# saint luke catholic church westport ct



# Who we are and what we strive for...

In the spirit of our Patron, Saint Luke, our Parish Mission is:

- To be a welcoming and hospitable community to all;
- To enrich the hearts, minds and lives of those who seek to grow as disciples of Jesus Christ in the Roman Catholic tradi-
- To be faithful in prayer, in spiritual renewal, in stewardship and in compassionate outreach.

Parish Office E-MAIL: stluke@optonline.net

PHONE: 203-227-7245 • FAX: 203-226-8063

SAINT LUKE RECTORY

84 LONG LOTS ROAD, WESTPORT, CT 06880 Office Hours: M to F, 9:00 am to 5:00 pm

Reverend Kumar Xavariapitchai **Temporary Administrator** 

e-mail: frudaya@gmail.com

Dr. Brian J. Kelly, Ph.D.- Deacon

e-mail: brian9887@att.net

Mr. Stephen J. Hodson - Deacon

e-mail: dnhodson@diobpt.org

Judy Torska – Parish Secretary

Mary Blake – Receptionist (M & W)

Lay Members of the Parish Corporation ("Trustees")

Mr. Peter Anstett

Mrs. Joanne Landino

**Pastoral Advisory Council Chair** 

Mr. Peter Anstett – peter@anstett.org

**Parish Finance Council Chair** 

VISIT US ON THE web AT WWW.SAINTLUKEWESTPORT.ORG

# Religious Formation Office

PHONE: 203-226-0729 • FAX: 203-226-5446 SAINT LUKE PARISH CENTER 49 N. TURKEY HILL ROAD, WESTPORT, CT 06880

Hours: Mon, Tue, Thu, Fri, 9:00 am to 4:00 pm

Mrs. Jacqueline Frusciante-Coordinator e-mail: stluke-reo@optonline.net

Mrs. Jean Coleman - Office Assistant

Youth Ministry Office PHONE: 203-222-0205

Ms. Debbie Toner, Youth Minister e-mail: SLYGroup@optonline.net

Music Ministry Staff PHONE: 203-227-7245

Mr. Leon Bernard - Minister of Music

Mrs. Marguerite Hastings - Assistant Organist

# Outreach Ministries

e-mail: stluke-outreach@optonline.net

Sr. Maureen Fleming, SSND PHONE: 203-222-0478 - Coordinator of Pastoral Outreach Activities

# Pastoral Counseling Services

Dr. Brian J. Kelly, Ph.D. PHONE: 203-373-9753

- ♦ Individual, Family and Marriage
- ♦ Certified in Neuro-Feedback Therapy

WEEKEND MASSES: Saturday, 5:30 pm

Sunday 7:30 am, 9:00 am, 11:00 am, 5:30 pm

Children's Liturgy of the Word at 9:00 am & 11:00 am Masses

WEEKDAY MASS: 8:00 am, Monday through Saturday 8:00 am

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION: Saturday, 4:30 to 5:15 pm, or by appointment

BAPTISMS AND WEDDINGS: Please call the Rectory Office; see our website for more information

# Dear Sount Luke Parish Family...





Dear Parish family,

"Grief melts in the sunshine of gratitude" — unknown author

You and I have heard Monsignor Andy saying these words in occasions of loss, sadness and sorrow. Now his sudden loss has left us all shocked saddened, sorrowful and lost. And as we know and believe, God will guide us and heal us gradually from this great loss. So, may I invite you to join me in thanking God for the wonderful gift of life He gave Monsignor Andy for 69 years, gift of priestly ministry for 43 years and the gift of being our pastor for 25 years.

May He rest in Peace and may the Peace of the Lord be with you and your families!

Father Kumar Temporary Administrator



# PARISH NEWS LET'S STAY IN TOUCH!

Simply text slwestport to the number 84576 or go to flocknote.com/SaintLukeWestport

# PRAYERS FOR THE SICK

Robert Aurrichio, Margie Camina, Maria Casale, Karen Clarke, Al DiLardi, Dorothy Francis, Jay Francis, Kay Gallagher, Debbie Greer, Matthew Kokoska, Christina Muller, Elaine Pignuola, Barbara Pisarro, Matthew Raymond, Maria SaCouto, Dr. Anthony Santomauro, Jean Schiavone, Ann Sposito, Marie Stapkowski, Jean Steinschneider, Caroline Trifoletti, John Watkins, Marie Veno, Aggie Veno, Princess Williams, all those who suffer from the Corona Virus, and...intentions of Cynthia LoCascio

we pray for those who put their lives in jeopardy on our behalf, service men and women, police, fire fighters, EMTs, and first responders

# ETERNAL REST GRANT UNTO THEM, O LORD

MONSIGNOR ANDREW G. VARGA

Pastor

ANTHONY BYRNE

# **FAMILY HOSPITALITY NOTES**

- A **television monitor** is available in the hallway for families whose child might be having a restless day that would disturb other worshipers.
- A **baby-changing table** is located in the handicapped lavatory.

# New to the area? Just moved in?

Get life in your new home off to a good start! The priests of



the parish would be happy to visit and bless your home and your family. Just call the office (227-7245) to arrange a convenient time.

# EASTER BASKET PROJECT

We will be conducting a "hybrid" Easter Basket Project again this year, proceeding cautiously as the Town of Westport gradually gets back to normal. We will be



providing Stop & Shop gift cards to recipients along with potted flowers. We welcome donations which can be sent to the parish office via check made payable to St. Luke Church with a memo "Easter Basket Pro-

ject". And if you're available to help with the deliveries on Sunday April 10<sup>th</sup> please email Chuck Katter at charles.w.katter@gmail.com

# Mosaic

Thursday Mornings at 10:00 am in the Saint Luke Community Room.

Join with other women to study how to live our lives "from the inside out" by using spiritual tools—reading and praying the scriptures, balancing contemplation and commitments, finding the cloister, the calm center of spiritual life. We will use Joan Chittister's Book—The Monastery of the Heart for our reflection.

# GRAB AND GO MEALS

As February ends our team our team is happy to have made and delivered 500 Grab



and Go Meals this month to the homeless and food insecure served by Thomas Merton Center, Bridgeport and New Covenant Center, Stamford. Both organizations are key programs of Catholic Charities of Fairfield County.

The total made and delivered by our team since October 2020 when we started is 8500.

As Lent starts we welcome new members to join us in this important work.

For information:

jeannestewart423@gmail.com

### LENTEN BOOK TABLE

We have set up the annual Lenten book table in the gathering space. Payment for the books are made in the envelopes provided. Would you kindly keep them for Sister Maureen to pick up. Thank you so much. All the proceeds benefit the Matthew 25 Fund as always. Winnie and Henry

# VOLUNTEERS NEED-ED!!

Now that things are starting towards normal we need volunteers to help us with some church housekeeping. This is a good way to be of service to God and your fellow Parishioners. We need some people to clean the altar linens. We have a couple of "linen people" but we need more as some of the previous people

but we need more as some of the previous people are not available to do them anymore. We would like, if possible a couple of younger ladies to join in to take us into the future. Men are also welcome to perform this service.

If interested please call the Parish office, 203-227-7245 or email us at stluke@optonline.net. We have 3 Linen Ladies and need at least one more







Gospel Reading – Third Sunday of Lent
Luke 13:1-9 Jesus preaches a lesson on repentance.
Background on the Gospel Reading
Now into the third week of the Season of Lent, our
Sunday Gospel prepares us to hear Lent's call to
conversion and repentance. Today's reading is found
in the chapters of Luke's Gospel that describe Jesus'
journey to Jerusalem. During this journey, Jesus
teaches and heals. He must also respond to those
who question and challenge his authority and actions. There is no parallel in Mark's or Matthew's
Gospels for today's reading from Luke. While Mark
and Matthew describe an incident in which Jesus
curses the fig tree, today's reading makes the barren

fig tree the subject of a parable.

Luke tells us that some among the crowds report to Jesus a massacre of Galileans by Pilate. The intention of the crowd seems to be to ask Jesus to explain why these people suffered. It was commonplace to render people's suffering as evidence of their sinfulness. Jesus challenges this interpretation. Those who were massacred were no more or less sinful than the ones who report the situation to Jesus. Jesus replies that even a fatal accident, a natural disaster, ought not to be interpreted as punishment for sin. Jesus' words at first appear to have a fire-andbrimstone quality. Jesus says in essence, "Repent or perish as these people did; all are sinful before God and deserving of God's punishment." The tone changes, however, in the parable that follows. The parable of the barren fig tree contrasts the patience and hopefulness of the gardener with the practicality of the property owner. When told to cut down the fig tree because it is not producing fruit, the gardener counsels patience. If properly tended, the barren

fig tree may yet bear fruit.

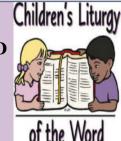
Throughout his journey to Jerusalem, Jesus has been teaching about the Kingdom of God. In this parable, we find an image of God's patience and hopefulness as he prepares his Kingdom. God calls us to repent, and it is within his power to punish us for our failure to turn from our sinfulness. And yet God is merciful. He delays punishment and tends to us so that we may yet bear the fruit he desires from us.

This, then, is our reason for hope: Not only does God refuse to abandon us, he chooses to attend to us even when we show no evidence of his efforts. Next week's Gospel will give an even clearer picture of the kind of mercy that God shows to us. (Sunday Connection – Loyola Press)

### **CHILDREN'S**

# LITURGY OF THE WORD

We have resumed the Children's Liturgy at the 9:00 am and 11:00 am Masses except for Sundays when they have the Family Mass. Until all children can be vaccinat-



ed, we must make a couple of new rules and hopefully they will be temporary. First, all children coming to the Children's Liturgy **MUST** wear masks and all children 4 years old and younger must be accompanied by an adult.

For those new to the parish, for the Children's Liturgy we take children out of church before the readings so they can hear the Gospel and a homily on their own level. They return to the church after the Prayers of the Faithful, during the Preparation of the Gifts. All children are welcome even non parishioners

If you have any questions, you can call Judy at the parish office, 203-227-7245 or e-mail us at stluke@optonline.net.

# **Lauralton Hall Shadow Visits**

8th grade girls are invited to spend a day at Lauralton in our Shadow Program. You'll experience a "day in the life" at Lauralton including attending classes, having lunch in our dining hall, studying in our library, and navigating our hallways with one of our current students. To schedule your visit, please visit: www.lauraltonhall.org/admissions/visit-lauralton

# Youth Group

# **LENTEN FOOD DRIVE**



The Sunday drive up donations were steady despite the rain. Thanks to all who brought donations; three carloads were collected and delivered to Open Doors Shelter in Norwalk!! What a wonderful hands on experience of almsgiving for Lent!

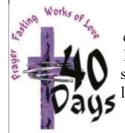








### PARISH LENTEN JOURNEY



Please join us each Monday in Lent for fellowship & reflection led by our parish clergy & staff



Mondays: March 7, 4, 21, 28 & April 4 Time: 8:45 – 9:15 am (after 8 am mass)



Coffee & Light Breakfast Served

# **FEMININE GENIUS BRUNCH**

To all women of the parish....you are invited to a Feminine Genius Brunch on Divine Mercy Saturday, April 23rd at 9:30 a.m.at the Italian Center in Stamford Connecticut, This brunch borrows its name after those amazing God-given attributes endowed to you as women-receptivity, sensitivity, generosity and maternity—all of which make up the Feminine genius!! In addition to a lovely brunch at a beautiful location, Sr Virginia, a Sister of Life, will give a talk on Mercy, Love's Second Name. A special Mass for women will be celebrated by Bishop Caggiano before the event at 8:30 a.m. at St. Cecilia Church, 1184 Newfield Ave., Stamford. Come discover God's plan for your ultimate flourishing! Invite a friend, mother or daughter (in-law) RSVP by April 19th, at https:feminine-geniuswbrunch-ct.evenbrite.com.

# DO YOU KNOW?

We have a group of needle workers who meet here at Saint Luke Church. The Fairfield County chapter of the Embroiderer's Guild meet on



the fourth Monday of the month . If you are interested in joining them to learn new needlework skills, practice old ones and have camaraderie with like-minded needle workers call the parish office. Or if you would like more information about this group or becoming a member please email us at: fccega@yahoo.com.

# GOSPEL MEDITATION - ENCOURAGE DEEP-ER UNDERSTANDING OF SCRIPTURE

March 20, 2022

3rd Sunday of Lent

Deserts can be lonely, isolated, and treacherous places. When a person wanders in a desert, they can easily get disoriented, dehydrated, confused, lost, and vulnerable. Temptation is at its peak, especially when confronted with something that may offer some respite or relief, even a mirage. Deserts can bring us to our weakest moment and tempt our faith. The Christian journey can be described as a desert experience as we vacillate back and forth, falling victim to the mirages of our lives versus the true, life-giving water offered by God. We need a burning bush experience in our lives that convinces us of the power of God and reveals Him as the "I am" of all existence.

Moses was leading his flock across the desert when he found himself at Mount Horeb. Mountains give us a fuller perspective of life, a panoramic view of what would otherwise be hidden from the limitations of our sight. That's when Moses met God. We have to find our way to a mountain experience where our vantage point can take on a wider view of life. Many things can do this for us: the birth of a child, the death of someone we love, the joy that comes from marveling at the beauty of God's work, the pondering of life's mysteries, and the ache of longing found deep within our souls. There are many things in life that can wake us up, give us a clearer, better view of things and become occasions where a bush may burn and God's presence as the eternal uncreated One is revealed.

God is very patient and gives us the time and space we need to figure things out and bear some good fruit. He doesn't rush to cut us down or get frustrated with our barrenness. But we have to remember that the desert journeys of our lives come with some risks. The major risk is that we will mistakenly believe that the mirages are real. Thus, we fall victim to thinking that the respite and refreshment we seek is discovered in a place other than where it actually is. Our faith and the life of the Church are the safeguards we need to keep us properly orientated so that we don't get lost or confused and stay on course.

**©LPi** 

# IGNATION PRAYER GROUP

Beginning February 9 Deacon Brian Kelly will be hosting an Ignation Prayer Group on Wednesdays at 7PM on Zoom. To access look up Zoom and the meeting number is: 881 4394 4880. All are welcome to share in this wonder-



ful experience. For further information please contact Deacon Brian Kelly at <u>bjk111640@gmail.com</u>.

# the wisdom pattern

# SAINT LUKE BOOK STUDY GROUP

Our Saint Luke Book Study Group is discussing the book "The Wisdom Pattern' by Richard Rohr this year. The sessions are held every 4th Thursday at 7:00 pm. The next session will be March 24, 2022.

Kindly contact Fr. Kumar at 203-227-7245 or email: frudaya@gmail.com.

# **Bible Study**

Bible Study on Zoom Monday Evenings at 7:30 pm Via Zoom. Meeting code: 846 6638 1270, Admission Code: 348 744

Last year we had about 20 people participate. Some from places like Texas, Maryland, Virginia, and

Massachusetts. We are studying the Prophets. All are welcome so if you have friends or relatives who might be interested just ask them to let me know by email at <u>bjk111640@gmail.com</u>.

# **Family Matters**

Family Matters will meet on the third Thursday of each month. This group will study Family functioning by looking at relationship patterns that prove to be beneficial and productive. The meetings will be on Zoom at 7:30 pm. If interested contact Deacon Brian at bjk111640@gmail.com

# **Interested in the Catholic Faith?**

Do you have questions about what Catholics believe and how Catholics practice their faith? Do you or a relative, neighbor or friend have an interest in the Catholic Church? Saint Luke Parish provides an ongoing process for those interested in finding out more about the Catholic Church. Please know that you or they can contact Sister Maureen Fleming at 222-0478, for more information. We are happy to welcome Inquirers at any time of the year.

# **FAITH FORUM**

Faith Forum is in its 28th year. It meets on Zoom at 9:30 am. This year participants will be expected to purchase a copy of the 1968 Dutch Catechism. It was the first catechism for adults, published just after Vatican II, it was written



to stimulate and foster thought and discussion. Copies are obtainable from Amazon and others. Meeting code 864 3852 6680, Admission Code 206 082.



# Hunger doesn't take a vacation... PARISH FOOD PANTRY NEEDS

"When I was hungry, you gave me food; I was thirsty and you gave me drink; I was a stranger and you made me welcome; naked and you clothed

me; sick and you visited me; in prison and you came to see me."

- Matthew 25:35-37

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CANNED CORN

Gift Certificates are always welcome!

Please bring one of these items to church with you on ANY WEEKEND. Please watch the expiration dates on items. Board of Health regulations forbid the use of expired items.



# BIRTHRIGHT

Birthright Needs Volunteers! Birthright is an emergency pregnancy service offering free pregnancy tests, Caring and practical support Our guiding principle: It is the RIGHT of every pregnant

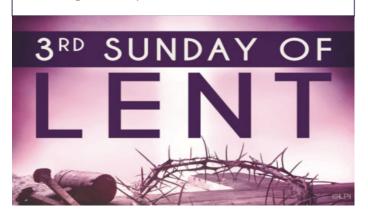
woman to give birth and the RIGHT of every child to be born. Birthright has served in Connecticut since Thousands of expectant mothers have received the help they need to bring their babies into the world. Please call 1-800-550-4900 for the Birthright near you. Training is provided. Spanish speaking volunteers are especially needed.

Birthright **needs gently worn** maternity and baby clothing. Please call 1-800-550-4900 for the Birthright nearest you for drop off.

# A NEW LENTEN OFFERING!!

# Gratitudes & Petitions during Lent Gratitudes & Petitions Rosary and Novena

Please join us every Saturday morning at 8:30 to offer your Gratitudes & Petitions with a Rosary & Novena now through April 30th. Bring a friend and share community as in prayer we give thanks for our many blessings and ask our Blessed Mother for her intercession in our needs. Our gatherings last no more than 30 minutes and it has been beautiful to pray with so many of our community—please come join us! If you can't make it to church, email your gratitudes & petitions to Maria O'Kelly at mokelly@optonline.net or Mary Heery @ mbheery@gmail.com and we will offer them either aloud in prayer or silently in our hearts kindly let us know your preference as we wish to respect your confidentiality. Any questions? Call/ text Mary at 203-886-7626 or Maria at 203-246-9806. Hope to see you there!!



# EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP - RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS

Stoking the Lenten Fire

I think we all can acknowledge that there's a certain fatigue that comes over us all as we near the end of the Lenten season. Next week is Laetare Sunday, and I find that as soon as those pink vestments start coming out of storage, our collective motivation begins to wane.

I get that. Maybe you're fatigued — I am, too. Maybe you're doing well in your resolutions and devotions but you're in danger of coasting. Or maybe, like many of us this year or in past years, you don't feel that you have even really begun your Lenten journey.

Either way, chances are that the fire that was in your belly on Ash Wednesday is burning a bit low. All fires eventually do, once they consume whatever fuels them. So here we would do well to remember what fuels our Lenten fire.

Sometimes we make resolutions that have the appearance of being spiritual, but also have an earthly motive. We give up chocolate hoping to lose weight. We stop gossiping so our friends may like us more. There is nothing wrong with these sacrifices — just with their motivations.

As Moses removes his sandals to approach the burning bush, he sees that the fire burns brightly, strongly — but does not consume. It is propelled by something inexhaustible, something which is not of this world.

Is your Lenten fire fueled by God? Are you daily surrendering yourself to the same voice that boomed from the bush in Genesis — the voice that commanded the Israelites to do what seemed like the impossible?

— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS ©LPi

# Candle Stand Attendants Needed

Because people's situations change, we are again in need of people to help with cleaning our candle stand. If you are interested please call the parish office, 203-227-7245 or email us at stluke@optonline.net





# News from around the Diocese Synod 2021 2023 For a synodal Church

We thank our parishioners who have already shared their thoughts at the listening sessions for the Synod on Synodality. It has been enlightening and encouraging to hear the experiences of our parishioners on their faith journey, as well as their hopes and vision for the future of the Church. So far, the thoughts shared here at St. Luke have covered a wide range of topics and include:

- the possibility of married clergy and women deacons/priests
- a desire for more inclusiveness for the LGBTQ community
- a call for more compassion and emphasis on social justice
- a concern for our youth and how to bring families back to church

the importance of Spirit-filled homilies and ministries

Sharing on any and all topics is welcome, and this is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for you to offer your insights for the positive growth and flourishing of our community and the whole church. The Holy Spirit guides us when we share our hearts with each other—don't let this opportunity pass you by! We have completed our Zoom and Group Listening Sessions and now invite you to contact one of us directly if you would like to participate in a one-on-one session. Our contact info is below. You can also email your thoughts on your journey with the church or any questions you may have to <a href="style="color: blue;">stlukesynod@gmail.com</a> or drop your input in writing on paper in the drop box available in the

gathering space. All shared thoughts will be collected, compiled and given to Bishop Caggiano who will then present them through a process to the Pope. We look forward to hearing from each of you and to sharing your thoughts with Pope Francis! St. Luke Synod Delegates

Anupam Martins <u>anupam.martins@gmail.com</u>
Bob Clair <u>bobclair@kpmg.com</u>
Jeanne Stewart <u>jeannestewart423@gmail.com</u>
Josh Auxier <u>jauxierjd@gmail.com</u>
Maria O'Kelly mokelly@optonline.net

# SAINT JOSEPH'S SEMINARY

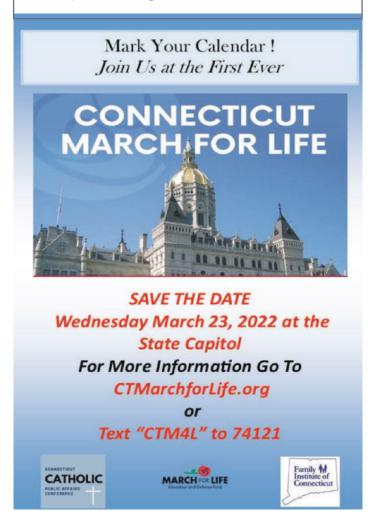
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# Saturday, March 19

5:30 pm Linda Dobson

### Sunday, March 20

3rd Sunday of Lent

4th Sunday of Lent

7:30 am Intention of Joe Bartolotta

9:00 am Nicholas Rossi Sr.

11:00 am John Gammage Jr.

5:30 pm For All our Parishioners

### Monday, March 21

8:00 am Msgr Andrew G. Varga

# Tuesday, March 22

8:00 am All Souls

# Wednesday, March 23

8:00 am Intentions of Caitlin & Owen

# Thursday, March 24

8:00 am Cynthia Dugas

### Friday, March 25

**Annunciation of the Lord** 

8:00 am Peter Vilenski

### Saturday, March 26

8:00 am Monsignor Andrew G. Varga

5:30 pm Joan Rona

### Sunday, March 27

7:30 am Richard D'Antonio

9:00 am Claudia Monaco

11:00 am Jean Caldwell

5:30 pm For All our Parishioners

### LENTEN OFFERINGS

**Mondays: Lenten reflection: 8:45 Community Room** 

Tuesdays: Bible Study: 7:30 PM Zoom

Wednesdays: Ignation Prayer Group:7:00 pm Zoom

Thursdays: Mosaic Spirituality: 10:00 am Room 7/8

Saint Luke Book Study: March 24: 7:00 pm Zoom Fridays: Stations of the Cross after the 8:00 Morning

Mass

Saturdays: Gratitude, Petitions, Rosary, Novena 8:30

am

Parish Budget Report
AVERAGE WEEKLY NEED14,327
Weekend of March 6 2022
Church Collection3,947
Allowance for Credit Cards
PayPal440
TOTAL
Weekend of March 13 2022
Church Collection2,714
Allowance for Credit Cards2,734
Mail-Ins
PayPal
TOTAL6,703
Please remember Saint Luke Parish

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# Readings for the Week of March 20

Sunday: Ex 3:1-8a, 13-15/Ps 103:1-2, 3-4, 6-7, 8, 11

[8a]/1 Cor 10:1-6, 10-12/Lk 13:1-9

Monday: 2 Kgs 5:1-15ab/Ps 42:2, 3; 43:3, 4/Lk 4:24

-30

Tuesday: Dn 3:25, 34-43/Ps 25: 4-5ab, 6 and 7bc, 8-

9/Mt 18:21-35

Wednesday: Dt 4:1, 5-9/Ps 147:12-13, 15-16, 19-20/

Mt 5:17-19

Thursday: Jer 7:23-28/Ps 95:1-2, 6-7, 8-9/Lk 11:14-

Friday: Is 7:10-14; 8:10/Ps 40:7-8a, 8b-9, 10, 11/

Heb 10:4-10/Lk 1:26-38

Saturday: Hos 6:1-6/Ps 51:3-4, 18-19, 20-21ab/Lk

18:9-14

Next Sunday: Jos 5:9a, 10-12/Ps 34:2-3, 4-5, 6-7

[9a]/2 Cor 5:17-21/Lk 15:1-3, 11-32

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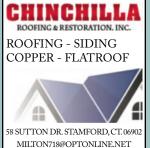
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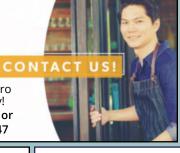
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