

Sunday, December 12, 2021

Third Sunday of Advent

PARISH OFFICE HOURS

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

Email: stluke.dc@adwparish.org
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

IN RESIDENCE:

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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 St. Luke Church

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

JOY OF JOHN THE BAPTIST – BEST MAN, NOT GROOM

Most of us would not appreciate the competition. The Pharisees and Sadducees certainly didn't. They felt threatened by Jesus' popularity. But John actually encouraged his disciples to leave him for Jesus, the Lamb of God. When people came, ready to honor John as the messiah, he set them straight. He insisted that he was not the star of the show, only the best supporting actor. John may have been center-stage for a while, but now that the star had shown up, he knew it was time for him to slip quietly off to the dressing room.

Or to use John's own example, he was like the best man at a wedding. It certainly is an honor to be chosen as "best man." But the best man does not get the bride. According to Jewish custom, the best man's role was to bring the bride to the bridegroom, and then make a tactful exit. And John found joy in this. "My joy is now full. He must increase and I must decrease."

HUMILITY, JOY & FREEDOM

Humility brings freedom from this frantic bondage. Trying at every turn to affirm, exalt, and protect oneself is an exhausting enterprise. Receiving one's dignity and self-worth as a gift from God relieves us from this stressful burden. Freed from the blinding compulsion to dominate, we can recognize the presence of God and feel a sense of satisfaction when others recognize that God is God and honor him as such.

We can even be free to recognize godliness in someone else and rejoice when others notice and honor this person. But what about John's stark call to repentance? How this be Good News? Because repentance is all about humility and humility is all about freedom. And freedom leads to inner peace and joy, joy in the presence of the Bridegroom.

<https://www.crossroadsinitiative.com/topics/gaudetesundayadventanjohnthebaptist/>

REFLECTION FOR THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

We've all heard the adage, "Laughter is the best medicine." In many ways, it really is. When was the last time you really laughed? The gift of imagination allows us to see possible things that are yet to be. Imagine a world filled with laughter. We take life too seriously sometimes. Fear, uncertainty, pressure, negativity, disappointment, and myriad other human experiences can rob us of the joy needed for laughter. God never promised us an easy road, and we do have to take the course of our lives seriously. However, there is a balance to be sought and a possible joy that can be brought even to the darkest and most challenging of encounters.

St. Therese of Lisieux reminds us that, "Joy is not found in the material objects surrounding us but in the inner recesses of the soul. One can possess joy in a prison cell as well as in a palace." Falling in love with God, who is present in all of creation, allows us to bring a depth of understanding to everything we do and experience. We can more easily see above and beyond things while pursuing the only One who can truly satisfy our hearts. When we realize that God, the king of Israel, is in our midst and with us, there is no further misfortune to fear. We can celebrate the wonder and beauty of God's gift of joy. It is no wonder that many saints radiate joy and have no reservations expressing laughter. They are happy because they have found a pearl of great price.

We celebrate with joy today with hearts filled with expectation, wonder, awe, and beauty as we ready ourselves, even more excitedly, for the coming of our Savior. Do not fear and do not be discouraged. If you haven't laughed in a while, why? Something is preventing you from expressing the magnificence of your soul and the presence of God who dwells within. God's power and presence within us assures us that we are loved and kept in that presence. What more is really needed? Rejoice and laugh in the presence of God! It really is the best medicine and a most perfect way to convince others that God is really with us. "Go ahead, laugh! Live your life with joy and serve the Lord with laughter! Joy, with peace, is the sister of charity. Serve the Lord with laughter." (St. Padre Pio of Pietrelcina)

Liturgical Publications 2015

HAPPY BIRTHDAY/ANNIVERSARY

We would like to wish a wonderful happy birthday to Edith Cornish, Christal Mitchell, Cursey J. Calais, Doris P. McCannon, Yvette Sherman, Martha Feemster, and Kayden-Wilson Porter & Rosetta Henry .

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

Readings for the week of December 12, 2021

Sunday: Zephaniah 3:14-18a/Isaiah 12:2-3, 4, 5-6 [6]/Philippians 4:4-7/Luke 3:10-18

Monday: Numbers 24:2-7, 15-17a/Psalms 25:4-5ab, 6 and 7bc, 8-9 [4]/Matthew 21:23-27

Tuesday: Zephaniah 3:1-2, 9-13/Psalms 34:2-3, 6-7, 17-18, 19 and 23 [7a]/Matthew 21:28-32

Wednesday: Isaiah 45:6b-8, 18, 21c-25/Psalms 85:9ab and 10, 11-12, 13-14 [Is 45:8]/Luke 7:18b-23

Thursday: Isaiah 54:1-10/Psalms 30:2 and 4, 5-6, 11-12a, and 13b [2a]/Luke 7:24-30

Friday: Genesis 49:2, 8-10/Psalms 72:1-2, 3-4ab, 7-8, 17 [cf. 7]/Matthew 1:1-17

Saturday: Jeremiah 23:5-8/Psalms 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19 [cf. 7]/Matthew 1:18-25

Next Sunday: Micah 5:1-4a/Psalms 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19 [4]/Hebrews 10:5-10/Luke 1:39-45

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 12/13
Eternal repose of the soul of Catherine Cobb+++ by Family

Tuesday 12/14
St. John of the Cross

Wednesday 12/15
Advent Weekday

Thursday 12/16
Eternal repose of the soul of Hattie Tinner+++ by Family

Friday 12/17
Late Advent Weekday

Saturday 12/18
Late Advent Weekday

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

Lamont Diggs, Sr.
Crawley Easely
Marita C. Edelin
Kimbolyn Flowers
Anthony Flowers
Tina Garvin
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
Doreene Redd
Corley 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)

First Friday & Last Friday Adoration @ 7:00pm

Saturday Holy Rosary (Voice call only) @ 6:00pm

Sunday Mass 8:30 am & 11:00am (11am mass will also be livestreamed)

Prayer for the Synod on Synodality

We stand before You, Holy Spirit, as we gather together in Your name.

With You alone to guide us, make Yourself at home in our hearts;

Teach us the way we must go and how we are to pursue it. We are weak and sinful; do not let us promote disorder.

Do not let ignorance lead us down the wrong path nor partiality influence our actions.

Let us find in You our unity so that we may journey together to eternal life and not stray from the way of truth and what is right. All this we ask of You, who are at work in every place and time, in the communion of the Father and the Son, forever and ever. **Amen.**

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 12/5/2021:

\$7,368.75

May God reward you abundantly for your generosity.

Quote of the Day

Find joy in everything you choose to do. Every job, relationship, home... It's your responsibility to love it, or change it. – Chuck Palahniuk

THANK YOU St. Luke parishioners for making our pre-Thanksgiving dinner a success.

ST. LUKE CONFIRMATION: Registration Blanks for CONFIRMATION are now available at the rear of the church. Candidates for Confirmation should be in grades 7-12. Classes beginning shortly on ZOOM. Please include an e-mail address and a cell phone #. It is our only method of contacting you! All questions should be directed to: Ms. Shirley Williams, DRE at 301-518-5596 or papermom@verizon.net.

ARCHDIOCESAN NEWS

RETIREMENT FUND FOR RELIGIOUS: From Catholic schools and hospitals to parishes, retreat centers, and works of mercy-elderly sisters, brothers, and religious order priests have prayerfully served our Church and world. Most ministered for little pay. Now, without enough retirement savings, many religious communities are struggling to care for aging members. Your gift to the Retirement Fund for Religious helps provide nursing care, medicine, and other necessities.