

Sunday, July 16, 2023

Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

PARISH OFFICE HOURS

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

Email: stluke.dc@adw.org
www.stlukechurchsj.org



**15TH SUNDAY
IN ORDINARY TIME**

“The seed sown on rich soil is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields a hundred or sixty or thirtyfold.”
- Mt 13:23

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD. GLP

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, S.E. WASHINGTON,
DC 20019



PASTORAL STAFF

PASTOR

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

Rev. Frederick Nnebue
In Residence

DEACON

Richard Walker
(202) 584-8322 Ext. 103

SISTER

Anne Marie Schreiner, DC
4901 Eastern Ave.
Hyattsville, MD 20782
(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 2023 is “You are my inheritance O Lord, you have made my destiny secure.” [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 Makes Good Soil?

(Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23)

by Joann H. Lee

Jesus calls this the parable of the sower. But the focus of his explanation seems to be not on the sower but on the seeds and where they fall. What circumstances and situations allow for these seeds to grow and bear fruit? The answer: good soil. Jesus does not go into much detail as to what makes for “good soil,” either. How do we ensure that the troubles of this world and our own problems do not stifle growth? How can we allow God’s word to take root in our lives so that transformation and change are possible, both personally and in community? These are questions to be grappled with and worked through for a lifetime. If it were easy, we would have it all figured out already. It isn’t easy, but I wonder if it might be *simple*. Simple, that is, in the sense of straightforward and rather obvious. Perhaps good soil only requires three things: humility enough to hear, imagination and creativity enough to dream, and conviction enough to act.

Jesus addresses the first one: “But as for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields.” The ability to hear and understand God’s message is often impeded by our own assumptions, cultural norms, and biases. I believe humility is a necessity when approaching God’s word. We have to recognize that none of us is a blank slate, and that we all pick and choose the parts of scripture that seem to best fit our predisposed understanding of God. If we are to “walk humbly with God,” we should be prepared to be startled by what we learn when we open ourselves to the Holy Spirit’s work in opening scripture to us. To be good soil, we must also have the imagination and creativity to dream, to be able to see beyond what is already happening toward what might be possible. This part is best done with other people. The best ideas and possibilities often come when a diversity of voices and perspectives are present—especially if they involve dreams of systemic, cultural change in the world.

Even if the changes we seek to make are strictly personal, however, having others walk with us in our journey of faith can help us affirm and change course as necessary. And finally, to be good soil we must have the conviction to act. While the hearing and the dreaming may happen internally, this third piece is the outpouring of what God is doing within us for the world, our response to what we have learned and received. This may be the most important part of being good soil, but it is also oftentimes the hardest part. Living what we believe, acting on our convictions, and persevering in the face of resistance are not for the faint-hearted. Nevertheless, this parable calls us to be good soil, to hear and then to respond. Luckily, one grain of sand never makes for good soil; we need a lot of dirt, all bound together. Together, we can bear fruit, nourishing one another and faithfully following God.

Culled from <https://www.christiancentury.org/blog-post/sundays-coming/what-makes-good-soil-matthew-131-9-18-23>

REFLECTION FOR 15TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

It’s not uncommon to hear people complain that we Catholics often fail in communicating our faith. Fair enough. We can and should improve there. But it’s interesting to notice that Jesus himself was implicitly accused by his disciples of a similar failure. This week in Matthew’s gospel they are perplexed that he speaks to the crowds in ambiguous parables. The Lord’s riddles leave many people more confused than before.

He responds by pointing out that his parables have an intentional dual purpose: to hide (for some) and to reveal (for others) his Gospel: “Because knowledge of the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven has been granted to you, but to them it has not been granted” (Matthew 13:11). Is Jesus being unnecessarily difficult, obscurantist, or, worse, elitist?

No. We have to remember that all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge lie hidden in him (c.f., Col. 2:3). He is the word of God from heaven to be planted in the earth of our humanity to bear great fruit. However, like a lover delicately pursuing his beloved, we’re dealing with a *relationship*, not new data.

When we aren’t willing to personally accept Jesus into our lives, the “info” of the Gospel will simply not make sense to us. It’ll seem bizarre, esoteric, or like incoherent religious-speak. But when we are willing to accept Jesus into our lives, everything else starts to make sense. When others don’t understand the Church or the Lord, let’s be patient. Love is patient. Sometimes it has to hide before it is revealed.

— Father John Muir

HAPPY BIRTHDAY/ANNIVERSARY

We would like to wish a wonderful happy birthday to
 Louvina Miles, Janille M. Thompson,
 William Brown, Caleb Brown,
 Sister Anne Marie Schreiner,
 Kelly Tatum, Byron Wilson, Sr. ,
 Jackie R. Thornton

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

Readings for the week of July 16, 2023

Sunday: Isaiah 55:10-11/Psalm 65:1, 11, 12-13, 14 (Luke 8:8)/Romans 8:18-23/Matthew 13:1-23 or 13:1-9

Monday: Exodus 1:8-14, 22/Psalm 124:1b-3, 4-6, 7-8/Matthew 10:34—11:1

Tuesday: Exodus 2:1-15a/Psalm 69:3, 14, 30-31, 33-34/Matthew 11:20-24

Wednesday: Exodus 3:1-6, 9-12/Psalm 103:1b-2, 3-4, 6-7/Matthew 11:25-27

Thursday: Exodus 3:13-20/Psalm 105:1 and 5, 8-9, 24-25, 26-27/Matthew 11:28-30

Friday: Exodus 11:10—12:14/Psalm 116:12-13, 15 and 16bc, 17-18/Matthew 12:1-8

Saturday: Song of Songs 3:1-4b or 2 Corinthians 5:14-17/Psalm 63:2, 3-4, 5-6, 8-9/John 20:1-2, 11-18

Next Sunday: Wisdom 12:13, 16-19/Psalm 86:5-6, 9-10, 15-16 (5a)/Romans 8:26-27/

Church Support

Please consider making a donation to support our parish during these 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 7/17
 God's blessings & protection for Judith Travers by Daughters of Isabella
 God's blessings and protection for Elizabeth and Mercer Patterson by Patterson Family

Tuesday 7/18
 St. Camillus

Wednesday 7/19
 Weekday

Thursday 7/20
 Please pray for the cure of Katlin O'Grady, Bernadine Conrad's granddaughter by Bernadine Conrad
 Pray for the cure for those with cancer, cancer survivors and life threatening diseases by Bernadine Conrad

Friday 7/21
 St. Lawrence

Saturday 7/22
 St Mary Magdalene

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

Lamont Diggs, Sr.
 Crawley Easley
 Marita C. Edelin
 Joshua M. Faison
 Kimbolyn Flowers
 Anthony Flowers
 Betty Gale
 Tina Garvin
 Nichole Gramh
 Katrina Griffin
 Steve Halle
 Chris Hawkins
 Faye L. Hawkins
 Brenda Henson
 Carolyn Holland
 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
 Steven N.
 Kathy Ndouga
 David Neal
 Martha Neal
 Silvia Perry
 Gertrude Quarles

John Quarles
 Doreene Redd
 Corley Redd
 Regina Rivers
 Leroy Sandifer
 Betty Smith
 Helen Smith
 Kayla Tatum
 Rolland Taylor
 Gloria Thompson-Price
 James F. Thompson, Jr.
 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

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

Offertory Contributions for 7/9/2023: \$914.00

Donation for Maintenance: \$3,972.00

May God reward you abundantly for your generosity.

Quote of the Day

“We can’t change people, but we can plant seeds that may one day bloom in them.”

— Mary Davis

PARISH NEWS

TWO FUNERAL MASSES OF CHRISTIAN BURIAL: On July 18: Kenneth Shelton Collins, viewing 9:30 – 11:00am, funeral Mass 11:00am. On July 28: Charles R. Boykins, viewing 10:00—11:00am, funeral Mass 11:00 am. Please pray for the families

SISTER ACT the Musical: The Daughters of Isabella and Our Lady of the Annunciation Sodality presents a trip to: *Toby’s Dinner Theater* on Wednesday, October 18, 2023. Tickets are \$135.00. You can make 4 payments the 1st payment: is due ASAP and the final payment. is due Sept. 10th. Lunch is served upon arrival. For reservations contact Janice Williams and Joyce Thomas. Flyers are in the back of church.

TOILETRY DRIVE FOR WOMEN’S SHELTER during the summer months beginning in June. The items being requested are soap, lotion, deodorant, toothpaste and toothbrushes. Please place your items in the boxes located in the front of the church and in the back of the church. This is sponsored by the Sodality.

ARCHDICESAN NEWS

AFRICAN NATIONAL EUCHARISTIC CONGRESS (ANEC) – July 21-23 The USCCB, Committee on Cultural Diversity/Subcommittee on the Pastoral Care of Migrants, Refugees and Travelers is currently planning the African National Eucharistic Congress (ANEC) to be held at The Catholic University of America, July 21-23, 2023. The ANEC brings together African Catholics from across our nation to celebrate the living presence of Jesus in the Church and to uplift and renew their faith as Catholics in the United States. For questions or further information, please do not hesitate to contact Sr. Joanna Okereke, HHCJ, in the USCCB office for the Pastoral Care of Migrants, Refugees and Travelers: JOkereke@uscgb.org or 202-541-335.

XIII NATIONAL BLACK CATHOLIC CONGRESS--July 20-23:The XIII National Black Catholic Congress will be held July 20-23, 2023, at the Gaylord National Resort and Convention Center at National Harbor, Maryland. The largest national gathering in support of the Black Catholic ministry, Congress XIII will bring together clergy, Religious and lay people for prayer, dialogue, and discernment to determine the priorities for the next National Black Catholic Congress Pastoral Plan.