

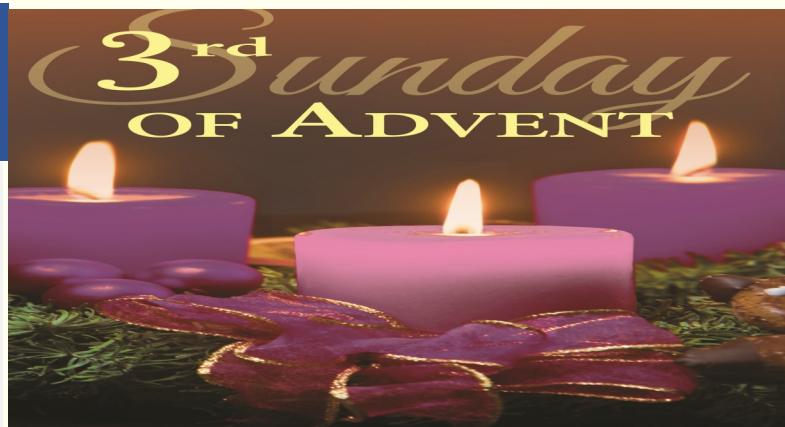
Sunday, December 13, 2020

Third Sunday of Advent

PARISH OFFICE HOURS

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

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



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, WASHINGTON, DC
20019**



PASTORAL STAFF

PASTOR

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(202) 584-8322 Ext. 101

IN RESIDENCE:

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(202) 584-8322

Deacon

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(202) 584-8322 Ext. 103

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Anne Marie Schreiner, DC
(205) 919-0010

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

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Ms. Michele Peters
(202) 584-8322 Ext. 102

DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Mrs. Shirley Williams

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 2019 is "Teach us to number our days, that we may gain a heart of wisdom." [Psalm 90:12] 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 the Martin De Pores Chapel

Monday: 10:00am Tuesday: 8:00am

Wednesday: 8:00am Thursday: 10:00am Friday: 8:00 am

Stations of the Cross

Every 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

The Joy of God's Presence

"But I trust in Your unfailing love; my heart rejoices in Your salvation. I will sing to the LORD, for He has been good to me." Psalm 13:5-6

The Westminster Shorter Catechism says: "The chief end of man is to glorify God and enjoy Him forever." Perhaps one of the greatest ways that we as Christians can love God is to enjoy Him. How does obedience glorify God if there is no joy? How does service glorify God with no joy? How does giving glorify Him without joy? Our lives ought to be a song of joyful praise to our God, for who He is and for what He has done.

In his book, *Mere Christianity*, C.S. Lewis wrote that God designed man to find his supreme happiness in Him alone. He goes on to explain how sin robbed man of the joy that only God can give. Satan convinced our ancestors in the Garden of Eden that they could invent some kind of happiness apart from God. He deceived Eve into believing that she could be "like God," and that God was withholding something good from her. That first bite of forbidden fruit was nothing more than a hopeless attempt to find something other than God to make her happy. Out of that first choice flowed all of human history...countless attempts throughout the ages to find joy somewhere other than in God. Money, poverty, ambition, war, prostitution, slavery, empires – the long, dreadful story of man's futile attempts to satisfy an unquenchable thirst for God alone.

Psalm 16:11 says, "*You have made known to me the path of life; You will fill me with joy in Your presence, with eternal pleasures at Your right hand.*" The psalmist understood what many of us do not – that it is useless to pray that God grant happiness through anything or anyone other than Himself. He cannot do it. Why? Because it is not there; such happiness does not exist. There is no real satisfaction or joy apart from Him. We were created to be in relationship with Him. Not just an intellectual belief, but also a deep, meaningful, intimate, joyful communion with our Creator. To know Him is to know joy like no other.

John Piper said it might be more accurate to say that: "The chief end of man is to glorify God by enjoying Him forever." When we enjoy God, He is glorified through our lives. So how do we enjoy Him? There is no four-step process or spiritual formula. We enjoy Him by looking to Him to meet every need, comfort every heartache, fill every void, and guide every step. We enjoy Him by spending time with Him. The more we know God, the more we will experience true happiness.

Dear God, Your grace and mercy are all I could ever need to be truly satisfied and joyful. When I think about Your salvation, my heart overflows with gratitude and praise. Please forgive me for looking to other things for happiness. You alone are my hope and my joy. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

REFLECTION FOR

THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Did you ever stop and realize that there is no earthly gain that can ever really satisfy us? Think of winning the Lotto. On this side of the winning ticket, it's all about the money, the new car, house, vacations, bank accounts, and infinite pleasures. The possibility of acquiring all of these earthly securities brings us back again and again to the purchase of a ticket. Then, one day we win! Our dreams are fulfilled, and happiness is on the horizon. Then one day, we wake up and realize that nothing has really changed, and I am not as satisfied as I thought I was or would be. I find myself living in my incompleteness and with my profound sorrow and grief. I did not find joy.

Glimpses of joy are possible but not by material means. They are brought to us through incredible experiences of connection that bring us face to face with real and authentic faith, hope, and love. And, they are glimpses and do not last. The moment we find ourselves looking back at them, they are gone, and we find ourselves remembering the moment in memory. To carry joy within us is to realize that it is not something I create, manufacture or even acquire. It is not able to be purchased. It is a gift. My need for joy mirrors my need for eternity, for a Creator who has a claim on the very essence of who I am and desires a home within me. As C. S. Lewis discovered, joy is a surprise that speaks to my very soul and is given as gift by the God who loves me.

The beauty of Advent is found in discovering the beauty of the gift of joy. God has visited his people for no other reason than to show them where and how to find joy! All of our human and earthly joy experiences are always only glimpses. They never satisfy us, sustain us or fulfill us. It is only God who is the joy of my soul. Real, Divine experiences of joy catch us off guard, make us stop and become aware, bring a feeling of awe and rightness and have an eternal Otherness about them. Nothing created by humans can ever come close to this. We probably will not fully realize the truth of all of this until we actually meet God face to face in heaven one day. Then, in that sacred moment when our hearts leap for joy we will understand what we have been tirelessly searching for all along. Intense gratitude will most surely follow.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY/ANNIVERSARY

We would like to wish a wonderful happy birthday to Edith Cornish, Christal Mitchell, Rosetta Henry, Yvette Sherman, Cursey J. Calais, Jamari Davis, Martha Feemster, Kayden -Wilson Porter and a wonderful wedding anniversary to Mr. & Mrs. Paul and Violet Tinsley.

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

Church Support

Please consider making a donation to support our parish during this 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
God bless and keep you safe.

Readings for the week of December 13, 2020

Sunday: Isaiah 61:1-2a, 10-11/Luke 1:46-48, 49-50, 51-54 [Isaiah 61:10b]/1 Thessalonians 5:16-24/John 1:6-8, 19-28

Monday: Numbers 24:2-7, 15-17a/Psalms 25:4-5ab, 6 and 7bc, 8-9 [4]/Matthew 21:23-27

Tuesday: Zephaniah 3:1-2, 9-13/Psalms 34:2-3, 6-7, 17-18, 19 and 23 [7a]/Matthew 21:28-32

Wednesday: Isaiah 45:6b-8, 18, 21c-25/Psalms 85:9ab and 10, 11-12, 13-14 [Is 45:8]/Luke 7:18b-23

Thursday: Genesis 49:2, 8-10/Psalms 72:1-2, 3-4ab, 7-8, 17 [cf. 7]/Matthew 1:1-17

Friday: Jeremiah 23:5-8/Psalms 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19 [cf. 7]/Matthew 1:18-25

Saturday: Judges 13:2-7, 24-25a/Psalms 71:3-4a, 5-6ab, 16-17 [cf. 8]/Luke 1:5-25

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

WEEKLY MASS

Monday 12/14
Eternal repose of the soul of James Edward Bris-
bon+++ by Jacqueline Fayette Gillespie

Tuesday 12/15
Eternal repose of the soul of James "Rodney Wright" +++

Wednesday 12/16
Eternal repose of the soul of Frank Johnson+++

Thursday 12/17
Eternal Repose of the soul of James Edward Bris-
bon+++ by Janice Town-
send

Friday 12/18
Eternal repose of the soul of Rodney Neal+++

Saturday 12/19
Eternal repose of the soul of Shawn Edelin+++
by Family

Pray for the Sick & Shut-In of Our Parish

Barbara Barnes
Blanche Bourm
Barbara Batts
Tanisha Bennett
Tammy Berry
Ruth Bundy
Beatrice Carroll
Melinda Conrad-Brown
Edith Cornish
Aniceto Charles
Patricia Chase
Valene Chemoo
Joyce Cristwell
Alvera Dance
Iyana Davage

Marita C. Edelin
Tina Garvin
Elizabeth Gillem
Florence Hall
Steve Halle
Chris Hawkins
Charlene Haywood
Brenda Henson
James Holley
Rudolph Holley
James Hughes
Melvin Jamison
Mary Ann Johnson
David & Keisha Jones
Dawn Lattimer
Lawrence Lee

Maria A. Logan
Bernadette Mahoney
Doreene Mahoney
Barbara Mallory
Doris McCannon
Alice L. Montague
Veronica Murray
David Neal
Florence Patterson
Marlene Patterson
Silvia Perry
Lillian Pharms
Kecia Proctor
Doreene Redd
Leroy Sandifer
Betty Smith

Kayla Tatum
Rolland Taylor
Gloria Thompson-Price
James F. Thompson, Jr.
Matthew Thompson
Barbara B. Tyler
Wayne A. Wallace
Marquita Ward
Shiela Washington
Steven Washington
Cecelia Williams
Wellington Waters
Dolores Woodard, Jr.
Harold Woodard, Sr.

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)

Friday Holy Hour/Adoration Live Stream & Voice @ 7:00pm

Saturday Holy Rosary (Voice call only) @ 6:00pm

Sunday Mass 8:30 am & 11:00am (11am mass will also be livestreamed)

To join our Live Stream, please go to

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/stluke.stlukesedc/>

Or Dial: 425-436-6339.

Access code: 269615

You can watch our videos on YouTube @ https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCxLUpGPb4HGGIYm9NWkBN7g/videos?view_as=subscriber

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**: 202-335-3116.

Offertory Contributions for 12/13/2020: \$1,08026

May God reward you abundantly for your generosity.

Quote of the Day: "We cannot cure the world of sorrows, but we can choose to live in joy." —*Joseph Campbell*

PARISH NEWS

St. Luke annual Toys drive takes place from Sunday 13th to Monday December 21st. Please join in putting smile on the faces of children this Christmas.

Christmas Dinner (Take-out only) will be distributed on Monday December 21 beginning at 5:pm.

Christmas Basket Distribution is on Tuesday December 22 from 10am –12pm.

ARCHDIOCESAN NEWS

ARCHDIOCESEAN SPECIAL COLLECTION FOR RETIREMENT FUND FOR RELIGIOUS: Together with nearly 30,000 elderly sisters, brothers, and religious order priests in the United States, they educated the young, tended the sick, and ministered to the needy. Today, they pray for a world that is hurting. Please give your tax-deductible gift to the Retirement Fund for Religious.

RETRovaille Marriage Program is for couples with marital problems that want marriage help. Those who are considering marriage separation and those who are already separated for divorced are encouraged to consider the Retrovaille Program. There is always hope of reviving your relationship. For more details please contact us at 443-400-7017, 3015@HelpOurMarriage.org or www.HelpOurMarriage.org.

BLACK & WOMEN'S HISTORY MINISTRY Join St. Martin's Church Black & Women's History Ministry for *Ella Wishes You a Swinging Christmas with Vanessa Williams* on Tuesday, December 15th at 8pm. Watch on your local PBS Station or PBS.org. Also, see *Celebrating First Fruits — Fr. Augustus Tolton, Cardinal Wilton Gregory, and Kwansaa!* Saturday, December 19 @ 6:30pm EST — Cost is Free You may contact angelecw32@aol.com for more information.