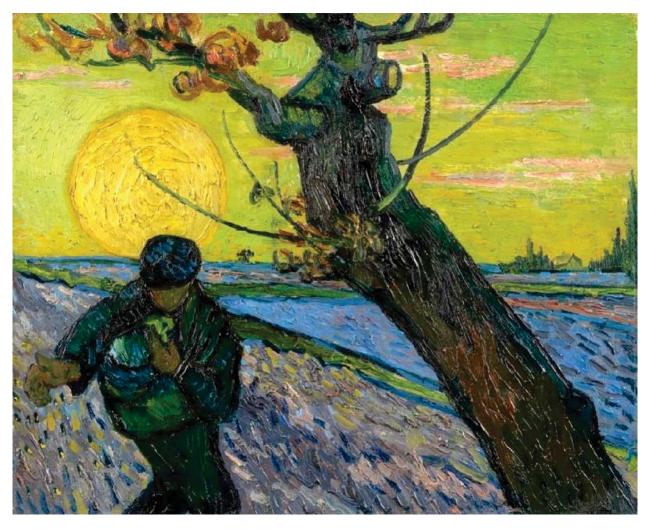
SAINT LUKE THE EVANGELIST PARISH Westborough, MA

Eleventh Sunday in Ordinary Time June 16, 2024

Jesus said to the crowds: "This is how it is with the kingdom of God; it is as if a man were to scatter seed on the land and would sleep and rise night and day and through it all the seed would sprout and grow, he knows not how. Of its own accord the land yields fruit, first the blade, then the ear, then the full grain in the ear. And when the grain is ripe, he wields the sickle at once, for the harvest has come." Mk 4:26-29



Although this painting does not appear to be obviously "religious" in its subject matter, it does relate to today's gospel in a number of ways. The Dutch painter Vincent van Gogh is one of the most famous and well-known Modern painters of all time. His father was a minister so Christian themes play a role in his artwork from time to time. He certainly knew well the parable of the Sower found in today's gospel and he produced around 30 remarkable versions on this theme. The one we are looking at today is divided into several parts. The clearest division is what is on the right and left of the large diagonal tree in the foreground. The left side shows the slightly twisted body of the Sower walking the fields while spreading seed from his right hand over a recently tilled landscape as the sun rises. On the right there is a building in the distance, whose form suggests it could be a church. But most interestingly is the, no doubt, intentional placement of the sun behind the Sower's head; acting as a kind of halo highlighting the sacred duty of those who plant the word of God through evangelization.

GATHER HYMNAL PAGE 1123 ELEVENTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, June 15

4:00pm Oscar Najarian
by St. Luke's Parish family
6:00pm Spanish

Sunday, June 16

7:30am George Heyward & J.W. Romeo Savoie

by Savoie family

9:00am Bill Henderson

by family

11:00am Jim Killeen

by Knights of Columbus

Monday, June 17

9:00am Mark Gagnon

by Burke & McCullough family

Tuesday, June 18

9:00am Rowland & Anna Ulmer

by Nancy Papp & family

Wednesday, June 19

9:00am **Pen Thompson**

by her family

Thursday, June 20

9:00am Lee Mathieu

by her family

Friday, June 21

9:00am Greg Heyward

by Savoie family

Saturday, June 22

4:00pm Robert Cannon

by family

6:00pm Spanish

Sunday, June 23

7:30am **Donald Gedick**

by Mike & Marlene Blaney

9:00am Michael Ford (20th Anv)

by his family

11:00am **Special Intention**

by Mark & Dianne Patrick

We invite you to pray the Rosary everyday after the 9am weekday Mass Monday through Friday

Please Pray for...

Nicole Bates, Susan Bailey, Jonathan Tomashefsky, William Fargelli, Brian Howland, Michael LeBlanc, Mary Mahan, Becky Rawson Joan Sanders, Norman Beland, Bev Longime, James Wright, Evelyn Croteau Annabelle Duvane, Shirley DePalma, Agnes Limberger, Zachary Collins, Kupaa Keiley, Tiffany Kelley, Margie Morcone, Sharon Beaulieu, Mildred Raymond, Stephen & Kimberly Bankcroft, Toby Claufon, Joe Smith, Dawn Haight, Carol Aloisi, Teresa Putnam, Carmelia Potenti, Charles Arkle, Leanne McCann, Ellie Carlson, Jane Burke, Hayleigh Scott, Kellan Keough, Dorothy Clinton, Sr. Pamela Philbin, Karen Mooney, Sandy Thatcher Kerr, Sarah McMenemy, Helen Galica, Erik Olsen, Brendon Crowley, Richard Kane, Grace Roche, Jack Curtin, Jim Bennett, John Lynch, Kathleen Farrar, Kirolos Gergis, Gregg Merloni, Tome Valadao, Lynn St. Jean, Gene Buffo, Christine, Patrick, Robert & Coutinho family Maryann Bisco, Susan Garry, Melvin Boucher, T.J. Bautz, Joan Fallon, Edward Hubbell, Nancy Camp, David Perry, John Durnan, Linda Darby, Jack Strouse, Annie Mason, Nancy Santory, Laconya Mobley, Maria Matejko, Gary Wilson, Jr., Debbie Giroux, Kevin & Donna Brennan, Luz Chavez, Dalene Stephens, Vicki Foley, Joel Rivera, James Thomas, Christina Narensky, Chloe Nascimento, Ann Martin, Michael Berthuime, Trisha Suzi, Joan Sanders, Sofia Shahin, Sarah Cox, Hailie McLatchey, Barbara Auger, George Cabana, Beverly Taylor, Jeanne Amendola, Jack Walker, Daniel Baker Rebecca Coax, Robert Trant, Michael McAndless, Michael Del Pozzo, David Sawyer, Madison Knopf, Claire Kennedy, Susanne Ollman, Frank Sannelli, Pat & John Lusek, Michael Zancewicz, Kristy Cautello, Judy Melfa, Neil Kenny, Joseph Malzone, Lois Kerbel, Michael Turpin, Nick Johnson, Patricia Amorelli, Connor Blaney, Debbie Krikler, Demetrius Mobley, Gary Shults, Erin Magrane, George Beecher

Let us remember to pray for all the men and women who are over seas in harm's way.

We remember those who have died

Patrick Gilmour

EXPOSITION OF THE
BLESSED SACRAMENT & ADORATION
TUESDAY 9:30AM TO 6:00PM
Divine Mercy Chaplet 3:00pm
Prayers For Sanctity of Life 5:00pm
BENEDICTION AT 6:00PM



God our Father, in your wisdom and love you made all things. Bless our father. Let the example of his faith and love shine forth. Grant that we, his family, may honor him always with a spirit of profound respect. Grant this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

2

Cover Image: Vincent van Gogh, The Sower, 1888.

Source: Van Gogh Museum, Amsterdam (Vincent van Gogh Foundation), Public Domain. Text © Christian A. Hedrick

June 16, 2024

MUSTARD SEED SOUP KITCHEN

St. Luke's is scheduled to serve at the Mustard Seed on July 5th. Since it is a holiday weekend, we are asking for mon-

etary donations so a meal may be catered. If you are interested in contributing, please mail a check by June 25th *made payable to "Mustard Seed"*, addressed to:

Susan Black 2 Dover Way Westborough, MA 01851

I will forward the checks to the Mustard Seed as a donation from the parishioners of St. Luke's. Thank you so much for your generosity!



Vacation Bible School 2024 Scuba!

Welcome to the Westborough Ecumenical Vacation Bible School

This year, we will have an amazing time diving into friendship with God at the First United Methodist Church, 120 W. Main Street, Westborough.

Monday-Friday, August 5th-9th, 9am-12pm

Campers are age 3 to 6th grade, including CITs Volunteers are 7th grade to adult

The cost for each camper is \$40 (family maximum of \$80) if you register by July 5th. For registrations after July 5th, the cost is \$45 per camper (no family maximum).

Teens and adults, please consider volunteering! Parents, if you volunteer for the week, your child can participate for free.

The online registration form can be found at https://firstumchurch.com/vacation-bible-school

Paper copies are available in the St. Luke's Parish Center. If you have any questions, you may contact
Dianne Patrick at diannempatrick@yahoo.com



REGISTRATION FOR FALL RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CLASSES BEGINS ON JUNE 1ST!

Emails have been sent to all previously registered families.

Please see the St. Luke's website at www.stlukes-parish.org or contact the Religious Education Coordinators for more details.

Melissa Baril-Lower (Grades preK-6) mbarillower@stlukes-parish.org (508)366-8509 x16

Denise Pelkey (Grades 7 and up) dpelkey@stlukes-parish.org (508)366-8509 x17

ATTENTION HIGH SCHOOL BOYS Please join us in a Retreat for Young Men

Date: September 28, 2024 Time: 7:45 am - 5:00 pm Where: St. Benedict Abbey 252 Still River Road, Harvard, MA

Breakfast & lunch will be provided. Let us know of any special dietary needs. \$33 per person.

If interested, please contact Denise Pelkey at dpelkey@stlukes-parish org for a permission slip.



June 16, 2024 3



In the cryptic message of the prophet Ezekiel, long centuries before the Lord's coming, God gave His people reason to hope. Ezekiel glimpsed a day when the Lord God would place a tree on a mountain in Israel, a tree that would "put forth branches and bear fruit." Who could have predicted that the tree would be a cross on the hill of Calvary, and that the fruit would be salvation?

Ezekiel foresees salvation coming to "birds of every kind"—thus, not just to the people of Israel, but also to the Gentiles, who will "take wing" through their new life in Christ. God indeed will "lift high the lowly tree," as He solemnly promises.

Such salvation surpasses humanity's most ambitious dreams. And so, we express our gratitude in the psalm: "Lord, it is good to give thanks to you." It is indeed good, and better still to give thanks with praise. The psalmist speaks of those who are just upon the earth, but looks to God as the source and measure of justice, of righteousness. Like Ezekiel, he evokes the image of a flourishing tree to describe the lives of the just. The image, again, suggests the Cross as the measure of righteousness.

The Cross is a sign of contradiction to those who would rather "flourish" in worldly terms. As St. Paul emphasizes to the Corinthians, we need courage. Our faith makes us strong, and it is proved in our deeds. He reminds us that we will be judged by the ways our faith manifests itself in works: "so that each may receive recompense, according to what he did in the body, whether good or evil."

God Himself will empower the works He expects from us, though we freely choose to correspond to His grace. In the prophetic oracles, He scattered the seed that sprang up and became the mustard tree, large enough to accommodate all the birds of the sky, just as Ezekiel had seen. He gave this doctrine to His disciples in terms they were able to understand, and He provided a full explanation. In the sacraments He provides still more: the grace of faith and the courage we need to live in the world as children of God.

Dr. Scott Hahn



The Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults or RCIA constitutes a path for one to learn more about the Catholic faith, and if sense a calling by God, to prepare for the Sacraments of Initiation into Christ's pilgrim church. We are always happy to meet in-

quirers and invite inquirers to contact us anytime. For more information on RCIA, please call the St. Luke's secretary, Maria Gasser, at 508-366-5502 or the RCIA Team Lead, Bob Thompson, at 508-341-7677. We are anxious to meet and welcome future inquirers!



Thanks to an anonymous donation, we now have Picture Missals in the pews to help children follow along at Mass! The children's books in the baskets in the back of the church have been updated as well. Enjoy!

THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN



In today's Gospel reading Jesus tells us about the Kingdom of Heaven. Heaven isn't just where we will go when we die if we were good. Jesus was telling us that Heaven grows in our hearts when we choose to love God and each other.

Our Lord compares the Kingdom of Heaven to plants that grow up from little seeds. When we were baptized we received the gift of Faith. When we receive the other sacraments, especially Holy Communion, the Faith grows in us, like a plant that has water and sunshine. If we sin it's like little bugs or sickness that start to kill the



plant. Confession will take those away so that our Faith can grow again.



How can you help the Kingdom of Heaven to grow in you? Going to Mass and receiving Holy Communion whenever you can, and going to Confession often are the best ways. Praying every day and learning about the Faith and about the saints will also help the Kingdom of Heaven to grow in your heart like a strong, healthy plant!

FREE HOME PICK-UP!

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul of Worcester and Hampden Counties is now offering free curbside pick-up of clothing, shoes, books, and household items. The funds received go to help our neighbors in need with (but not limited to) food, clothing, rent, and utilities.

To schedule a free home pick-up, visit our website at https://svdpworcester.org and click on the "How

You Can Help" tab, then choose "Schedule a Home Pick-Up." Complete the form, and you're done! You may also contact our partner (CMRK) at 508-474-8966 or scan the QR code below which will direct you to our website.



Please Help us help our neighbors in need! Thank you!

June 16, 2024 4

D. 1535 FEAST DAY: JUNE 22

aints Thomas More and John Fisher were Renaissance men. Talented and energetic, they contributed to the humanist scholarship of early modern England. More wrote theological and philosophical treatises, while making a career as a lawyer and government official. Bishop John Fisher worked as an administrator at Cambridge, confronted the challenge Martin Luther presented to Christian Europe, and most importantly served as Bishop of Rochester. As a bishop, he is notable for his dedication to preaching at a time when bishops tended to focus on politics. These men were brilliant. They both corresponded with Erasmus, who helped Bishop Fisher learn Greek and Hebrew, and who also famously referred to More as a man omnium horarium, a man of all seasons.





Above all their accomplishments, these men bore witness to a deep faith in Christ and his Church. More considered joining religious life and was assiduous in his devotional practices. As a married man, he committed himself wholly to his vocation as a father. At the time, disciplinary practices with children tended to be severe, but More's children testify to his warmth, patience, and generosity. St. John Fisher was a model shepherd and demonstrated remarkable humility. He remained in the small Diocese of Rochester his entire episcopal ministry, devoting himself to his local church rather than seeking promotion to a larger, more powerful dio-

More and Fisher are well-known for opposing King Henry's divorce. Ultimately, it was their refusal to sign an oath of supremacy that led them to be exe-

cuted. King Henry VIII claimed to be the supreme head of the Church in England, asserting sovereign power over English Christians. Neither Fisher nor More could abide this claim, and their steadfastness to their consciences put them in conflict with the king. They were convicted of treason.

When More made his way to the gallows, he is said to have stated, "I die the King's good servant, but God's first." Both More and Fisher were patriots. They never rose up to incite rebellion or foment revolution. They were not traitors. But when the law of the king came into conflict with the law of Christ, they chose Christ. These men gave their lives for the freedom of the Church and for freedom of conscience. They bear witness to the truth that no government can make a claim on a person's soul.



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VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: NURSING HOME MINISTRY

Our vibrant nursing home ministry is looking for new members. To bring communion to our two Westborough nursing homes, we need 16 volunteers monthly. If you have a love of the Eucharist and enjoy being with people, we would love to train you to be an extraordinary minister of Holy Communion for our nursing

home parishioners. Time commitment is once amonth on a Monday morning from 9am until 12 noon. If interested, please contact our pastoral associate Julie Basque for more information and/or training. 508-366-8509, ext. 15 or email pastoralassociate@stlukes-parish.org.



↓ For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive recompense, according to what he did in Stewardship the body, whether good or evil." (2 Corinthians 5:10) We are all accountable for all

of the gifts God has given us – our time, our talent and our treasure; everything we have and everything we are. Each of us is accountable not only for our own life but for the lives of others as well. One day God will ask each of us what did we do with the gifts we were given. How will you respond?

ST. LUKE THE EVANGELIST CHURCH IS OPEN 24 HOURS A DAY, 7 DAYS A WEEK, WE CAN MAKE A VISIT ANYTIME WE PASS. JESUS WILL BE AS HAPPYTO SEE US AS WE ARE TO SEE HIM.

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ST. LUKE THE EVANGELIST CHURCH 70 West Main Street, Westborough

Parish Center Offices

1 Ruggles Street, Westborough, MA 01581
Office 508-366-5502

Faith Formation & Outreach 508-366-8509
www.stlukes-parish.org

PARISH STAFF:

Fr. Diego Buriticá, Pastor

Contact: 508-366-5502 (Office) email: frdiego@stlukes-parish.org Fr. Sagar Gundiga, Associate Pastor

Contact: 508-366-5502

Email: frsagar@stlukes-parish.org

Craig Stine, Director of Music

email: music@stlukes-parish.org

Denise Pelkey, Rel. Ed. Coord. Jr/HS, EXT 17

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Melissa Baril Lower, Rel. Ed Coord. PreK-6, EXT 16

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Pam Vaccari, Parish Ctr. Secretary, EXT 13

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Linda Underwood, Finance Manager, EXT 19

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Lawrence Orlando, Building and Grounds

Patrick Malone, Building and Grounds

St. Luke's Pastoral Council Email: pastoralcouncil@stlukes-parish.org

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Judy Savoie
Kevin Su
Deborah Ziegler

Mass Schedule

Saturday: 4PM, in Spanish 6PM Sunday: 7:30AM, 9:00AM, 11:00AM

Weekday Masses
Monday through Friday,
9:00 AM

NEW TO THE PARISH WELCOME

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Please call Maria at 508-366-5502 for information

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Saturday from 3:00 to 3:45PM ~ also by personal request. Reconciliation Room is handicapped accessible

SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE

Please contact a Priest at least six months in advance

RCIA

Contact the parish secretary if interested in becoming Christian in the Catholic faith tradition.

VISITATION OF THE SICK

Our extraordinary ministers are always pleased to bring the Eucharist to parishioners who are unable to join us for weekly worship. If you or a family member would like to receive Communion, please call Julie at 508-366-8509. If you know of someone from the parish who is in the hospital, please let us know.





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"God is Love" - 1 John 4:8



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