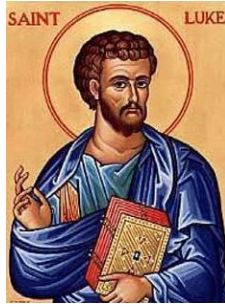


The Gospel of Luke



Just like other books of the Bible, the Gospel of Luke has its own unique character. Luke's Gospel reads like a continuation of the Old Testament. It shows how God's promises in the Old Testament are fulfilled in Jesus. Through Jesus, salvation is extended to the Gentiles.

The introduction to Luke in the *New American Bible* states that he is careful to show that Jesus carefully instructed the apostles, so that when the apostles begin to teach, we can be sure that their message is accurate; they are preaching what Jesus, Himself, has taught them. By making this connection between what Jesus told his apostles, and what the apostles tell us, in his own way, Luke is guaranteeing the fidelity of the Church's teaching. The Church, for Luke, is the community of people who believe in Jesus.

What does Luke's Gospel have to say to us? Luke's story of Jesus is historical. He shows how God saved the world through Jesus. In Chapter 4, Luke describes how Jesus stood up in the synagogue and read from the book of Isaiah. Jesus read, "The spirit of the Lord is upon me; I proclaim freedom to the oppressed and sight to the blind." When he finished, Jesus told the people in the synagogue that this reading has been fulfilled in Him. Luke tries to show, in a very explicit way, from the beginning of the Gospel, that Jesus is a very special person with a unique message. This message was carefully passed on to the apostles.

Another example of how Luke uses history to show that God brings salvation through Jesus is in Chapter 18, verse 31: "*Then he took the twelve aside and said to them, 'See, we are going up to Jerusalem, and everything that is written about the Son of Man by the prophets will be accomplished.'*" In scenarios like this, Luke makes it very clear that Jesus is a continuation of the Old Testament.

For whom was Luke writing? Luke wrote his Gospel for Gentile converts. He wanted to show Jesus to the whole world. He tried to convince the people of his time that Christianity was a viable and practical religion. This was a difficult task because he had to demonstrate that Christianity would work for all the people who lived in the Roman Empire. One of the means that Luke uses to show the legitimacy of Christianity is to trace Jesus' ancestry back to Adam (Lk. 3.23-38). If Luke were just addressing the Jewish community, he would merely trace Jesus' ancestry back to Abraham, the father of the Jewish people. But to address the Romans, he traced Jesus' ancestry back to the founder of the world, the first man. The genealogy is placed right after the Baptism of Jesus by John at the Jordan River.

What is unique about the Gospel of Luke? Luke describes the Church in his Gospel. He sees God's overall plan. God sent Jesus for our redemption, but He established the Church to carry on His work. The Church is the community of people who believe in Jesus. For Luke, it is the instrument of redemption in the world. The Acts of the Apostles is the companion book to Luke's Gospel. Here Luke tells the story of the Church in detail. The adventures of Paul are also chronicled here. The miracles of Peter, the controversy over the Gentiles and the bringing together of the believing people into a Church to carry on the work of Christ are all contained in the Acts of the Apostles. It is truly a continuation of Luke's Gospel.

How can we apply this Gospel to daily life? Use the Gospel to strengthen your faith. The Church is not a coincidence; it was in God's mind from the beginning of time. The prophets spoke about it and Jesus fulfilled the words of the prophets. He came from the Father, He taught the apostles, and they, in turn, taught us. Luke shows how logical this is by outlining the connection between the present and the past, so we can have a firm foundation for our faith.

In Chapter 49, verse 45, we read: "Then Jesus opened their minds to understand the scriptures."

Also, use the Gospel of Luke to discover your vocation. You are a member of the Church that Jesus founded. Therefore, you are to continue Jesus' work in the world. Luke made it very clear that the Church continues to redeem people in the world. How do we do it?

We do it, primarily, by loving God and loving our neighbor. When others see how we live, they, too, may become interested in Jesus and His message of love.

Secondly, we continue Jesus' work in the world through our actions. We can make sure not to harm or even talk badly about another person. Certainly, we should never condemn others, or do anything to isolate them. In this way we will do our part to bring people together. Too many aspects of human society, such as different languages or beliefs, are manipulated by those motivated by power to tempt us to separate people artificially. We end up *isolating* ourselves. In Luke, we are urged to *bridge* these human gaps.

Thirdly, we can continue Jesus' work through organized groups in our parish and community. For example, helping a Catholic Charity, in a soup kitchen or in a hospice are ways to help and get involved. Something as simple as helping with a youth retreat in the parish for a few hours, or visiting a shut-in might be all that is needed. For those with the competence and the time, a role in a RCIA or a youth Catechism program could be a life-changing experience.

Luke shows, in his Gospel, how God's age-old promise to love and to save us becomes a reality in Jesus Christ. While the message may be centuries old, it is up to all of us to make it a living reality in the world today.

It all begins with love.



Parish Week

[REDEMPTORIS MATER,
NOVA EVANGELATIO
The Mother of the Redeemer
is the patroness of the
New Evangelization]

22 July 2018

Saturday, 21 July / St. Lawrence of Brindisi, priest & doctor

8.00 am Mass: Int. Fr. Elias Chachati (friend)
5.00 pm Mass: † John Finney (Melanious & family)

SUNDAY, 22 JULY / 16-B

■ Homilist: Fr. Edwin Galea

9.00 am Mass: † Crescenzo Tisi (Grande family)
10.30 am Mass: † Jamie Ulibas (family)
12.00 pm Mass: Int. Tessie & Anita Mendonca (friends)
7.00 pm Mass: Pro Populo

Monday, 23 July / St. Bridget, religious

8.00 am Mass: † Delfina Manas Gutierrez (Aurora Corpus)
7.00 pm Mass: † Judith & Graciano Primero (Jiji Gabales)

Tuesday, 24 July / St. Sharbel Makhluf, priest

8.00 am Mass: † Benjamin Lobo (family)

Wednesday, 25 July / St. James, apostle

8.00 am Mass: † Melecia Victorino (family)

Thursday, 26 July / Ss. Joachim & Ann, Parents of Mary

8.00 am Mass: † Marie Scheibli (Valerie & Mike)

Friday, 27 July

8.00 am Mass: Int. Lara & Rohit Mane (family)
11.00 am Wedding: Mehdi Bharwani & Nicola Paul

Saturday, 28 July

8.00 am Mass: † Rolando Diaz (Andrez)
1.00 pm St. Ann's Feast Day Mass
5.00 pm Mass: † Lakpatia Ramsahai (Shirley & Lalta Persaud)

SUNDAY, 29 JULY / 17-B

■ Homilist: Fr. Elias Chachati

■ 2nd Collection: Maintenance

9.00 am Mass: † Solidad Manalang (Dolores Marquez)
10.30 am Mass: † Lydia & Ernesto Rodas (family)
12.00 pm Mass: † Vincent & Joseph Ocasion (family)
7.00 pm Mass: Pro Populo

RCIA Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults

3 August **The path to Holiness: Growing in Faith**
(Mass at 7 pm, Meeting at 7.30 pm)

"I want to become a Catholic."

Thinking of becoming Catholic? Leave a message for the Pastor at: 416-261-0076, and come to the next meeting for Inquirers.

Focus on the Word

16th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B

Jeremiah 23.1-6; Ephesians 2.13-18; Mark 6.30-34

Show favour, O Lord, to your servants, and mercifully increase the gifts of your grace, that, made fervent in faith, hope and charity, they may be watchful in keeping your commands. Amen.

ShareLife



THANK YOU VERY MUCH !

Thanks to all for your support of our parish 2018 *ShareLife* Appeal. As of 9 July, we have reached a total of \$37,206.00 for this year's Campaign ! This is a real blessing, a tribute to the generosity of every donor, at a time of great need.

If you have not yet had a chance to participate in our parish Appeal, there is still time to help us reach our goal!

Our Parish goal for 2018 is: \$50,000.00.

There are still late donations coming in; this year's Campaign officially closes at the end of July. We will publish the Grand Total for our 2017 Campaign in the first bulletin in August.

Mass Intentions Requests for 2018

The Mass Intention book for 2018 is now open. The parish office will accept requests for intentions after any Sunday Mass and during weekday office hours. See the *Mass* table in the Vestibule.

Pilgrimage to the Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe

Visit the Historical Centre of Mexico

15 – 21 November 2018

Under the spiritual direction of **Fr. Edwin Galea**.

Enrich your faith with memories that will remain in your heart.

See the PRAYER TO OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE on page 3 in the bulletin on our website.

\$2,199.00 Canadian per person; includes all taxes and tips.

For more info, contact: **Michael Kwadrans**, 647-887-4069.



COMING UP

7016018

- 5 Aug. Feast of the Dedication of the **Basilica of St. Mary Major**;
- **Fr. Elias Chachati**, birthday (1955)
- 6 Aug. Feast of the **Transfiguration of Our Lord**;
- Infant Baptism Parent/Godparent Meeting (7:40 pm)
- 12 Aug. 2nd Collection: *Catholic Missions in Canada*;
- Infant Baptism (1:30 pm)
- 15 Aug. Feast of the **Assumption of Mary**
- 18 Aug. Wedding: Arrieta – Entea (3:00 pm)
- 19 Aug. 2nd Collection: *Mission Co-Op* (Comboni Missionaries);
- Knights of Columbus (1:00 pm)

Website stmariagoretti.archtoronto.org

See the *Prayer to Our Lady of Guadalupe*, and the PRAYER FOR PRIESTS: page 3 in the website bulletin.

Save Summer Jobs



Save Summer Jobs, and reach out to your Member of Parliament.

Thousands of charitable organizations are being denied funding through Canada Summer Jobs program, because the federal government has introduced an ideological litmus test. To qualify for funding, organizations must agree with the Liberal Government on issues such as abortion and gender expression. This has impacted more than 150 jobs and more than \$1 million in funding in the Archdiocese of Toronto alone. Across Canada 1,500 groups had their applications rejected this year, in contrast to 126 in 2017.

Cardinal Collins invites you to write to your federal Member of Parliament to respectfully express your concerns.

Visit www.savesummerjobs.ca to send a message to your MP, a process that will take less than 3 minutes. You can also donate at the same site to support those organizations impacted by the new application guidelines.

☺ Your sabbath smile

The End is Near

A local Priest and a pastor stood by the side of the road holding up signs that read,

“The End is Near! Turn back now before it’s too late!”

They held up the sign to the first passing car.

“Leave us alone, you religious nuts!” yelled the first driver as he sped by.

From around the curve they heard a big splash.

“Do you think,” said the Priest, “we should just put up a sign that says ‘BRIDGE OUT’ instead?”

Sermon Comment

After a particularly long sermon, the parishioners filed out of the Church saying nothing to the preacher. Towards the end of the line was a thoughtful person who always commented on the sermons.

“Pastor, today your sermon reminded me of the peace and love of God.”

The pastor was thrilled. “Nobody has ever said anything like that about my preaching before. Tell me why.”

“Because it endured forever.”

PRAYER FOR PRIESTS



*Divine Saviour, Jesus Christ,
Give us saintly priests.*

*Grant to them apostolic hearts,
Filled with love for you and for
all the souls belonging to You,
so that, being sanctified in You,
they may sanctify us who are
entrusted to their care and
bring us safely into Heaven.*

Loving Jesus, bless all their priestly work and sacrifice.

*Bless all their prayers and words at the altar
in the confessional, in the pulpit, in the school,
and at the sickbed.*

*Call many young men to the priesthood.
Protect and sanctify all who will become Your priests,
and grant eternal rest to the souls of the priests
who have departed this life.*

*Mary, Mother of all priests, take them under your special
protection, and lead them to the highest priestly sanctity.*

Saint Jean-Marie Vianney, pray for us.

The Prayer for Priests was promulgated by Pope Benedict XVI at the beginning of the YEAR FOR PRIESTS, 2009-10.

Prayer to our Lady of Guadalupe

O Virgin of Guadalupe,

Patroness of unborn children, we implore your intercession for every child.

Help expectant parents to welcome from God the priceless gift of their child’s life. Console parents who have lost that gift through abortion, and lead them to forgiveness and healing through the Divine Mercy of your Son. Teach us to cherish and to care for family and friends, until God calls them home.

Help us never to see others as burdens. Guide our public officials to defend each and every human life through just laws. Inspire us all to bring our faith into public life, to speak for those who have no voice. We ask this in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ, who is Love and Mercy itself. Amen.

