



MUSIC FOR THE LITURGY

Sunday, June 29, 2025

**Saints Peter and Paul,
Apostles**

Gathering: Sing With All The Saints In Glory
BB 598

Responsorial Psalm (Psalm 103)

*Loving and forgiving are you, O Lord;
slow to anger, rich in kindness, loving
and forgiving are you.*

Preparation: Ubi Caritas BB 354

Mass Parts: Mass Of Creation

Communion: Unless A Grain Of Wheat BB 490

Recessional: I Know That My Redeemer Lives BB 587

✠ 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 22, 2025

Offertory

\$5,301.08



UPCOMING SECOND COLLECTIONS

June 29	Works of the Holy Father
July 6	Property Management
July 13	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). 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.



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

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.

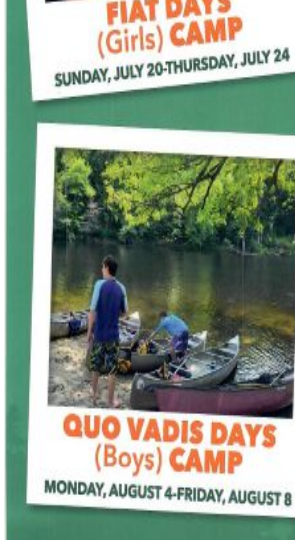


Do you know where
your life is going?
**The Lord Jesus has
a great plan for you!**



**FIAT DAYS
(Girls) CAMP**
SUNDAY, JULY 20-THURSDAY, JULY 24

High school age young men and women (ages 14-18) are invited to attend our upcoming vocations camps to reflect on the Lord's call in your life while having lots of fun.




**QUO VADIS DAYS
(Boys) CAMP**
MONDAY, AUGUST 4-FRIDAY, AUGUST 8

These overnight camps held at the Saint Mary Magdalen Center in Warner are led by priests, sisters, and seminarians from the Diocese.

The camps include a full schedule of hiking, swimming, canoeing, sports and games, daily Mass and prayer, and opportunities to grow in friendship with the Lord and with each other.

The cost is only \$100 and financial aid is available. For more information or to register, please visit liveinblackandwhite.com or contact Alyse Hlasny at 603-663-0183 or ahlasny@rcbm.org.



Come Join the Christmas Elves!

Tuesday July 22nd - 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 (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.

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 ✠

Wednesday, July 2
Holy Angels Church Open
All Day for Prayer

Thursday, July 3
8:30 AM – 8:30 PM Eucharistic Adoration *Newton*

Saturday, July 5
3:00 PM Sacrament of Reconciliation *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!

FAREWELL CATHY SMITH

We will gather as a community to bid farewell to our Pastoral Associate Cathy Smith on **July 13 from 2:00 to 4:00 PM** in the Church Hall in Plaistow. All are welcome to attend.

MASS INTENTIONS

We gather at the Eucharist to pray for anyone, living or deceased. If you would like to request for a particular intention such as thanksgiving for a new birth, healing for a sick friend or family member, or for a deceased loved one or friend, please call the Parish Office at 603-382-8324 or email Jackie at jtremlay@stluketheevangelist.net. The suggested donation is \$10 per Mass.

SANCTUARY CANDLES

The Sanctuary Candles in both Newton and Plaistow may be offered in memory or honor of a loved one.

VIGIL LIGHT

The Vigil Light in front of the Blessed Mother icon in Newton may also be offered in memory or honor of a loved one.

The suggested offering for each is \$10.00. Please call the Parish Office at 603-382-8324.

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.

✠ MASS INTENTIONS ✠

Saturday, June 28 ~ Peter and Paul, Apostles

Acts 12:1-11; 2 Tm 4:6-8, 17-18; Mt 16:13-19 (Vigil)

4:00 PM In Honor of Jesus Christ, the Righteous Judge
Plaistow

Sunday, June 29 ~ Peter and Paul, Apostles

Acts 12:1-11; 2 Tm 4:6-8, 17-18; Mt 16:13-19

8:00 AM Anthony Szematowicz by Barb and Jack Brotz
Newton

10:00 AM Fran "Mama" Lewis
by the Knights of Columbus
Plaistow

Monday, June 30 ~ The First Martyrs of the Holy Roman Church

Gn 18:16-33; Mt 8:18-22

8:00 AM Mans Kjellin by Bob and Alice Litwinovich
Newton

Tuesday, July 1 ~ Junipero Serra, Priest

Gn 19:15-29; Mt 8:23-27

8:00 AM All Souls Intentions
Plaistow

Wednesday, July 2 ~ Weekday

Gn 21:5, 8-20a; Mt 7:28-34

6:30 PM Norman Major by the Knights of Columbus
Plaistow

Thursday, July 3 ~ Thomas, Apostle

Eph 2:19-22; Jn 20:24-29

8:00 AM Hank Cross by Patti Mullen
Newton

Friday, July 4 ~ Weekday

Gn 23:1-4, 19, 24:1-8, 62-67; Mt 9:9-13

No Mass

Saturday, July 5 ~ Anthony Zaccaria, Priest; Elizabeth of Portugal

Gn 27:1-5, 15-29; Mt 9:14-17 (Day)

Is 66:10-14c; Gal 6:14-18; Lk 10, 1-12, 17-20 (Vigil)

4:00 PM Frank Kelcourse (Birthday Remembrance)
by Elaine Kelcourse
Plaistow

Sunday, July 6 ~ Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Is 66:10-14c; Gal 6:14-18; Lk 10, 1-12, 17-20

8:00 AM In Honor of Jesus Christ the Righteous Judge
Newton

10:00 AM In Honor of St. Benedict
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 June 9, we raised \$19,195.00 toward our goal. More information will be announced about the Catholic Appeal. Thank you for your support!

HOLY FAMILY PILGRIMAGE

Holy Family Pilgrimage - **July 28-31, 2025**. Travel with us and our Spiritual Director Father Rijo Johnson, SDV, as we visit some of the most beautiful churches and shrines in Quebec, Canada during this 4-day, 3-night pilgrimage. \$750.00 per person, includes double occupancy room in a Four-Star Hotel, (single, triple and quadruple rates also available), travel by air-conditioned coach bus, 8 meals, all entry fees, taxes and gratuities (except driver tip). **PASSPORT BOOK/ PASSPORT CARD REQUIRED**. If you would like an application or have any questions, please call or email Maria Castellano, 603-398-6745, mysticalrosepilgrimage@gmail.com.

CURSILLO

The Cursillo weekend 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. Many of our parishioners at St. Luke have lived a Cursillo Weekend and have been blessed by the experience. Saint Basil Salvatorian Center in Methuen, MA, offers Cursillo to any Christian who is 21+ year of age. For more information, or to inquire how you can make a Cursillo weekend, contact Rick or Kathy Garon at 603-490-5522 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.

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.

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
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**

**St. Luke's Scholarship
Presented by Knights of Columbus**

This year's recipient is Molly Richardson. Molly has been a volunteer teacher in our Religious Education program and Vacation Bible School. She has also been a volunteer for the Christmas Fair and has participated as an Altar Server. Molly has been very active with the Girl Scouts and the Timberlane Marching and Symphonic Bands. She just graduated with many honors from Timberlane and will be attending Norwich University this Fall pursuing a degree in Psychology. Congratulations to Molly!!!

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.

**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.

HELP WANTED

Saint Luke the Evangelist Parish in Newton-Plaistow, NH is searching for a PT custodian for our Preschool-Kindergarten in Plaistow, NH. The position involves custodial services after school hours M-F to equal ten (10) hours per week. The successful candidate must be able to work independently and follow instructions to prepare the school environment for each new learning day. Candidates must be able to work on their feet for most of their time, go up and down stairs and lift at least twenty-five (25) pounds. Candidates must also complete the Diocese of Manchester protocols for Safe Environment including a state(s) criminal background check and Diocesan Safe Environment database training. A full job description and application materials are available by contacting the Parish Office at (603) 382-8324 or fr.albert@stluketheevangelist.net.



**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, July 16 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.**



Apostles Peter and Paul

June 29

One of the oldest saints' days in Rome, June 29 was dedicated to the memory of the apostles Peter and Paul as early as the fourth century. This day the church remembers two disciples who differed greatly in style and background, but who shared a tireless energy in spreading the gospel.

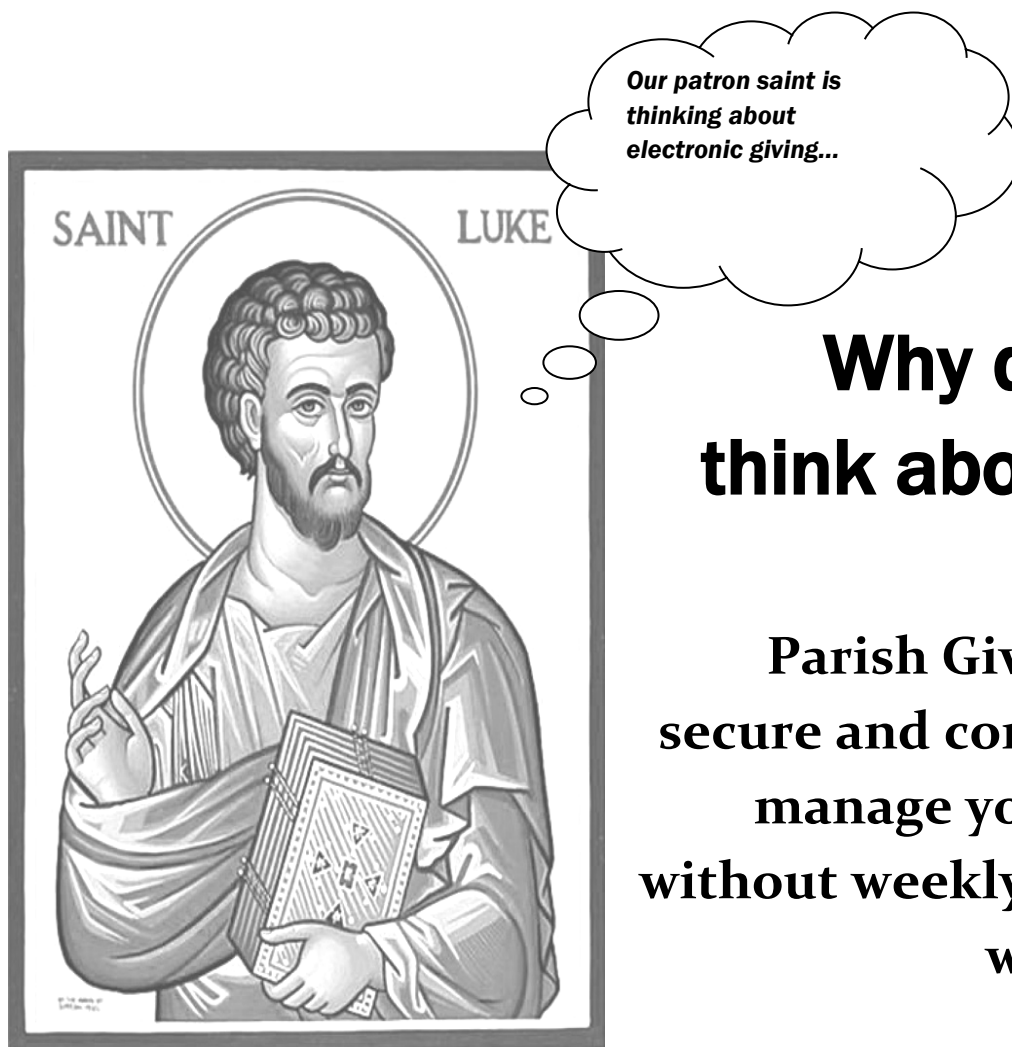
Rough-hewn and impulsive Peter left his fishing nets immediately to answer Jesus' call. Later, during the passion of Jesus, Peter made his denials just as impulsively, though he had pledged his loyalty to Jesus only that evening. Receiving Christ's gracious forgiveness after the resurrection, Peter went on to become the rock-steady and faithful leader of the disciples. Imprisoned three or four times, he eventually was crucified during the reign of Nero. Legend has it that he was hung on the cross head down because he told the soldiers that he was not worthy to die in the same manner as Christ.



Once Paul, who had been a rigid and violent persecutor of Christians, experienced the love of Christ, he grew meek — though never shy. He founded many churches and was able to affirm the fledgling communities of believers even while he was admonishing them. Paul's writings are the first Christian scriptures; they are older than the gospels. After many imprisonments, Paul was executed during the reign of Nero. Since he was a Roman citizen, he was beheaded instead of crucified.

Coastal countries like Chile and Paraguay remember Peter the fisherman with nautical parades. In Hungary and in rural England, people braid straw from the wheat harvest into crosses and crowns to honor the two martyr saints.

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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.





NH CATHOLIC APPEAL CONTINUES THROUGH SPRING, 2026

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 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 29, 2026.

→ **Saint Luke the Evangelist Parish**
2025 goal is \$47,579.00

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

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.

NEW HAMPSHIRE CATHOLIC APPEAL

Our Parish 2025 goal is \$47,579.00. 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.



Bringing Home the Word

Saints Peter and Paul, Apostles

June 29, 2025

Our Story

Mary Katherine Deeley

What was it like in those years after the crucifixion? What was it like to talk about an experience and a relationship unlike anything ever encountered? What was it like to go to jail for preaching what you described as good news even though it seemed foolish to many of those who were listening? Saint Paul saw it in terms of a race whose finish line was heaven and for which he was willing to spend his last ounce of energy. Saint Peter saw that once he acknowledged who Jesus was, he had no choice but to proclaim the truth of his heart. He knew Jesus was the Messiah because he saw it in

the look of those who were healed, fed, and restored at Christ's hand. He experienced it in the love Christ gave him, even after he denied Jesus at his trial. He saw it in the faces of those whom he healed in Christ's name and who eagerly came to baptism and the outpouring of the Spirit.

What is it like now? How do we know that Jesus is the Messiah in our hearts? And how has that made a difference in our lives? Is this relationship so unlike any other that we are willing to be poured out, to spend our energy, to proclaim the Good News even though it may seem foolish? It's an uncomfortable question for many Catholics today. For many of us, religion and faith are private matters, and sometimes that helps us avoid arguments or endless debate. But the compelling story of our redemption begs to be told, if not in words, then in lives transformed. This is our story and our race to be run full out to the very last. †



*The compelling story
of our redemption
begs to be told.*

Sunday Readings

Acts 12:1-11

[Peter said,] "Now I know for certain that [the] Lord sent his angel and rescued me."

2 Timothy 4:6-8, 17-18

The Lord stood by me and gave me strength, so that through me the proclamation might be completed and all the Gentiles might hear it.

Matthew 16:13-19

[Jesus said,] "You are Peter, and upon this rock I will build my Church."

A Word from Pope Francis (1936–2025)

Jesus says to Simon, whom he named Peter, "I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven" (Mt 16:19)... The mission that Jesus entrusts to Peter is not to bar the doors to the house, permitting entry only to a few select guests, but rather to help everyone find the way to enter, in faithfulness to the Gospel of Jesus. Everyone, everyone, everyone can enter.

ANGELUS, ROME, JUNE 29, 2024



REFLECTION QUESTIONS

QUESTIONS REFLECTION

- Do I attempt to understand the different opinions of others?
- Do I let disagreements get personal?



Saint Paul: Servant of Jesus Christ

Fr. William J. Parker, CSsR

Saint Paul referred to himself as “the servant of Jesus Christ.” His life and teachings reveal his passion to spread the faith across the globe. In Paul’s letters, we find the personal cost of his love for

Jesus and the vibrant energy with which he engaged men and women as coworkers in this missionary endeavor.

It may come as a surprise to some that many of his closest coworkers were women. Priscilla (also referred to as Prisca) and her husband, Aquila, shared a special relationship with St. Paul. (See 1 Corinthians 16:19; Romans 16:3.) He acknowledged the depth of his gratitude to them: “Greet Prisca and Aquila, my coworkers in Christ Jesus, who risked their necks for my life” (Romans 16:3–4). The term describing them as fellow workers is the same he used to describe Timothy and Titus, who coauthored several of Paul’s letters. In another case, Paul commended Phoebe to the Church in Rome; she

may have brought the letter to the community on behalf of Paul. (See Romans 16:1–2.) Paul referred to her as “minister” (*diakonoï*) which is the same word he used for himself to mean “one who provides relief to others.” (See 1 Corinthians 3:5; 2 Corinthians 3:1–11.)

The Book of the Acts of the Apostles ends with Paul under house arrest in Rome. While imprisoned, Paul wrote one of his most joyous letters to the Philippians: “I want you to know, brothers, that my situation has turned out rather to advance the gospel, so that my imprisonment has become well known in Christ throughout the whole praetorium and to all the rest,

and so that the majority of the brothers, having taken encouragement in the Lord from my imprisonment, dare more than ever to proclaim the word fearlessly” (Philippians 1:12–14). Only an extraordinary love and a sense of being loved can yield such joy! †

From *Saint Paul: His Life and Teachings* by Fr. William J. Parker, CSsR, Liguori Publications (817762). To order, call 800-325-9521 or visit Liguori.org.

***Saint Paul’s life
and teachings
reveal his passion
to spread the faith.***

Wisdom from Catholic Update

From “Acts of the Apostles” by Ronald D. Witherup, SS

The [Book of] the Acts of the Apostles reveals a Church that is a multicultural, universal community. A great hallmark of the Catholic Church has always been its openness to this diversity. Catholic (from the Greek *katholikos*) means “universal.” In St. Peter’s speech at the conversion of Cornelius and his household, who were Gentiles from Caesarea, he begins: “In truth, I see that God shows no partiality. Rather, in every nation, whoever fears him and acts uprightly is acceptable to him (Acts 10:34–35). Languages and accents may differ, customs and styles of dress may vary, but the call of Jesus Christ is universal.

Catholic Update—a subscription newsletter published eleven times a year—explores Church tradition and teaching on contemporary topics. Liguori.org • 800-325-9521



Gracious God, give me the desire to understand those with whom I disagree and the humility to admit that my certainty may be misguided. In Jesus’ name, I pray. Amen.

The Redemptorists

WEEKDAY READINGS

June 30—July 5

Monday, Weekday:
Gn 18:16–33 / Mt 8:18–22

Tuesday, Weekday:
Gn 19:15–29 / Mt 8:23–27

Wednesday, Weekday:
Gn 21:5, 8–20a / Mt 8:28–34

Thursday, St. Thomas:
Eph 2:19–22 / Jn 20:24–29

Friday, Weekday:
Gn 23:1–4, 19; 24:1–8, 62–67 / Mt 9:9–13

Saturday, Weekday:
Gn 27:1–5, 15–29 / Mt 9:14–17