

Third Sunday of Advent - December 17th, 2017

Gospel

A man named John was sent from God. He came for testimony, to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He was not the light, but came to testify to the light.

Jn 1:6-8

Welcome to

THE CHURCH OF

Saint Luke

A ROMAN CATHOLIC COMMUNITY OF DISCIPLES

1980 Hillsdale Road
El Cajon, California 92019

(619) 442-1697
www.thechurchofstluke.org

Mission Statement

The Church of St. Luke is a joyful, welcoming, caring, active family of believers striving to grow in knowledge of and love for God and each other. Challenged by the Word, nurtured by the Eucharist, and enlivened by the Spirit, we seek to live the message of Jesus in serving the needs of others both within our Parish and in the larger community.

Masses

Wed., Thurs., Fri.: 7:30 am

Saturday: 5:00 pm

Sunday: 9:00 am & 11:30 am

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturday 3:30 pm

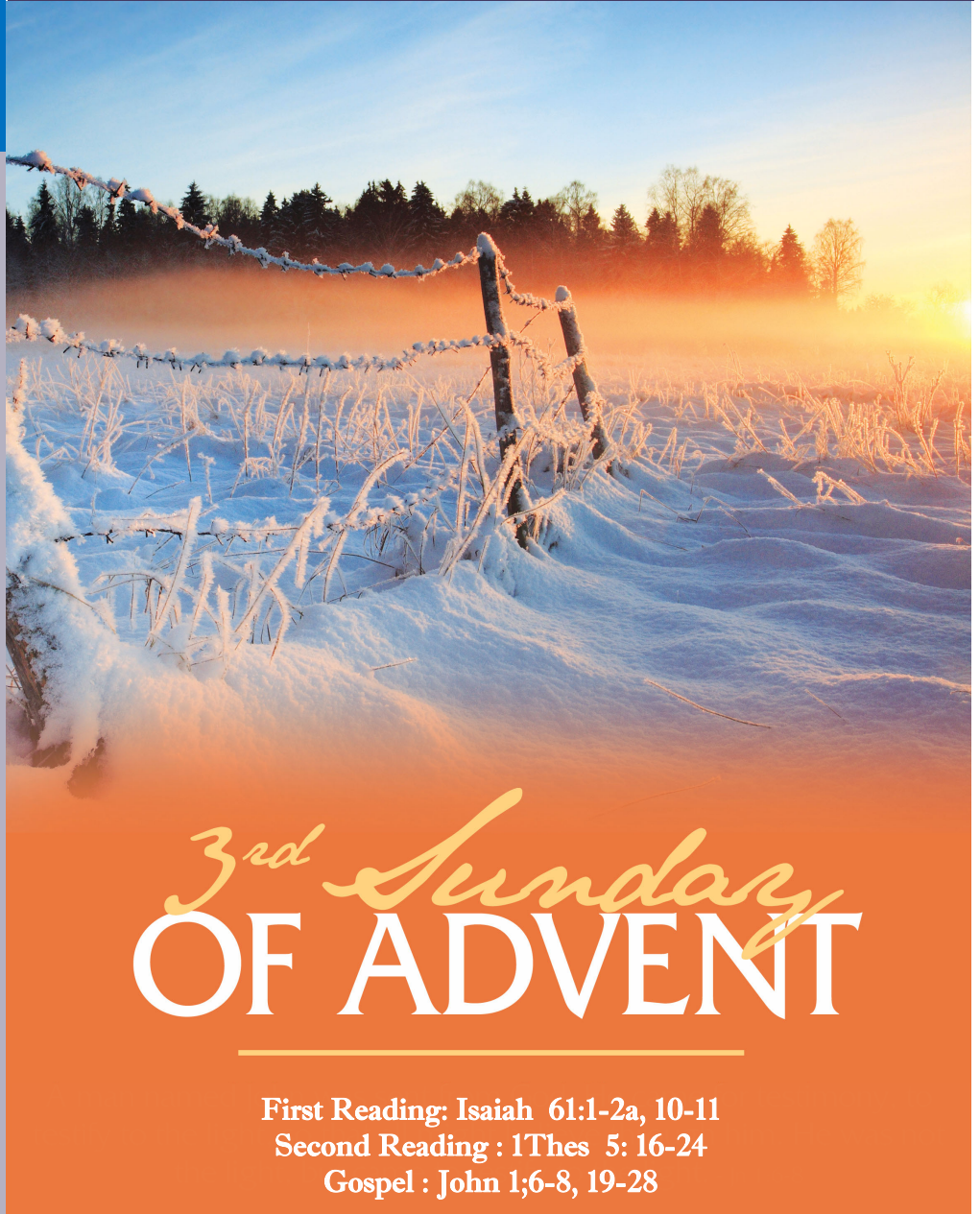
(Also by appointment)

PARISH OFFICE HOURS:

Monday-Friday

9:00 am—5:00 pm

Fax: (619) 442-2293



First Reading: Isaiah 61:1-2a, 10-11

Second Reading : 1Thes 5: 16-24

Gospel : John 1;6-8, 19-28

Reflection: Reflect upon/Share about people, in you life, who have testified to the light? What's your life like when you are connected to the light; when you are not connected to the light? What one thing can you do to help you stay connected to the light?

Alternative: Are you afraid of the dark? What is the difference between doing things in the dark and doing things in the light? Why is "light" symbolic of doing good? What can you do to become known as a child of the light?

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

Parish Pastoral Council normally meets on the 3rd Tuesday of the month.

Visitors/observers welcome. If you wish to have an item placed on the agenda, contact a Council member to present it for you or contact the Parish Office.

Parish Council Members:

Fr. Ron Cochran
Jane Alfano
Mark Balmert
Amy Cannon
Bob Guarnotta
Linda Jacobson
Anita Leak
Sam Lupo
Don Mercurio
Dcn. Emeritus:
Dennie Nickell
Rick Roberts
Teresa Dodd-Butera
Tony Camara
Tom Selfani
Bryan Shull
Dcn. Jerry Stenovoc
Dcn. Allan Williams

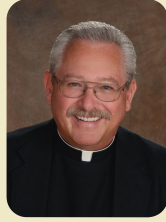
PARISH FINANCE COUNCIL

The Parish Finance Council meets every other 3rd Wednesday of the month.

Parish Finance Council Members:

Fr. Ron Cochran
James Chitkowski
Jim Crockett
George Heidenreich
Jeanne Houghtby
John Krueger
Cathy March
Dave Sapper
Jim Stepovich
Richard Venancio

From the Pastor



Dear Parishioners,

This year, Christmas comes as early as it can after the Fourth Sunday of Advent. The Fourth Sunday of Advent is celebrated in the morning of December 24th and Christmas Eve is celebrated in the evening of December 24th. That creates a few logistical problems for us, like how many Masses to offer and when to decorate for Christmas. We've made decisions with which we think we can live but they will make the celebration of the Fourth Sunday of Advent a little strange; we'll have already decorated for Christmas and there will be no 11:30 Mass on the 24th.

But, that is not such a big deal. The big deal for me is how to help people prepare spiritually for the celebration of Christmas. I was disappointed at the turnout for the 1st Sunday of Advent Masses and the 2nd Sunday Masses were not much better except, maybe, the 9:00 am. We haven't had our Advent Community Reconciliation Service as of the time of this writing, but I don't expect it to be well attended; it hasn't been in prior years.

I get the impression that most people aren't interested in celebrating Advent as a way of preparing for Christmas. Maybe the problem is that they are too busy with all the worldly things required to prepare for Christmas. I get that. But, I still feel that it is my job to help people prepare spiritually. I also think it is important for families to help their children learn to prepare spiritually.

We live in a worldly world. That may sound funny but the world wasn't always so worldly. Most, if not all, ancient cultures tried to connect this world with the transcendent. They tried to gain the blessings of the divine on their actions in this world. They tried to understand the will of the divine and act it out in this world. That was the job of the prophet, by the way; to declare the will of the divine to the people of this world. The ruler's job was to carry out that will. And, the priest job was to represent the people to the divine, pray for them, offer their sacrifices, etc.

In our time, we keep all that separate, at the community level. We believe in the separation of Church and state and that's good. It also may have helped lead us to separating the this worldly and the spiritual, even in our personal lives. And, it doesn't help that Christmas has become such a commercial event in our culture. Now, I think, it is more about finding the right presents, receiving presents, having and going to parties and cleaning and decorating for the civil celebration of Christmas. Many people, who don't participate at Mass during the rest of the year, add going to Mass as one of their Christmas practices but I doubt if the Mass is a spiritual experience for them since they don't participate the rest of the year.

What do we do? I don't know... If I did, I would do it and be well on my way to sainthood. This year, I'm trying to emphasize preparing the way for the Lord's Spirit, the Holy Spirit, to come to us and be a real part of our lives. After I do everything I can think of doing, I guess it's God's job to make it work. It would be foolish pride to think it was my job and that I could actually do it. I just pray that I'm giving God enough to work with.

Pray for our parish, that this Advent and Christmas will be a special time spiritually for all of us. Pray that we may all let His Spirit enter into us and guide our lives in this material world.

In His service,

Fr. Ron

Remember in your Prayers, Weekly Readings, Mass Intentions



PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

David Burnight, Michael Winkler, Paul Folsom, John Stevenson, Zoey Thomas, Ann Ponsor, La Mice Denton, Brian Hill, Gary Corwin, Roberto Lopez, Lorraine Flint, Bill Phillips, Isaac Armas, Mary Botte, Lara Pasi, Nancy Usrey, Ryan Cochran, Emmanuel Hallak, Dylan Coughlin, Frank Alfano, Selena Chum, Jimmie Davis, Dr. Barbie Taylor, Rachel Chavez, Michele Chavez, Gray Draper, Linda Rogers, Helen Chu, Al Bowen, Margaret Dennison, Jacob Seilheimer, Joyce Kammer, Theresa Warcholik, Cheryl Berry, Natalie Enriquez, Candace Dayton, Ladel, Michael Ward, Nina Murphy, Noel Fisher, Jason Zdunich, Karen Bennett, Connie Elba, Blanche Duncan, Charles Brown, Jim Leachman, Christine Banuelos, Jose Orrantia, Dave Johnson, Mina Scannicchio, Jan Lindgren, Carol Petrich, Carey Moore, Jose Azarza, Parker Landis, Joan Smith, Anthony Potito, Kaylee Mikulsky, Jackie, Jeff Rogers, Michelle Tello, Chase Laird, Vera Navetta, Miriam Kaskorkis, Adelaide Fitzwater, Ed Solorzano, Alice Zizzo, Luis Orrantia, Maggie Matthews, Sophia Christensen, Steven, Cindy Russell, Karen Walker, Mike Murphy, Ann Mussomeli, Jeanine DeSanti, Joe James Sowards, Vie Liddell, Olivia Dunn, Jennifer Soares, Dorothea Wall, Antoinette Daquisto-Guidi, Bob Weisham, Teri Harrison, Danielle P. Joe Scannicchio, Maria Warcholik, Ruthie Condon, Marin Mejia, Mike Marcon, Theresa & Vito Siragusa, Tracy Weaver, Rick Gores, Corrine Meierbachtol, Sue Sullivan, Rose Camacho, Tommy Collet Sr., John Lawton, Justin Hughes, Clara Morrison, Travis Butler, Jordan Garcia, Winston Quitiquit, Gregory S., Joan Hall, Joni Marco, Vern Hubka, Ricky Latorre, Camryn Mayer, Dolores Morrison, Aimee Gatus, Tommy Collet Jr., Thomas Baca, Chuck Moore, Gui Mei Guo, Audrianna Lococo, Karl Viederstein, Carey Moore, John Morrison, Maria Teresa Valquez, Nancy Samayoa, Tyler Parr, Karin Oravetz, Terry McMullin, Mary Morrison, Laura Allen & Family, Ryan Waters, Sam Attisha, Debra Burke, Andrew Mearm, Richard Perricone, John Agostini, Clara Morrison, Austin Gatus, Rosemary Lowe, The Hill Family, Russell Morrison, Frances Colombo, Christina Morrison, Megan Krueer Jones, Zaim Attisha, Laura Lee, Teresa Russo, Lillian Peregud; and all our relatives and friends who are sick. **A NOTE ABOUT OUR PRAYER LIST:** If you would like to add a name to our prayer list please contact Nancy Adema. Also **please notify Nancy when a name can be removed.** We appreciate the prompt notification & your cooperation.

PLEASE PRAY FOR

DECEMBER WEDDING ANNIVERSARY:

Marty & Lil Collins 50-years
Dale and Elaine Couch 48-years
John & Christine Weisickle 44-years
Martin & Adriana Holguin 16-years
Joe & Pauline Doran 6-years

If you would like to have your Wedding Anniversary placed in the bulletin please call 442-1697

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

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

THIS WEEK'S MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday: 5:00pm Bruno & Margaret Bubis RIP
 Sunday: 9:00am Parishioners of St. Luke
 11:30am Nick Horba RIP
 Wednesday: 7:30am Connor Mc Lhinney RIP
 Thursday: 7:30am Mary Alice Balmert RIP
 Friday: 7:30am Carol Pyle RIP
 Saturday: 5:00pm Dominic Mazzone RIP
 Sunday: 9:00am John Kellher RIP
 Christmas Eve: 4:00pm John Keller RIP
 7:00pm Mary Lonergan RIP
 10:00pm Parishioners of St. Luke

SAINTS & SPECIAL OBSERVANCE

Sunday: 3rd Sunday of Advent
 Monday: Weekday
 Tuesday: Weekday
 Wednesday: Weekday
 Thursday: St. Peter Canisius, Priest & Doctor of the Church
 Friday: Weekday
 Saturday: St. John of Kanty, Priest
 Next Sunday: 4th Sunday of Advent;
 Christmas Eve

PARISH FINANCES

In order to fulfill our budget, we need to collect an average of \$12,722 in the collection basket each week. Some weeks may be higher and some lower but we need to maintain that average. Additionally, we have budgeted for an average of \$12,802 to be contributed monthly through our Online Giving contribution program.

The total amount budgeted through these sources is \$660,095 this year. Our budget includes another \$106,384 expected income from other sources; (Annual Catholic Appeal rebates, Christmas & Easter collections, Sacramental Donations, Interest, One-time gifts & bequests, etc.).

LAST WEEK: Totals for 12/10/2017

Plate:	\$	843.00
Envelope:	\$	10,433.00
Total Collection Basket:	\$	11,276.00
Online Giving		

SUPPORTING THE MISSION OF THE CHURCH: *Once you've made a decision on how much you should be giving, decide how to give.*

WAYS TO GIVE: You can use envelopes, as many people do, you can set up automatic donations through your Bank, (forms available in the parish office), you can go to Online Giving on the St. Luke website and set up an online giving plan which you can personally manage or call the parish office to arrange an online giving plan administered by the parish Business Manger. Online Giving Link: www.thechurchofstluke.org Click on: Online Giving in the center of subject bar. For more information please call the parish office at 442-1697.

Gospel Meditation, Live the Liturgy & Why Do We Do That



It's time for
Church Cleaning
Make it ready for Christmas
Monday December 18
from 9:00 am to 12:00 noon

For more information
please call
Peggy Nelson

Next Weekend Mass Schedule

Saturday December 23rd
4th Sunday in Advent
5:00 pm

Sunday December 24th
4th Sunday of Advent
9:00 am Mass
No 11:30 am Mass

Christmas Eve December 24th
4:00pm Mass
7:00pm Mass
10:00pm Mass

Christmas Day December 25th
9:00 am Mass



Friends of the Poor SOCK DRIVE

Friends of the Poor is collecting **new socks** for people in Tijuana. **Socks are needed for all ages and all sizes!**

Place socks in bin in baptistry.
Martha Evans (619) 701-3743

Did you know...

In addition to your generous donations, the loose coins you place in the collection basket go to help the Society of St. Vincent de Paul at the Church of St. Luke to provide assistance to those in need? **Meetings: 1st Thurs at 11am and the 3rd Wed at 6:30pm in the hall.** For more info please contact **Mike Wasyliw**.



GOSPEL MEDITATION - ENCOURAGE DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF SCRIPTURE December 17, 2017 3rd Sunday of Advent

"There is one ... coming after me, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to untie." Untying sandal straps was no prestigious job. In the days of John the Baptist, those straps would have been especially unpleasant to deal with. Besides the usual odors that accompany sockless leather footwear, there would have been the grime and dirt from the sandy roads and paths that swirled around the people who went everywhere on foot. Taking off someone's shoes upon their arrival was the task of the lowly servants. So when John says he's unworthy of doing this task for the "one who is

coming after me," he is putting himself in a very humble position. And rightly so. John realizes that the Christ--the Anointed One, the Messiah--is so far above him, so far above any of us, that we are truly unworthy of him.

Indeed, the Son of God is not just the greatest of men; he is God-made-man and in his presence we most appropriately should bow in humble homage. Yet this God chose to stoop down to our human level and walk among us. He chose to get his sandals dirty. And still today he chooses to allow us to encounter him as a friend and companion.

But as John reminds us by his example, this encounter with the Lord is not the result of our own merits or accomplishments. We are sinners who stand in need of Christ's help. But thanks be to God, he is always willing to extend this help to us. As St. Paul says in today's epistle, "May the God of peace make you perfectly holy." Indeed it is God who does the

perfecting, not us by our own power. So let us approach the Lord this Advent season with a spirit of hopeful humility, trusting that God alone can make us worthy of welcoming his Son.

LIVE THE LITURGY - INSPIRATION FOR THE WEEK

John the Baptist came to testify to the light, who is Jesus Christ. Like John, we are called to testify to that same Light. We do so by living lives of faith and bringing the joy of the Gospel to everyone we meet. We are people of joy who rejoice at his birth and eagerly await his coming again. We share that joy by tending to the needs of the poor, helping those who are broken, and witnessing to the freedom that a life in God brings. May we take our task of being joyful witnesses to the good news seriously as the celebration of Christ's birth fast approaches.

WHY DO WE DO THAT? - CATHOLIC TRADITIONS EXPLAINED

Question: On many Sundays, especially during Advent and Lent, we hear a reading from one of the prophets. What is significant about them for us? Didn't Jesus fulfill all their predictions?

Answer: Lent and Advent are the times of the church year when the prophetic word forms an important part of the liturgical season. Isaiah, Jeremiah, Baruch, and Zephaniah are just some of the prophets who offer powerful and essential lessons for Christians of any era. Prophets do not predict the future--they are very much concerned about the present, calling Israel to follow once again the word of God.

The prophets witness to a life of faith. In the midst of an intense relationship with God, the prophets are very aware of their unworthiness to embrace this call from God, and struggle to accept the mission God entrusts to them.

The prophets speak on behalf of God. Each testifies that the word spoken is not from them, but from God. This lands them in trouble, at times, with their audience. Jeremiah, for example, felt betrayed by God as the prophetic message was delivered. People did not like the message because of their sin-filled lives and their displeasure was taken out on the prophet. While tempted at times to throw in the towel, the prophets remained true to the life of faith and persevered in the proclamation of God's word. In modeling these virtues and calling us to greater fidelity, the prophets offer an example and message that are still important to us today.

Parish Information



Las Madrinas

Thank You

Many thanks to all who baked, crafted, shopped and worked at the Craft and Bake Sale.

Your efforts earned over \$2100 to be split between the Giving Tree and Noah Homes.

God Bless you all!

Save the Date

February 3rd, 2018 4th Annual

Taste of Saint Luke International Cuisine

Share: Food, Fun and Friendship.

Something delicious to taste for everyone!

Unfortunately three of our tables are unable to participate this year; Korean, German and Mexican.

If we do not have 5 or more tables, it will be necessary to cancel the event". This is an opportunity for you to gather 3 or more friends and host a table of your choice. If you are interested in volunteering, hosting a table or want to help with this fun event please call: **Pat Riggs**

Your Help Makes a Difference



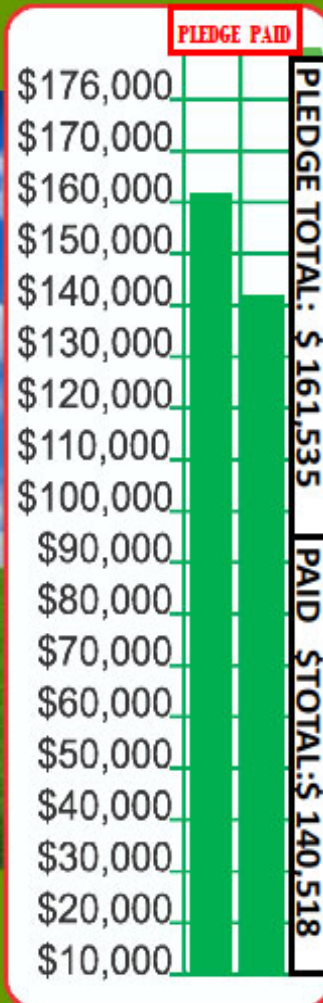
The Church of Saint Luke

Goes Green

Help us **JOIN** together
as a community in this effort



WE CAN
SAVE OVER **\$38,000.00** PER
YEAR



ADVENT RECONCILIATION SERVICES

Our Lady
of Perpetual Help
Lakeside
December 18th
@ 9:00 am
& 7:00 pm

St Pius, Jamul
December 19th
@ 7:00 pm

Guardian Angels
Santee
December 19th
@ 7:00 pm

Contacts & Calendar Information

VISIT OUR WEBSITE

For additional calendar and event information.

www.thechurchofstluke.org

PARISH DIRECTORY

Pastor: Rev. Ron Cochran (619) 442-1697
Deacon Emeritus: Dennie Nickell (619) 442-1697
Deacon: Jerry Stenovec
Deacon: Allan Williams
Pastoral Associate: Jane Cruz Alfano (619) 442-1697 x103
Business Manager: Jim Crockett (619) 442-1697 x110
 busmgr@thechurchofstluke.org
Secretary: Joanie Maitilasso (619) 442-1697 x101
 secretary@thechurchofstluke.org
Bulletin Editor: Joanie Maitilasso (619) 442-1697 x101
 secretary@thechurchofstluke.org
Facility Manager: Robert Stevenson (619)442-1697 x109
Web Master: Lance Attiq webmaster@thechurchofstluke.org.
Altar Servers: Dcn. Alan Williams
Choir Director: Colin McColl
Organist: Susan Paul
Eucharistic Ministers: Linda Jacobson
Greeters: Maria Oliver
Lectors: Susan Smothers
Ushers: George Heidenrieck

FAITH FORMATION

Catechetical Ministry
 Jane Cruz Alfano, Pastoral Associate (619) 442-1697 x103 pas-
 soc@thechurchofstluke.org
Coordinator of RCIA: Dcn. Jerry Stenovec
Coordinator of PreK-5 Faith Formation:
 Debbie Stenovec (619) 442-2515 x 105
 K-5reled@thechurchofstluke.org
**Coordinator of Middle and High School Faith Formation
 & Youth a/Young Adult Ministry:**
 Evelyn Beale (619) 442-2515 x 106
 Youthreled@thechurchofstluke.org

MINISTRIES & ORGANIZATIONS

Baptism Class: Joanie Maitilasso (619)442-1697
Church Cleaning Crew: Peggy Nelson
Cub/Boy Scout Religious Emblems: Shannon Vint
Eucharistic Adoration: Cindy Christmas & Mike Wasyliv
Friends of the Poor: Martha Evans
Knights of Columbus: Don Mercurio G.K.
Marriage Preparation: Joanie Maitilasso (619) 442-1697 x101
 secretary@thechurchofstluke.org
Ministry to Sick and Homebound: Dcn. Jerry Stenovec
Outreach Ministry: Ken Stempien
Prayer Chain: Nancy Adema
Respect Life: Don Mercurio
Scrip: Tom Stone
Small Church Communities:
 Jane Cruz Alfano, (619) 442-1697 x 103
Society of St. Vincent de Paul: Mike Wasyliv
St. Luke Business Network: Cathy March

FROM THE BULLETIN EDITOR

Office Phone: (619) 442-1697 Fax (619) 442-2293
Joanie Maitilasso and Carole Morales
 OFFICE HOURS: **Monday - Friday:** 9:00 am to 5:00 pm
THE DEADLINE FOR BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS IS
MONDAY AT 12 NOON.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Month of December

(Calendar Events are subject to change)

- | | |
|----------------------------|--|
| Sat
16th | "The Giving Tree" Parish Outreach
Third Sunday of Advent
3:30pm Reconciliation
5:00pm Mass |
| Sun
17th | "The Giving Tree" Parish Outreach Ends
Third Sunday of Advent
8:30am Pro Life Rosary
8:45pm No Catechesis of the Good Shepherd Level II
9:00am Mass w/ Children's Liturgy & 50th Wedding
Anniversary Blessing: Marty & Lil Collins
10:15am No Confirmation Prep
10:30am No Catechesis of the Good Shepherd Level II
11:30am Mass w/Children's Liturgy Word
1:00pm Group Baptism |
| Mon
18th | 9:00am Church Cleaning
2:30pm No Catechesis of the Good Shepherd I and II
4:15pm No Catechesis of the Good Shepherd Level III
4:15pm No M.S. Faith Formation Session
6:00pm Core Team Meeting |
| Tues
19th | 8:30am Church Decorating
4:00pm No Catechesis of the Good Shepherd Level III
6:30pm Young Adult Gatherings Christmas Party |
| Wed
20th | 7:30am Mass
6:30pm SVDP Meeting
7:00pm RCIA |
| Thu
21st | 7:30am Mass
4:00pm No Catechesis of the Good Shepherd I and II |
| Fri
22nd | 7:30am Mass |
| Sat
23rd | Fourth Sunday of Advent
3:30pm Reconciliation
5:00pm Mass |
| Sun
24th | Fourth Sunday of Advent
8:30am Pro Life Rosary
8:45pm No Catechesis of the Good Shepherd Level II
9:00am Mass w/ Children's Liturgy
10:15am No Confirmation Prep
10:30am No Catechesis of the Good Shepherd Level II
11:30am No Mass w/Children's Liturgy Word
Christmas Eve
4:00pm Nativity of the Lord Mass
7:00pm Nativity of the Lord Mass
10:00pm Nativity of the Lord Mass |
| Mon
25th | Christmas Day Office Closed
9:00am Nativity of the Lord Mass
2:30pm No Catechesis of the Good Shepherd I and II
4:15pm No Catechesis of the Good Shepherd Level III
4:15pm No M.S. Faith Formation Session |

Parish Information



IN NEED OF VOLUNTEERS

We are scheduled to serve dinner on December 22nd, from 4-7 p.m. at Father Joe's Village need your help. We need **14 volunteers** every month. If you can help let Dan Goulding know.

We would like to have our volunteers show up at Fr. Joe's Village by 3:45p.m. A carpool will be leaving St. Luke parking lot around 3:15pm for anyone interested.

Your help is truly appreciated. Thank you.



Ministry to the Sick and Homebound

If you or a family member cannot come to Sunday Mass, a Minister of the Eucharist is available to bring Eucharist to you in your home, hospital or convalescent home. Just call the Church Office and your name will be forwarded to the ministry. One of our Ministers will call to set up a convenient time for a visit.

619-442-1697

Jesus said: "I myself am the living bread come down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread he shall live forever." Jn 6:51

Holiday Shopping Now



You'll have them in your wallet when you're ready to shop.

Order forms & Gift Cards available at the Scrip Table after Mass.



Poinsettia Memoriams

Poinsettias beautifully decorate our church on Christmas and are a special way to remember loved ones, both living and deceased.

Donation for small poinsettias are \$25.00, medium \$50.00 and large \$150.00.

Envelopes are available in the pews or on the side tables in the Baptistery.

For more info call the parish office at 442-1697.



Mark your calendar!

Come help decorate the church for Christmas on Tuesday December 19th starting at 8:30 am.

With many hands we will be done about noon. We need men and women no experience necessary. We need help decorating the Angel tree, hanging and fluffing wreaths, Setting up trees and generally making the Church ready for Christmas!

Lunch will be provided. if you can help: Email Vicky Cate

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