

Sunday, August 20, 2023

Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

PARISH OFFICE HOURS

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

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



**20TH SUNDAY
IN ORDINARY TIME**

Then Jesus said to her in reply, "O woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish." And the woman's daughter was healed from that hour.
- Mt 15:28

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

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



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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 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

Scraps from the Table

By Ken Collins

One of Jesus' rare excursions into Gentile territory took place near Tyre, a city which is now in Lebanon. A Canaanite woman begs Jesus to heal her little daughter who is possessed by an unclean spirit. Now this is indeed an odd but moving sight. A pagan woman prevailing upon a Jewish rabbi for his services! When people are afflicted with persistent illness, they often try anything to get rid of it. They don't necessarily believe the quackery, it's just that they figure they have nothing to lose, so why not? My grandmother wore copper bracelets for her arthritis in accordance with a then-popular folk cure. She wore them not because they offered any relief, but simply because she figured they couldn't hurt anything and they just might help.

Finally, she stopped wearing them when her doctor convinced her that she had an adverse reaction to the copper. Then she started drinking a mixture of vinegar and honey, which was supposed to do the same thing. It didn't help either, but it didn't hurt anything. So in many cases when desperate people come to Jesus for help, He makes them examine their motives: in effect, He asks them, Do you really believe that I can do this, or am I just another copper bracelet? The longest such discourse we have is in John 11, where Jesus discussed faith at great length with Mary and Martha before He raised Lazarus from the dead.

So Jesus asks the Canaanite woman if it is really proper for a Jewish rabbi to give Jewish things to a gentile; in other words, is it proper to take the children's food and give it to the dogs? Was this an offensive question? Of course it was, but probably not as offensive to her ears as to ours. Since Jewish things are meant for Jewish people, and by Jewish standards, non-Jews are not worthy, the metaphor is apt. We are offended today because we are preoccupied with our own innate dignity and worth. In medieval times they were preoccupied with human sin and depravity, but neither preoccupation can validly be read into the first century. The woman would have—and did—see the figure of speech as it was intended.

Incidentally, we know from other passages in the New Testament that Jesus is very observant and probably did not need to ask this question for his own information. So I think that he was really setting His apostles up for a lesson. Jesus was probably staging this discussion and using this exorcism to prepare them for their mission to the gentiles later on. The woman's reply indicated that her request came from faith and not from a spirit of desperate experimentation: Even the dogs eat the children's table scraps. By saying this, the woman shows that she's not just looking for a magic trick; she acknowledged Jesus' standing and authority and the genuineness of His ministry, she acknowledged her own unworthiness to receive it; she prevailed upon His grace.

So Jesus cast the demon out of her daughter. Note in passing that it is the petitioner, not the sick person, who needs to have faith. When we ask things of God, are we bossing around a subordinate? Are we operating a cosmic vending machine? Or are we petitioning the grace of a King, and throwing ourselves upon His mercy? Are we willing to humble ourselves to attain a greater blessing?

We have a lot to learn from the Canaanite woman's style of prayer.

<https://www.kencollins.com/worship/pray-07.htm>

REFLECTION FOR TWENTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

The suffering of a child symbolizes uniquely terrible evil as well as despair about the future. This week's Gospel gives a "limit" case in which Jesus encounters this evil in the form of a mother with a suffering daughter. What he does is stunning and massively helpful for us if we bravely ponder the details.

The Canaanite woman comes to Jesus and begs his mercy. "My daughter is tormented by a demon," she declares to him. Shockingly, he responds first with silence, then with a dismissive comment, and only then finally accedes to her third request. Is this simply a lesson in perseverance in our petitions to God, who is like a genie in a bottle? Does that justify the humiliation and pain this woman suffers? Is the Lord cruel?

I don't think so. Notice how the encounter ends. She compares herself to a dog at the table of a master. Jesus responds by praising her great faith and fulfills her deep desire. Somehow this non-Israelite woman intuits that this harrowing situation is not dumb suffering. She senses that the door of God's family is, in Jesus, being opened to her and her loved ones. She trusts she is at the Lord's table, and her desires will be fulfilled and that all her sufferings — and her daughter's, too — will lead a great banquet. In our sufferings this week, the Lord wants us to treat him less like a genie in a bottle and more like the Master who has taken us — lost little dogs that we are — into his home forever. Trust that and keep praying in the face of evil.

— Father John Muir

HAPPY BIRTHDAY/ANNIVERSARY

We would like to wish a wonderful happy birthday to
 Barbara Easterling, Kenard J. Brisbon, Sha'Mya Davis,
 Ka'Mysha Davis, Chiedozie Onianwah, Margaret E.
 Darlington, Brenda Edmond, Laylah Neal and a happy wed-
 ding anniversary to Mr. & Mrs. Frank E., Sr. and Janice M.
 Williams, Mr. & Mrs. Thomas & Paulette Hamlin, Mr. &
 Mrs. Abu, Sr. and Colette Mansaray and Mr. & Mrs. Parfait
 & Prisea Amah

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

Readings for the week of August 20, 2023

Sunday: Isaiah 56:1, 6-7/Psalms 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8 (4)/
 Romans 11:13-15, 29-32/Matthew 15:21-28

Monday: Judges 2:11-19/Psalms 106:34-35, 36-
 37, 39-40, 43ab and 44/Matthew 19:16-22

Tuesday: Judges 6:11-24a/Psalms 85:9, 11-12,
 13-14/Matthew 19:23-30

Wednesday: Judges 9:6-15/Psalms 21:2-3, 4-5, 6-7/
 Matthew 20:1-16

Thursday: Revelation 21:9b-14/Psalms 145:10-
 11, 12-13, 17-18/John 1:45-51

Friday: Ruth 1:1, 3-6, 14b-16, 22/Psalms 146:5-6ab, 6c-
 7, 8-9a, 9bc-10/Matthew 22:34-40

Saturday: Ruth 2:1-3, 8-11; 4:13-17/Psalms
 128:1b-2, 3, 4, 5/Matthew 23:1-12

Next Sunday: Isaiah 22:19-23/Psalms 138:1-2, 2-3, 6,
 8 (8bc)/Romans 11:33-36/Matthew 16:13-20

Church Support

Please consider making a donation to sup-
 port 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 8/21/2023
 Wedding anniversary
 blessings for Mr. & Mrs.
 Frank & Janice Williams
 (48 years) by Williams
 Family
 Eternal repose of the
 soul of Hilda McDougald by
 Milton Harris, Jr.

Tuesday 8/22
 The Queenship of the
 Blessed Virgin Mary

Wednesday 8/23
 St. Rose of Lima

Thursday 8/24
 Birthday blessings for
 Margaret E. Darlington (96
 years) BY Williams Family
 Eternal repose of the
 soul of Shirley Graham,+++
 by B. Conrad

Friday 8/25
 Ss. Louis, Joseph

Saturday 8/26
 Eternal repose of the
 souls of Nathaniel Chan-
 dler+++ (BB) & Betty
 Lee+++ (BB) by Sandra
 Stubbs

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 Graham
 Katrina Griffin
 Steve Halle
 Agnes Harrell
 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
 Quarles
 Dorene Redd
 Corley Redd
 Regina Rivers
 Leroy Sandifer
 Betty Smith
 Helen Smith
 Jimmy Smith
 Kayla Tatum
 Rolland Taylor
 Gloria Thompson-Price
 James F. Thompson, Jr.
 Barbara B. Tyler
 Wayne A. Wallace
 Marquita Ward
 Shiela Washington
 Steven Washington

John Charles Watson, Jr.
 Cecelia Williams
 Lois Williams
 Wellington Waters
 Dolores Woodard, Jr.
 Harold Woodard, Sr.
 Viola Wright

St Luke military
 families.

All the Homeless men
 and women in our com-
 munity.

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 8/13/2023: \$820.95

Donation for Maintenance: \$3,616.00

May God reward you abundantly for your generosity.

Quote of the Day

If you believe in yourself and have dedication and pride - and never quit, you'll be a winner. The price of victory is high but so are the rewards. Bear Bryant

PARISH NEWS

ST. LUKE ANNUAL FAMILY COOKOUT AND FUN DAY WILL TAKE PLACE ON SUNDAY AUGUST 27TH @12:30PM. VENUE IS CHURCH PARKING LOT/FIELD. SPECIAL GUEST-MPD POLICE BAND. COME FOR GOOD FOOD AND GREAT MUSIC.

MASS OF CHRISTIAN BURIAL for Leeroy Bundy on Friday, April 25, 2023. Viewing from 9:30 to 11:00am and Funeral Mass at 11:00am. Please pray for the family.

REGISTRATION FOR CCD 2023-2024 will begin on August 27th at the Annual Family Day Cookout. Look for the Registration Desk on the rear parking lot!

YOUTH CHOIR Several parents have inquired about a YOUTH CHOIR. This can only happen if parents are willing to work with us! There will be a Sign-up sheet for this activity also available on August 27th at the Registration Desk.

ANNUAL BACK TO SCHOOL BOOK BAG DRIVE: It is almost that time again for the annual back to school book bag drive! This summer we'll start end of July through last Saturday in August, prior to our St. Luke Family/Friends Fun Day! They can be placed in the back of the church, as always, St. Luke Book bag Committee appreciates your support!

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.

ARCHDICESAN NEWS

ORACLE RELIGIOUS ASSN: (Sr. Dr. Oralisa Martin and Msgr. Raymond East) Present The ORACLE BMW: Blind Men Witness Men's Retreat Date: October 13,14,15, 2023 (Fri., Sat., Sun.) Place: Washington, DC Visit ORACLE'S website ~ www.oraclereligious.com Or call: 202-528-8633 ~ Sr. Dr. Oralisa Martin