# saínt lake catholíc charch 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 tradition;
- ✤ 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 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. Edmund Bagnulo 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





From Father's Desk



### Dear Parish Family,

I hope you all had a good Easter celebration. I was wiped out after the Easter Masses... but it was a good one. I had dinner with a friend's family along with some priest friends in Wallingford, CT. I hope that you also had a place to go to be with your family and friends on Easter.

It was very fulfilling to see many people participating in the sacrament of reconciliation (confession) this Holy Week. We had a good attendance for all the Easter Masses too.

We will be Anointing the Sick and the Homebound at this Saturday Vigil Mass at 5:30 pm with the fresh Oil of the Sick blessed at the Chrism Mass on Holy Thursday. Kindly come and receive the Anointing of the Sick and receive the Risen Christ's inner healing and strength. If you are homebound and need a ride to get to the Saturday Vigil Mass at 5:30 pm. kindly contact the rectory. We will find a way to give you a ride.

Please know that I am praying for you and your families. I look forward to "doing more business with you" in the coming days.

May the **Peace**, **Love**, **Joy**, and **Hope** of the Risen Lord continue to be with you now and always!

### **PRAYERS FOR THE SICK**

Robert Aurrichio, Margie Camina, Maria Casale, Karen Clarke, Carolyn Craig, Al DiLardi,Jay Francis, Debbie Greer, Matthew Kokoska, Christina Muller, Elaine Pignuola, Barbara Pisarro, Eric Ratajczak, Matthew Raymond, 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,

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

**GEORGE FRANCISCOVICH** 

Husband of Linda Franciscovich



### 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.

**Father Kumar** 

### VIRTUS TRAINING

All volunteers serving in the Diocese of Bridgeport - that have not yet been trained - are required to attend a VIRTUS training program and clear a criminal background check. These safeguards are required for all volunteers, even those who DO NOT have scheduled contact with children. It is everyone's responsibility to help keep the children and our parish safe. Included in these requirements are Lectors, Eucharistic Ministers, Ushers, members of the Choir, Religious Education Teachers, and volunteers at all various Parish Events. Everyone plays a role in protecting the children in our parish.

All volunteers need to attend so that together we can all "Protect God's Children." Materials will be provided. Please, if you have not yet attended a VIRTUS course, please sign up by visiting www.Virtusonline.com to preregister. Select FIRST TIME REGISTRANT, BEGIN REGISTRATION and be sure to select BRIDGEPORT DI-OCESE as your organization.

Thank you for your willingness to help us Protect God's Children.

### 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 **THANK YOU!!** 



### GRAB AND GO MEALS



We have to share with you how grateful and enthusiastic the staff of both New Cove-

nant Center and Thomas Merton Center ( both organizations of Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Bridgeport) are when we deliver 100 Grab and Go Meals five times a month. They know the need is great. Join us. Make 25 sandwiches at home once a month, add a snack and water. Meet us at St Luke. (Easy) contact: Jeannestewart423@gmail.com

### NEW HORIZONS AWAKENING

On Tuesday, May 10, our Seniors' group here at Saint Luke Parish will hold our annual



membership breakfast. We will begin with Mass at 8:00 am in the church and then convene in the Community Room for a delicious hot breakfast catered by Sr. Maureen.

All parishioners 55 and older are most cordially invited to join us. Our programs include the 4 phases of commitment that Msgr. Andy outlined for us: spiritual, intellectual, social and service. For these purposes we meet four times a year for friendship, lunch and programs.

Annual dues are \$15.00 and can be sent to our treasurer, Joe Boggio, 48 Westfair Drive, Westport, CT 06880.

In order to assist Sr. Maureen in planning for the breakfast kindly call or send your dues to Joe Boggio.



### LOOKING AHEAD...

A l-o-n-g view of what's coming up at Saint Luke Parish... MARK YOUR CALENDARS!! JOIN US!!

April 29 May 7 Confirmation First Communion

# Gratitudes & Petitions

**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 (a) mbheery(a) 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!!

### **RELIGIOUS FORMATION**





### Gospel Reading – Second Sunday of Easter John 20:19-31

### Thomas believes because he sees Jesus.

Background on the Gospel Reading Today's reading, from the Gospel of John, is proclaimed on the second Sunday of Easter in each of the three Sunday Lectionary cycles. This should alert us to the significance of the encounters with the resurrected Jesus described in this reading. This Gospel combines two scenes: Jesus' appearance to his disciples after his Resurrection and Jesus' dialogue with Thomas, the disciple who doubted. Part of the mystery of Jesus' Resurrection is that he appeared to his disciples not as a spirit but in bodily form. We do not know exactly what this form was like. Earlier in John's Gospel, when Mary of Magdala first encountered the risen Jesus, she did not recognize the figure standing before her until Jesus spoke her. In Luke's Gospel, the disciples walking on the road to Emmaus did not recognize Jesus until he broke bread with them. We know from readings such as today's that in his resurrected body, Jesus was no longer bound by space; he appeared to the disciples in spite of the locked door. And yet, on this resurrected body, the disciples could still observe the marks of his Crucifixion. In today's Gospel, Jesus greets his disciples with the gift of peace and the gift of the Holy Spirit. Jesus also commissions his disciples to continue the work that he has begun. As Jesus was sent by God, so too does Jesus send his disciples. This continuity with Jesus' own mission is an essential element of the

Church. Jesus grants the means to accomplish this mission when he gives his disciples the gift of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit binds us together as a community of faith and strengthens us to bear witness to Jesus' Resurrection.

Jesus' words to his disciples also highlight the integral connection between the forgiveness of sins and the gift of the Holy Spirit. Forgiveness and reconciliation are gifts to us from Jesus. With the grace of the Holy Spirit, we can share these with others. This is another essential aspect of what it means to be Christ's Church. The Church continues Jesus' ministry of forgiveness and reconciliation.

Thomas, the disciple who doubts, represents the reality of the Church that comes after this first community of disciples. All but the first disciples of Jesus must believe without seeing. Like Thomas, we may doubt the news that Jesus, who was crucified and buried, appeared to his disciples. It is part of our human nature to seek hard evidence that the Jesus who appeared to the disciples after his death is, indeed, the same Jesus who was crucified. Thomas is given the opportunity to be our representative who obtains this evidence. He gives witness to us that the Jesus who was raised is the same Jesus who had died. Through the gift of the Holy Spirit, we are among those who are blessed for we have not seen and yet have believed.

(Sunday Connection - Loyola Press)

### **Upcoming:**

Grade 8 Confirmation Friday, April 29th - 6:00 pm

### **People of Hope**

The Institute for Catholic Formation will host a 31-day formation event in May. More than 70 workshops will be offered throughout the week (day and evening) in English, Spanish, and Vietnamese. The Rosary will be recited each night.

More information can be found at:

Formationreimagined.org

# Youth Group

Palm Sunday Egg Hunt This year's egg hunt drew a large crowd and we were fortunate that the weather held out. This year we added food, games and face painting to the delight of the children. Enjoy these adorable photos.



FUN FINDS: a golden egg, great face painting by Bella, prizes for the spoon race winners and loads of smiles.





Youth group teens ran the egg hunt and games. Then they jumped in to have some fun. The little kids cheered them on as they raced to the finish line. So much fun! Excellent job SLY!



### Page 5



Notre Dame High School, Fairfield, CT, is proud to announce the return of the "Garlic Fest" on Friday, May 13 (5pm-10pm), Saturday, May 14 (Noon - 10 pm) and Sunday, May 15 (Noon - 5 pm). Join us for an array of food trucks, beverages, craft and food vendors, the Garlic Bites children's entertainment area with games and amusement rides, bingo and live music for adults and children. For more information please visit NDgarlicfest.com or contact Karen Guastelle at

kguastelle@notredame.org.

### New to the area? Just moved in?



Get life in your new home off to a good start! Fr. Kumarwould be happy to visit and bless your home and

your family. Just call the office (227-7245) to arrange a convenient time.

### SAINT JOSEPH'S SEMINARY

Learn Catholic Theology This Summer With Saint Joseph's Seminary! -Take classes in-person or online -Expand your understanding of the Catholic Faith -Affordable tuition -Faithful to the Magisterium -Conveniently scheduled classes More information: www.dunwoodie.edu/ summercourses Email: sjsacademics@dunwoodie.edu

### GOSPEL MEDITATION - ENCOURAGE DEEP-ER UNDERSTANDING OF SCRIPTURE April 24, 2022

2nd Sunday of Easter (Divine Mercy Sunday) Even Thomas struggles to remove his boulder! Being very pragmatic and determined, he wants to see the risen Christ for himself! Thomas's boulder is heavy with mistrust. Many of ours are too. A certain amount of skepticism is good, as it can save us from being duped or misled. But we can become so skeptical of things that it erodes our ability to trust anything we see or hear. Skepticism can actually be a well-disguised defense mechanism that we use to prevent us from being hurt or perceived as a fool. Having too much ego protection is a real risk. Thomas, because of the boulder blocking his vision, could not even trust the word of his friends. Boulders are hard to move. It's difficult to seek change or take a risk, especially when we are so afraid to be vulnerable or reluctant to trust another's word. When we are closed minded, overly pragmatic, unwilling to see things in a different way, stubborn or defensive, it is difficult to be surprised by God and stretched. We need to be less guarded, selfassured, and self-absorbed. God cannot break into the ordinary moments of our lives and inspire us when we cling to doubt. If we are going to discover resurrection faith, we have to believe that what the witnesses say is true, especially when they are credible. We also have to trust that the risen Christ is alive in us. too!

While the first witnesses to the resurrection have faded into history, there are many others who have come after them. They continue to inspire by walking the talk of faith. They are the martyrs who offer their lives for the Gospel, the simple holy people in our communities who cling so steadfastly to their faith, those who have touched despair and found new hope and the ones who, even in spite of ridicule, still pursue their hunger and thirst for God. They are our friends, acquaintances, biblical heroes, and saints, and many others who are convinced that they have seen the Lord! The risen Christ may not surprise us with the same kind of visit as he did the first disciples, but God finds other ways. All we have to do is open our eyes, remove whatever is preventing us from seeing and believing and exclaim: "My Lord and my God!" **©LPi** 

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### 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>.



### 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 meeting will

be April 28 via zoom. 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>.

### FAITH FORUM

Faith Forum is in its 28th year. It meets on Zoom at 9:30 am. Beginning April 5, Faith Forum will be having a 4 or 5 week session on the Sacraments on zoom. Please



**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.





### 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

PASTA SAUCE INSTANT POTATOES CEREAL CANNED HAM BISQUICK CANNED GREEN BEANS FRUIT JUICES

PARMALAT MILK CANNED TUNA LOW SODIUM SOUPS PEANUT BUTTER CANNED FRUITS 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.



Text STOP to 84576 to stop txt notifications at any time. Text HELP for help. There is no charge for this service, but your carrier message and data rates may apply. View full privacy policy & terms at flocknote.com/txt.

### 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 vaccinated, 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.

# A Reminder and Invitation to parishioners and guests who may have limited mobility...

We want to make it as easy as possible for you to participate fully in the Mass, especially in receiving communion.

We suggest that the best way to facilitate this is that you choose a place in



the front pew on either side or in the areas with the blue chairs to the right or left of the sanctuary. The side seating option seems to be the most convenient place for those of you who use wheelchairs, and serves as a visual reminder to our Eucharistic Ministers.

If it is difficult for you to make your way to these areas, please notify one of the ushers, who will then convey your request to one of the Eucharistic Ministers. We're so happy to have you with us in our prayer!

Also... please remember that gluten-free hosts can be available for you by request to the priest before

**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.

SAFE, SECURE, AUTOMATIC Please consider making your offerings by credit card... We do all the work; You get the mileage-points and the convenience. Please call Judy in the parish office for more information: 203-227-7245

### **AROUND THE DIOCESE**



### **Dear Parish Family,**

The 2022 Bishop's Appeal provides the funds for the pastoral, educational and charitable ministries of the Diocese of Bridgeport. This year's theme, A Bridge Home, highlights hope, renewal and evangelization in our Diocese and invests in services that continue to engage those in their faith and build a strong bridge to so many who are struggling. I am sure you have received your appeal mailing. Please take time to read the information and prayerfully consider giving a sacrificial gift to the campaign. This Weekend, April 23/24 one of our trustees will share with us some thoughts on the importance of contributing to the Annual Bishop's appeal and next weekend April 30/ May 1 we will watch a short video of the bishop's appeal and do the in-pew appeal.

This year our parish goal is 185, 500.00. Your gifts big and small will go a long way in supporting the different ministries of our diocese. So, please consider supporting the bishop's appeal 2022 and help achieve our goal.

May the Peace of the Lord be with you and your families!

**Father Kumar** 



**UPDATE!!!** We thank our parishioners who have 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. A draft summary of our listening sessions will be shared via Flocknote sometime over the weekend of April 23/24. If you would like to offer any additional input to our draft summary you will have a few days to do so after it is sent out before the final version is submitted to the diocese. You can also still contact one of us directly before April 24th if vou would like to participate in a one-on-one session. Please also feel free to email your thoughts on your journey with the church or any questions you may have to **stlukesynod@gmail.com** or drop your input in writing on paper in the drop box available in the gathering space. Thanks again for your time and for sharing your thoughts with us! St. Luke Synod Delegates Anupam Martins anupam.martins@gmail.com Bob Clair bobclair@kpmg.com Jeanne Stewart jeannestewart423@gmail.com Josh Auxier jauxierjd@gmail.com Maria O'Kelly mokelly@optonline.net

### **FAIRFIELD PREP** FAIRFIELD PREP 6<sup>TH</sup> & 7<sup>TH</sup> GRADE INFORMATION NIGHT

Fairfield Prep is excited to invite parents & their sons to our 6th & 7th Grade Information Night on April 28 from 6:00-7:00 pm.

The event will be an opportunity to visit our campus and learn more about Fairfield Prep's mission, values, academics and co-curricular activities. You'll hear about the experiences of our current students & faculty, our plans for the future, and what makes Fairfield Prep such a special place for your son's high school experience. Please register at www.fairfieldprep.org/infonight

### SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER



Saturday, April 23 5:30 pm Joe Janusaitis

Sunday, April 242nd Sunday of Easter7:30 amFor All our Parishioners9:00 amMsgr. Andy Varga11:00 amJean Caldwell5:30 pmIvo Juresko

Monday, April 25 8:00 am Msgr Andy Varga

<u>St. Mark</u>

**Tuesday, April 26** 8:00 am Intentions of Caitlin & Owen

Wednesday, April 27 8:00 am Intentions of Patricia O'Brien

**Thursday, April 28** 8:00 am Cynthia Dugas

Friday, April 29 8:00 am Kevin & Camilla Charles 6:00 pm Confirmation

### Saturday, April 30 8:00 am All Souls 5:30 pm Catherine Feane

Sunday, May 13rd Sunday of Easter7:30 amVenerina Mioli9:00 amChristiano Family11:00 amAnn Kos5:30 pmFor All our Parishioners



### Parish Budget Report

AVERAGE WEEKLY NEED 14,327
Weekend of April 10 2022
Church Collection
Allowance for Credit Cards       2,747         Mail-Ins       0         PayPal       1,280         TOTAL       7,274
Weekend of Easter
Church Collection5,594
Allowance for Credit Cards       2,747         Mail-Ins       1,990         PayPal       1,495         TOTAL       11,826         Easter       10,313
Please remember Saint Luke Parish in your estate planning.

### Readings for the Week of April 24

Sunday: Acts 5:12-16/Ps 118:2-4, 13-15, 22-24 [1]/Rv 1:9-11a, 12-13, 17-19/Jn 20:19-31 Monday: 1 Pt 5:5b-14/Ps 89:2-3, 6-7, 16-17/ Mk 16:15-20 Tuesday: Acts 4:32-37/Ps 93:1ab, 1cd-2, 5/Jn 3:7b-15 Wednesday: Acts 5:17-26/Ps 34:2-3, 4-5, 6-7. 8-9/Jn 3:16-21 Thursday: Acts 5:27-33/Ps 34:2 and 9, 17-18, 19-20/Jn 3:31-36 Friday: Acts 5:34-42/Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14/Jn 6:1 -15 Saturday: Acts 6:1-7/Ps 33:1-2, 4-5, 18-19/Jn 6:16-21 Next Sunday: Acts 5:27-32, 40b-41/Ps 30:2, 4, 5-6, 11-12, 13 [2a]/Rv 5:11-14/ Jn 21:1-19 or 21:1-14



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