

**Sunday, March 21, 2021**

Fifth Sunday of Lent

**PARISH OFFICE HOURS**

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

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

**Rev. Cornelius K. Ejiogu, SSJ**  
**(202) 584-8322 Ext. 101**

**IN RESIDENCE:**

**Rev. Denis Mandamuna**  
**(202) 584-8322**

**Deacon**

**Richard Walker**  
**(202) 584-8322 Ext. 103**

**SISTER**

**Anne Marie Schreiner, DC**  
**(205) 919-0010**

**ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF**

**SECRETARY**

**Ms. Michele Peters**  
**(202) 584-8322 Ext. 102**

**DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS**  
**EDUCATION**

**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 & Thursday: 10:00am**

**Wednesday Bible Study: 6:00pm**

**Stations of the Cross**

**Every Friday 7:00pm . -8:00pm**

**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

### John 12:24 Meaning of Unless a Seed Falls to the Ground and Dies

#### Explanation and Commentary of John 12:24

One of the key realities of the Kingdom of God is that life springs from death. Jesus is speaking enigmatically in response to learning of the request of a certain company of Greek seekers. The time for meeting people and talk has come to an end. Jesus is saying that the hour has come for him to be glorified, to die like a kernel of wheat. What follows these verses is the instruction that Jesus expects his disciples to live and die in the same way.

God made us and called us to bear fruit, but as long as we hold on to the world and our old ways, it is impossible. Ironically, by loving and holding on to our life in this world, we lose it for the next, which is an infinitely greater loss. Lay down your life at the feet of Jesus. Die with him in order to live in him. In this way, you will bear fruit, perhaps a hundredfold (Mt 13:1-20). If you are not willing to die both figuratively and even physically for the sake of Christ, you will not see the Kingdom of God.

#### Breaking Down the Key Parts of John 12:24

**#1 "Very truly I tell you,"** This is Jesus's rhetorical way of emphasizing that what follows is a key declaration. Whenever Jesus speaks, his followers ought to be all ears. When he begins, "Very truly I tell you," there must be an immediate response of obedience.

**#2 "unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed."** There is no one saved who isn't being called forth into transformation. God's plan for his children is that they would conform to the image of the Matchless One, his Son, Jesus Christ. Christ is speaking of both himself and his followers. As it pertains to Christ, what he is in his human form is as this kernel of wheat. In order to bear fruit and "produce many seeds," he must cease to be a kernel of wheat, but morph into what that seed is destined to become. In the case of wheat, it is a plant with many seeds. In the case of Christ, it is a glorified Christ and his body the Church, animated by his Holy Spirit sent by Jesus from his place at the right hand of the Father, to continue his ministry of preaching Good News to the world.

**#3 "But if it dies, it produces many seeds.:"** Christ produced millions of seeds by his death, which enabled sinners to come to God in repentance. His followers should also consider that they are seeds that must die in order to become what they too are destined for. They must lose their life in following Jesus for his sake (Jn 11:25). Whatever you are to become in Christ can only come about if whatever you are is allowed to die (Gal 2:20).

Excerpt culled from <https://connectusfund.org/john-12-24-meaning-of-unless-a-seed-falls-to-the-ground-and-dies>

### REFLECTION FOR FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

Any good teacher or parent will tell you that once a lesson is really learned it doesn't need to be taught again. When we internalize things we have learned, they become a part of who we are and influence how we perceive and interact with our world. The same is true for the law God has written upon our hearts. Once humanity learns this lesson, we will simply know it to be true and act accordingly. Sometimes, it is hard to get people to learn the lessons they need to learn. They are often distracted, disinterested, conflicted, misdirected, or just too stubborn and unable or unwilling to see what is right before their eyes. Understanding that God is in a loving and committed relationship with those fashioned and formed in God's own image, seems like such a simple lesson to learn. But history and experience has proven that it is not.

We struggle with faith, especially when that faith asks us to learn something very particular about ourselves. We must, like a grain of wheat, fall to the ground and die. Because God's DNA is at the very core of who we are, there are specific pearls of wisdom that must be acquired before we can live a full life. One very powerful lesson is that it is not the task of the world to tell us who we are and what has meaning, but God. For many, death is not an opportunity for greater life but a permanent ending to the life they have known. Jesus knew every dimension to what it means to be fully human because he was! He knows the joys, limitations, sorrows, frustrations, wonders, suffering, opportunities, and joys of the human experience. Jesus can teach us a wealth of knowledge and life's lessons from his example, especially obedience.

When we accept the law God has placed in our hearts and gain wisdom from it, then when we suffer we learn to listen more attentively to the Voice behind that law. We naturally flee to our Creator for inspiration, consolation, hope, direction, and comfort as we navigate through this time of darkness. We will not need to run from it, subdue it, fight it, or be overcome by it because we will know, having internalized this profound lesson before, that God will bring new life. God's law is love and love never fails. Even in the moments of Jesus' deepest despair, he glorified the name of his Father. What he learned allowed him to put everything in perspective and be obedient to the tender, loving Voice that echoed within. As Lent quickly winds down, may we learn the same! Then, may we gain the fortitude and wisdom to help others see what is right before their eyes.

Liturgical Publications 2015

HAPPY BIRTHDAY/ANNIVERSARY

We would like to wish a wonderful happy birthday to  
**Kamaria Harmon, Paulette Hamlin,**  
**and Alan Holt .**

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

**Readings for the week of March 21, 2021**

**Sunday:** Jeremiah 31:31-34/Psalms 51:3-4, 12-13, 14-15 [12a]/Hebrews 5:7-9/John 12:20-33 or Ezra 37:12-14/Romans 8:8-11/Psalms 130:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8 [7]/John 11:1-45 or 11:3-7, 17, 20-27, 33b-45  
**Monday:** Daniel 13:1-9, 15-17, 19-30, 33-62 or 13:41c-62/Psalms 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6 [4ab]/John 8:1-11  
**Tuesday:** Numbers 21:4-9/Psalms 102:2-3, 16-18, 19-21 [2]/John 8:21-30  
**Wednesday:** Daniel 3:14-20, 91-92, 95/Daniel 3:52, 53, 54, 55, 56 [52b]/John 8:31-42  
**Thursday:** Isaiah 7:10-14; 8:10/Psalms 40:7-8, 8-9, 10, 11 [8a, 9a]/Hebrew 10:4-10/Luke 1:26-38  
**Friday:** Jeremiah 20:10-13/Psalms 18:2-3a, 3bc-4, 5-6, 7 [cf. 7]/John 10:31-42  
**Saturday:** Ezra 37:21-28/Jeremiah 31:10, 11-12abcd, 13 [cf. 10d]/John 11:45-56  
**Next Sunday:** Mark 11:1-10 or John 12:12-16/Isaiah 50:4-7/Psalms 22:8-9, 17-18, 19-20, 23-24 [2a]/Philippians 2:6-11/Mark 14:1—15:47 or 15:1-39

**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

**WEEKLY MASS**

**Monday 03/22**  
 Repose of the soul of  
**Haydee Patterson, Jr. &  
 Sr.+++ by Patterson  
 Family**  
 Thanksgiving for 65  
 years as a Daughter of  
 Charity by Sister Anne  
 Marie Schreiner, DC  
 Repose of the Soul  
 of Edus David Gales,  
 Jr.+++ by Parish Family

**Wednesday 03/24**  
 Lenten Weekday

**Thursday 03/25**  
 The Annunciation of  
 the Lord

**Friday 03/26**  
 Lenten Weekday

**Saturday 03/27**  
 Lenten Weekday

**Tuesday 03/23**  
 St. Turbius

**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 Adoration/Stations of the Cross 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**: 202-335-311621

Offertory Contributions for 3/21//2021: \$1,870.26

May God reward you abundantly for your generosity.

### Quote of the Day:

Amen, amen, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains just a grain of wheat; but if it dies, it produces much fruit. John 12:24

**FUNERAL REIMBURSEMENT FROM FEMA:** The FEMA Funeral Reimbursement Program will launch in a week or two. FEMA is reimbursing up to \$7,000.00 for COVID-19 funerals PLEASE PASS ON FOR WIDEST DISSEMINATION TO OUR BLACK COMMUNITIES.... to any family member who paid for a funeral. Please keep funeral documentation. COVID-19 Funeral Assistance <http://FEMA.gov> <https://www.fema.gov/disasters/coronavirus/economic/funeral-assistance>

### ST. LUKE HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE:

Palm Sunday: Vigil 4pm

Sunday: 8:30am & 11:00am

Monday: 10:00am

Wednesday: 11:00am

Holy Thursday Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper 7:00pm

Good Friday Stations of the Cross: 2:00pm

Good Friday of the Lord's Passion: 3:00pm

Holy Saturday—Easter Vigil of the Holy Night of Easter: 7:00pm

Easter Sunday: 8:30am & 11:00am

### ARCHDIOCESAN NEWS

**SAVE THE DATE: SATURDAY, JUNE 5, 2021** for the Celebration of Saints of Africa —12th African Prayer Day. More information will follow.