

Welcome to

The Church of *Saint Luke*

A Roman Catholic Community of Disciples

Third Sunday of Advent
December 13, 2015



With joy you will draw water
at the fountain of salvation.
— Isaiah 12:3



FIRST READING: Zephaniah 3:14-18a

SECOND READING: Philippians 4:4-7

GOSPEL: Luke 3:10-18

Now the people were filled with expectation, and all were asking in their hearts whether John might be the Christ. John answered them all, saying, "I am baptizing you with water, but one mightier than I is coming. I am not worthy to loosen the thongs of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire." Lk 3:15-16

Reflection: Reflect upon/Share about a time when you felt the Spirit working in your life or when you felt "on fire" with the faith. How was that different from your normal life (or if you've never experienced it, how do you think it would be different)? How can you open yourself more to the Spirit's fire?

Alternative: What excites you in life? What would God have to do to be able to compete with that which excites you? What change can you make in your own life to allow God a chance to be that exciting?

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

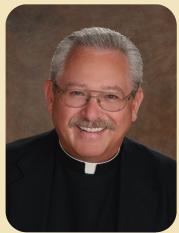
PARISH FINANCE COUNCIL

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,

You know those little pieces of paper we write notes on, then throw them on our bureau when we change out of our work clothes and then forget about them until our bureau is all junked up with papers. Well, maybe you don't do that... but I do.

Every once in a while I go through them and throw out the ones that are no longer useful or for which I've forgotten the purpose. Some of the ones that are left over I make permanent notes of and the rest... I think, I'm going to want this at some time in the future, it's too important to throw away.

Well one of those important ones is coming in handy right now as my mind has been blank about anything to write. I remembered one for which I thought, I'll turn this into a column someday. It's about living out of our spirit rather than our body.

When we are young and healthy and strong, living out of our bodies is cool. When I was young, I could eat and drink and not get fat, now it seems that everything makes me fat. I felt good to exercise back then. I was a bike rider and runner. Now the only good thing about exercise is being finished. I was good looking too! Maybe you find that hard to believe but it was a long time ago and, as they say, time hasn't been too kind to me. My mind was sharper then too. Maybe some of you know what I'm talking about.

I tried to live a healthy spiritual life back then but it wasn't easy and, it's not all that easy now either. But I think Scripture is clear; we should live out of our spirit and we should keep our spirit in contact with the Spirit of God. After all, Scripture tells us that we were just little clay figurines made by God until he blew his breath into us and we became living beings (Gn 2:7). Whether it is literally true or not, it speaks of our understanding that it is the spirit that is the life-force and our spirit is somehow connected to God's Spirit (the Hebrew word for breath, spirit and wind is the same word).

If we buy into our culture's message that life consists of the externalities, power, accumulation of wealth, gathering of acquisitions, pleasure seeking, created environment, etc., we get out of sync with who we really are. Likewise, if we over spiritualize our existence with excessive religious practices and devotions or attendance at groups and classes which keep us from our day-to-day responsibilities, we get out of sync with who we really are.

At the very core, we are embodied spirits, spirits who experience life and express ourselves bodily. To live the fullness of human life, our spirits must lead the dance and guide the action of our bodies. And, continuing with the same metaphor, the music for the dance is God's Spirit. Jesus let the Spirit guide His human existence on earth and lived His purpose so well that he brought us salvation. All we have to do is figure out how to let the Spirit guide us too.

In His service,

Fr. Ron

STRENGTH AND COURAGE: Prayer infuses the weak with strength and the fainthearted with courage.—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:

THE SOUL OF: Harvey Marshall

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: Zep 3:14-18a; Is 12:2-3, 4, 5-6; Phil 4:4-7; Lk 3:10-18
Monday: Nm 24:2-7, 15-17a; Ps 25:4-5ab, 6, 7bc-9; Mt 21:23-27
Tuesday: Nm 24:2-7, 15-17a; Ps 25:4-5ab, 6, 7bc-9; Mt 21:23-27
Wednesday: Is 45:6b-8, 18, 21b-25; Ps 85:9-14; Lk 7:18b-23
Thursday: Gn 49:2, 8-10; Ps 72:1-4ab, 7-8, 17; Mt 1:1-17
Friday: Jer 23:5-8; Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19; Mt 1:18-25
Saturday: Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a; Ps 71:3-4a, 5-6ab, 16-17; Lk 1:5-25
Sunday: Mi 5:1-4a; Ps 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19; Heb 10:5-10; Lk 1:39-45

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 12/06/15

Plate: \$ 992
Envelope: \$ 9,526
Total Collection Basket: \$ 10,518
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.

For more information please call the parish office at 442-1697

THIS WEEK'S MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday: 5:00pm Michelangelo Casarrubia RIP
Sunday: 9:00am Maria Theresa Bruno RIP
 11:30am Parishioners of Saint Luke
Tuesday: 5:00 pm Presider's intention
Wednesday: 7:30am Presider's intention
Thursday: 7:30am Presider's intention
Friday: 7:30am Warian, Johnny Abdulahad Abdulahad RIP
Saturday: 5:00pm Bruno & Margaret Bubis RIP
Sunday: 9:00am Parishioners of Saint Luke
 11:30am Nick Horba, RIP

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCE

TODAY: Third Sunday of Advent
Monday: St. John of the Cross
Tuesday: Advent weekday
Wednesday: Advent weekday
Thursday: Advent weekday
Friday: Advent weekday
Saturday: Fourth Sunday of Advent
Sunday: Fourth Sunday of Advent

TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading — Shout for joy! Sing joyfully! Be glad and exult! The LORD, your God, is in your midst, a mighty savior (Zephaniah 3:14-18a).

Psalm — Cry out with joy and gladness: for among you is the great and Holy One of Israel (Isaiah 12).

Second Reading — Rejoice! The Lord is near. Make your requests known to God (Philippians 4:4-7).

Gospel — John tells his hearers to share their possessions with the needy; be honest; do not threaten or accuse others falsely (Luke 3:10-18).

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

CELEBRATE

This Sunday, God rejoices and sings because of us. We read in Zephaniah today that God “will sing joyfully because of you, / as one sings at festivals” (Zephaniah 3:18). We know plenty about singing at festivals. Already our ears are ringing with the songs and carols that anticipate the Christmas season.

Paul reminds us of the source of our own double rejoicing: God is the mighty savior who is in our midst (in Zephaniah’s words). Because this is so, says Paul, we can rejoice and be at ease. We don’t have to worry, for God’s peace will stand guard over our hearts and minds.

A medieval carol depicts Christmas as “my dancing day” and urges us to enter into the dance. Why all the merrymaking? Because “the Lord is near,” as Paul reminds us (Philippians 4:5). He then points to another reason for the dancing: the dawn of the promise of peace, the peace beyond all understanding, that is now within our grasp. Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION

This week, our celebration of Advent makes a transition in ritual and texts. Beginning December 18, the countdown of nine days (a novena) to Christmas sees a heightened sense of expectation, and also a turning from the call of the Baptist in the wilderness to the events leading up to Jesus’ birth. In ancient Spain, December 18 was once celebrated as the “Feast of the Expectancy,” and customs grew up to heighten readiness in the homes.

Some customs arise from monastic life and practice and spill over into our parish life. Beginning tonight, those who pray Vespers will sing in the opening phrase a beautiful title of Christ. These titles belong to a collection of opening phrases called the “O Antiphons” after the awe-inspired “O” sung on the first note. There’s a playful code in the titles: O Wisdom, O Lord, O Flower of Jesse, O Key of David, O Dawn, O Ruler, O Emmanuel. When you take their Latin names—*Sapientia, Adonai, Radix*, and so on—the titles form an acrostic when you read them backwards: “ERO CRAS.” In Latin, that is translated as “I will be there tomorrow!” It’s as if Christ were answering the prayers of the waiting people in the words of the prayers themselves. —Rev. James Field, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

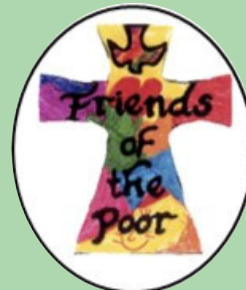
Blanket Drive



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 information.

Retirement Fund for Religious Collection

Dec 12 & 13, 2015



Share in the Care

Please give to those who have given a lifetime.

Ninety-three percent of every donation to the National Religious Retirement Office aids senior religious.

www.retiredreligious.org

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 (

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.

Advent Penance Services

St. Martin of Tours	Monday	12/14	6 pm
Our Lady of Grace	Tuesday	12/15	7 pm
St. Kateri Tekakwitha	Tuesday	12/15	7 pm
Santa Sophia	Wednesday	12/16	7 pm
Holy Trinity	Thursday	12/17	7 pm
Our Lady of Perpetual Help	Monday	12/21	9 am & 7 pm
Guardian Angels	Tuesday	12/22	7 pm

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.

☞ 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

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

☞ CALENDAR OF EVENTS ☞

Month of December

Sat
12th

Third Sunday of Advent
11:00am Funeral Mass Harvey Marshall
2:30 pm Children's Choir Practice
3:30 pm Reconciliation
4:00 pm Rosary for Peace
5:00 pm Mass

Sun
13th

Third Sunday of Advent
8:25 am Pro Life Rosary
9:00 am Mass w/Children's Liturgy of the Word
10:00 am HS Teen Volunteers ECC4Kids- OFFSITE
10:15 am Scripture Club 4-5
10:30 am Catechesis of Good Shepherd Level I & II
11:30 am Mass w/Children's Liturgy of the Word
5:00 pm HS Conf Prep Session-Giving Tree Project

Mon
14th

6:00 pm Development Council Meeting

Tue
15th

5:00 pm Mass

Wed
16th

7:30 am Mass
8:30am Centering Prayer
4:00 pm Catechesis of Good Shepherd 2
7:00 pm RCIA

Thur
17th

7:30am Mass
4:00 pm Catechesis of the Good Shepherd
Level 1 & 2

Fri
18th

7:30 am Mass
3:45 pm Middle School Session

Sat
19th

Fourth Sunday of Advent
2:30 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
1:00 pm Group Baptism

Mon
21th

8:00 am Christmas Church Decorating

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☞ 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)442-1697x109
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
gerald.m.stenovec@boeing.com

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: Peggy Nelson

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

St. Luke Business Network: Cathy March

Society of St. Vincent de Paul: Mike Wasyliw

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The Giving Tree

Once Again, the faith community of St. Luke will be assisting families and orphans in need.

This youth ministry service project runs from Saturday, November 28th through Sunday, December 13, 2015.



You will find gift tags marked with specific items, such as, toys or clothing. These items were selected from the families' and children's Christmas wish lists.

Please take a tag, wrap the item, attach the gift tag, and return it by SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2015.

We are also accepting gift cards valued at \$10 or more from the following retailers:
Albertsons * CVS Pharmacy * Marshalls * Payless Shoes Ralph's/Food 4 Less *Rite Aide
* Ross Dress for Less * Smart and Final * Target Stores * Vons * Walgreens * Walmart

(You may buy and/or order your gift cards from the STL Scrip Team)

These retailers were selected because they are reasonably accessible for the families and some gift cards are used throughout the year to assist families in crisis.

You may place your pre-wrapped gifts under "The Giving Tree" located in the Baptistery. For security purposes, your gift donations will then be removed from under the tree and stored in a safe place. As an additional security measure, we ask that you place all gift cards, checks or cash designated for "The Giving Tree" in the regular weekend Mass collection baskets.

You may also drop off your pre-wrapped gifts, gift cards & other donations at our parish office. Monday through Friday (9:30am - 4:30pm) **no later than Monday, December 14, 2015** as all gifts will be delivered to the families early that week.

We sincerely thank you and appreciate your support! May you be blessed abundantly as you bless others through your generosity.
St. Luke's High School Youth Group

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

*For all Your
Holiday Shopping
Needs*



**PRE-ORDER your gift
cards now.**

This will ensure that you get the cards that you want for your Christmas shopping. You'll have them in your wallet when you're ready to shop.

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:
contact Vicky Cate.**