

Sunday, December 19, 2021

Fourth Sunday of Advent

PARISH OFFICE HOURS

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

Email: stluke.dc@adwparish.org
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



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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

What Is the Candle of Love and the Christ Candle for Advent? Week 4

As a reminder for our candles of advent series, we've covered the different candles the church lights weekly, starting with the first week in December, and leading up to the week of Christmas. Churches will typically adorn an Advent wreath during December. Four candles decorate the outer edges of the wreath, and one white candle sits in the middle. The church will light one of the candles each week, and on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day, will light the candles in the center. These candles remind us of the attributes of God we use during our anticipation of Christ's coming: his first coming for Christmas and his long-awaited second coming. As a summary, these were the past few candles of Advent:

The Candle of Hope - Week 1

The Candle of Peace - Week 2

The Candle of Joy - Week 3

In the final week of Advent, churches will light two candles. We'll discuss the fourth and fifth Advent candles in this article: the candle of love and the Christ candle. What Is the Candle of Love? Before we dive into this, we should keep in mind, some church traditions vary on which candle goes on which Sunday. Some may light the "love candle" on the second Sunday of Advent instead of the fourth. Others have lit the candle of Peace on the fourth week of Advent instead of the candle of love. Or, as stated in this article, some churches will light a candle of faith on the second Sunday instead of a candle of peace. No matter what the church tradition, we can assuredly know that virtues such as love, hope, peace, joy, and faith are important in the Christmas story as well as in our daily walk with Christ.

Whichever we celebrate on whatever Sunday of Advent, we know all of them are important hallmarks of the Christian faith and journey. With that being said, let's dive into the symbolism of the love candle. Otherwise known as the Angel candle, this candle can represent purity. We see the other candles representing a part of the Christmas story in addition to virtues.

Week One - The prophecies about the coming Messiah

Week Two - Bethlehem, Jesus' birthplace

Week Three - The shepherds who came to see Jesus

Week Four - The angels who proclaimed the good news of Jesus' birth to the shepherds

Love, as stated in this article, plays a vital role in the Christmas story. Because of Joseph's love for Mary, he didn't stone her when he found out she was pregnant with what he thought was a child out of wedlock with another man (Matthew 1:18-19). Mary has a natural motherly love for Jesus, and ultimately, we see God's love for everyone by sending his son for us (John 3:16). Jesus focused on preaching love throughout his ministry. Two of his greatest commands involve love: Love God, love your neighbor (Matthew 22:36-40). Love is the greatest of all the virtues on the Advent wreath and encompasses Jesus' entire purpose for being on earth (1 Corinthians 13:13).

Culled from <https://www.christianity.com/wiki/holidays/what-is-the-candle-of-love-and-the-christ-candle-for-advent-week-4.html>

REFLECTION FOR FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

St. Augustine tells us that a "Christian is a mind through which Christ thinks, a heart through which Christ loves, a voice through which Christ speaks and a hand through which Christ helps." As we look around and out at the world, we do not have to search too far before we come face to face with inequity and injustice. There is so much unfairness, prejudice, anger, hatred, violence, and want. The stories of human heartache, people being hurt, deprived of life's necessities, loneliness, and sickness are far too commonplace. For many of the world's ills, the vices of greed, lust, pride, gluttony, and jealousy are clearly among the more significant root causes.

Why doesn't God just step in and fix this mess? After all, God created this world, and one would hope that he would step up and take some measure of responsibility for it! Once we sit with this thinking for a while, we can begin to realize just how flawed it really is. God did take responsibility and God did fix the problem! God sent us Jesus Christ as the divine solution to the world's ills. It is not God who has shirked responsibility, we have. We are the ones who continually fail to set our own personal needs, wants, and securities aside so that One more powerful than us can use us.

Mary had to set her needs aside in order for the Son of God to come into the world. Put simply, Mary listened and believed. Having opened herself to being an instrument of the Divine, God could use her as his mind, heart, voice, and hand. She became God's vessel so that God's greatness could reach the ends of the earth and peace could come upon the world. God's fix for the world's difficulties is you and me.

We are the ones who confess that Jesus Christ came into the world as the Son of God, the Prince of Peace, and herald of justice. All we have to do is believe, as did Mary, that what has been spoken to us by the Lord will be fulfilled. Then, we can step aside and be the Christians we claim to be. What a difference it would make if every person who professed to be Christian truly understood that their one and only vocation is to be God's instrument. What a beautiful, equitable, and just world it would be.

Liturgical Publications 2015

HAPPY BIRTHDAY/ANNIVERSARY

We would like to wish a wonderful happy birthday to Marlene J. Patterson, Earnest E. Payton. Crawley Easely, Westley Douglas I, Jamari Davis, James Queen and Cynthia Banks. Also, a wonderful wedding anniversary to Mr. & Mrs. Earnest E. & Iris O. Payton.

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

Readings for the week of December 19, 2021

Sunday: Micah 5:1-4a/Psalms 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19 [4]/Hebrews 10:5-10/Luke 1:39-45
Monday: Isaiah 7:10-14/Psalms 24:1-2, 3-4ab, 5-6 [cf. 7c and 10b]/Luke 1:26-38
Tuesday: Song of Songs 2:8-14 or Zephaniah 3:14-18a/Psalms 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21 [1a; 3a]/Luke 1:39-45
Wednesday: 1 Samuel 1:24-28/1 Samuel 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd [cf. 1a]/Luke 1:46-56
Thursday: Maachil 3:1-4, 23-24/Psalms 25:4-5ab, 8-9, 10 and 14 [cf. Luke 21:28]/Luke 1:57-66
Friday: *Morning:* 2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Psalms 89:2-3, 4-5, 27 and 29 [2]/Luke 1:67-79
Night: Isaiah 9:1-6/Psalms 96:1-2, 2-3, 11-12, 13 [Luke 2:11]/Titus 2:11-14/Luke 2:1-14
Dawn: Isaiah 62:11-12/Psalms 97:1, 6, 11-12/Titus 3:4-7/Luke 2:15-20
Day: Isaiah 52:7-10/Psalms 98:1, 2-3, 3-4, 5-6 [3c]/Hebrews 1:1-6/John 1:1-18 or 1:1-5, 9-14
Next Sunday: Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14/Psalms 128:1-2, 3, 4-5 [cf. 1]/Colossians 3:12-21 or 3:12-17/Luke 2:41-52 or 1 Samuel 1:20-22, 24-28/Psalms 84:2-3, 5-6, 9-10 [cf. 5a]/1 John 3:1-2, 21-24/Luke 2:41-52

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 12/20
Eternal repose of the soul of Arlene Canty+++ by Family

Tuesday 12/21
St. Peter

Wednesday 12/22
Late Advent Weekday

Thursday 12/23
Eternal repose of the soul of Theresa N. Travis+++ by Hilda McDougald

Friday 12/24
Late Advent Weekday

Saturday 12/25
The Nativity of the Lord

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 12/12/2021:

\$5,302

May God reward you abundantly for your generosity.

Quote of the Day

Thus says the LORD:

You, Bethlehem-Ephrathah

too small to be among the clans of Judah,

from you shall come forth for me

one who is to be ruler in Israel;

whose origin is from of old, from ancient times.– Micah 5:2

CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

Friday December 24th– Christmas Eve Mass @ 7pm

Saturday December 25th– Christmas Day Mass @ 10am

Saturday December 25th– Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph Vigil Mass @ 4:pm

Sunday December 26th Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph, Mass @ 8:30am & 11am.

CHRISTMAS BASKET DISTRIBUTIONS: Will take place on Tuesday December 21 at 10am.