

saint luke catholic church westport ct

10 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

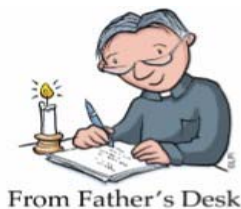
WEEKEND MASSES: Saturday, 5:30 pm
Sunday 7:30 am, 9:00 am, 11:00 am (Choir), 5:30 pm (Youth Singers)
Children’s Liturgy of the Word at 9:00 am & 11:00 am Masses

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, Dr. Edward Day, Kara Guinan, Jennifer Gwilliam, Mary Henrikson, 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**

FRANK WUEST, Sr.
Father of Avery Horne

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

We have distributed shawls and lap robes to parishioners, family, friends, hospitals and rehab facilities. If you know someone in need please contact the parish office:
203-227-7245.



We welcome newcomers!

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 worshippers.
- ✱ 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.

Let's begin by offering our prayerful congratulations to the boys and girls of our parish who celebrated the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time this weekend. What a wonderful example and encouragement they give to us in this Advent season, in that this Sacrament helps us to make a better place in our hearts and our lives for Jesus to find a home there!

Speaking of Reconciliation... Please make sure your calendars include our reconciliation services on Monday, December 18, at 5:00 and 7:30 pm. Several priests will be on hand to help you to experience the healing touch of God's great love and mercy.

Let's look back in time for a moment our **Family Mass – Santa – Pancake Breakfast – Cookie Shoppe – Advent Wreath weekend...** a

BIG SWEET THANK YOU to all who gave of their time and effort and talents to make it such a happy time for all our parish family!

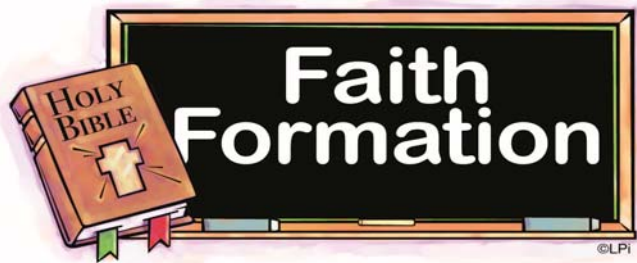
About our Parish Christmas Concert this year???

While the Concert has been a highlight of our Music Program for many years (even before my 20 years here) the Choir felt that it was time to freshen up the format and bring some new life and energy to it. Since he has come on board as Choir Director, Dan Coffman has tapped into the wonderful energy of the Community "sing-along" with the "Hallelujah Chorus" at Christmas and Easter.

So... why not make full use of a "Lessons & Carols" format to maximize the singing and the telling of the Christmas story?

- ✱ There will be more selections of biblical passages as the "Lessons"
- ✱ Many more opportunities for the assembly to sing Christmas Carols along with the Choir
- ✱ The costumed children's Christmas pageant will still be a highlight
- ✱ Pieces from the Children's and Adult Choirs would still remain.
- ✱ A mini-raffle will be added to our customary festive reception afterward

Pastoral Advisory Council — OPEN HOUSE MEETING
This Tuesday, 7:30 pm **ALL ARE INVITED!**



THIS WEEK'S GOSPEL - Mark 1:1-8

John the Baptist preached repentance and baptized the people, in preparation for the one who would baptize with the Holy Spirit.

Background on the Gospel Reading

Today's Gospel is taken from the beginning of Mark. Unlike Luke and Matthew, Mark does not include any details of Jesus' birth. Instead Mark begins with the appearance of John the Baptist in the desert. On this the Second Sunday of Advent, we are invited to reflect upon the role of John the Baptist, who prepared the way for Jesus and the salvation that he would bring to us.

Mark's description of the appearance of John the Baptist highlights John's continuity with the Jewish prophetic tradition. Mark combines quotations from the Old Testament books of Malachi, Isaiah, and Exodus. Mark's description of John as an ascetic, living in the desert, clothed in camel hair, and eating locusts and wild honey, is reminiscent of the description of the prophet Elijah found in Second Kings. The people of Judea and Jerusalem flock to him, listening to his message of repentance and forgiveness; they also come to him to be baptized. Mark's Gospel is clear, however, that John the Baptist's role is only to prepare the way for another who will come, one who is greater than John.

Many scholars believe that the Gospels reflect the tension that likely existed between followers of John the Baptist and disciples of Jesus. Each of the four Evangelists report on John's preaching and baptizing, and they each emphasize the importance of Jesus' baptism by John. The four Gospels also explain that John was sent to preach in preparation for another. In the Gospel of Luke, the question is raised as to whether John the Baptist was himself the Messiah. Just as in today's Gospel, however, John speaks quite explicitly that the Messiah was to come after him.

In today's Gospel we hear John the Baptist contrast his baptism of repentance with the baptism that Jesus will inaugurate. John says that he has baptized with water, but that the one who is to come will baptize with the Holy Spirit. John's baptism was not yet a Christian baptism, but a preparation for the Sacrament of Baptism through which sins are forgiven and the gift of the Holy Spirit is received.

John the Baptist is presented to us as a model during Advent. We, too, are called upon to prepare a way for the Lord. Like John the Baptist, we are messengers in service to one who is greater than we are. Our Baptism commissions us to call others to life as disciples of Jesus.

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

Upcoming:

Grades K-8 Christmas Break
No classes in session 12/24-1/1/18
Classes will resume on Sunday,
1/7/18

Family Mass Hosted by Grade 5 & Confirmation Rite of Enrollment
Sunday, January 7th – 9:00 am

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

Come join us for

Saint Luke's Family Movie Night

to watch...



While we enjoy popcorn and hot chocolate
Friday December 15th @ 7:00 pm
Saint Luke's Community Room .

Any questions contact:
Tracey Vizzo – tvizzo@wrberkley.com
or Christian Mannino – christianmannino@yahoo.com

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.





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 Bryke

THANK YOU

This year the Cookie Shoppe raised \$3,600 for charity! I can't thank this wonderful community enough for all their efforts in baking and volunteering. And, as always, I couldn't do it without the help of the Youth Group and the Religious Ed student volunteers.



Thank you also to those parishioners who came and purchased these delicious cookies and spread the word to families and friends to join us as well. This is what makes this event so successful.

Wishing all of you a very Merry Christmas!
Mary Alvarez
Saint Luke Cookie Shoppe

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 this weekend, 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
- TUNA
- FAVA BEANS
- LOW SODIUM SOUPS
- CANNED GRAVY
- PASTA SAUCE
- CANNED SALMON
- PARMALAT MILK

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

What a wonderful beginning to Advent in our parish! A Family Mass followed by the Pancake Breakfast with Santa, Cookie Shoppe Outreach Fundraiser and Crafts with our parish kiddos brought our community together and filled the morning with smiles. Thank you to our parish teens for decorating our SLY cookies, helping with the breakfast and for designing such beautiful Advent wreaths with the families!
(some photos contributed)



**Cookie Decorating Team
Extraordinaire**

Blair, Gabriela, Stephanie, Alexis, Olivia, Abby, Charlotte, Anna, and Grace decorated 1000+ cookies to support the Cookie Shoppe efforts.
Thank you for all your help!!!



Coming up: 12/17 SLY Alumni Reunion at Rizzuto's Restaurant.
Email Deb Toner at slygroup@optonline.net for full details.

Weekly Calendar December 10- December 17

<u>Sunday, December 10</u>		<u>Second Sunday of Advent</u>
9:00 am	Children's Liturgy of the Word	Church
11:00 am	Children's Liturgy of the Word	Church
<u>Monday, December 11</u>		
1:00 pm	Prayer Shawl Ministry	Robertson Room
8:00 pm	Adult Choir	Church
<u>Tuesday December 12</u>		
10:30 am	Faith Forum	Saint Cecelia Room
7:30 pm	Mendelssohn Choir	Church
<u>Wednesday December 13</u>		
9:30 am	Community Bible Study	
<u>Thursday December 14</u>		
10:00 am	Mosaics	Community Room
8:00 pm	Adult Choir	Church
<u>Friday December 15</u>		
1:00 pm	Bible Study	Robertson Room
<u>Sunday, December 17</u>		<u>Third Sunday of Advent</u>
9:00 am	Children's Liturgy of the Word	Church
11:00 am	Children's Liturgy of the Word	Church
2:00 pm	Choir Concert	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

Sunday December 3

Regular Collection	7,706
Allowance for Credit Cards.....	3,326
Total.....	10,032
Monthly	3,082

Please remember Saint Luke Parish in your will.

SAFE, SECURE, AUTOMATIC

Please consider making your offerings by credit card...

We do all the work;

You get the mileage-points and the convenience.

Please call Judy in the parish office for more information: 203-227-7245



Saturday, December 9

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 Veno & Marchese Families

Monday, December 11

8:00 am Henry & Mary Rogan & Family

Tuesday, December 12 Our Lady of Guadalupe

8:00 am Joseph Guarnieri

Wednesday, December 13

St. Lucy

8:00 am Martin Bastick

Thursday, December 14

St. John of the Cross

8:00 am All Souls

Friday, December 15

8:00 am All Souls

Saturday, December 16

8:00 am Hermina Carson

5:30 pm Ray DiLieto

Sunday, December 17 Third Sunday in Advent

7:30 am For All our Parishioners

9:00 am Adriana Juresko

11:00 am Patricia Grant Guidera

5:30 pm Frederic Lexow

Readings for Week of Dec '10

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

Monday: I s 35:1-10/Ps 85:9ab and 10, 11-12, 13-14 [Is 35:4f]/Lk 5:17-26

Tuesday: Zec 2:14-17 or Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab/Jdt 13:18bcde, 19 [15:9d]/Lk 1:26-38 or Lk 1:39-47

Wednesday: I s 40:25-31/Ps 103:1-2, 3-4, 8 and 10 [1]/Mt 11:28-30

Thursday: I s 41:13-20/Ps 145:1 and 9, 10-11, 12-13ab [8]/Mt 11:11-15

Friday: I s 48:17-19/Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6 [cf. Jn 8:12]/Mt 11:16-19

Saturday: Sir 48:1-4, 9-11/Ps 80:2ac and 3b, 15-16, 18-19 [4]/Mt 17:9a, 10-13

Next Sunday: Is 61:1-2a, 10-11/Lk 1:46-48, 49-50, 53-54 [Is 61:10b]/1 Thes 5:16-24/Jn 1:6-8, 19-28

Children's Liturgy



of the Word

At the 9:00 & 11:00 am Masses, we encourage young children to go out for their own Liturgy of the Word.

During this time they hear the readings and have a homily on their own level. Parents are encouraged to go along with their child if the child does not want to go alone.

You do not have to be parishioners; this liturgy is open to all. Also if you are interested in sharing in this ministry, please contact Judy at the Parish Office, 203-227-7245.

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!