



**MUSIC FOR THE LITURGY**

**Sunday, December 29, 2024**

**The Holy Family Of  
Jesus, Mary, and Joseph**

Gathering: The First Noel BB 115  
 Responsorial Psalm (Psalm 98)  
*All the ends of the earth have seen the power of God. (2x)*  
 Preparation: Away In A Manger BB 80  
 Mass Parts Storrington Mass  
 Communion: It Came Upon The Midnight Clear BB 91  
 Child Of The Poor BB 100  
 Recessional: Angels We Have Heard On High BB 109

**✠ PARISH TITHING ✠**

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

**December 9, 2024**  
**Immaculate Conception \$ 662.00**

**December 15, 2024**  
**Offertory \$7,071.96**  
**Fuel \$1,617.74**

**COLLECTION AMOUNTS FOR  
 DECEMBER 22, 2024  
 WILL APPEAR IN NEXT WEEK'S BULLETIN**



**UPCOMING SECOND COLLECTIONS**

December 29 No Second Collection  
 January 5 Property Management  
 January 12 No Second Collection

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.



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!

**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 2024, **please call Jackie** at the Parish Office at 603-382-8324. **Financial Statements are issued on a request only basis.**

**MASS SCHEDULE FOR SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD**

The Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God is a holy day of obligation. Masses will be celebrated on:

- Tuesday, December 31 at 4:00 PM in Plaistow**
- Wednesday, January 1 at 9:00 AM in Newton**

**PARISH OFFICE CLOSED**

In observance of the New Year's holiday, the Parish Office will be **closed on, on December 31, January 1 and 2.** We are closed on Fridays. Our regular hours will resume on Monday, January 6.

**HOLY ANGELS CEMETERY CLOSED**

**Holy Angels Cemetery in Plaistow is closed from December 2024 until Spring 2025.** 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.

**CLOTHING DRIVE**

**Kimberly's 19th Annual Holiday Give Away!!!**

Guess who's back!!! I am so happy to be able to continue with this annual initiative! This year with 2 children in the mix we are ready to serve! We will be collecting clothing and nonperishable food items a week later than usual this year on January 11 & 12 at Holy Angels Parish Hall (downstairs of the church), from 12:00 to 4:00pm each day. We will be accepting donations for Catie's Closet, Ruth's House, Emmaus House, Lazarus House, Wish Project, and Saint Luke's Food Pantry. We are accepting CLEAN clothing of any size, any season, any decade. Any donations of socks or underwear must be new and packaged. If you have any questions, concerns, or would like to volunteer please contact me at: [kimberly-andrade@comcast.net](mailto:kimberly-andrade@comcast.net). Your continued support throughout the years is the only way this works, so thank you in advance for continuing to support our cause! May you all have a safe and healthy holiday season and may God continue to bless you always.

Kimberly Clenord

**THE GOD MINUTE**

Every morning a small group of priests, religious, and lay people start their day in prayer. Soft music, sacred scripture, and thoughtful reflection are weaved into a 10-minute prayer called The God Minute. It's then uploaded for you to access and prayer along with 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.

[www.thegodminute.org](http://www.thegodminute.org)

**RETROUVAILLE**

**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.

**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, December 29**  
 6:00 PM Evening Prayer *Newton*

**Tuesday, December 31**  
 PARISH OFFICE CLOSED

**Wednesday, January 1**  
 PARISH OFFICE CLOSED

**Thursday, January 2**  
 PARISH OFFICE CLOSED  
 NO ADORATION

**Saturday, January 4**  
 3:00 PM Sacrament of Reconciliation *Plaistow*

**Sunday, January 5**  
 10:00 AM Religious Ed – Gr. K to 6 *Plaistow*  
 6:00 PM Evening Prayer *Newton*

**RESTROOM BREAKS DURING MASS**

**Attention Parents**

Please be sure to accompany your young children when they need to use the restroom during Mass. This is for their safety and your peace of mind!

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

**Wallace and Frances Antczak**

by the Burge family



The Sanctuary Candle in Holy Angels Church will burn this week in loving memory of

**Paul Caron**

by John and Trisha Mainella



✠ MASS INTENTIONS ✠

**Saturday, December 28 ~ The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph**

*Sir 3:2-6, 12-14; Col 3:12-21; Lk 2:41-52 (Vigil)*  
 4:00 PM Paul Caron by the Knights of Columbus  
*Plaistow*

**Sunday, December 29 ~ The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph**

*Sir 3:2-6, 12-14; Col 3:12-21; Lk 2:41-52*  
 8:00 AM Wallace and Frances Antczak  
 by the Burge family  
*Newton*

10:00 AM William Mullin, Sr. by the Knights of Columbus  
*Plaistow*

**Monday, December 30 ~ Sixth Day Within the Octave of The Nativity of the Lord**

*1 Jn 2:12-17; Lk 2:36-40*  
 8:00 AM All Souls Intentions  
*Newton*

**Tuesday, December 31 ~ Vigil – Mary, Mother of God**

*Nm 6:22-27; Gal 4:4-7; Lk 2:16-21*  
 4:00 PM Mary Stevens by Marjorie Knowles  
*Plaistow*

**Wednesday, January 1 ~ Mary, Mother of God**

*Nm 6:22-27; Gal 4:4-7; Lk 2:16-21*  
 9:00 AM People of the Parish  
*Newton*

**Thursday, January 2 ~ Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen, Bishops and Doctors of the Church**

*1 Jn 2:22-28; Jn 1:19-28*  
 8:00 AM Rose DeMarco by Lisa and Charlie Angwin  
*Newton*

**Friday, January 3 ~ The Holy Name of Jesus**

*1 Jn 2:29—3:6; Jn 1:29-34*  
 No Mass

**Saturday, January 4 ~ Elizabeth Ann Seton, Religious**

*1 Jn 3:7-10; Jn 1:35-42 (Day)*  
*Is 60:1-6; Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6; Mt 2:1-12 (Vigil)*  
 4:00 PM Paul Caron by John and Trisha Mainella  
*Plaistow*

**Sunday, December 5 ~ The Epiphany of the Lord**

*Is 60:1-6; Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6; Mt 2:1-12*  
 8:00 AM Barbara Duchemin by Jack and Barb Brotz  
*Newton*  
 10:00 AM Bill Lueders (21<sup>st</sup> Anniversary)  
 by his wife, Carole Lueders  
*Plaistow*

**PRAYER LINE**

St. Luke's offers a prayer line as a resource for those seeking prayer assistance. To submit your prayer request please call Cathy Smith at 603-382-8324, ext. 314 or email her at [csmith@stluketheevangelist.net](mailto:csmith@stluketheevangelist.net).



**ST. LUKE THE EVANGELIST**  
**FOOD PANTRY**

As the new year begins, the Food Pantry is looking for new volunteers to help serve clients and maintain the Pantry. We are open on Wednesdays from 10 – Noon, Thursdays from 6-7 PM and on Fridays 10-Noon. We seek helpers who can stack donations on shelves, fill boxes for clients, climb stairs and lift at least 20 lbs. Since we are a “drive-up” service, volunteers are also needed to work outside delivering boxes to client vehicles. If you have a heart for helping and maybe a good workout, contact Marie in the Pantry at [mfarren88@hotmail.com](mailto:mfarren88@hotmail.com) or call 603 819-4949 and leave a message. We welcome all ages to help us serve those in need.

**INCLEMENT 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.**

**From the  
Pastor's Desk**



**SAFETY AND SECURITY**

Our Parish properties are active places, where traffic and parked vehicles are a constant presence in the ebb and flow of a busy week. It is important to remember that because of the activity on both campuses, it is easy for someone looking for a quick deed to find a vehicle. **Please be sure to lock and secure your vehicle when you are parked on either campus.** If possible, secure valuables out of sight or make sure valuables in an open bed truck are secure. We have requested extra police presence in our lots during Masses, but patrols can only do so much. Each of us are responsible for making sure, as best we as are able, that our vehicles are safe and secure. Anyone seeing something or someone unusual in the lots is welcome to contact the local police.

**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

Fr. Albert Tremblay [fr.albert@stluketheevangelist.net](mailto:fr.albert@stluketheevangelist.net)  
Cathy Smith [csmith@stluketheevangelist.net](mailto:csmith@stluketheevangelist.net)  
Joyce Szczapa [jszczapa@stluketheevangelist.net](mailto:jszczapa@stluketheevangelist.net)  
Jackie Tremblay [jtremblay@stluketheevangelist.net](mailto:jtremblay@stluketheevangelist.net)  
Val Barczak [mvmbarczak@comcast.net](mailto:mvmbarczak@comcast.net)





**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**

**Food Pantry and Giving Tree**

The Knights, with a portion of the proceeds from the *Pasta For A Purpose* dinner, purchased a new refrigerator to replace a very old one for our Food Pantry.

The Council also allocated over \$1500 to the Parish's Giving Tree. Several Knights, Associate Members, and family members pulled many, many tags and purchased the gifts to spend the \$1500, in addition to buying many gifts on their own.

**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.) Bring your own coffee. For more information, call Joe at 617-921-9899.

**PROJECT RACHEL**

Are you looking for renewal and freedom after abortion? Help and healing are available for mothers and fathers who have experienced abortion. Contact Project Rachel for confidential, compassionate care. Call 603-663-0192 or email [ProjectRachel@rcbm.org](mailto:ProjectRachel@rcbm.org).



**Saint Luke the Evangelist  
OUTREACH MINISTRY**

**FIGHT HUNGER BAG**

St. Luke the Evangelist Outreach Ministry has been selected by the Store Leadership Team as a Hannaford Fight Hunger Bag Program Nonprofit Partner! St. Luke's Outreach Ministry will receive \$1 for each \$2.50 reusable Fight Hunger Bag sold during the month of December 2024 at the Hannaford's located at 305 Sandown Road in East Hampstead, NH. The bags are readily displayed in the middle of the main aisle leading to the cash registers.

St. Luke's Outreach Ministry (formerly St. Vincent de Paul) helps those in need in our community. Your generosity will be greatly appreciated.

**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 is on **Wednesday, January 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.**



# Bringing Home the Word

*The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph (C)*

December 29, 2024

## All in the Family

*Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA*

So many television programs today feature the antics of dysfunctional families. They're often so well produced that we laugh at the blundering exploits, thus giving them credibility. The readings for today's feast show us what a healthy family looks like. Parents worry about the security of their children (Luke); brothers and sisters are told to be compassionate, kind, humble, gentle, and patient (Colossians); elders are respected and cared for in their need (Sirach). Even the psalm response

sketches the profile of a flourishing family as understood at that time.

We can only guess what the Holy Family must have been like. There is no indication that their neighbors saw them as anything more than an average family. Jesus learned Joseph's trade and would have been expected to take over the business after Joseph died. Instead, he launched out as an itinerant preacher. Even that does not seem to have been so exceptional for the time. Nor was Mary's widowhood reason for him to stay home. The gospels indicate that she was part of a protective family unit. This did not appear to be an exceptional family. But how exceptional it was!

The lesson is that even an average family has the potential to be a holy family. What we should do is pattern our lives after St. Paul's exhortation to the Colossians. If we live like this, we will discover that holiness is all in the family. †



*Even an average family  
has the potential  
to be a holy family.*

## Sunday Readings

**Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14  
or 1 Samuel 1:20-22, 24-28**

[Hannah said,] "I prayed for this child, and the LORD granted my request. Now I, in turn, give him to the LORD."

**Colossians 3:12-21 or 3:12-17  
or 1 John 3:1-2, 21-24**

Put on, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, heartfelt compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience.

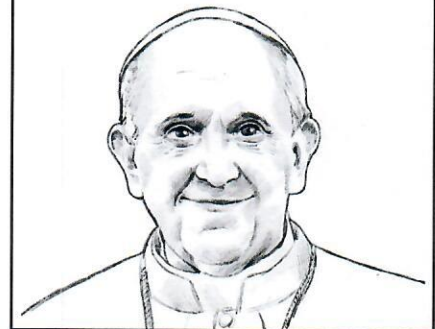
**Luke 2:41-52**

And Jesus advanced in wisdom and age and favor before God and man.

## A Word from Pope Francis

To be sure, raising children is no easy task. But let us not forget that they also "raise" us.... Children need a sense of security that can enable them to have confidence in you and in the beauty of your life together, and in the certainty that they will never be alone, whatever may come their way.

LETTER TO MARRIED COUPLES,  
DECEMBER 26, 2021

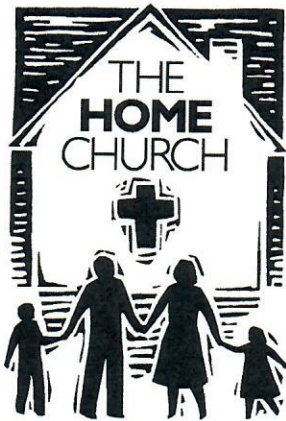


## REFLECTION QUESTIONS

### QUESTIONS REFLECTION

- How do I show gratitude to my family?
- What can I do to make family life easier for those with whom I live?





# Clothing Ourselves in Christ

William A. Anderson, DMin, PhD

The imagery used in this passage suggests the putting on and removal of clothing. The author speaks of taking off the old self, with its practices, and putting on the new self, which is being renewed in the image of Christ. When the Church celebrates the sacrament of baptism, a white robe is placed on the person, which symbolizes that the person is now clothed in Christ.

In his Letter to the Colossians, the author refers not only to putting on a robe but also to putting on all the virtues expected of Christians. Christians are to clothe themselves in compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, patience, and, above all, love. During the sacrament of baptism, those being baptized clothe themselves in Christ, which means that they are now called to practice the virtues expected of Christians and to wear them externally and obviously, as though they were a robe.

Those who clothe themselves in Christ should seek the things that are above. The author of Colossians tells us that when Christ appears, his followers will appear with him in glory. With this in mind, the Church places a white covering on the casket of a Christian during the funeral liturgy, reminding us that the deceased who was clothed in Christ at baptism is now raised in Christ. The white covering reminds us of the baptismal robe. From baptism to death, Christians are called to keep their minds and hearts on the things of heaven. †

This excerpt is from *Paul's Early and Prison Letters* by William A. Anderson, DMin, PhD, Liguori Catholic Bible Study, Liguori Publications (821271). Visit [Liguori.org](http://Liguori.org) for other Scripture commentary.

## Wisdom from Catholic UPDATE

From "Twelve Days of Christmas with Thomas Merton"

It is most fitting to talk about Mary as a Queen and to act as if you knew what it meant to say she has a throne above all the angels. But this should not make anyone forget that her highest privilege is her poverty; her greatest glory is that she is most hidden; and the source of all her power is that she is as nothing in the presence of Christ, of God. It is because she is, of all the saints, the most perfectly poor and the most perfectly hidden, the one who has absolutely nothing whatever that she attempts to possess as her own, that she can most fully communicate to the rest of us the grace of the infinitely selfless God. And we will most truly possess him when we have emptied ourselves and become as poor and hidden as she is, resembling him by resembling her.

*Catholic Update*—a subscription newsletter published eleven times a year—explores Church tradition and teaching on contemporary topics. [Liguori.org](http://Liguori.org) • 800-325-9521.

## PRAYER

Lord Jesus, so that our families may be kind, hospitable, generous, and faithful, we pray:  
Be born in us,  
be born in our world.

The Redemptorists

## WEEKDAY READINGS

December 30–  
January 4

**Monday, Christmas Weekday:**  
1 Jn 2:12–17 / Lk 2:36–40


**Tuesday, Christmas Weekday:**  
1 Jn 2:18–21 / Jn 1:1–18

**Wednesday, Mary, Holy Mother of God:**  
Nm 6:22–27 / Gal 4:4–7 / Lk 2:16–21

**Thursday, Sts. Basil the Great  
and Gregory Nazianzen:**  
1 Jn 2:22–28 / Jn 1:19–28

**Friday, Christmas Weekday:**  
1 Jn 2:29–3:6 / Jn 1:29–34

**Saturday, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton:**  
1 Jn 3:7–10 / Jn 1:35–42

Bringing Home  
the Word   
December 29, 2024

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