

300 Clinton Avenue  
North Plainfield, NJ 07063-1613  
Phone: (908) 754-8812  
Fax: (908) 754-0120

Email: [stlukesinfo@gmail.com](mailto:stlukesinfo@gmail.com)

Website: [www.stlukenp.weconnect.com](http://www.stlukenp.weconnect.com)

<https://facebook.com.StLukesRCChurch/>

## The Church of St. Luke

Roman Catholic Diocese of Metuchen

*We come together as a community of faith  
to celebrate our life together in Christ.*

**Rev. Msgr. Michael Corona**  
**Deacon Glenn Robitaille**

### Mass Schedule - Church

Saturday Vigil: 5:00pm

Sunday: 10:00am

### Daily Mass

Monday to Friday

7:30am (Parish Center Chapel)

### Holy Days of Obligation

(Check bulletin for time)

### Reconciliation During Lent

Saturdays 4:00-4:45 pm

Sundays 9:00-9:30 am

or by calling the Rectory.

### Anointing of the Sick

Call the Rectory if a family member or friend is in the hospital or ill.

### Religious Education (Sunday)

Grades Kg.- 8.....8:45-9:50am

### Parish Office Hours

Monday, Wednesday, Thursday

9:00am - 12:30pm

Tuesday and Friday

10:00am - 1:30pm

### Parish Trustees

Kenneth E. Phillips, Sr.

Elizabeth Rifino

### Parish Staff

#### Parish Secretary

Jean Tietjen

#### Assistant Parish Secretary

Linda Smith

(908) 754-8812, ext. 3

[stlukesinfo@gmail.com](mailto:stlukesinfo@gmail.com)

### Director of Religious Education

Jeanne Enteman (908) 754-8812, ext. 5

[enteman@verizon.net](mailto:enteman@verizon.net)

### Youth Minister

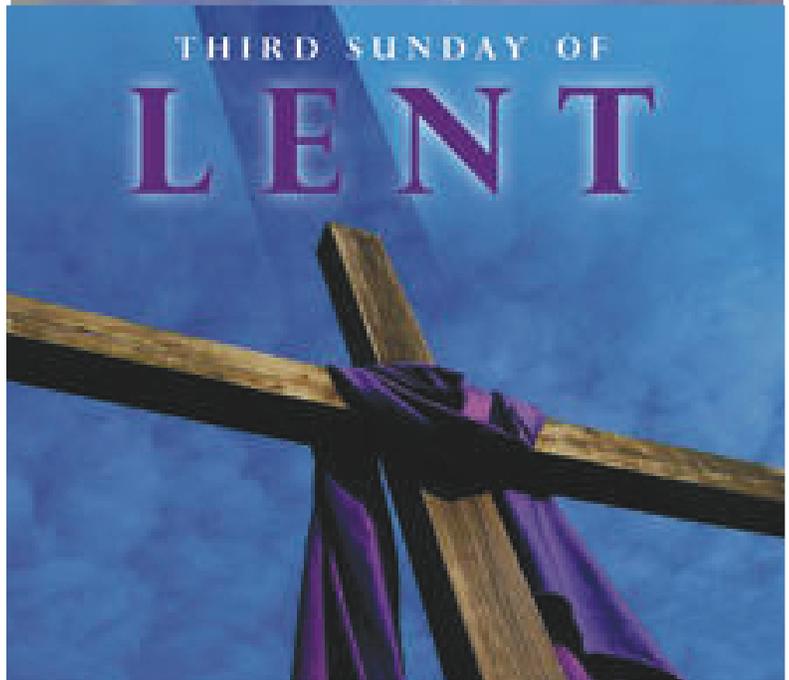
Lidia D'Armiento (908) 591-8397

[stlukesyouthnp@gmail.com](mailto:stlukesyouthnp@gmail.com)

### Bulletin Information

Rectory Office (908) 754-8812 ext.3

[stlukesinfo@gmail.com](mailto:stlukesinfo@gmail.com)



**Sacrament of Baptism:** Baptisms are celebrated after Sunday Mass by scheduled appointment. Parents are asked to call the Rectory Office at (908) 754-8812 to schedule a date and make arrangements to attend the Baptismal Instruction Program. Attendance at one session is required with both the parents and godparents.

**Sacrament of Marriage:** Diocesan policy requires that couples participate in a marriage preparation program prior to their wedding at least one year in advance. Call the Rectory Office to make an appointment with the Pastor.

**Sacrament of Holy Orders and Consecrated Life:** Anyone interested in learning more about a life of service to the People of God as a priest, deacon, a religious brother or sister, is encouraged to call the Rectory for further information.

**RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults):** A small group process by which a person inquires into becoming a Catholic, and may receive the Sacraments of Initiation - Baptism, First Eucharist, and Confirmation, followed by continued growth in the faith. Anyone interested, may contact the Rectory.

**Parish Membership:** All new families and individuals are welcome to our Parish. We welcome you to our spiritual and social life. Call the Rectory to register and become involved in our spiritual and social life. Download a Registration form from our website, complete and mail to address indicated, or call the Rectory.



**Third Sunday Of Lent**  
**March 7, 2021**



Dear Sisters and Brothers,

There was once a pastor of a Catholic parish in a parish much like ours, which had suffered from their country's economic problems. Many of the parishioners were unemployed. The priest got up into the pulpit one Sunday and proclaimed: "*Stop living your lives by the Ten Commandments!*" One unemployed man shouted back, "*Father, if we don't have to follow the ten Commandments any more then you're out of a job, too!*"

Exactly! This parishioner was only expressing the common but misguided opinion that priests are somehow policemen whose main calling in life is to keep people in line, and dish out punishments to those who break the spiritual laws. He meant, if you don't need the Commandments—you don't need priests to enforce them.

Some of you will be shocked, but I believe that it is related to the point Jesus is trying to make when he picks up the whip and drives the moneychangers out of the temple. First of all, they were in the Temple of Jerusalem, the holiest of places, and it was God's intention that the Temple of Jerusalem should be a house of prayer for all the nations. The Jewish people, being human and doing what humans often do with their religion, had become narrow and rigid, obsessed with following ritual and details. What started out with Abraham and Sarah as generous, whole-hearted worship of the one true God, had been boiled down to hundreds of restrictive laws. Instead of going out into the by-ways and welcoming strangers into the Temple, the Jewish priests rejected others for "impurity." Jewish bloodlines of inheritance became all-important. They even placed Gentiles (the non-Jews) under penalty of death if they entered the holiest parts of the Temple.

Now contrast this with Jesus' shocking message. He preached truly Good News: that salvation was not just for the Chosen People, but for *all* people. So, by "cleansing" the Temple of the money changers and animal sellers, Jesus was taking on the Jewish religious establishment. He was rejecting their sacred worship practice of sacrificing animals to God, and replacing it with worship, based upon love and intimacy with God.

Intimacy with God? Unheard of! Instead of symbolically killing animals, Jesus is saying that people should be sacrificing themselves: not our physical lives, but our interior lives of anger and jealousy. We should kill our pride and selfishness, and replace our critical or judgmental opinions with compassion and mercy. If we do not do this, then offering up doves and goats, or just keeping the letter of the Commandments, are just empty rituals.

So now, let me repeat what the priest said, and this time it should not sound so shocking: Christians are not to live by the Ten Commandments—but by the new law of Jesus. This new law is based on living in a relationship of love with God and all other creatures. Ask yourself, "*Is my main goal every day to love God more?*" I bet no one at the mall or the video store is going to pop that question! And what is our "*Final Answer*"? If it's "*Yes*," then we will want to see and use the Ten Commandments, not as a weight around our necks, but as a map or blueprint that points us in the direction of loving more.

How? I am sure you've heard the saying, "*The map is not the territory*," right, and the rules are not the relationship with God. The Commandments give us directions to God's place, but they are not the place itself. They are tools, like a flashlight or a compass, intended to show us how to find the places and do the things that make us become more and more like His children and disciples of Jesus.

How then, can we become more like God by living the Commandments? First, see not the negative but the positive purpose of each Commandment. "*You shall not steal*" means that we protect what belongs to another person just as we believe

God protects us...whether that is paying our taxes or giving back correct change. "*You shall not desire your neighbor's wife, or house, or possessions*" means that as lovers of God, we trust God to give us everything we need—a partner, a roof over our heads, a car--and we do whatever is necessary, even killing off our own sinful desires at times, in order to protect the marriages and the possessions of others. We stand up for the rights of others—even when we don't have as much as they do.

"*You shall not lie about your neighbor*" means that we love and defend the rights and relationships of other people. We are proud to respect and keep faith with friends and strangers alike. We treat other people with justice.

"*You shall have no other Gods before Me.*" Deep in our hearts, we gradually come to know that our whole life, every day, is held safely in God's care. As we celebrate God's love for us at, may He show us new ways to live in the freedom and love that the Commandments were meant for.

In your charity, please pray for the sick and lonely—visit them if you can. Also, please remember to pray for all who have wandered from the Faith and all who have died, especially the babies who have been killed through abortion this past week and their parents.

May God always be pleased with us!  
Monsignor Michael



## Stations of the Cross

Fridays at 7 pm in the chapel.

### Mass Intentions for the Week

|                  |                                       |
|------------------|---------------------------------------|
| <b>Saturday,</b> | <b>March 6</b>                        |
| 5:00 PM          | Bob Swank r/o Theresa Swank & Family  |
| <b>Sunday,</b>   | <b>March 7 3rd Sunday In Lent</b>     |
| 10:00 AM         | People of the Parish                  |
| <b>Monday,</b>   | <b>March 8</b>                        |
| 7:30 AM          | No Intention                          |
| <b>Tuesday,</b>  | <b>March 9</b>                        |
| 7:30 AM          | Robert Hannah r/o UCC Friend          |
| <b>Wednesday</b> | <b>March 10</b>                       |
| 7:30 AM          | No Intention                          |
| <b>Thursday</b>  | <b>March 11</b>                       |
| 7:30 AM          | No Intention                          |
| <b>Friday,</b>   | <b>March 12</b>                       |
| 7:30 AM          | Linda Mitchell r/o Anita & John Maier |
| <b>Saturday,</b> | <b>March 13</b>                       |
| 5:00 PM          | People of the Parish                  |
| <b>Sunday,</b>   | <b>March 14 4th Sunday In Lent</b>    |
| 10:00AM          | Jean Mullen r/o The Mullen Family     |

*O Lord, be present with all those who serve our country. Comfort their spirits with your divine presence. Keep them close to You & grant them strength, wisdom & grace. In your kindness we ask you to remember the sick members of our parish, & those who reside in nursing homes & senior care facilities & those in need of our prayers.*

**Mass Intentions and Sanctuary Candles** are arranged through the **Rectory Office** by calling (908) 754-8812, or by sending an email message to [stlukesinfo@gmail.com](mailto:stlukesinfo@gmail.com). Personal visits to arrange intentions are always welcomed.

**READINGS THIS WEEKEND**

**First Reading: Exodus 20-17:**

Moses is given the Ten Commandments.

**Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:22-25:**

Paul preaches Christ crucified to the Corinthians.

**Gospel Reading: John 2:13-25:** Jesus drives out the money-changers from the Temple and says that he will destroy the temple and raise it up again.

**Third Sunday Of Lent**

*“You shall not carve idols for yourselves in the shape of anything...” - Exodus 20:4*

How many “gods” do you put before God? “Idols” do not always take the shape of physical things, things we can touch and feel. Those are easy to recognize. Many times they take the form of things we cannot touch and are much harder to spot like pride, power, ego, time, comfort or health. Pray for God’s help to prune our vices and to grow in virtue.

**Pope’s Intentions for March**

**Sacrament of Reconciliation:** Let us pray that we may experience the sacrament of reconciliation with renewed depth, to taste the infinite mercy of God.

The church is open for private prayer  
Mon., Wed., & Friday from 10 am to 12 pm.



St. Luke Family Ministry

**Remember to please  
continue supporting our  
Heart to Heart contribution basket.**

Parishioners!! The Heart-to-Heart Ministry is accepting non-perishable food items (soups, tuna, canned vegetables, fruits, mac & cheese, pasta, pasta sauce, rice, dried beans, cereal, cookies, juices), diapers, & personal care products, as well as food gift cards for local victims of the COVID-19 pandemic. We wish to continue to support our local Fish and other community food banks. We anticipate local food needs will accelerate in the wake of unemployment due to the crisis. Please try to be generous as possible. Thank you.

***If you know of individuals/families in need,  
please call the rectory.***

**Reflections On Faith** meets every 2nd and 4th Sunday at **11:30 am** on ZOOM. If you wish to participate in the ZOOM meeting, please contact Jerry Mckenna at [gerard1938@verizon.net](mailto:gerard1938@verizon.net) or Maria D’Antuono at [mdantuono23@msn.com](mailto:mdantuono23@msn.com) for the meeting invitation.

***Please provide the rectory office with your current  
email address & phone number.***

**2021 Bishop’s Annual Appeal**

The devastating global pandemic of 2020 caused the loss of countless lives, widespread critical illness and has impacted every family around the world in so many ways. The important work of Catholic Charities could not and did not stop during this time. Requests for basic services such as food, shelter and clothing increased and the staff at Catholic Charities truly lived out the Corporal Works of Mercy. Rental assistance and housing support continued. The Catholic Charities food pantry, one of the largest in Warren County, provided curbside delivery and made home deliveries to protect those most at risk of coronavirus. Critical counseling services were made available through telehealth and safe, socially distant visits.

Twenty-four percent – \$1.7 million dollars – of the funds raised by the 2021 Bishop’s Annual Appeal is earmarked for Catholic Charities, Diocese of Metuchen. Your generosity and sacrifice helps to ensure that no one is left homeless, hungry, or without emotional support in these extremely difficult times.

**Catholic Charities NJ Hope and Healing**

**March 2021 Calendar**

For more information or to receive crisis counseling services pertaining to COVID-19, call 732-204-6510 or email [hopeandhealing@ccdom.org](mailto:hopeandhealing@ccdom.org)

The confidential & anonymous **FREE** services are:  
Stress Management - Emotional Support -  
Linkage To Resources - Daily Zoom Calls Motivational Quotes  
- Drop In Zoom Sessions

**GROCERY CARDS** are available to purchase before & after each weekend Mass. *Volunteers needed to sell the cards, especially on Saturdays. If you are interested, please call the rectory.*

**COVID VACCINE:** Individuals can register for the vaccine by going to the following website: <https://covidvaccine.nj.gov/>

**Due to the Coronavirus Pandemic** Please call to reserve your seat. Social distancing (6 feet) must be adhered to at all times. The pews marked with red tape & a sign are not available for seating. There is a limit of 57 people in the church.

**A special thank you** to all the Medical Personnel and First Responders who continue to sacrifice for others on the front lines of the coronavirus pandemic. Please continue to keep them all in your prayers.

**WEEKLY COLLECTION**

*Thank you and may God bless you for your continued generosity to our Parish.*

**February 14 \$2,199.00  
Ash Wednesday \$200.00  
February 21 \$2,455.00  
February 21 Online Giving \$336.08**

**ST LUKE OFFERS ONLINE GIVING** for parishioners, who prefer to donate through the convenience of automatic payments. Sign up for Online Giving at our parish website <https://stlukenp.weshareonline.org/>

**HOW TO REPORT SEXUAL ABUSE**

If you were sexually abused by a member of the clergy or anyone representing the Catholic Church, or you know someone who was, you are encouraged to report that abuse to law enforcement and/or contacting the Diocesan Response Officer at (908) 930-4558 (24 hrs./7days a week). For more information on how to report abuse, visit our Diocesan website: <https://diometuchen.org/report-a-suspected-abuse>



Bingo & all events have been cancelled/postponed until further notice due to the Covid-19



3571 Kennedy Road  
South Plainfield, NJ

Joseph T. Penyak  
908-753-4222  
Fax: 908-753-4763

[www.penyakroofing.com](http://www.penyakroofing.com)



RICHARD A. MELEO, D.D.S., F.A.G.D.

Jane Ligums, D.M.D., F.A.G.D.

Restorative, Cosmetic  
& Implant Dentistry

176 Cedar Street  
North Plainfield

**(908) 757-2613**

Fax: 908-753-9120

PROTECTING SENIORS NATIONWIDE  
MEDICAL ALERT SYSTEM

**\$29.95/MO**

BILLED QUARTERLY

PLUS  
SPECIAL  
OFFER



CALL NOW! 1.877.801.7772

[WWW.24-7MEDALARM.COM](http://WWW.24-7MEDALARM.COM)

AVAILABLE

FOR A LIMITED TIME

ADVERTISE YOUR  
**BUSINESS HERE**

Contact **Douglas Shaller** to place an ad  
today! [dshaller@4LPi.com](mailto:dshaller@4LPi.com) or

**(800) 477-4574 x6458**

**Too Sick for Mass?**

SUPPORT OUR PARISH NO MATTER WHERE YOU ARE!

*Sign-up to get your bulletin delivered  
right to your inbox!*

[www.parishesonline.com](http://www.parishesonline.com)



**ADT-Monitored  
Home Security**

Get 24-Hour Protection  
From a Name You Can Trust

- Burglary
- Fire Safety
- Flood Detection
- Carbon Monoxide



ADT Authorized Provider | SafeStreets

1-855-225-4251



**Higgins**  
HOME FOR FUNERALS, INC.  
established 1868

[www.higginsfuneralhome.com](http://www.higginsfuneralhome.com)

Stephen D. Szczubelek

Mgr. Watchung Lic. #4446

752 Mountain Blvd.  
Watchung, NJ 07069

**908-756-0017**



Ad info. 1-800-477-4574 • Publication Support 1-800-888-4574 • [www.4lpi.com](http://www.4lpi.com)

St. Luke's, North Plainfield, NJ 04-1086