

Welcome to

The Church of *Saint Luke*

A Roman Catholic Community of Disciples

Fourth Sunday of Advent
December 20, 2015



O LORD of hosts, look down from heaven and see; take care of this vine, and protect what your right hand has planted. — *Psalm 80:15-16*



FIRST READING: Mi 5:1-4a
SECOND READING: Heb 10:5-10
GOSPEL: Lk 1:39-45

*"Blessed are you who believed that what was spoken to you
by the Lord would be fulfilled."* Lk 1:45

Reflection: Reflect upon/Share about how God speaks to you. How do you open yourself to his speaking to you? How do you close yourself off? If you wanted to be more open to listening to God, what would you have to change in your life?

Alternative: What makes you believe what some people have to say and not believe what others say? Do you use that same criteria to believe what God speaks through Scripture, the teachings of the Church or, somehow, directly to you? How might your criteria be cutting off God's ability to speak to you or opening you to hearing his words?

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

Tuesday: 5:00 pm
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



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

Mark Balmert

Amy Cannon

Bob Guarnotta

Linda Jacobson

Anita Leak

Sam Lupo

Don Mercurio

Dcn. Emeritus:

Dennie Nickell

Rick Roberts

Dave Sapper

Karen Sapper

Tom Selfani

Bryan Shull

Dcn. Jerry Stenovec

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

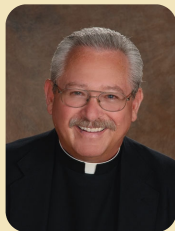
Cathy March

Dave Sapper

Jim Stepovich

Richard Venancio

FROM: THE PASTOR



Dear Parishioners,

I don't know about you but I always have trouble getting into the spirit of Advent. There is so much going on, exciting things and normal things. I help at Reconciliation services for several neighboring parishes. We had ours last night. I watch our phenomenal volunteers working long hours to make sure that the East County Christmas for Kids celebration will be meaningful for the participating families. I see people taking ornaments from the Giving Tree and discussing what they'll get. Our staff is working themselves to the bone. As always, we have more funerals this time of year than at other times. I always get a cold during this time of year, just like so many of you. Etc.

It just seems like too much. I wish we could do everything more slowly and more deliberately. I know we do this every year but every year I ask myself how do we do this right; how do we as a parish celebrate Advent in such a way that our people can enter into the spirit of the season and really be prepared for the celebration of Christmas? You'd think, after fourteen years of priesthood, I'd have this down pretty well by now... but, I don't. Aside from the business there are other things that get in the way for me. I assume that the things that get in the way for me are the same as the things that get in the way for everyone else... so I'll share. One of the things that gets in the way is that we do this every year. It has become routine and too easy to just do it. But how do we enter into it. Another thing that gets in the way is that we are preparing for something that happened two thousand and some years ago. Granted, we are also preparing for the second coming of Christ but is that going to happen on December 25, 2015?

In my fourteen years I have usually used Advent as a time of preparation for the liturgical celebration of Christmas and by that I mean that I am usually preparing for all the parts and pieces of that celebration, actually it is five celebrations, three on Christmas Eve, one here on Christmas Day and one at La Vida Real. Each one has to run smoothly so I worry about the environment, what bells and whistles will we use, how am I going to ever come up with a fresh homily, how am I going to make those who only come to Mass on Christmas and Easter want to come more often, etc. What happens is that I end up preparing so much for the celebrations I fail to prepare for what we are celebrating.

And what are we celebrating? Are we celebrating the coming of our redeemer two thousand years ago? Yes, but we all know that we are already redeemed and I don't have that feeling of expectant waiting. Are we celebrating the second coming of Christ which the early Christians thought would occur in their lifetime? Yes, but none of us, I think, expect it to happen in our lifetime. How do we make this celebration about our day and time? How can we experience the excitement of waiting for something really cool?

Well, as we get closer to Christmas, we can decide to open ourselves up to a personal relationship with the Lord. I know, some of us already have that. If so, we can open ourselves to a deeper, more intimate, relationship with the Lord. When I was being raised, our Church didn't used to teach about personal relationships with the Lord. For most Catholics, relationship with the Lord used to be mediated by the Church, especially through the sacramental life of the Church, but it wasn't intentionally lived out daily in the world. That was left to priests, nuns and religious brothers. They told us what we needed to do to be good Catholics and that was enough. Not anymore! Now we again, like in the early Church, desire that each person should have a personal relationship with the Lord.

So let us, in The Church of St. Luke, prepare the way for that. This Advent let's try to identify anything which stands in the way of a personal relationship with the Lord. Let's clean house and sweep away the things that compete with our Lord's presence. Let us prepare for what we are celebrating rather than just for the celebration.

Expectantly,

Fr. Ron

LOVE NOW Let those love now who never lov'd before; let those who always lov'd now love the more. —Anonymous



PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Michelle Tello, Katherine Boomer, Chase Laird, Vera Navetta, Miriam Kaskorkis, Bill Ferreira, Adelaide Fitzwater, Karen Marie Moscar, Candace Solorzano, Elliott Rivera, Alice Zizzo, Luis Orrantia, Maggie Matthews, Sophia Christensen, Steven, Cindy Russell, Karen Walker, Mike Murphy, Ann Mussomeli, Jeanine DeSanti, Joe James Sowards, Jim Carver, Vie Liddell, George Serban, Olivia Dunn, Elda Iavelli, Jennifer Soares, Dorothea Wall, Tony Gonzales, Martina Chiappara Cahill, Antoinette Daquisto-Guidi, Matthew Chu, Petra Gallegos, Bob Weisham, Frank Asaro, Teri Harrison, Danielle P. Joe Scannicchio, Maria Warcholik, Ruthie Condon, Marin Mejia, Mike Marcon, Theresa & Vito Seragusa, Tracy Weaver, Rick Gores, Corrine Meierbachtol, Sue Sullivan, Geri McCabe, Rose Camacho, Ray Camacho, Maria Oliver, Al Oliver, Tommy Collet Sr., John Lawton, Justin Hughes, Clara Morrison, Travis Butler, Jordan Garcia, Winston Quitiquit, Gregory S., Joan Hall, Lucy Renko, Joni Marco, Vern Hubka, Ricky Latorre, Camryn Mayer, Dolores Morrison, Aimee Gatus, Tommy Collet Jr., Thomas Baca, Chuck Moore, Eugene Cuomo, Gui Mei Guo, Audrianna Lococo, Mario Ingargiola, Karl Viederstein, Carey Moore, John Morrison, Maria Teresa Valquez, Nancy Samayoa, JoAnne Morse, Tyler Parr, Karin Oravetz, Terry McMullin, Pam Oates, Mary Morrison, Laura Allen & Family, Ryan Waters, Sam Attisha, Debra Burke, Angelo Scardina, Andrew Mearm, Marco Antonio Ballesteros Miranda, Rod Fakhoury, Janice Ayers, Peter Spinali, Karen Mays, Judy Nickell, Brett Harris, Richard Perricone, John Agostini, Clara Morrison, Austin Gatus, Michael Milnick, Rosemary Lowe, Hayden Remington, The Hill Family, Connie Bowen, Russell Morrison, Frances Colombo, Christina Morrison, Megan Kruer 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. *By the same token please notify Nancy when a name can be removed.* We appreciate the prompt notification and your cooperation.

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

WEDDING ANNIVERSARY:

Marty & Lil Collins 48-years
John & Christine Weisickle 42-years
Martin & Adriana Holguin: 14-years

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

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Sunday: Mi 5:1-4a; Ps 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19; Heb 10:5-10; Lk 1:39-45
Monday: Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a; Ps 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21; Lk 1:39-45
Tuesday: 1 Sm 1:24-28; 1 Sm 2:1, 4-8abcd; Lk 1:46-56
Wednesday: Mal 3:1-4, 23-34; Ps 25:4-5ab, 8-10, 14; Lk 1:57-66
Thursday: : Is 9:1-6; Ps 96:1-3, 11-13; Ti 2:11-14; Lk 2:1-14
Friday: : Is 9:1-6; Ps 96:1-3, 11-13; Ti 2:11-14; Lk 2:1-14
Saturday: Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59; Ps 31:3cd-4, 6, 8ab, 16bc, 17; Mt 10:17-22
Sunday: Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 or 1 Sm 1:20-22, 24-28; Ps 128:1-5 or Ps 84:2-3, 5-6, 9-10; Col 3:12-21 [12-17] or 1 Jn 3:1-2, 21-24; Lk 2:41-52

THIS WEEK'S MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday: 5:00pm Bruno & Margaret Bubis RIP
Sunday: 9:00am Nick Horba, RIP
 11:30am Parishioners of Saint Luke
Tuesday: 5:00 pm Carol Pyle RIP
Wednesday: 7:30am Mary Alice Balmert RIP
Thursday: 4:00 pm Frank and Marguerite Caso RIP
 7:00 pm Joe & Mary Orrantia RIP
 10:00 pm Dorothy Bozzelli RIP
Friday: 9:00 am Jean Sullivan RIP
Saturday: 5:00 pm Dominic Mazzone RIP
Sunday: 9:00am Angie Davis RIP
 11:30am Parishioners of Saint Luke

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCE

TODAY: Fourth Sunday of Advent
Monday: St. Peter Canisius; Winter begins
Tuesday: Advent weekday
Wednesday: St. John of Kanty
Thursday: The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas)
Friday: The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas)
Saturday: The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph
Sunday: The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph

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 12/13/15
 Not available at time of printing

Plate: \$
Envelope: \$
Total Collection Basket: \$
Online Giving October: \$ 12,269.45

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. <https://stlukeelcajon.weshareonline.org/>
 Online Giving Link: <http://thechurchofstluke.weconnect.com/>
 Click on: Online Giving in the center of subject bar.

TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading — From you, Bethlehem, shall come forth one who is to be ruler in Israel. (Micah 5:1-4a).

Psalm — Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved (Psalm 80).

Second Reading — By Christ doing the will of God, we have been consecrated (Hebrews 10:5-10).

Gospel — “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb” (Luke 1:39-45).

The English translation of the Psalm Responses from the *Lectioary for Mass* © 1969, 1981, 1997, International Commission on English in the Liturgy Corporation. All rights reserved.

A NEW ORDER

“O, Little Town of Bethlehem.” A Philadelphia clergyman named Phillips Brooks penned these popular words back in the mid-1800s, but the prophet Micah could have used them first. Micah knew that from small packages great treasures come. In today’s first reading, he knew that from tiny Bethlehem would come the Lord.

The writer in Hebrews explains that Christ came to us to do the will of God by establishing a new order and by becoming our perfect sacrifice. And Luke tells us that Elizabeth and John, the infant in her womb, understand that great and wondrous things are at hand with the coming of the Lord.

This is the Fourth Sunday of Advent. Soon we celebrate anew the fruit of Mary’s womb. As we are told in Hebrews, Jesus’ new order is being established even today. And as Micah proclaims, his greatness is reaching even now to the ends of the earth.

Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION

Many of our most treasured traditions link the liturgy of the church with the hearth of the home. The food on the table at certain feasts and fasts helps to extend the mystery into everyday life. Tonight, for example, many families of Italian heritage, especially those with links to the south of Italy, will settle down to the “Feast of the Seven Fishes,” or *La Vigilia*. It is a command performance for the whole family, as the saying goes: *Natale con I tuoi, Pasqua conchi vuoi*, or “Christmas with your family, Easter with whomever you wish.” Seven different fish, some say one for each day of Mary and Joseph’s journey to Bethlehem, others say one for each sacrament, or one for each day of creation, are served. Eel and shrimp, lobster and crab, calamari, pasta with clam sauce, flounder and hake all abound, but most especially baccala, dried salted cod. Why? Many say that it is a way to pay homage to the beasts of the stable who witnessed the holy birth and relinquished their manger to make way for God. Tonight, if someone asks you to “pass the shrimp,” you’ll be able to shed a little light on a menu that is a delicious treasure in our tradition! —Rev. James Field, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

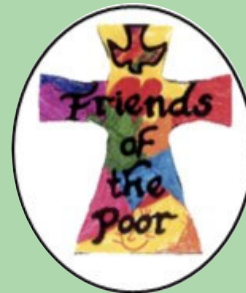
Blanket Drive



It is time again for the blanket drive for the less fortunate people in Tijuana.

There are recent difficulties crossing donations to Mexico. Due to this recent obstacle, the decision was made that it would be more efficient to receive monetary donations and purchase the blankets in Tijuana.

A donation of **\$8.00** can buy a warm new blanket ! Cash donations and checks made out to **Friends of the Poor** may be placed in a marked envelope and put in the collection plate. You may also bring or send your donation to the parish office at: 1980 Hillsdale Rd., El Cajon, CA 92019. For more information please call Martha Evans



Friends of the Poor

SOCK DRIVE

Friends of the Poor is collecting **new socks** for the less fortunate people in Tijuana.

Socks are needed for

All Ages and All Sizes!

Place socks in bin in baptistery.

Call Martha Evans for more info:

Mark your calendar!



Come help decorate
the church for Christmas on
Monday - December 21nd at 8am.

With many hands we will be done about noon We
need men & women.

No experience necessary.

We need help decorating the Angel tree, hanging
and fluffing wreaths, Setting up trees & generally
making the Church ready for Christmas!

**Lunch will be provided.
if you can help:**

Email Vicky Cate or call

Mark Your Calendar February 6th, 2016

2nd Annual

Taste of Saint Luke International Cuisine Dinner

**Volunteers needed to make this fundraiser
a success for the Outreach Ministry.**

**Looking for Sweets chairman for the dessert
table.**

**Next organizational meeting will be Tuesday
December 29, 2015 after 5 pm Mass.
(5:45) in classroom next to office.**

For more information please call: Pat Riggs (

Advent Penance Services

Our Lady of Perpetual Help Monday 12/21 9 am & 7 pm

Guardian Angels Tuesday 12/22 7 pm

**Don't Forget To Shop for your
Christmas Gifts & Holiday Festivities
with Scrip..**

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

Christmas Mass Schedule

Christmas Eve: Thursday, December 24th

4:00 pm, 7:00 pm, 10:00 pm

There will be no Reconciliation on this day.

There will be no 7:30 am Mass on this day.

Christmas Day: Friday, December 25th

9:00 am

There will be no Reconciliation on this day.

There will be no 7:30 am Mass on this day.

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 & large \$150.00.**

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

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

☞ FROM THE BULLETIN EDITOR ☞
Office Phone: (619) 442-1697 Fax (619) 442-2293
Joanie Maitilasso, Editor

OFFICE HOURS: Monday - Friday: 9:00 am to 5:00 pm
THE DEADLINE FOR BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS IS
MONDAY AT 12 NOON.
secretary@thechurchofstluke.org

☞ CALENDAR OF EVENTS ☞

Month of December

Sat
19th

Fourth Sunday of Advent
2:30 pm Children's Choir Practice
3:30 pm Reconciliation
5:00 pm Mass

Sun
20th

Fourth Sunday of Advent
8:25 am Pro Life Rosary
9:00 am Mass w/Children's Liturgy of the Word
NO HS Confirmation Prep
NO Scripture Club 4-5
NO Catechesis of Good Shepherd Level I & II
11:30 am Mass w/Children's Liturgy of Word

Mon
21st

8:00 am Church Christmas Decorating

Tue
22nd

5:00 pm Mass

Wed
23rd

7:30 am Mass
8:30am Centering Prayer
No Catechesis of Good Shepherd 2
7:00 pm RCIA

Thur
24th

Christmas Eve
The Nativity of the Lord
4:00pm Mass
7:00pm Mass
10:00pm Mass

NO Catechesis of the Good Shepherd Level 1 & 2

Fri
25th

Christmas Day
The Nativity of the Lord
9:00am Mass
Office Closed

Sat
26th

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph
3:30pm Reconciliation
5:00pm Mass/ with Baptism

Sun
27th

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph
8:15am Pro Life Rosary
9:00am Mass & Children's Liturgy of the Word
NO Catechesis of the Good Shepherd Level 1 & 2
NO High School Confirmation Session
11:30am Mass w/Children's Liturgy of the Word

Mon
28th

Office Closed

☞ VISIT OUR WEBSITE ☞
For additional calendar and event information.
www.thechurchofstluke.weconnect.com

☞ PARISH DIRECTORY ☞

Pastor: Rev. Ron Cochran (619) 442-1697
Deacon Emeritus: Dennie Nickell (619) 442-1697
Deacon: Jerry Stenovec
Deacon: Allan Williams
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 **Altar Servers:** Dcn. Alan Williams
Music: Colin McColl
Organist: Susan Paul
Lectors: Julie Carlin
Eucharistic Ministers: Linda Jacobson
Greeters: Maria Oliver
Ushers: George Heidenrieck

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Adult Education: Carol Stone (619) 442-2515 x 104
Adultreled@thechurchofstluke.org
RCIA: Dcn. Jerry Stenovec
Coordinator of Religious Education PreK-5: Debbie
Stenovec (619) 442-2515 x 105
K-5reled@thechurchofstluke.org
**Coordinator of Religious Education Middle
and High School:**
Jane Alfano (619) 442-2515 x 106
Youthreled@thechurchofstluke.org
Youth Ministry Coordinator:
Jane Alfano (619) 442-2515 x 106
Youthreled@thechurchofstluke.org

MINISTRIES & ORGANIZATIONS

Baptism Class: Call the Parish Office (619)442-1697
Centering Prayer: Carole Morales
Church Cleaning Crew:
Cub/Boy Scout Religious Emblems: Shannon Vint

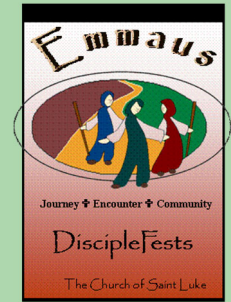
Eucharistic Adoration: Cindy Christmas & Mike Wasyliw
Friends of the Poor: Martha Evans
Knights of Columbus: Don Mercurio, G.K.
Ministry to Sick & Homebound: Dcn. Jerry Stenovec

Outreach Ministry: Ken Stempien
Prayer Chain: Nancy Adema
Respect Life: Don Mercurio
Scrip: Kerri Holzer
Small Church Communities: Carol Stone (619) 442-2515
St. Luke Business Network: Cathy March
Society of St. Vincent de Paul: Mike Wasyliw

ADs

Mark Your Calendar!

Our next journey occurs on **January 6, 2016**
Living Faithfully
5:30 - 8 PM
(Kitchen closes 6pm)



We begin with a shared meal and then break out into smaller learning groups. Learning groups include pre-school through kindergarten, first-fifth grades, middle school, high school and adult sessions.

Additional EMMAUS Dates:

Wednesday, February 3, 2016 5:30-8 PM Wednesday, March 2, 2016 5:30-8:00 PM
Wednesday, April 6, 2016 5:30-8 PM Wednesday, May 4, 2016 5:30-8PM

Save the dates!

January 22 and 23, 2016

Parish Discipleship Retreat **"Come Follow Me"**



Friday: 6:00-9:00 pm.

Begins with dinner in the parish hall.

Saturday: 9:00 am-7:00 pm.

Breakfast, Lunch, 5:00 Mass, followed by wine & cheese.

Cost: \$30.00 per person

For additional information contact Carol Stone at
(619) 442-1697 ext. 104 or email Adultreled@thechurchofstluke.org