

**Sunday, December 11, 2022**

The Second 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.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



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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 2022 is "You, O Lord, protect us always; preserve us from this generation." [Psalm 12:8] 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**

**Holy Hour/ Adoration**

**Every First 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

### What Is the Candle of Joy for Advent? Week 3

In our candles of advent series, we've analyzed the symbolic importance of the five candles present on or inside the **advent wreath**, often featured in churches on Sunday. In past weeks, we've covered the history of the candles and wreath as well as the **candle of peace** and the **candle of hope**. For this week, we'll cover the third candle known as the candle of joy. Instead of the previous two weeks of purple or violet candles, this week the color of the candle will be different: it's pink. As a reminder, three candles are purple, one is pink, and the one in the center is white. Churches will light one candle a week, starting the first week of December, and will light the white candle in the center on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day.

#### What Is the Candle of Joy?

Otherwise known as the Shepherd Candle, this candle reflects the joy that comes through Jesus' arrival, and through the salvation he has gifted us. Christians may wonder why the church decided to make this particular candle a different color than the others. Although Christians have presented several reasons for the pinkish nature of the candle, from a tradition where priests would wear pink vestments to parents eagerly awaiting the joy of a child's arrival by painting the room pink, the rosy candle has its roots in something known as **Gaudete Sunday**. During this third week of advent, this Sunday celebrates the passage **Philippians 4:4-5**, its verses extolling readers to "rejoice" for "indeed the Lord is near." In other words, this week celebrates the joy of Christ's coming to earth.

We should also note that not every church uses a pink candle to represent this day. Some will use a violet one, just like all the others. Violet tends to have a somber nature, and it also reflects royalty, acknowledging Jesus' kingship. No matter what color of candle a church displays on that third Sunday, churches want to highlight the importance of joy in advent season. During a time where depression is at an all-time high and people seem to be in the most despair, this candle offers a bright light during a dark time. It is also known as the Shepherd Candle to highlight the joy the shepherds experienced when they received the good news about Christ's birth (**Luke 2:8-20**). During the middle of the night, the darkest time, the shepherds encountered angels.

#### What Does the Bible Say about Joy?:

Before we dive into the numerous verses that talk about joy, we have to establish an understanding of biblical joy. It goes far beyond momentary happiness. Like the happiness a child might experience when they unwrap a gift that they'd hoped for on Christmas day. It is an **extreme happiness** that cannot be deterred by present circumstances. This type of joy comes from God alone. Joy can often be experienced when a Christian thinks about salvation, eternal life, or Jesus.

<https://www.christianity.com/wiki/holidays/what-is-the-candle-of-joy-for-advent-week-3.html>

### REFLECTION FOR THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Life can leave us feeling dark and desolate. Sandy was just twenty-eight when her husband, Rob, died, leaving her to raise their two young children. She was without paid employment. Rob went to work one morning and never returned home. Sandy, though, had faith and trusted that somehow God would help her through, even though most days brought deafening, piercing loneliness. She persevered, and the darkness gave way to light. Remarking one day to a friend hesitant to commit to a relationship, Sandy shared her wisdom. Even if she knew the outcome would be the same, she would marry Rob again. She assured her friend that she would even do this if eight years could only be eight minutes. We are being led by God and God transforms the darkness into light.

"Be strong, fear not!" Those are easy words to say. Putting them into practice is the challenge. When our paths are dark and life's roads become treacherous, we can easily complain about life's unfinished nature. When will the pain go away? Will the loneliness ever cease? Will I experience happiness again? As the farmer needs to exercise patience with the soil, we need to do the same with our lives. We have to wait for the early and late rains to come, properly tend to our gardens, and ensure that the rich nutrients of God's merciful and tender presence continue to enrich us. God is not done. God has only just begun his work in us.

We cannot allow life to hold us captive. The systems, agendas, protocols, regulations, expectations, and unfinished business can distract us from what it means to be God's child. Life can leave us feeling cheated, negative, and parched. All times and seasons of our spiritual and liturgical lives lead us to three virtues: faith, hope and love. Stop complaining about what is wrong and look to what God can make right! Joy that flows from the Baptist's message: in Jesus, the one mightier than he, are found healing, reconciliation, and freedom. Christ will save us from life's distortions, illusions, and disappointments. Do you believe this?

Liturgical Publication 2015

HAPPY BIRTHDAY/ANNIVERSARY

We would like to wish a wonderful happy birthday to Earnest Cox, Edith Cornish, Christal Mitchell, Rosetta Henry, Yvette Sherman, Cursey J. Calais, Martha Feemster, and Kayden~Wilson Porter

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

Readings for the week of December 11, 2022

**Sunday:** Isaiah 35:1-6a, 10/Psalms 146:6-7, 8-9, 9-10/James 5:7-10/Matthew 11:2-11  
**Monday:** Zechariah 2:14-17 or Revelation 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab/Judith 13:18bcde, 19/Luke 1:26-38 or Luke 1:39-47  
**Tuesday:** Zephaniah 3:1-2, 9-13/Psalms 34:2-3, 6-7, 17-18, 19 and 23/Matthew 21:28-32  
**Wednesday:** Isaiah 45:6c-8, 18, 21c-25/Psalms 85:9ab and 10, 11-12, 13-14/Luke 7:18b-23  
**Thursday:** Isaiah 54:1-10/Psalms 30:2 and 4, 5-6, 11-12a and 13b/Luke 7:24-30  
**Friday:** Isaiah 56:1-3a, 6-8/Psalms 67:2-3, 5, 7-8/John 5:33-36  
**Saturday:** Genesis 49:2, 8-10/Psalms 72:1-2, 3-4ab, 7-8, 17/Matthew 1:1-17  
**Next Sunday:** Isaiah 7:10-14/Psalms 24:1-2, 3-4, 5-6 [7c, 10b]/Roman 1:1-7/Matthew 1:18-24

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 12/12**  
God' Blessing and Protection for Anthony Wilson and Tierra Wilson by Jacqueline Wilson

**Thursday 12/15**  
Rest of the soul of Phillip Sims (Mildred Roots brother) by Mildred Roots

**Tuesday 12/13**  
St. Lucy

**Friday 12/16**  
Advent Weekday

**Wednesday 12/14**  
St. John of the Cross

**Saturday 12/17**  
Late Advent Weekday

**Pray for the Sick & Shut-In of Our Parish**

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

Iyana Davage  
Joyce Diggs  
Lamont Diggs, Sr.  
Crawley Easely  
Marita C. Edelin  
Joshua M. Faison  
Kimbolyn Flowers  
Anthony Flowers  
Betty Gale  
Tina Garvin  
Katrina Griffin  
Steve Halle  
Chris Hawkins  
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  
Barbara Mallory  
Sadie Mason  
Doris McCannon  
Alice L. Montague  
Veronica Murray  
Kathy Ndouga  
David Neal  
Martha Neal  
Florence Patterson  
Marlene Patterson

Silvia Perry  
Doreene Redd  
Corley Redd  
Regina Rivers  
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  
Charles Watson, Jr.

Cecelia Williams  
Lois 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 Adoration @ 6:00pm**

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

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

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

\$ 2,733.06

Offertory Contributions for : 12-4-2022

May God reward you abundantly for your generosity.

## Quote of the Day

Say to those whose hearts are frightened: Be strong, fear not!  
Here is your God, he comes with vindication; with divine recompense he comes to save you. -Isaiah 35:4

## PARISH NEWS

**LECTOR TRAINING** : There is an in person training for new and existing lectors on Saturday, December 17, 2022 at 10:00 am.

**SAINT LUKE RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**: There are application sheets in the back of the church for children from pre-K to 12th grade. Please submit your application as soon as possible.

**HOLIDAY YOUTH BRUNCH** on December 18, 2022 at St. Luke's Center. The cost is \$10 donation for adults and children are free. Tickets are available after each Mass. This is your last chance to donate toys.

## ARCHDIOCESAN NEWS

**ARCHDIOCESAN DECEMBER SECOND COLLECTION**: Retirement Fund for Religious will take place on December 11, 2022. Please give generously.

**THE COUNCIL OF CATHOLIC WOMEN-ARCHDIOCESE OF WASHINGTON** invites you to join them in prayer and reflection during this beautiful season of Advent as we await the birth of our Savior Jesus Christ. Please join their virtual Tea & Reflection **Advent of Joy: By Way of the Holy Eucharist**, Sunday, December 18, 2022, 3:00-4:00 p.m. For more information, contact CCW-ADW at [archdiocesecw@gmail.com](mailto:archdiocesecw@gmail.com) or go to: <https://www.councilofcatholicwomen-adw.com/> . "May this Advent help us transform hope into the certainty that whom we await loves us and will never abandon us." Pope Francis.