

**Sunday, September 17, 2023**

Twenty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

**PARISH OFFICE HOURS**

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

Email: [stluke.dc@adw.org](mailto:stluke.dc@adw.org)  
[www.stlukechurchsj.org](http://www.stlukechurchsj.org)



**24<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY  
IN ORDINARY TIME**

Peter approached Jesus and asked him, "Lord, if my brother sins against me, how often must I forgive? As many as seven times?" Jesus answered, "I say to you, not seven times but seventy-seven times."  
- Mt 18:21-22

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



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**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

### Mercy vs Kindness: Do These Mean The Same? How To Use Them

When it comes to words that are often used interchangeably, mercy and kindness are two of the most commonly confused terms. While both words are related to compassion and empathy, they have distinct meanings that set them apart from one another. In this article, we will explore the differences between mercy and kindness and discuss which of the two is the proper word to use in different situations. Let's define each term. Mercy is often associated with forgiveness and compassion. It is a willingness to show leniency or compassion to someone who has wronged you or others. Kindness, on the other hand, is a broader term that refers to the act of being friendly, generous, and considerate towards others. While mercy is typically reserved for situations where someone has done wrong, kindness can be shown to anyone, regardless of their actions.

So, which of the two is the proper word to use? The answer is that it depends on the situation. If someone has wronged you or others, showing mercy may be the appropriate response. However, if you simply want to be friendly and considerate towards others, kindness is the better choice. In the rest of this article, we will explore the differences between mercy and kindness in more detail, and provide examples of situations where one word may be more appropriate than the other.

#### Define Mercy

Mercy is a virtue that involves showing compassion and forgiveness to someone who has wronged you or is in a vulnerable position. It is an act of kindness that is extended to someone who is undeserving of it. Mercy is often described as an act of grace, as it involves showing kindness to someone who may not have earned it or who may have even harmed you in some way. Mercy is often associated with religious teachings and is seen as a divine attribute. It is also a key concept in legal systems, where it is used to describe the power to show leniency or clemency to a convicted criminal.

#### Define Kindness

Kindness is a broad term that encompasses a range of positive behaviors and attitudes. At its core, kindness involves treating others with compassion, empathy, and respect. It involves doing good deeds and showing generosity to others without expecting anything in return. Kindness can take many forms, from small acts of courtesy and consideration to larger acts of charity and philanthropy. It is often described as a virtue, and many philosophical and religious traditions emphasize the importance of cultivating kindness as a central aspect of a moral life. Kindness is also closely related to other positive traits, such as empathy, compassion, and altruism. It is a key component of healthy relationships, and it is often cited as a key factor in promoting happiness and well-being.

Culled from <https://thecontentauthority.com/blog/mercy-vs-kindness>

### REFLECTION FOR TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

When I was in second grade, my prized possession was a metal Star Wars-themed lunch box. After school one day, another student ripped it from my hands. I helplessly watched in horror as my classmate threw it to the ground and violently stomped it into an unrecognizable heap of junk. I came home covered in tears of shame and rage. After a few months, I never thought about it again ... until I was almost thirty years old and on a retreat to prepare for ordination to the priesthood.

That childhood memory — and the attendant outrage — came back afresh. My spiritual director helped me in the process of acknowledging that I was angry because that kid *owed* me my lunch box. Then she helped me, through the grace of Jesus, to forgive the debt. Almost immediately I felt a new peace. I was amazed that I hadn't forgotten what I had lost, even from years before. Aren't we human beings simply amazing at remembering what people owe us?

We see this week in Jesus' parable a servant who is forgiven much but then commands another servant: "Pay back what you owe!" He can't forget or let go of how he was wronged. He *remembers* — and he becomes a monster because of it. If only he had remembered not only the debts owed to him, but also his greater debt owed to — and forgiven by — his master. It's natural for us to remember what others owe us. But when we contextualize those offenses in Jesus' mercy toward us and them, we're free to be merciful like the Master and less like a monster who never forgets.

— Father John Muir

HAPPY BIRTHDAY/ANNIVERSARY

We would like to wish a wonderful happy birthday to Michael Johnson, Sr., Frances A. Cooper, Sunday Glover-Cox, Dorene Mahoney, Mercers Patterson, Candice Williams, Constance Young, Marie Ebenbeng, Chelsea Julienne Njieuka Touani, Juliet Ross, Brielle Ngacheu and a wonderful wedding anniversary to Mr. & Mrs. Keith & Colethia Quarles

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

Readings for the week of September 17, 2023

**Sunday:** Sirach 27:30—28:7/Psalms 103:1-2, 3-4, 9-10, 11-12 (8)/Romans 14:7-9/Matthew 18:21-35

**Monday:** 1 Timothy 2:1-8/Psalms 28:2, 7, 8-9/  
Luke 7:1-10

**Tuesday:** 1 Timothy 3:1-13/Psalms 101:1b-2ab, 2cd-3ab, 5, 6/Luke 7:11-17

**Wednesday:** 1 Timothy 3:14-16/Psalms 111:1-2, 3-4, 5-6/Luke 7:31-35

**Thursday:** Ephesians 4:1-7, 11-13/Psalms 19:2-3, 4-5/Matthew 9:9-13

**Friday:** 1 Timothy 6:2c-12/Psalms 49:6-7, 8-10, 17-18, 19-20/Luke 8:1-3

**Saturday:** 1 Timothy 6:13-16/Psalms 100:1b-2, 3, 4, 5/Luke 8:4-15

**Next Sunday:** Isaiah 55:6-9/Psalms 145:2-3, 8-9, 17-18 (18a)/Philippians 1:20c-24, 27a/Matthew 20:1-16a

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 9/18**  
In Thanksgiving for Birthday blessings and God's protection for Connie Young-Lawrence  
God's blessings and protection for TK Wilson by Wilson Family

**Tuesday 9/19**  
St. Januarius

**Wednesday 9/20**  
SS. Andrew Kim Taegon, Paul Chong Ha-sang

**Thursday 9/21**  
Happy Birthday greetings for Reginal 'Don' Cuffee by Gloria Thompson-Price  
Pray for the cure for those with cancer, cancer survivors and life threatening diseases by Bernadine Conrad

**Friday 9/22**  
Eternal repose of the soul of George Antonia Jackson by Parish Family

**Saturday 9/23**  
God's blessing and protection for TK Wilson by Wilson Family

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  
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  
Gladys Lee Holley  
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  
Allan Pope  
Libretta Pope  
Gertrude Quarles

John 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  
Louise Washington  
Shiela Washington  
Steven Washington  
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 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 9/10/2023: \$1,178.31

Donation for Maintenance: \$2,756.00

May God reward you abundantly for your generosity.

## Quote of the Day

"If we are asking for the world to be kind, we must first ask what are we doing to add more kindness to the world. If we are asking for the world to be more loving, we must first ask what are we doing to add more love to the world. We are the vessels for the things we seek." — Joél Leon

## PARISH NEWS

MASS OF CHRISTIAN BURIALS & FUNERAL SERVICE for Viola Wright on Tuesday, September 19, 2023. Viewing at 9am and funeral service at 11am. Funeral Mass for George Antonio Jackson on Friday, September 22, 2023. Viewing 10am-11am. Funeral Mass begins at 11am and funeral Mass for Rachel Goldman Wasso on Saturday, September 30, 2023. Viewing 9am Funeral Mass begins at 10:30am. Please pray for the families.

REGISTRATION FOR CCD 2023-2024 A meeting of **all CCD parents** and children will be held on next Sunday in The Center, September 24th beginning at 9:00 AM. A continental breakfast will be served. Agenda will include class registration, potential calendar for the year, rules and expectations. It is highly recommended that parents become more involved with the religious training of their children.

For those preparing for First Holy Communion next Spring, you must register your child by October 31, 2023. There will be no registration for First Holy Communion after October 31st.

SIGN UP LISTS FOR THE DANCE MINISTRY AND THE YOUTH CHOIR is located in the back of the church after 8:30 and 11:00am Sunday Mass.

KNIGHTS OF PETER CLAVER AND LADIES AUXILIARY ARE COMING TO ST. LUKE: Please join representatives from the Knights of Peter Claver and Ladies Auxiliary for an informational meeting to establish a Council & Court at St. Luke Catholic Church on Saturday, September 23 at 11am in the church hall. Looking forward to seeing you.

## 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](http://www.oraclereligious.com) Or call: 202-528-8633 ~ Sr. Dr. Oralisa Martin

ORACLE RELIGIOUS ASSN: (Sr. Dr. Oralisa Martin and Msgr. Raymond East) Present The ORACLE WWW: Well Women Witness Women's Retreat Date: November 10,11,12, 2023 (Fri., Sat., Sun.) Place: Washington, DC For more information, visit [www.oraclereligious.com](http://www.oraclereligious.com) Call: 202-528-8633 ~ Sr. Dr. Oralisa Martin