

**Sunday, November 29, 2020**

First Sunday of Advent

**PARISH OFFICE HOURS**

**Monday - Thursday: 9am - 4pm**  
**Fridays & Weekend: By Appointment**

**Email: [stluke.dc@adwparish.org](mailto:stluke.dc@adwparish.org)**  
**[www.stlukechurchsj.org](http://www.stlukechurchsj.org)**



Staffed by the Josephite Fathers and Brother

Serving Washington DC (Far S.E., N.E., and Prince Georges County since 1957)



**ST. LUKE**

**CATHOLIC CHURCH**

**4925 E. CAPITOL STREET, WASHINGTON, DC**  
**20019**



**PASTORAL STAFF**

**PASTOR**

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**(202) 584-8322 Ext. 101**

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**(202) 584-8322**

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**SECRETARY**

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**DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS**  
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**Mrs. Shirley Williams**

**DIRECTOR OF CENTER**

**Mrs. Hope Brown**  
**(202) 584-1400**

**Welcome**

ST. Luke is a warm and embracing parish family. We gladly extend our love and warmth to all those who desire to worship and follow our Lord, Jesus Christ. Come join us to celebrate the Holy Eucharist which is the source and summit of our Christian life. Our theme for 2019 is "Teach us to number our days, that we may gain a heart of wisdom." [Psalm 90:12] Together we will praise God, love one another and serve each other.

**Mass Schedule**

**Saturday Vigil Mass: 4:00pm**

**Sunday Masses: 8:30am & 11:00am**

**2nd Sunday 1:15pm (Igbo) 3rd Sunday 1:15pm (French)**

**Weekday Masses**

**In the Martin De Pores Chapel**

**Monday: 10:00am**

**Tuesday: 8:00am**

**Wednesday: 8:00am Thursday: 10:00am Friday: 8:00 am**

**Stations of the Cross**

Every Friday 6:00pm . -7:00pm

**Sacrament of Reconciliation**

Saturday: 3:00-3:45pm Sunday: 7:30am-8:15am

Sunday: 10:00am-10:45am Or by appointment

**Sacrament of Baptism**

Infant Baptism registration takes place at the Parish Office prior to baptism preparation class which is held on the First Saturday of each month. Baptism takes place every First Sunday after the 11:00 a.m. Mass. Please call parish office for more information.

## PASTOR'S CORNER

### Reflection for Week 1: "Honey, We're Pregnant!"

Few statements carry as much emotion as the one that titles this piece, especially for those who have almost given up after years of disappointment and false hopes. So we can imagine the response of one couple, the biblical Abraham and Sarah, who against all odds not only become pregnant, but models of faith in the process.

It's both a cliché and an understatement to say that God is a God of surprises, but it's true. Theologian and novelist Frederick Buechner goes further and says that while we easily see tragedy of the stories of scripture, we must also see their comedy, when, as he says, "What shouldn't happen, what couldn't possibly happen . . . happens!"—like the resurrection, like the ne'er-do-well son welcomed home again, like the birth of Abraham and Sarah's son Isaac, whose name means "Son of Laughter." Advent should leave our faces streaked with tears of laughter at ourselves for thinking we had figured God out!

But Abraham and Sarah are Advent pillars not only because grace broke into their lives, but also because they trusted the God who made the promise. Saint Paul considers Abraham to be our father in faith not because of any qualifying deeds, but because he trusted that the promises of God would be fulfilled. We find God in surprising moments of grace, and we also find God in the experiences that call for patient waiting and trust.

Waiting is not the strong suit of many of us in our hurry-up culture. Everything is urgent. Hope is foreign to people who expect quick relief, cures, and solutions. We struggle to guard Advent jealously because popular culture short-circuits this season of hope: We are tempted to go directly to celebrating Christmas without getting in touch with the part of ourselves that is longing, hoping, and trusting.

Waiting is also difficult because we're forced to admit that we are not in control—God is. A friend who recently became pregnant experienced an awed helplessness as the natural process advanced within her body. Her husband also could only wait with her, loving and supporting her and their unborn child, but unable to accelerate the process.

For all their drama, the words "Honey, we're pregnant," uttered by a tear-streaked, wrinkle-faced 90-year-old Sarah to wobbly, unbelieving Abraham, or by an amazed, teenaged Mary to an equally confounded Joseph, indicate not the joy of birth—not quite yet—but the amazing surprise of love, and the beginning of a season of waiting, when God-is-with-us.

### REFLECTION FOR THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

You are at the eye doctor and it's time for the peripheral vision test. You know the one. It's where you put your head up to a contraption and have to click a switch every time you see a squiggly line. If you don't concentrate and maintain optimal focus, you will miss them and skew the outcome of the test. You can easily find yourself with a diagnosis that really isn't accurate! Concentration and focus are key to succeeding with this evaluation. They are also key to developing a healthy, vibrant spiritual life. If we do not bring our full consciousness to the task, concentrate with all our might, be watchful and vigilant, we are not going to see God's loving presence flashing before our eyes!

That's why we need Advent. Let's face it. We can easily get distracted, focus on nonessential and superficial things and lose touch with what really matters. Our attentions wander. We daydream and even become a bit overwhelmed and tired. All of the stresses and demands of life consume us and we find ourselves constantly trying to play catch up rather than relishing the moment of the now. "Now" moments are so fleeting. They flash before us like those squiggly lines on a screen. Present moments go as quickly as they come but it is important to discover them and rest in them as often as we can. Though gone in a flash, these now moments of encounter with God teach powerful lessons and offer a grounding in truth that can be found nowhere else. It's the grace of Advent to become watchful and attentive because we are never sure when God will surprise us.

God loves surprises and love thrives on them! God's now moments of surprises come as tender instants of intimate connection where I find profound peace, experience joy, and rest in love. These are Advent times reflective of the now moments when Christ first was born, when God surprises us during every time we care to watch and when the great surprise of Christ's second coming dawns upon us all. But, to discover the grandeur and experience the awe of these now times, we have to be ready. We have to want to be there. We have to believe. And, we have to have the desire to soak in as much as we can in the time we have before us.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY/ANNIVERSARY

We would like to wish a wonderful happy birthday to Taginere Mode, Angelique Tatum and Ronald Mallory, Stella Achidi

**MAY THE JOY OF THE LORD  
BE YOUR STRENGTH!!!**

**Readings for the week of November 29, 2020**

**Sunday:** Isaiah 63:16b-17, 19b; 64:2-7/  
Psalms 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19 [4]/1 Corinthians 1:3-9/  
Mark 13:33-37  
**Monday:** Romans 10:9-18/Psalms 19:8, 9, 10,  
11 [10]/Matthew 4:18-22  
**Tuesday:** Isaiah 11:1-10/ Psalms 72:1-2, 7-8,  
12-13, 17 [cf. 7]/Luke 10:21-24  
**Wednesday:** Isaiah 25:6-10a/Psalms 23:1-3a, 3b-  
4, 5, 6 [6cd]/Matthew 15:29-37  
**Thursday:** Isaiah 26:1-6/Psalms 118:1 and 8-9,  
19-21, 25-27a [26a]/Matthew 7:21, 24-27  
**Friday:** Isaiah 29:17-24/Psalms 27:1, 4, 13-  
14 [1a]/Matthew 9:27-31  
**Saturday:** Isaiah 30:19-21, 23-26/Psalms 147:1  
-2, 3-4, 5-6 [cf. Isaiah 30:18d]/Matthew 9:35—10:1,  
5a, 6-8  
**Next Sunday:** Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11/Psalms 85:9-10,  
11-12, 13-14 [8]/2 Peter 3:8-14/Mark 1:1-8

Church Support

Please consider making a donation to support our parish during this trying times. You may Drop off or mail your gifts to the parish. You may give online through our website: <http://www.stlukechurchssj.org/> And clicking on the donate button.

You may also TEXT: 202-335-3116  
God bless and keep you safe.

WEEKLY MASS

**Monday 11/30**  
Repose of the soul of  
James Brisbon+++ by  
Daughters of Isabella &  
St. Monica Circle

**Tuesday 12/1**  
Advent Weekday

**Wednesday 12/2**  
Advent Weekday

**Thursday 12/3**  
St. Francis Xavier

**Friday 12/4**  
Repose of the soul of  
Susie & Frank McDou-  
gald+++ by Family

**Saturday 12/5**  
Repose of the soul of  
Norma J. Henson +++  
by Hilda McDougald

Pray for the Sick & Shut-In of Our Parish

Barbara Barnes  
Blanche Bourm  
Barbara Batts  
Tanisha Bennett  
Tammy Berry  
Ruth Bundy  
Beatrice Carroll  
Melinda Conrad-  
Brown  
Edith Cornish  
Aniceto Charles  
Patricia Chase  
Valene Chemoo  
Joyce Cristwell  
Alvera Dance  
Iyana Davage

Marita C. Edelin  
Tina Garvin  
Elizabeth Gillem  
Florence Hall  
Steve Halle  
Chris Hawkins  
Charlene Haywood  
Brenda Henson  
James Holley  
Rudolph Holley  
James Hughes  
Melvin Jamison  
Mary Ann Johnson  
David & Keisha Jones  
Dawn Lattimer  
Lawrence Lee

Maria A. Logan  
Bernadette Mahoney  
Doreene Mahoney  
Barbara Mallory  
Doris McCannon  
Alice L. Montague  
Veronica Murray  
David Neal  
Florence Patterson  
Marlene Patterson  
Silvia Perry  
Lillian Pharms  
Kecia Proctor  
Doreene Redd  
Leroy Sandifer  
Betty Smith

Kayla Tatum  
Rolland Taylor  
Gloria Thompson-  
Price  
James F. Thompson,  
Jr.  
Matthew Thompson  
Barbara B. Tyler  
Wayne A. Wallace  
Marquita Ward  
Shiela Washington  
Steven Washington  
Cecelia Williams  
Wellington Waters  
Dolores Woodard, Jr.  
Harold Woodard, Sr.

St Luke military families.  
  
All the Homeless men and women in our community.  
  
Please pray for all those who are sick but have no one to pray for them



## PARISH NEWS AND EVENTS

Dear Parishioners, our Tree of Life has not fully bloomed. We are continuing the sale of leaves the northwest corner of the inside of the church (East Capitol St. side) There are 21 leaves still available for memorializing deceased family members or posting your current family names or beliefs. Each leaf is \$250 and can be paid in monthly installments. All proceeds will be used for the improvement of our beautiful church. Please contact Kathy Harris Ndouga if you would like more details at (202) 575-8732.

### St. Luke Parish Weekly Schedule

Mondays Morning Mass @ 10:00am (will also be livestreamed)  
Wednesday Bible Study Live Stream & Voice @ 6:00pm  
Thursdays Morning Mass @ 10:00am (will also be livestreamed)  
Friday Holy Hour/Adoration Live Stream & Voice @ 7:00pm  
Saturday Holy Rosary (Voice call only) @ 6:00pm  
Sunday Mass 8:30 am & 11:00am (11am mass will also be livestreamed)

To join our Live Stream, please go to  
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/stluke.stlukesdc/>  
Or Dial: 425-436-6339.  
Access code: 269615

You can watch our videos on YouTube @ [https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCxLUPGPb4HGGIYm9NWkBN7g/videos?view\\_as=subscriber](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCxLUPGPb4HGGIYm9NWkBN7g/videos?view_as=subscriber)

To continue assisting St. Luke: You may **DROP OFF** your donation or **MAIL** your check or visit our **WEBSITE** <http://www.stlukechurchssj.org/Donate> OR **TEXT**: 202-335-3116.

Offertory Contributions for 11/29/2020 : \$358.11

May God reward you abundantly for your generosity.

### Bible quote:

Jesus said to his disciples: "Be watchful! Be alert!  
You do not know when the time will come. Mark 13:33

**GIVING TUESDAY IS ON DECEMBER 3RD 2020:** Dear parishioners and friends of St. Luke. Every Tuesday after thanksgiving day is giving Tuesday. Our parish will once again participate in this opportunity for fund raising. Please consider sharing the joy of thanksgiving with us by going to [givecatholic.org](http://givecatholic.org). Type in St Luke Catholic church (Location– Washington DC) and the golden image of our sanctuary will appear of the right side of your screen. Thanks again for your continued support. May the joy of giving to the Lord be your strength.

## ARCHDIOCESAN NEWS

**OUR LADY OF BETHESDA RETREAT CENTER** is offering Silent Retreat Weekends (In Person) for Women December 11-13, Men December 18-20. Limited attendance and other safety precautions are in place to maintain a healthy and safe environment. Cost is \$250 per person. Registration is required. Find more retreats and links to register on the website [www.ourlayofbethesda.org](http://www.ourlayofbethesda.org).

**RETROVILLE MARRIAGE PROGRAM** is for couples with marital problems that want marriage help. Those who are considering marriage separation and those who are already separated for divorced are encouraged to consider the Retroville Program. There is always hope of reviving your relationship. For more details please contact us at 443-400-7017, [3015@HelpOurMarriage.org](mailto:3015@HelpOurMarriage.org) or [www.HelpOurMarriage.org](http://www.HelpOurMarriage.org).