

saint luke catholic church westport ct

17 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

PHONE: 203-222-0205

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

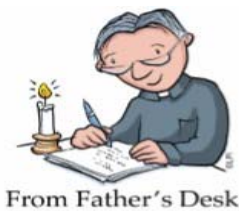
WEEKEND MASSES: Saturday, 5:30 pm
Sunday 7:30 am, 9:00 am, 11:00 am (Choir), 5:30 pm (Youth Singers)
Children’s Liturgy of the Word at 9:00 am & 11:00 am Masses

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...



**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, Pat Wettach

It's Christmas Concert & Pageant Day!

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 **EVERYONE** to sing Christmas Carols along with the Choir
- ✧ The costumed children's Christmas pageant will still be a highlight
- ✧ Selections from the Children's and Adult Choirs would still remain.
- ✧ A **"FIGGY PUDDING"** and a mini-affle will be added to our customary festive reception afterward.



PLEASE NOTE THAT THE

STARTING TIME HAS CHANGED TO 2:00 pm!

so that we can better welcome our parishioners who do not like to drive after sunset.

Reconciliation Services –Please come join us **this Monday, December 18 at 5:00 and 7:30 pm.** Each of us wants to welcome the birth of the Christ in our hearts; please use this wonderful Sacrament of God's mercy as an opportunity to remove anything in your life that is a hindrance to that rebirth in you.



For those who are planning your Christmas Eve and Christmas Day schedules, you may find the complete schedule of Masses, Reconciliation services and Confessions for the season on our parish website, www.stlukewestport.com.

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

JOHANNA GUARNIERI SCHIFANO
Sister of Mary Ann Toole

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!

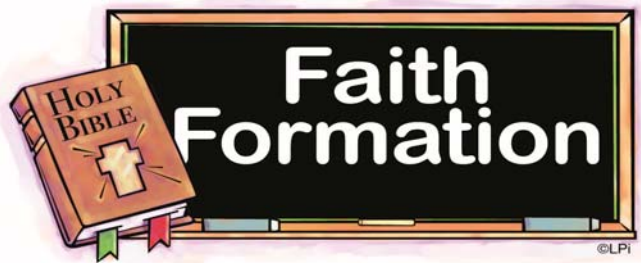
FAMILY HOSPITALITY NOTES

- ✧ A television monitor is available in the hallway for families whose child might be having a restless day that would disturb other 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.



THIS WEEK'S GOSPEL - John 1:6-8,19-28
John gives testimony that he is preaching and baptizing in order to prepare for the coming of another.

Background on the Gospel Reading

This Sunday's Gospel invites us to continue our reflection on the person and mission of John the Baptist. Today we depart from the Gospel of Mark and read a selection from the Gospel of John.

The Gospel for today combines a brief passage from the prologue to John's Gospel with a report about John the Baptist. As in Mark's Gospel, the Gospel of John contains no birth narrative. Instead, John's Gospel begins with a theological reflection that has come to be called the "prologue." This prologue places the story of Jesus in its cosmological framework. It speaks of Jesus' existence with God since the beginning of time. In John's Gospel, Jesus is presented as the fulfillment of the Old Testament and the culmination of the Word, the light that is coming into the world's darkness.

Following this prologue, John reports on the ministry of John the Baptist. We learn about the attention that John the Baptist received from the Jewish authorities. Messengers from the Jewish priests, the Levites and the Pharisees question John about his identity and the meaning of the baptisms that he is performing. John's Gospel uses these questions to establish the relationship between Jesus and John the Baptist. John the Baptist is not the Messiah, nor is he Elijah or the Prophet. In John's denials, we hear echoes of the kind of messianic expectations that were common in first-century Palestine.

The only affirmative response that John the Baptist gives is when he quotes the prophet Isaiah. Upon answering the next question, John announces that the savior they seek is already among them, but as yet unrecognized. John's response highlights for us an important Advent theme: Jesus has already come into the world as our savior. During Advent, we pray that we will be able to recognize Jesus' presence in our midst. Advent also reminds us that Jesus will come again to fulfill the promise of salva-

tion. We pray that we will continue to be watchful as we anticipate that great day.

The third Sunday of Advent is also called *Gaudete Sunday*. *Gaudete*, a Latin word which means "rejoice," is taken from the entrance antiphon for Sunday's Mass. This theme is echoed in today's second reading from the first Letter to the Thessalonians. It is a reminder that Advent is a season of joy because our salvation is already at hand.

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

Upcoming:

Grades K-8 Christmas Break
No classes in session 12/24/17-1/1/18
Classes will resume on Sunday, 1/7/18

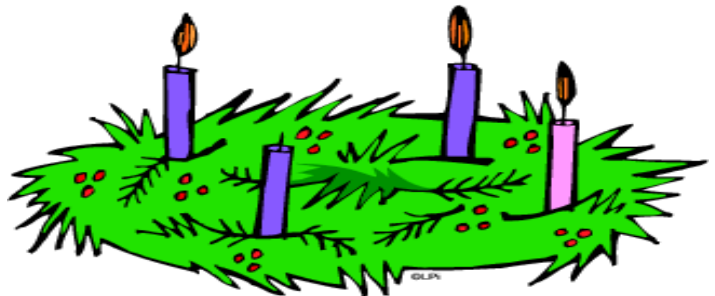
Family Mass Hosted by Grade 5 & Confirmation Rite of Enrollment
Sunday, January 7th - 9:00 am

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



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.



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 TODAY, 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 pm

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.



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 17- December 24

| <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 & Pageant Figgy Pudding Reception | Church Community Room |
| <u>Monday, December 18</u> | | |
| 1:00 pm | Prayer Shawl Ministry | Robertson Room |
| 5:00 pm | Reconciliation | Church |
| 7:30 pm | Reconciliation | Church |
| <u>Tuesday December 19</u> | | |
| 10:30 am | Faith Forum | Saint Cecelia Room |
| 7:30 pm | Mendelssohn Choir | Church |
| <u>Thursday December 21</u> | | |
| 10:00 am | Mosaics | Community Room |
| 8:00 pm | Adult Choir | Church |
| <u>Friday December 22</u> | | |
| 1:00 pm | Bible Study | Robertson Room |
| <u>Sunday, December 24</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 |



LOOKING AHEAD...

A l-o-n-g view of what's coming up at Saint Luke Parish...

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!! JOIN US!!

| | |
|-------------|---|
| JANUARY 14 | Parents' Pre-Baptismal Session |
| JANUARY 28 | 60th Anniversary Mass and Reception with Bishop Frank |
| FEBRUARY 10 | International Dinner |

Parish Budget Report

WEEKLY NEEDS\$ 15,821

Sunday December 10

| | |
|------------------------------------|-------|
| Regular Collection | 5,857 |
| Allowance for Credit Cards..... | 3,326 |
| Total..... | 9,183 |
| Retirement Fund for Religious..... | 2,456 |

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 16

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

Monday, December 18

8:00 am Fr Seraphim Rohlman

Tuesday, December 19

8:00 am Intentions of Michael Mahon

Wednesday, December 20

8:00 am Armando Frusciante Sr.

Thursday, December 21

8:00 am Bipin Lakra

Friday, December 22

8:00 am Robert T. Jones

Saturday, December 23

8:00 am All Souls

5:30 pm Jim McDevitt

Sunday December 24

7:30 am Janet O'Connell

9:00 am Intentions of Devine Family

11:00 am Edward Tarnok

Christmas Schedule

Christmas Eve

4:00pm *†

6:00 pm

10:30 pm **

All Masses on this joyful feast will be offered for the intentions of all our parishioners,

Christmas Day

7:30 am

9:00 am

11:00 am **†

their families and loved ones, with a special remembrance of those who have died in the past year

* Family Mass

** Choir Mass

(ALSO on Christmas Eve: Lessons and Carols at 10:00 pm)

† Overflow seating available in Community Room, if needed

Readings for Week of Dec 17

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

Monday: Jer 23:5-8/Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19 [cf. 7]/Mt 1:18-25

Tuesday: Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a/Ps 71:3-4a, 5-6ab, 16-17 [cf. 8]/Lk 1:5-25

Wednesday: Is 7:10-14/Ps 24:1-2, 3-4ab, 5-6 [cf. 7c and 10b]/Lk 1:26-38

Thursday: Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a/Ps 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21 [1a; 3a]/Lk 1:39-45

Friday: 1 Sm 1:24-28/1 Sm 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd [cf. 1a]/Lk 1:46-56

Saturday: Mal 3:1-4, 23-24/Ps 25:4-5ab, 8-9, 10 and 14 [cf. Lk 21:28]/Lk 1:57-66

Next Sunday: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27, 29 [2a]/Rom 16:25-27/Lk 1:26-38

Worldwide Marriage Encounter

“The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me.” Let your spirits be augmented by attending a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend. The next Weekends are Feb 2-4, 2018 in Manchester, CT and Jul 6-8, 2018 in MANCHESTER, CT. For more information, call Dennis & Jane Lamondy at 860-481-3720 or visit them at <https://wwmectw.org/>.



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!