



## MUSIC FOR THE LITURGY

Sunday, June 8, 2025

### Pentecost Sunday

Gathering: Come, O Holy Spirit BB 200

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: Send Us Your Spirit BB 435

Mass Parts: Storrington Mass

Communion: Come To Me And Drink BB 349

Recessional: Glory In The Cross BB 147

## ✠ 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.

### May 25, 2025

Offertory \$6,022.52

### May 29, 2025

Ascension \$1,009.00

### June 1, 2025

Offertory \$7,064.74  
Property Management \$1,815.40



## UPCOMING SECOND COLLECTIONS

June 8 Catholic Communications  
June 15 Fuel  
June 22 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!

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). Log on to the St. Luke the Evangelist Parish website at <http://stlukenh.org>, click on the Parish Giving log, 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.



### 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



**FAITH & FRIENDS DAY**

*An invitation to high school students*  
Come hang out and have fun with your friends and spend time together in Mass and adoration. Lawn games, bbq dinner, make your own ice cream sundaes and more!

**THURSDAY, JUNE 26**  
**11 AM - 6:30 PM**

**SAINT MARY MAGDALEN CENTER**  
former Magdalen College  
511 KEARSARGE MOUNTAIN ROAD, WARNER

**COST: \$15 INDIVIDUAL / \$25 FAMILY**  
**FOOD: BRING A PICNIC LUNCH / DINNER PROVIDED**  
\*BYO picnic blanket, sunscreen, and bug spray

**FUN & GAMES • EUCHARISTIC ADORATION • MASS • BBQ DINNER**

For more information, contact Karen Hettrick, Director of Parish Faith Formation  
(603) 663-0176 • [Khettrick@rcbm.org](mailto:Khettrick@rcbm.org)  
Please register here by June 20: <https://form.jotform.com/RCBM/faith-friends>

### **BUSTED HALO**

Busted Halo is a unique media resource sponsored by the Paulist Fathers of the US that utilizes a relevant and accessible voice to help people understand the Catholic faith, put it into practice in their everyday lives, and share it with others. Check out their site, podcasts and videos at [www.bustedhalo.com](http://www.bustedhalo.com).

### **WORLDWIDE MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER**

Sign up for a Worldwide Marriage Encounter ([WWME.org](http://WWME.org)). It can help you in your communication, teach you many skills, and help you to grow in intimacy and in faith with one another. A weekend is being held on May 30 to June 1 in New Hampshire. Registration is limited; there is a \$100 application fee. For more information or to apply, call Matt & Julie King at 978-870-5646 or [wwwmema.org](http://wwwmema.org).

### **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.



### **Come Join the Christmas Elves!**

**Tuesday June 17<sup>th</sup> - 6:00 to 8:00 pm**  
**Holy Angels Hall**

Join the Elves to create tags for this year's Christmas Giving Tree and help provide 500+ tags to label gifts for the neediest in our communities.

What you could bring to help:

- Christmas &/or greeting cards (used or new) with nothing on the inside cover
- A sharp pair of scissors to cut card stock

Optional:

- Any plastic or cardboard shapes easy to trace & cut out
- A hole punch (single is best)
- A cutter to make rounded corners
- Ribbon/fancy string (small pieces at least 10" long are fine)
- Colored Sharpie Fine Point Pens

Optional items will be on hand.

Please RSVP to Elaine at: [ekindle2000@gmail.com](mailto:ekindle2000@gmail.com) (so we can be sure to have enough ice cream!)



### **THIRSTING FOR GOD?**

Do you know someone not baptized or baptized in a non-Catholic Christian tradition and who is thirsting for what it means to become Catholic? Are you that person?

Do you know someone already Catholic but has not yet receive Confirmation and Communion? They may be thirsting too! The Order of Christian Initiation of Adults (OCIA) is a place to ask questions and seek understanding. Contact Father Albert at 603-382-8324 for more information.

## ✠ WEEKLY CALENDAR ✠

### Sunday, June 8

11:00 AM VBS Volunteer Meeting *Plaistow*  
6:00 PM Evening Prayer *Plaistow*  
6:30 PM Pentecost Reception *Plaistow*

### Wednesday, June 11

Holy Angels Church Open  
All Day for Prayer

### Thursday, June 12

8:30 AM – 8:30 PM Eucharistic Adoration *Newton*  
10:00 AM Prayer Shawl Ministry Meeting *Plaistow*

### Saturday, June 14

3:00 PM Sacrament of Reconciliation *Plaistow*

### Sunday, June 15


11:00 AM VBS Volunteer Meeting *Plaistow*

## 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!

**MERRIMACK VALLEY  
YOUNG ADULT GROUP**




Scan the QR code to join our WhatsApp chat!



Monthly Events  
-One Spiritual  
-One Recreational

Yearly Events  
-Two Weekend Retreats

Catholic Community For Young Adults In The Merrimack Valley  
Ages 18-30



## 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).



The Vigil Candle in  
Mary, Mother of the Church  
will burn this week in loving memory of  
**Thomas Antczak**  
by the Burge family

## ✠ MASS INTENTIONS ✠

### Saturday, June 7 ~ Pentecost Sunday

*Acts 2:1-11; 1 Cor 12:3b-7, 12-13; Jn 20:19-23 (Vigil)*  
4:00 PM In Honor of Our Lady of Guadalupe  
*Plaistow*

### Sunday, June 8 ~ Pentecost Sunday

*Acts 2:1-11; 1 Cor 12:3b-7, 12-13; Jn 20:19-23*  
8:00 AM Thomas Antczak by the Burge family  
*Newton*  
10:00 AM In Honor of Our Lady of Guadalupe  
*Plaistow*

### Monday, June 9 ~ The Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of the Church

*Gn 3:9-15, 20 or Acts 1:12-14; Jn 19:25-34*  
8:00 AM Deceased Members of the Hudgens and  
Bedel families by Lisa and Charlie Angwin  
*Newton*

### Tuesday, June 10 ~ Weekday

*2 Cor 1:18-22; Mt 5:13-16*  
8:00 AM Mary and Robert Lonergan  
by Ann Marie Sheehan  
*Plaistow*

### Wednesday, June 11 ~ Barnabas, Apostle

*Acts 11:21b-26, 13:1-3; Mt 5:17-19*  
6:30 PM Dan O'Leary (27<sup>th</sup> Anniversary)  
by his wife, Susan Ronan  
*Plaistow*

### Thursday, June 12 ~ Weekday

*2 Cor 3:15—4:1, 3-6*  
8:00 AM All Souls Intentions  
*Newton*

### Friday, June 13 ~ Anthony of Padua, Priest and Doctor of the Church

*2 Cor 4:7-15; Mt 5:27-32*  
*No Mass*

### Saturday, June 14 ~ Weekday

*2 Cor 5:14-21; Mt 5:33-37 (Day)*  
*Prv 8:22-31; Rom 5:1-5; Jn 16:12-15 (Vigil)*  
4:00 PM Deceased Members of the Fogel Family and  
Frank Kelcourse by Elaine Kelcourse  
*Plaistow*

### Sunday, June 15 ~ The Most Holy Trinity

*Prv 8:22-31; Rom 5:1-5; Jn 16:12-15*  
8:00 AM Anthony Szematowicz by Christine Kulczyk  
*Newton*  
10:00 AM In Honor of Our Lady of Guadalupe  
*Plaistow*







### New Hampshire Catholic Appeal 2025

This year's New Hampshire Catholic Appeal continues; we hope you'll help us meet our goal of \$47,579.00! As of this week, we raised \$10,755.00 toward our goal. More information will be announced about the Catholic Appeal. Thank you for your support!

### ST. THOMAS AQUINAS SCHOOL ATHLETIC CAMPS ARE OPEN!

St. Thomas Aquinas (STA) High School Athletic Camps are OPEN! STA's athletic camps are the perfect way to improve skills, make new friends, and stay active. They are offering camps in basketball, baseball, softball, soccer, and football starting in June and running through the beginning of August. Whether your child is a beginner or looking to level up their game, there's something for everyone. Spaces are limited, so don't wait – register today by visiting the link below and join the STA Saints for an unforgettable summer of sports.

<https://www.stalux.org/athletics/athletic-camps/>

### CURSILLO

The Cursillo weekend is an invitation for you to experience the love of Jesus Christ on a more personal level and to bring this love and joy into your daily life. For more information, contact Rick or Kathy Garon at 603-490-5222 or 603-490-8090.

### THE COMPASSIONATE FRIENDS

The Compassionate Friends (TCF) of Greater Newburyport provides support for bereaved families after the loss of a child, grandchild, or sibling – any age, any cause. Our monthly support meetings are held in the Immaculate Conception Parish Center in Newburyport, MA, Room 209 from 7:30 to 9:00 PM on the fourth Monday of the month. Barbara J. Hopkinson is founder and chapter leader. Contact Barbara for questions at 617-410-6309 or [info@abutterflysjourney.org](mailto:info@abutterflysjourney.org).

### 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 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	<a href="mailto:fr.albert@stluketheevangelist.net">fr.albert@stluketheevangelist.net</a>
Cathy Smith	<a href="mailto:csmith@stluketheevangelist.net">csmith@stluketheevangelist.net</a>
Joyce Szczapa	<a href="mailto:jszczapa@stluketheevangelist.net">jszczapa@stluketheevangelist.net</a>
Jackie Tremblay	<a href="mailto:jtremblay@stluketheevangelist.net">jtremblay@stluketheevangelist.net</a>
Val Barczak	<a href="mailto:mvmbarczak@comcast.net">mvmbarczak@comcast.net</a>



**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**

**Tootsie Roll Drive**

The Knights held a very successful Drive at the beginning of May. A total of \$5,000 was raised from the Drive. The St. Jude Council also donated funds to pay for the cost of the Tootsie Rolls. The money raised will be donated to New Hampshire Special Olympics, the Haverhill Club House, which is a day facility helping adults with intellectual challenges, the Kimi Nichols Center, and the Special Education Department at Timberlane Middle School.

If you want more information about the Knights, including our Associate membership program, contact Dan Sullivan at 603-770-4803 or at [dans49@comcast.net](mailto:dans49@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.) Bring your own coffee. For more information, call Joe at 617-921-9899.

**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL**

**Parents – Mark your Calendars!**

Parents – Please mark your calendars and save these dates - **June 23 to June 27** - for your children to attend *True North Vacation Bible School*.

Vacation Bible School is for children aged 4 to 12 and will run from 9:00 AM to 12:00 Noon, Monday through Friday in the Plaistow Church Hall.

To register, or for more information, contact Joyce Szczapa at [jszczapa@stluketheevangelist.net](mailto:jszczapa@stluketheevangelist.net) or call her at 603-382-8324, ext. 303.



**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.

**Thank you for your continued generosity  
in supporting our**

**Annual Walk for Your Neighbor.**

**The Walk was very successful.**

**The money raised will go directly into the  
hands of our community neighbors in need!**

Our next meeting is on **Wednesday, June 18 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.**



For centuries Pentecost has been one of the premier days of the Church year. The Church in different places has celebrated Pentecost with all kinds of symbols and traditions. Customary at Pentecost were branches of fresh foliage, bundles of green grasses and reeds, and a large number of familiar spring flowers: roses, poppies, peonies and irises.

On Pentecost, people feasted on the first pickings of their gardens: asparagus, peas, lettuces and herbs, rhubarb and strawberries. With pastures lush and with flocks and herds giving birth, the abundance of dairy products transformed winter's fast into springtime's great feast.

These signs of the season came to be interpreted as emblems of the life-giving Spirit, as reminders of God's covenant with all creation.

On the Jewish calendar, *Shavuot*, the feast of "Weeks," falls 50 days -seven weeks-after Passover (*Shavuot*) is also called Pentecost, from the Greek word for 50.) The days between Passover and *Shavuot* are the time of the grain harvest in many Mediterranean lands. This most important harvest of the year must be successful, though even a good crop of grain is extremely vulnerable just before it is gathered in. When grain ripens, it grows brittle and is easily broken by wind, easily rotted by rain. The 50 days in Jewish lore are a time of pensiveness, of holding one's breath until the harvest has been safely brought into storage.



Even in more northerly climates we know the anxieties of spring. When will the fields dry out so that we can plant? When will the rains come so that the seed will sprout? A hailstorm can wreck an orchard, a cold snap can kill newly hatched chicks, and a dust storm can asphyxiate a herd.



Pentecost became a celebration of the end of anxiety – a feast of fulfillment. Some of its customary images are dishes prepared from milk and honey as signs of our arrival in the “promised land” of the settled days of summer. Cheesecake was just about invented as a Pentecost delicacy.

Another Hebrew title for Pentecost is *Yom ha-Bikkurim*, “the day of firstfruits.” A firstfruit is an offering to God of the first of each harvest. Throughout the Fifty Days, an offering of barley was made to God, and at Pentecost the offering changed to the first sheaves of ripe wheat.

In Jewish and Christian folklore, Pentecost is associated with ripe, red strawberries, golden apricots and cherries - the first of the summer fruits. This is just about the time of year these fruits grow ripe in the warmer places of North America, and markets everywhere have them in abundance.

The Pentecost custom of filling homes and houses of worship with lush greenery was kept by Jews and Christian alike. The custom still lives on in central and eastern Europe. There is great mystery in a simple green branch or a stalk of green grass.

Not that many weeks ago the earth seemed lifeless, but in time the ground softened, the buds swelled and blossomed, and the Passover arrived. Now that the season is complete, the days have gotten long and warm, trees are green, and the earth has grown fruitful.

The branches and bundles of green grasses may remind us of phrases from the Pentecost sequence- *Veni Creator Spiritus* – “*dulce refrigerium*,” “sweet refreshment,” and “*in aestu temperies*,” “mildness in the heat.” These are attributes of the Holy Spirit.

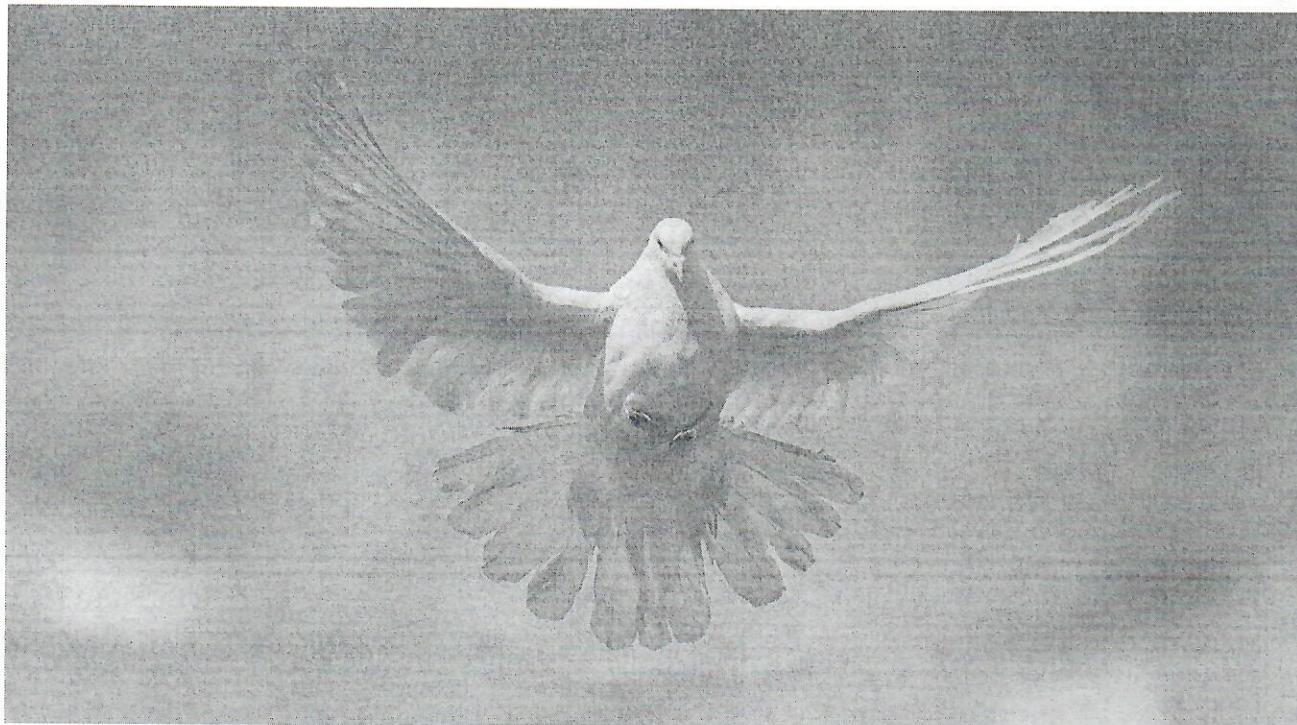
City folks sometimes substituted paper roses and green foliage for the real thing. The art of cut paper added a lovely dimension to Pentecost and sometimes was combined with real greenery and flowers. Paper birds, flowers, garlands and other ornaments would be used to festoon whole small trees cut and brought inside. In past generations, Christmas was not the only season for decorated trees. Many Byzantine churches still use small birches and poplars in their decoration, especially of the front doors. Some Jewish synagogues spread their floors with sweet-smelling hay and decorate the ark of the scriptures with tree branches.

The story of the covenant on Sinai, where God came down in fire and wind, became the principal focus of the festival of *Shavuot*. The covenant completes the Passover. The Israelites kept vigil while Moses received the tablets of the law; thus keeping vigil throughout the night became a Jewish custom for *Shavuot*. It also became a custom for Christians at Pentecost so that Easter time would end the way it began, with a nighttime vigil.

We Christians add the story of the descent of the Holy Spirit to the other stories we celebrate at Pentecost, the stories we have received as a legacy from the Jewish celebration. With special delight we contrast the story in Acts of the Spirit’s gift of the understanding of languages with the disruption of languages on the tower of Babel. Pentecost can be for us a kind of festival of the nations - like Epiphany, the herald of a world at peace.



# Pentecost Sunday



Getty Images

Pentecost marks the occasion of God sending the Holy Spirit upon Jesus' disciples after his Resurrection. The book of Acts describes how the disciples were gathered together in one place on the day of Pentecost. The Jewish feast of Pentecost (Shavuot or the Feast of Weeks) was a day that commemorated the giving of the law to Moses, a day soon to be marked as well by the giving of the Holy Spirit. On Pentecost, the Holy Spirit gave the disciples the strength to fulfill their commission to spread the Good News of Jesus. The Solemnity of Pentecost, which crowns and fulfills the Easter season, is a good time to pray for a deeper indwelling of the Holy Spirit.

## Prayer to the Holy Spirit

Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful.  
And kindle in them the fire of your love.  
Send forth your Spirit and they shall be created.  
And you shall renew the face of the earth.

The Marian title of "Mother of the Church," was given to the Blessed Mother by Bl. Pope Paul VI at the Second Vatican Council and today's memorial was decreed by Pope Francis in 2018.

**Pentecost Evening Prayer at Plaistow Sunday evening at 6:30 PM, followed by our annual Pentecost dessert in the Parish Hall.**

## Memorial of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of the Church (June 1)

*In 2018, the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments inscribed the Memorial of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of the Church in the General Roman Calendar to be observed on the Monday after Pentecost, taking precedence over an obligatory Memorial that coincides with it.*

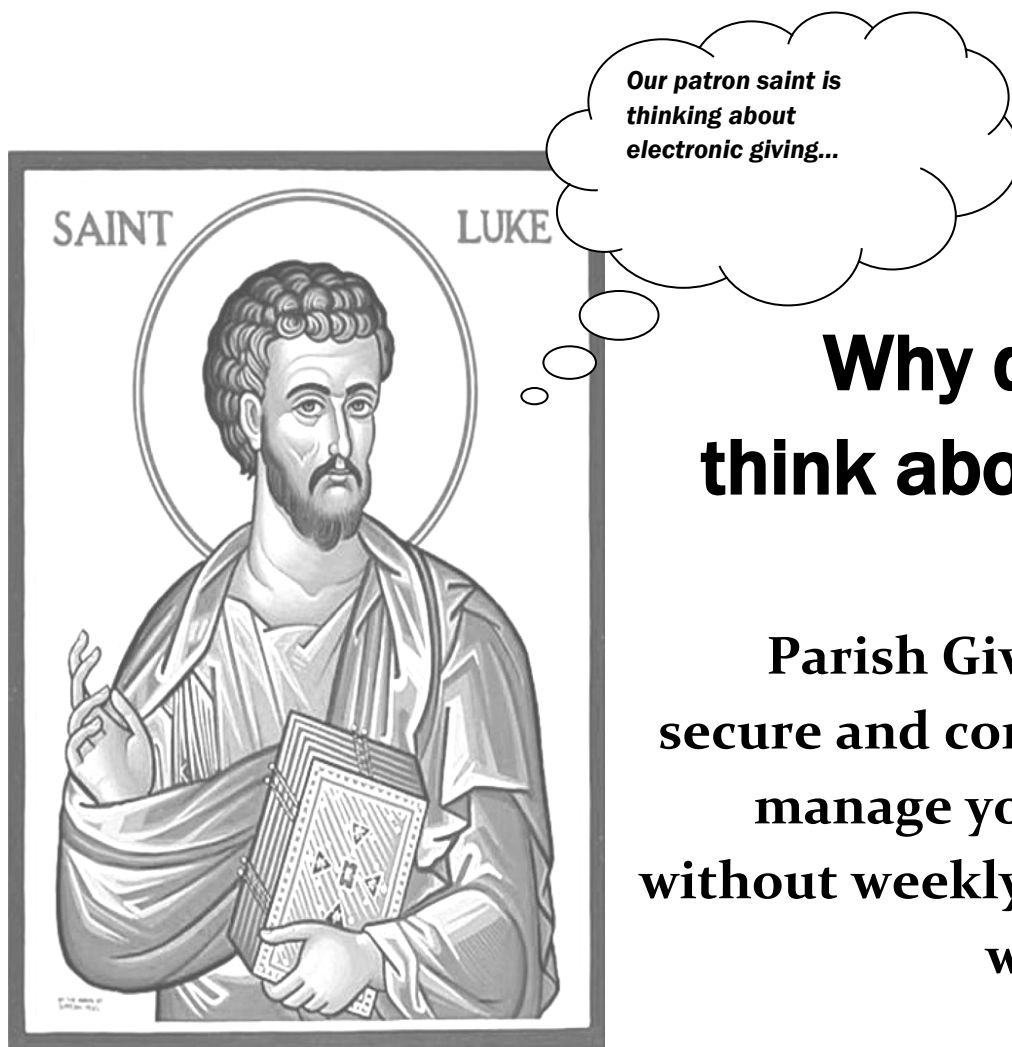


Catholic  
Current

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BULLETIN





## **Why don't you think about it too?**

**Parish Giving is a simple, secure and convenient way to manage your stewardship without weekly envelopes and without worries.**

- Parish Giving allows you to select contribution amounts and special collections right from your own computer or smartphone
- You can be a good steward for the Parish even when you are away from the area on a weekend
- Parish Giving allows you to print out a report detailing your contributions for the year.
- Log on to the St. Luke the Evangelist Parish website <http://stlukenh.org>, click on the Parish Giving logo and follow the easy registration instructions.





# Bringing Home the Word

**Pentecost (C)**  
**June 8, 2025**

## Different Gifts, Service, and Workings

*Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA*

**P**aul's choice of words, found in his instruction to the Corinthians, is telling. *Gifts* refer to certain actions of the Holy Spirit; *service* is assistance within the community; and *workings* point to the dynamic power of God. Together, these realities might raise questions, such as, *What do I have? What can I do? How can I do it?* This is the lesson of Pentecost.

We all possess remarkable gifts and abilities, some of which we might not even know we have until we are called

upon to exercise them. Many interpreters think Paul was referring here to the extraordinary spiritual gifts that became obvious during liturgical services— gifts like speaking in tongues. However, he expands this list to include gifts such as teaching, generosity, and acting with mercy. (See Romans 12:6–8.) Many of us possess these gifts.

As for service, all we have to do is look around to find people in our families, our parishes, and our workplaces who need our help, even if it is simple and limited. We cannot excuse ourselves by thinking, *I can't. I don't have what it takes.*

The feast we celebrate today reminds us that we have been given the power of the Holy Spirit, working through our gifts and talents, to serve others. Everyone can do something; everyone must do something. Paul underscores this with the image of the body, which is made up of different parts. Either we work together doing what we can, or the entire body suffers. Remember, we have the power of the Spirit. ✠

***We have been given the power of the Holy Spirit, working through our gifts and talents, to serve others.***

### **A Word from Pope Francis** (1936–2025)

Dear brothers and sisters, the Holy Spirit is he who creates harmony...from different, at times even conflicting, realities... Let us pray to the Holy Spirit... that he may create harmony in hearts, harmony in families, harmony in society, harmony in the entire world. May the Spirit... give leaders the courage to make gestures of dialogue, that lead to an end to wars.

REGINA CAELI, ROME, MAY 19, 2024



## Sunday Readings

### **Acts 2:1–11**

Then there appeared to them tongues as of fire, which parted and came to rest on each one of them.

### **1 Corinthians 12:3b–7, 12–13 or Romans 8:8–17**

In one Spirit we were all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, slaves or free persons.

### **John 20:19–23 or John 14:15–16, 23b–26**

Jesus came and stood in their midst and said to them, "Peace be with you."

### REFLECTION QUESTIONS

- What gifts do I have?
- What services can I perform?





# The Spirit Unites Us

St. Alphonsus Liguori, adapted by David Werthmann

**L**ove provides rest that refreshes the soul. When people are in love, they forget all the cares of the world when they are together. Love unites their hearts despite differences they may have, and life

is just not the same when they are apart. Similarly, divine love unites we who are loved to God who loves us. If we deeply love God, we can be confident of the Holy Spirit's constant presence and care for us.

Unfortunately, pains and tribulations occur in every person's life. Yet, when we are confronted with some sort of "cross" in life, the Holy Spirit reminds us that we never carry it alone. That's because we are helped by Jesus Christ, who carries all

our crosses along with us. That belief should comfort anyone seeking to deepen his or her relationship with God. It means we can trust the Spirit's guidance to help us get through any loss, any trial, or any suffering that afflicts us. Then we will find peace and contentment—and even encouragement in the knowledge that God's love for us is endless. And that brings "the peace of God that surpasses all understanding" (Philippians 4:7).

Think about how you felt when you experienced unconditional love from a parent, spouse, or dear friend who helped you get through a particularly difficult time. Are you able to express that kind of love—that is, God's love—toward others? †

***The Holy Spirit reminds us that we never carry our cross alone.***

From *Novena to the Holy Spirit with St. Alphonsus*, adapted by David Werthmann, Liguori Publications (828454). To order, call 800-325-9521 or visit [Liguori.org](http://Liguori.org).

## Wisdom from Catholic Update

From "Opening the Gifts of the Holy Spirit"

We usually think of confirmation as the sacrament of the Holy Spirit. But confirmation is best understood in relation to baptism and the Eucharist. An analogy illustrates the relationship among the three sacraments of initiation. Consider what you do when you are to attend a banquet. You (1) take off your old clothes and wash up; (2) dry off and put on your good clothes; and (3) go to the banquet. Baptism, confirmation, and the Eucharist exist in a similar relationship. We (1) take off the old, sinful person and wash away original sin, receiving new life in baptism; (2) put on the new person and are anointed with the oil of the Holy Spirit in confirmation; and (3) are led to the eucharistic banquet.

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Lord Jesus, send your Spirit upon my family, my community, my country, and all people of the world, that we may see each other as children of God. Amen! Alleluia!

The Redemptorists

## WEEKDAY READINGS

June 9–14

**Monday**, Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of the Church: Gn 3:9–15, 20 or Acts 1:12–14 / Jn 19:25–34

**Tuesday**, Weekday: 2 Cor 1:18–22 / Mt 5:13–16

**Wednesday**, St. Barnabas: Acts 11:21b–26; 13:1–3 / Mt 5:17–19

**Thursday**, Weekday: 2 Cor 3:15–4:1, 3–6 / Mt 5:20–26

**Friday**, St. Anthony of Padua: 2 Cor 4:7–15 / Mt 5:27–32

**Saturday**, Weekday: 2 Cor 5:14–21 / Mt 5:33–37

Bringing Home  
the Word 

June 8, 2025

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