

saint luke catholic church

westport ct

3 December 2017



Who we are and what we strive for...

In the spirit of our Patron, Saint Luke,
our Parish Mission is:

- ✘ To be a welcoming and hospitable community to all;
- ✘ To enrich the hearts, minds and lives of those who seek to grow as disciples of Jesus Christ in the Roman Catholic tradition;
- ✘ To be faithful in prayer, in spiritual renewal, in stewardship and in compassionate outreach.

VISIT US ON THE WEB AT
WWW.STLUKEWESTPORT.COM

Religious Formation Office

PHONE: 203-226-0729 • FAX: 203-226-5446

SAINT LUKE PARISH CENTER

49 N. TURKEY HILL ROAD, WESTPORT, CT 06880

Hours: Mon, Tue, Thu, Fri, 9:00 am to 4:00 pm

Mrs. Jacqueline Frusciante – Coordinator

e-mail: stluke-reo@optonline.net

Parish Office E-MAIL: stluke@optonline.net

PHONE: 203-227-7245 • FAX: 203-226-8063

SAINT LUKE RECTORY

84 LONG LOTS ROAD, WESTPORT, CT 06880

Office Hours: M to F, 9:00 am to 5:00 pm

Monsignor Andrew G. Varga, D.Min. – Pastor

e-mail: msgrvarga@diobpt.org

Reverend Thomas Lakra – Parochial Vicar

e-mail: thomaslakra@gmail.com

Dr. Brian J. Kelly, Ph.D. – Deacon

e-mail: brian9887@att.net

Mr. Lance C. Fredricks – Deacon

e-mail: westportdeacon@aol.com

Mrs. Judy Torska – Parish Secretary

Mrs. Nancy Nuzzo – Office Assistant (M & W)

Lay Members of the Parish Corporation (“Trustees”)

Mr. Edmund Bagnulo

Mrs. Joanne Landino

Pastoral Advisory Council Chair

Mr. Edmund Bagnulo – Pro-Tem

Parish Finance Council Chair

Mr. Joseph Nixon

Youth Ministry Office PHONE: 203-222-0205

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Ms. Debbie Toner, Youth Minister

e-mail: SLYGroup@optonline.net

Music Ministry Staff PHONE: 203-227-7245

Mr. Leon Bernard – Minister of Music

Daniel M. Coffman, Ph.D. – Adult Choir Director

Mrs. Marguerite Hastings – Assistant Organist

Outreach Ministries

e-mail: stluke-outreach@optonline.net

Sr. Maureen Fleming, SSND PHONE: 203-222-0478

– Coordinator of Pastoral Outreach Activities

Deacon Lance C. Fredricks PHONE: 203-227-7245

– Ministry to Sick, Elderly and Shut-ins

Pastoral Counseling Services

Dr. Brian J. Kelly, Ph.D. PHONE: 203-373-9753

◇ Individual, Family and Marriage

◇ Certified in Neuro-Feedback Therapy

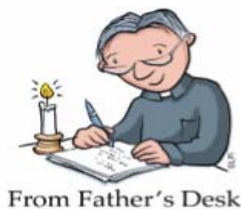
WEEKEND MASSES: Saturday, 5:30 pm
Sunday 7:30 am, 9:00 am, 11:00 am (Choir), 5:30 pm (Youth Singers)
Children’s Liturgy of the Word at 9:00 am & 11:00 am Masses

WEEKDAY MASS: 8:00 am, Monday through Saturday 8:00 am (plus 12:15 pm, Tu & Th in Lent)

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION: Saturday, 4:30 to 5:15 pm, or by appointment

BAPTISMS AND WEDDINGS: Please call the Rectory Office; see our website for more information

Dear Saint Luke Parish Family...



From Father's Desk



**PARISH NEWS
DO WE HAVE YOUR
E-MAIL ADDRESS?**

Please let us know
at stluke@optonline.net

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK

Father John Baran, Howard Barnaby, Neil Croarkin, Matt Dacey, Kara Guinan, Jennifer Gwilliam, Sheila Hickey, Carmine Iannuzzi, Matthew Kokoszka, Alex Lezitt, Rosalee McGuinness, Fr. Marty Nikodem, Carol Robinson, Joanne Rogers, Paul Schiavone, Evelyn Sweetnam, Margie Tetreault, Pat Wettach, Liam Torrio, Jennifer Wayne, Sally Ward, Pat Wettach

**ETERNAL REST
GRANT UNTO THEM, O LORD**

JOAN ROGOWSKI

Mother of John Rogowski

FAMILY HOSPITALITY NOTES

- ✘ A television monitor is available in the hallway for families whose child might be having a restless day that would disturb other worshipers.
- ✘ A **baby-changing table** is located in the handicapped lavatory.



*New to the area?
Just moved in?*

Get life in your new home off to a good start! The priests of the parish would be happy to visit and bless your home and your family. Just call the parish office (227-7245) to arrange a convenient time.

**REDIRECTION OF
CHRISTMAS**

Once again we are having Redirection of Christmas for Saint Luke families to assist in giving a joyful Christmas for our neighbors in Bridgeport. Someone will be available this weekend, **December 2-3** to help set you up with family lists.

Holyday – Please remember that **Friday, December 8, is the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of Mary, a holyday of obligation which requires Catholics to attend Mass.**

Masses will be on Thursday evening at 7:30 pm and Thursday at 8:00 am, 12:15 and 7:30 pm. Under the title of the Immaculate Conception, Mary is venerated as the Patroness of our country.

Especially because of the troubled times in which our country and our world exist, make it a point to include Mass in your schedule on this day. Please also remember in your prayers our parishioners who are serving in the Armed Forces.

Reconciliation Services – Please mark your calendars for our Advent Communal Reconciliation Services to be celebrated on Monday, December 18 at 5:00 and 7:30 pm. More information will follow in weeks to come.

Dear friends in Christ,

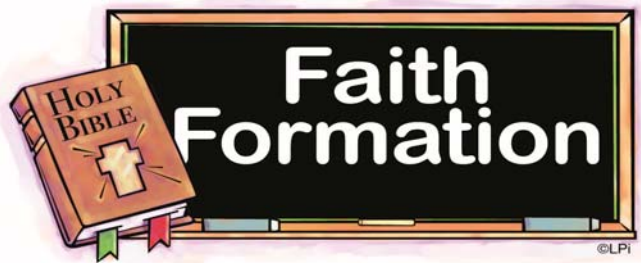
Catholics in the Diocese of Bridgeport will have the opportunity to give to those who have given a lifetime when they participate in the annual Retirement Fund for Religious collection, held in parishes across the nation the weekend of December 9- 10. Co-ordinated by the National Religious Retirement Office, the annual appeal benefits more than 32,000 elderly Catholic Sisters, Brothers and religious order priests.

Last year, Catholics in this diocese contributed \$170,550 to the collection. The Little Workers of the Sacred Heart of Jesus in Stamford were assisted by those funds, as were women and men religious who have served here but whose communities are based outside Fairfield County.

Religious communities traditionally received only a small stipend with no retirement benefits. As a result, their congregations lack sufficient savings for elderly members. Proceeds from this collection help underwrite such day-to-day needs as prescription medications and nursing care.

Religious communities, through their members young and old, continue to assist the family of faith in Fairfield County. Please respond as generously as possible, so these communities are able to care for fragile members while continuing their witness among us.

Sincerely yours in Christ,
Most Reverend Frank J. Caggiano
Bishop of Bridgeport



THIS WEEK'S GOSPEL - Mark 13:33-37

Jesus warns his disciples to be watchful so that they will be ready when the Son of Man comes.

Background on the Gospel Reading

Today we begin the season of Advent, which marks the start of a new liturgical year for the Church. The readings for Sunday Mass are arranged on a three-year cycle. Each year features a different Gospel—Matthew, Mark, or Luke. Readings from the Gospel of John are interspersed throughout all three years. With this year's first Sunday of Advent, we begin Cycle B of the Lectionary, which focuses our attention on the Gospel of Mark. This week and next week, our readings from Mark's Gospel present two important Advent themes: the Lord's return at the end of time and John the Baptist's preparation for Jesus.

Today's Gospel is taken from the end of Mark's Gospel, the chapter that immediately precedes Mark's account of Jesus' Passion. Having been questioned repeatedly by the scribes and the Pharisees, Jesus is now questioned by his disciples—Peter, James, John, and Andrew—who want details about his prediction of the destruction of the Temple. Jesus answers with many warnings about the difficulties that the disciples will face.

Today's passage comes at the conclusion of Jesus' warnings to his disciples. Jesus emphasizes the need for watchfulness. The Son of Man will come without warning; only the Father knows the exact hour. The disciples must not be caught unprepared when this time comes.

Scholars believe that Mark's Gospel was written around the time of the destruction of Jerusalem by the Romans in A.D. 70. Mark's audience consisted of Christians who were living in difficult social and political times, times of conflict. They were likely beginning to face persecution as followers of Jesus. In this difficult time, it helped to recall that Jesus had foretold of such difficulties. Early Christian communities took courage from Jesus' warning to remain alert and watchful, and they found in his words a way to persevere through suffering.

Today's Gospel reminds us that Advent is about more than our preparation for the Church's celebration of Christ's birth at Christmas. Advent is also about preparing ourselves for Christ's return in glory at the end of time. Like the disciples and the faithful in Mark's community, we must also stay alert and watchful. Our faithfulness to God, through the good times as well as the

difficult times, shows us to be ready for the coming of the Son of Man.

Sunday Connection-Loyola Press
To learn more go to www.findinggod.com

Upcoming:

Grade 2 **First Reconciliation**
Saturday, December 9th –10:00 am
Students and Parents meet in Church

Putting Faith in Action:

Our 6th grade religious formation classes will be uniting with other Churches in the area and will be sponsoring a drive for the "Puerto Rico Relief Fund" on behalf of refugees to Bridgeport and CT. Please help support our students by donating the following suggested items:

- food staples (like beans, rice)
- diapers
- gift cards to purchase warm shoes.

Any donation is accepted with gratitude. A collection bin will be left in the gathering space throughout the month of December.

Breakfast with Santa

Today December 3
8:30 to 11:00 am



Join us for pancakes and sausage cooked by the men of the parish **today from 8:30 to 11:00 am** in the community room. Tickets are \$5.00 for Adults, \$3.00 for children 7-12 and free for 6 and under. Tickets will be sold at the door. Santa will be there to visit with the children. Also don't forget to stop by the cookie shop for more treats.

The Pageant for the Christmas Concert

The Saint Luke Christmas Concert will be held on Sunday, December 17 at 2:00 pm. The concert will conclude with the Nativity Pageant featuring young people from the Religious Formation program.

We have costumes for young people to portray Mary, Joseph, Kings, Angels, and Shepherds, as well as one donkey and two sheep! We hope your child will want to participate this year.

A mandatory rehearsal will be held on Thursday, December 14 from 5:00 pm to 6:00 pm in the Church.

If your child would like to participate in the Nativity Pageant this year, please contact the Religious Formation office at 203 226-0729 or stluke-reo@optonline.net no later than Monday December 4th.



THANK YOU!

The *Shabby Chic Boutique*, part of the Harvest Fair, was an overwhelming success. Our total income this year was the second highest ever! With your help we raised \$9,173 for Saint Luke Outreach Programs. Our cumulative total for the past 10 years, since inception is \$63,791.17.... *NOT TOO SHABBY!!!*

Thank you to all those who donated items, volunteered time and shopped. Your generosity is greatly appreciated by all.
Sincerely,

Judy Wanat & Laura Bryk

NEW HORIZONS LUNCHEON

The New Horizons cordially invites you to a Christmas Luncheon this Tuesday December 5 at 11:30 am. A buffet will be provided by Sr. Maureen Fleming and special holiday entertainment will be provided by the Park City Singers.



Mosaic

Mosaic-Spirituality for Women—Thursdays at 10:00 am. We will continue to study the Old Testament using the Video lectures of Dr. Amy-Jill Levine including the Prophets; the Babylonian Exile; Wisdom Literature; Life in the Diaspora and Apocalyptic Literature.



A CONCERT OF CAROLS AND FIGGY PUDDING.

Saint Luke Catholic Church will be holding its annual Christmas Concert on Sunday, December 17th, at 2:00 pm. Choir and audience will sing together many of the traditional Christmas carols and the Hallelujah Chorus. There will be a children's nativity pageant and a toy auction. Come on in and sing along! Admission is free, though goodwill offerings are always appreciated.



PLEASE NOTE the earlier starting time of 2:00.

Saint Luke Christmas Gift Shoppe

Please stop by to check out the many Christian gifts for all occasions and ages.

We carry traditional religious and Advent items, medals, sterling silver Claddagh, ornaments and much more.

We will be open after all Masses on December 2 & 3 and December 9 & 10.

All proceeds will benefit the Matthew 25 Fund for those in need.



PARISH SOUP PANTRY NEEDS

Please continue to remember the needs of the hungry poor. As the winter months come upon us, the needs of the hungry poor will increase.

Most-needed items include...

- | | |
|-------------------------|----------------------|
| CEREAL | PASTA SAUCE |
| TUNA | CANNED SALMON |
| FAVA BEANS | PARMALAT MILK |
| LOW SODIUM SOUPS | |
| CANNED GRAVY | |

Please watch the expiration dates on items. Board of Health regulations forbid the use of expired items.

CANDLE STAND ATTENDANTS NEEDED

Would you be willing to give one hour of your week on a rotating basis with our other "Candoliers" to help keep our votive candle stand neat and in top shape? It's easy and can even be a wonderful meditative exercise. Please call the Rectory for more info: 203.227.7245.

YOUTH GROUP

The Box of Joy project has touched the hearts of our parishioners. This week over 40 boxes were filled with such care and beautiful notes for the children. The boxes will be shipped by December 9th... so any additional boxes can be placed in the carton by the Youth Group board. Thank you to all who helped us spread joy to children who otherwise would not receive any presents - what a beautiful way to show the love of Christ! Pray for priests, nuns, and members of Cross Catholic Outreach as they reach out to those in need with compassion and faith this Christmas season.



Over 300 parishes, schools, and groups across the United States participated in Box of Joy this year. Thank you for participating!

Weekly Calendar December 3- December 10

Sunday, December 3	First Sunday of Advent	
8:00 am	Christmas Cookie Shop	Community Room
8:30 am	Santa Breakfast	Community Room
9:00 am	Family Mass	Church
10:00 am	Free Blood Pressure Screening	Gathering Space
11:00 am	Children's Liturgy of the Word	Church
12:00 pm	Free Blood Pressure Screening	Gathering Space
12:00 pm	Eucharistic Adoration until...	
4:30 pm	Benediction	
Monday, December 4		
1:00 pm	Prayer Shawl Ministry	Robertson Room
8:00 pm	Adult Choir	Church
Tuesday December 5		
10:30 am	Faith Forum	Saint Cecelia Room
11:30 am	New Horizons Luncheon	Community Room
7:30 pm	Mendelssohn Choir	Church
Wednesday December 6		
9:30 am	Community Bible Study	
Thursday December 7		
8:00 pm	Adult Choir	Church
Friday December 8		
1:00 pm	Family Matters	Robertson Room
Sunday, December 10	Second Sunday of Advent	
9:00 am	Children's Liturgy of the world	Church
11:00 am	Children's Liturgy of the Word	Church



LOOKING AHEAD...
A l-o-n-g view of what's coming up at Saint Luke Parish...
MARK YOUR CALENDARS!! JOIN US!!

DECEMBER 17	CHRISTMAS CONCERT 2:00 pm
DECEMBER 18	COMMUNAL RECONCILIATION 5:00 & 7:30 pm

Parish Budget Report

WEEKLY NEEDS\$	15,821
<i>Sunday November 19</i>	
Regular Collection	8,249
Allowance for Credit Cards	3,326
Total	11,575
<i>Campaign for Human Development.....</i>	
<i>Sunday November 26</i>	2,007
Regular Collection	5,596
Allowance for Credit Cards	3,326
Total	8,922

Please remember Saint Luke Parish in your will.

**Saturday, December 2**

5:30 pm John Clark Sr.

Sunday, December 3 **First Sunday in Advent**

7:30 am For All our Parishioners

9:00 am Jeanne Orłowski

11:00 am Martin Bastick

5:30 pm Gloria Hudson

Monday, December 4

8:00 am Michael & Mary Toole & Family

Tuesday, December 5

8:00 am Fr. Seraphim Rohlman

Wednesday, December 6

8:00 am Edward Tarnok

Thursday, December 7**Saint Ambrose**

8:00 am All Souls

7:30 pm For All our Parishioners

Friday, December 8 **Immaculate Conception**

8:00 am Dorothy Ann Madigan

12:15 pm John & Maria Guarnieri

7:30 pm Martin Bastick

Saturday, December 9

8:00 am Dominic Calabro

5:30 pm Horace & Stella Lanute

Sunday, December 10 **Second Sunday in Advent**

7:30 am Rhea Lyons

9:00 am For All our Parishioners

11:00 am Margaret & Patrick Scully

5:30 pm Venio & Marchese Families

Readings for Week of Dec 3

Sunday: Is 63:16b-17, 19b; 64:2-7/Ps 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19 [4]/1 Cor 1:3-9/Mk 13:33-37

Monday: Is 2:1-5/Ps 122:1-4b, 4cd-5, 6-9/Mt 8:5-11

Tuesday: Is 11:1-10/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17 [cf. 7]/Lk 10:21-24

Wednesday: Is 25:6-10a/Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6 [6cd]/Mt 15:29-37

Thursday: Is 26:1-6/Ps 118:1 and 8-9, 19-21, 25-27a [26a]/Mt 7:21, 24-27

Friday: Gn 3:9-15, 20/Ps 98:1, 2-3, 3-4 [1a]/Eph 1:3-6, 11-12/Lk 1:26-38

Saturday: Is 30:19-21, 23-26/Ps 147:1-2, 3-4, 5-6 [cf. Is 30:18d]/Mt 9:35--10:1, 5a, 6-8

Next Sunday: Is 40:1-5, 9-11/Ps 85:9-10, 11-12, 13-14 [8]/2 Pt 3:8-14/Mk 1:1-8

**Afternoon of Prayer for Peace
Sunday, December 3**

Adoration begins at the end of the 11:00 am Mass and concludes with Benediction at 4:30 pm.

For all its goodness and beauty and wonder, our world continues in a very precarious state: hatred and anger and violence and the values of materialism and greed threaten our hopes for passing on a good and beautiful and fulfilling world to our children and succeeding generations.

*Prayer can transform us and our world!
Come join with us!*

In this season of giving, please consider this note that we received from parishioner Barbara Pizarro:

Doris Fuertes, of Christ and Holy Trinity parish, has written to ask if our churches (she is asking a friend who belongs to Assumption parish, too) if our churches can get together to do a drive for Puerto Rico. Here's her message:

"Over the past few weeks I have become involved in a fundraising effort on behalf of refugees to Bridgeport and CT with the Puerto Rico Relief Fund. The refugees are arriving with nothing to very little. I have been focusing on staples (like beans, rice), diapers, and gift cards for the purchase of warm shoes. Any donation is accepted with gratitude. But I am also wondering if your church(es) are doing a drive for Puerto Rico: maybe we can pool our efforts.

Is this something Saint Luke parishioners would be interested in? PLEASE.... let us know your thoughts.

**BE A MEMBER OF
THE WINNING TEAM!!**

At this time of year, many parishioners make a gift to Saint Luke Parish in the form of shares of stock. In order to facilitate such gifts and to assure that you are properly credited for them, please do the following:

1. Arrange for the gift to be made via DTC to our parish account at **UBS Financial Services**. You can call **Steve Violette at 227-2119** for assistance. *Please do NOT have a stock certificate made out to Saint Luke Parish.*
2. Send our office a brief note or give us a phone call to tell us your name, how many shares of which company and the date you placed the transfer order. We ask this information because correspondence from UBS does NOT specify your name as the donor. After we get our next monthly statement from UBS, we will be able to issue a letter acknowledging your gift and its amount.

Thank you!