

WELCOME TO
THE CHURCH OF
SAINT LUKE

Third Sunday of Advent - December 13, 2020



17545 Huber Avenue N.W. • Clearwater, Minnesota 55320

Father Dennis Backer, Pastor



3rd SUNDAY OF ADVENT

John answered them, "I baptize with water; but there is one among you whom you do not recognize, the one who is coming after me, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to untie." - Jn 1:26-27

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

Website www.churchofstlukes.com

Pastoral Emergencies 320-291-5678

Parish Office

Hours Mon. - Thurs. 8:30 am-3:00 pm
Fri. 8:30 am-12:00 pm

Phone 320-558-2124

Email office@churchofstlukes.com

Father Backer
Ext 1 or fatherbacker@churchofstlukes.com

Website www.churchofstlukes.com

Prayer Line 320-558-6169

Trustees Judy Lashinski & Steve LaFond

Finance Council Chairperson Steve Duncan

Pastoral Council Chairperson Tony Leither

Parish Staff

Parish Administrator Sue Miller
Ext 3 or admin@churchofstlukes.com

Director of Faith Formation Marilyn Popp
Ext 2 or stlukefaithandlife@gmail.com

Music Tammy Reinert

Mass Schedule

Weekend

Sat. 5:00 pm; Sun. 8:00 & 10:00 am

Weekday Masses

Tuesday—Friday 8:00 am

Saturday—9:00 am

Chapel Hours

Sun.—Sat. 5:00 am to 9:00 pm

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Fri 9:00 am—9:00 pm

Hospitality after Mass

Join us in the gathering area for coffee

Sacraments

Reconciliation

1/2 hour before Daily Mass Tues-Sat

Before weekend Masses:

Sat.- 4:15 PM; Sun.- 7:15 & 9:15 AM

And by appointment

Baptisms/Baptism Prep Classes

Prep class required before each baptism, please call parish office to make arrangements.

Weddings

Contact the parish office one year prior to your requested wedding date.

RCIA

Contact: Bruce Fladebo—320-260-3303
brucefladebo@gmail.com

Facebook: www.facebook.com/ChurchOfStLukes

PASTOR'S REFLECTIONS

This 3rd Sunday of Advent is commonly known as 'Gaudete Sunday'. Gaudete means Rejoice; it marks the halfway point of Advent. During the first two weeks of Advent the focus is on 'the Lord is coming'. But the next couple of weeks are more 'the Lord is near'. For many it may be known as the 'Pink' Sunday, but to be correct the color for the 3rd Sunday of Advent is 'Rose'. Not all parishes have Rose vestments, since they are only used two weekends a year, this weekend and halfway through Lent. As a matter of fact, St. Luke's did not have Rose vestments when I arrived here 6 years ago (I like the sound of that "6 years ago"). Someone approached me and said, "I would like to get you in Rose." :)

One of the reasons I like having the Rose vestment is that it gets peoples' attention right away and it should remind them that something is different. I like talking about Gaudete and Laetare Sundays, that there is a moment in the middle of the season that reminds us to REJOICE!!! To be glad! That it is getting close. With the growth of online shopping this year, maybe you are already done?? But most years the message that things are getting close reminds people how much they have to do and how little time is left to do it. We need to remember, everything does not need to be perfect (often times it is not) for us to REJOICE. Sometimes we simply need to make a conscious decision to find something to be happy about. Recently I was on the phone with someone and we both started laughing about something. Both of us agreed it felt good to laugh. Sometimes it can be something as small as simply asking someone, "Is that a new pullover?" They get flattered that you noticed. Then when you point out the tag hanging from the armpit, you both start to laugh. Joy, laughter, things to smile at - we need these things right now.

I hope you can find something that makes you happy right now. There are too many things that can stress us out or make us sad. We may need to work a little harder to find some joy, but it can be done. It truly can be done. I know I have had good days and bad days, but when I can find that joy or find something that makes me laugh it can make all the difference for me.

The other thing that can make a difference for me (and should for you) is if I can keep myself grounded in my prayer. No matter how busy I may be or how little energy I may have, if I can take that time to relax and focus on my prayer, it can be like a little reprieve, almost like a little retreat. It can sometimes be difficult to do, but it can really make the difference.

Blessings,
Fr. Backer



FORMED PICK OF THE WEEK: This Advent prepare your hearts for Christmas by watching FORMED. Sign up for this FREE Catholic resource for you and your family. Formed is rich with Advent preparation material. There is a Brother Francis video called "The Days of Advent" for our children. There are daily Advent Meditations: "The Road to Bethlehem". And you can watch with the family "THE STORY OF THE NATIVITY: THE TRUTH OF CHRISTMAS". Enjoy this fast-paced, thought-provoking look at the true story of the Nativity. Watch, learn or listen and then share and discuss. There is something for everyone. Check it out. SIGN UP FREE AT FORMED.ORG/SIGNUP.

Salvation Army The Salvation Army is looking for bell ringers to volunteer to ring the bell for the Red Kettle Campaign. The Salvation Army will have kettles placed at the Clearwater Co-borns and the Travel Plaza through December 24th and is looking for volunteers from throughout the community. If interested, register online at www.RegisterToRing.com or call Lance Lindstrom, Salvation Army Kettle Coordinator Volunteer, 320-558-5678 to sign up. God bless you.

V I S I O N S T A T E M E N T

*The Church of St. Luke is a Catholic Community, centered in Christ through baptism and formed by the Eucharist.
We strive to always be a community where every heart is touched by our Christian fellowship.*

Today we light the pink candle in the Advent wreath. It is a time for joy! Advent is similar to Lent in that it is a time of penitence and sacrifice. Sometimes the busyness of Christmas preparations can consume us and can overtake the time for fasting and preparation within our hearts for the coming of our Lord on Christmas. Today, we pause from that fasting and look with joy in our hearts over all that the birth of our Savior means for us. The great joy for all Christians is to see the day drawing near when the Lord will come again in His glory to lead them into His kingdom.

Pope Francis once shared in a homily the difference between happiness and joy: *“To be happy is good, yet joy is something more. It’s another thing, something which does not depend on external motivations, or on passing issues; it is more profound. It is a gift. To be ‘happy at all moments, at all cost,’ can at the end turn into superficiality and shallowness. This leaves us without Christian wisdom, which makes us dumb, naïve, right? All is joy ... no. Joy is something else; it is a gift from the Lord.”*

If joy is a gift from the Lord, then the Lord Himself is our first and greatest gift, and the only one that will never tarnish or break or fade or that we will grow tired of. Sometimes it is hard to feel joy if our hearts are cold with worry, bitterness or resentment. Take this time to ask the Lord for merciful forgiveness. Ask him for the gift to be able to forgive oneself for past mistakes as well as to forgive others. A wonderful way to help us to rid ourselves from hardness and unforgiveness is to take advantage of the sacrament of Reconciliation before all the Masses. Remember Luke 6:37 “Forgive and you will be forgiven” and begin to experience that Advent joy this week.

Christmas 2020 Mass Times: Mass times for Christmas Eve are as follows: 3:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m. Christmas Day will be at 9:00 a.m. In order to follow the Guidelines for a safe environment during the Pandemic, we are asking you to sign up for the Mass you would like to attend. You can do that by going to signupgenius.com and enter the email office@churchofstlukes.com and then you will see the various times to sign up. It will ask you for your email so that you get an email confirmation. (Your email will not be shared anywhere else.) You can also call the office to get registered as well. Please get the word out to families and neighbors that a sign-up is required this year so that we can safely seat everyone! Thank you for your help.

What do you seek? FREE! Advent 26 day online retreat about JOY!. Join Chris Stefanick and Cardinal Cantalamessa for a daily short video as we journey toward Christmas. We know this year has been a year where nothing in the world seems solid. This Advent, it’s time to reclaim the **Unshakeable Joy** we were made for. Go to <https://coaching.realifecatholic.com/unshakeable-joy>.

Synod Year 2: Winter 2020 Watch for updates to come on activities in winter 2021. Faith and Culture Series: January and February 2021. Synod at Home, Growing in Faith Together. Learn more about these offerings, and find all materials from the Synod Fall 2020 Series at archspm.org/synod. May God bless you!

Baptism

Attendance at a one hour Baptismal Preparation Program is **required** and parish registration is expected. Please call the parish office a minimum of 2 months prior to your desired date for baptism to register for the Baptismal Preparation classes.

Weddings

Contact the parish office *one year prior* to your requested wedding date and set up an appointment with Father Backer Marriage Preparation classes and a retreat are required.

Advent Family Prayer

During Advent, we not only prepare ourselves to celebrate the birth of Jesus, but we also check in to see if we are doing all the things that will keep us ready to receive Jesus when he comes again. Talk to your family about how you are doing in attending to your spiritual life as a family. Recommit yourselves to praying daily, reading Scripture, and staying faithful to God’s commandments. Pray together that through this Advent season your family will be more prepared to receive Jesus when he comes again.



God of Love, your son, Jesus, is your greatest gift to us. He is a sign of your love. Help us walk in that love during the weeks of Advent, as we wait and prepare for His coming. We pray in the name of Jesus, Our Savior. Amen

Family Advent Ideas:

Nativity Scene – Saint Francis of Assisi began the custom of the nativity scene. He celebrated Christmas with his brothers at Greccio in 1223 with a Bethlehem scene, which included live animals. This tradition quickly spread and people began to construct their own nativity scenes in their homes. Children take great joy in helping to set up a nativity scene, also called a crèche or stable. The crèche may be made from various materials, often-times made in the form of a stable or cave. Simplicity and beauty go often hand in hand. You may set up your entire scene at the beginning of Advent, leaving the crib empty for the Christ Child to arrive on Christmas Eve. Or you may set up the scene slowly, day by day. You can hide one figure (an animal, or a branch...) each day of Advent. Have your children search for it, and then place it around the manger. Joseph and Mary arrive to Bethlehem last. Then on Christmas Eve, the youngest child finds a small golden package under the Christmas tree with the figure of the Baby Jesus. Unwrap it and then place it together in the crèche or stable. Mary and Joseph can also ‘travel’ to Bethlehem, as they move slowly across your room every day until they reach the cave.

Natural Family Planning (NFP) Classes teach couples the Church approved methods on how to achieve or postpone pregnancy while embracing the beauty of God’s gift of sexuality. For a complete list of classes offered throughout the Archdiocese, visit www.archspm.org/family or call 651-291-4489.

MISSION STATEMENT

“We, the community of St. Luke, come together to worship with joy and unity, to guide our children in faith, to show compassion and love towards others, and to work together as a parish family, so that we may be instrumental in building a meaningful and everlasting community to God by sharing our time and talents and following our Lord Jesus Christ.”

Mass Schedule & Intentions

Tuesday, December 15th

8:00 am †Joanne Mathys

Wednesday, December 16th

8:00 am †Ed Corrigan

Thursday, December 17th

8:00 am Father Backer

Friday, December 18th

8:00 am †George Bielat

Saturday, December 19th

9:00 am †Phillip & Evangeline Janey

Saturday, December 19th

5:00 pm Parishioners

Sunday, December 20th

8:00 am †Clarence Shatek

10:00 am †Judy Heckmann

Minister's Schedule For Dec. 19th & 20th

The Ministry Heads will be contacting volunteers to minister.

Mass Options

If You are Staying Home During the Pandemic

Church of St Luke FaceBook Page 10:00am Sundays

EWTN at 11:00am Sundays. 7:00am Daily Mass

Check website for other Mass times too.

<https://www.ewtn.com/tv>

Catholic TV catholicTV.org

<http://www.catholictv.org/masses/catholictv-mass>

Televised Mass: Diocese of St. Cloud: Sundays, 11 a.m. on KSTC-TV/45

Our Lady of Grace, Edina: Sunday, Noon on Fox 9+

Spiritual Communion

“My Jesus, I believe that you are present
in the Blessed Sacrament.

I love you above all things
and I desire you with all my heart.

Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally,

I ask you to come spiritually into my heart.

I embrace you as if you were already there
and unite myself to you completely.

Please do not let me ever be separated from you.”

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KCs neighbors helping neighbors! During this crisis our local KC Council wants to ensure our parish community is healthy, safe, and cared for. Our 2020 program is LEAVE NO NEIGHBOR BEHIND. So if you or anybody you know can use a helping hand with small projects in the yard or house please contact us. We have a support team of Knights prepared to act, support or help whatever way we can. Contact Ron Shatek at 715-279-1844 or Brad at

Are You Hurting? If you or someone you love is grieving the loss of a child to abortion, come and experience the compassionate mercy of Jesus Christ on our confidential weekend retreat. Rachel's Vineyard Twin Cities' retreats are open to anyone impacted by abortion - women, men, grandparents, siblings, and health care professionals. The next retreat is January 8-10, 2021 in the Twin Cities area. For more information contact Nancy at rachels@rvineyardmn.org, call 763-250-9313 or see www.rvineyardmn.org.

Holy Spirit Academy News Thank you to all who supported our successful virtual Harvest Banquet 2020; if you missed the program you can still view it on our website. We invite you also to prayerfully consider two employment opportunities at the school, a recently expanded full time Executive Director position and a part time bookkeeper role. Job descriptions can be found at the school's website www.holyspiritacademy.org/employment/. Holy Spirit Academy continues to thrive and grow with community engagement!

Readings for the week of December 13th, 2020

Sunday: Is 61:1-2a, 10-11/Lk 1:46-48, 49-50, 51-54 [Is 61:10b]/1 Thes 5:16-24/Jn 1:6-8, 19-28
 Monday: Nm 24:2-7, 15-17a/Ps 25:4-5ab, 6 and 7bc, 8-9 [4]/Mt 21:23-27
 Tuesday: Zep 3:1-2, 9-13/Ps 34:2-3, 6-7, 17-18, 19 and 23 [7a]/Mt 21:28-32
 Wednesday: Is 45:6b-8, 18, 21c-25/Ps 85:9ab and 10, 11-12, 13-14 [Is 45:8]/Lk 7:18b-23
 Thursday: Gn 49:2, 8-10/Ps 72:1-2, 3-4ab, 7-8, 17 [cf. 7]/Mt 1:1-17
 Friday: Jer 23:5-8/Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19 [cf. 7]/Mt 1:18-25
 Saturday: Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a/Ps 71:3-4a, 5-6ab, 16-17 [cf. 8]/Lk 1:5-25
 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 ©LPi

St. Luke's Calendar

Wednesday, December 16th
 6:45 pm Faith Formation
Friday, December 18th
 9:00 am — 9:00 pm Adoration

Registration

Welcome to the Church of St. Luke. Please call the parish office to become a registered member.

Prayer Line 558-6169



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Knights of Columbus St. Luke's Council #14013
Visit www.kofc.org or contact:
Ron Shatek, Grand Knight
rdshadrack@gmail.com
715-279-1844
KofC meeting reminder:
4th Thursday each month



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