p.m. \_\_\_\_ Thursdays at 1:30 p.m. \_\_\_\_

July 10 – August 7

July 11 – August 8





A gift to the New Hampshire Catholic Appeal: Future of Our Faith II will enable the Catholic Church in New Hampshire to meet the increasing needs of parishes, Catholic schools, retired clergy, seminarians and much more. Each dollar is carefully stewarded to provide the maximum cost effectiveness for our ministries.

*Your gift supports these essential ministries that keep our faith thriving in New Hampshire.*

- Increasing and supporting vocations (seminarian education, formation, and support of the permanent diaconate)
- Making Catholic education affordable, accessible, and available to all who desire it
- Catholic Charities New Hampshire
- Caring for our retired clergy
- Vibrant parishes
- Evangelization and catechesis at home with *Parable* magazine
- Missionaries abroad and multicultural ministry in New Hampshire

## WAYS TO GIVE

### Make Your Gift Online

[www.catholicnh.org/NHCA](http://www.catholicnh.org/NHCA)

Make a one-time gift, pledge, or give a monthly recurring gift using a credit or debit card.

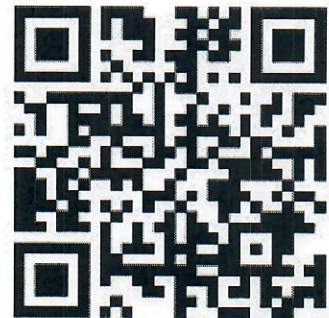
### Pay by Cash or Check

Make your check payable to the **New Hampshire Catholic Appeal** and mail to:  
New Hampshire Catholic Appeal  
P.O. Box 5456 Manchester, NH 03108

Check pledges will receive monthly reminders.  
All pledges will be a maximum of 10 months and should be paid in full by March 31, 2024.

### Securities/Stocks, IRAs, Donor Advised Funds and Bequests

We are grateful for your consideration of these types of important gifts. Please call the Development Office for more information on how to plan your gift at 603-663-0136. Please consult your legal representative or tax advisor first to maximize your benefit.



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

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



# Bringing Home the Word

*Eleventh Sunday in Ordinary Time (B)*  
June 16, 2024

## To What Shall We Compare the Kingdom of God?

*Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA*

Today's readings are rich with answers to this question posed in Mark's Gospel. The prophet Ezekiel selects the metaphor of a cedar tree. Like such a tree, the kingdom of God begins as a tender shoot planted on a high mountain where it can grow unimpeded by other growth. There it will grow tall and firm, boasting many branches, rich with fruit, the home to various species of birds. Jesus chose another metaphor—that of a small seed. This parable characterizes the inconspicuous nature of the kingdom's origin. We may not see

it in the beginning because it is so small and surrounded by soil, but it contains within itself the force of life that someday will burst forth into a rich harvest.

The mustard seed is a special kind of seed. Today's Gospel calls it "the smallest of all the seeds on the earth" (Mark 4:31). However, following the pattern of growth that is hidden in the core of its being, it also brings forth one of the marvels of nature, producing "the largest of plants" (Mark 4:32). Metaphors also underscore the fact that these seeds must first transform, losing the appearance of a seed in order to rise, filled with the mysterious character of its growth. All of this happens quietly, unpretentiously, as if under the cover of night.

These are very moving metaphors, quite easy to understand and envision. However, the reality for which the metaphors stand is sometimes very difficult to realize because of human selfishness. Still, it is God's tree, God's seed, God's kingdom, and it is God who declares: "As I, the LORD, have spoken, so will I do!" (Ezekiel 17:24). †

### Sunday Readings

#### **Ezekiel 17:22–24**

Thus says the Lord GOD... On the mountain heights of Israel I will plant it. It shall put forth branches and bear fruit, and become a majestic cedar.

#### **2 Corinthians 5:6–10**

We walk by faith, not by sight.

#### **Mark 4:26–34**

[Jesus said,] "But once it is sown, it springs up and becomes the largest of plants and puts forth large branches."

***The parable of the mustard seed characterizes the inconspicuous nature of the kingdom's origin.***

### **A Word from Pope Francis**

I ask for you [fathers] the grace to be ever closer to your children, allow them to grow, but be close, close! They need you, your presence, your closeness, your love... And by this closeness you will be true educators. Thank you for all you do for your children: thank you.

GENERAL AUDIENCE, ROME,  
MARCH 19, 2014



### REFLECTION QUESTIONS



- What aspects of these metaphors give you comfort and encouragement?
- How do you contribute to the health and growth of the kingdom of God?



# I Know a Father....

Paige Byrne Shortal

**I know a father** who remembers the last time his youngest child would accept a kiss on her way to school. **I know a father** who raised another man's child as his own and made sure she never felt the lack of a father. **I know a father** who is called a "stepfather" and says it means to "step in" when and where he is needed. **I know a father** who is called a "father-in-law" and who loves his "children-in-law" as much as his own. **I know a father** who says "I love you" by taking photographs and there they are—the bright shining faces of everyone except the father-photographer. **I know a father** who prayed in the traditional way, but it didn't seem enough, so he decided to give up beer until his hurting

son was doing better. A funny kind of prayer not mentioned in any of the liturgical books, but as sincere a prayer as ever was prayed. **I know a father** whose



daughter is very sick, and he cries secret tears while he remains strong for her and the family. **I know a father** who lost his son and created a garden to remember him and shared that garden with all the other fathers and mothers who grieve for their children who are gone too soon. **I know a man** who longed for children of his own and when they didn't come, he fathered all the children who called him "coach" and "teacher" and "friend." **I know one who is called "Father,"** who is father to none, but whose job it is to sit with hurting fathers and mothers and listen and pray with them and help them make sense of it all. **I know a father** who was gone too soon. I miss him on this Father's Day—very much. †

## Wisdom from Catholic UPDATE

From "St. Joseph: The Christian Model" by Fr. Larry Toschi

Joseph's work gave him the means to support his family and helped form part of Jesus' identity as "son of the carpenter." Joseph's work became an integral part of Jesus' education, so much so that Jesus learned to work with his hands in the same profession and became known as "the carpenter" (Mark 6:3). This didn't happen by accident. Jesus actively chose to be known in this way, linking his social position and earthly identity with Joseph and his work. Pope St. John Paul II highlighted this dynamic, saying, "At the workbench where he plied his trade together with Jesus, Joseph brought human work closer to the mystery of Redemption" (On the Person and Mission of St. Joseph in the Life of Christ and of the Church [*Redemptoris Custos*], 22). †

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*God and Father of all, help us believe that we can heal the world by the little things we do for others, especially for children. Amen.*

The Redemptorists

## WEEKDAY READINGS

June 17–22

**Monday, Weekday:**

1 Kgs 21:1–16 / Mt 5:38–42

**Tuesday, Weekday:**

1 Kgs 21:17–29 / Mt 5:43–48

**Wednesday, Weekday:**

2 Kgs 2:1, 6–14 / Mt 6:1–6, 16–18

**Thursday, Weekday:**

Sir 48:1–14 / Mt 6:7–15

**Friday, St. Aloysius Gonzaga:**

2 Kgs 11:1–4, 9–18, 20 / Mt 6:19–23

**Saturday, Weekday:**

2 Chr 24:17–25 / Mt 6:24–34

Bringing Home  
the **Word** 

June 16, 2024

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