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<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

Saturdays 4:00-4:45 pm

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

Rectory 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

Director of Religious Education

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

enteman@verizon.net

Youth Minister

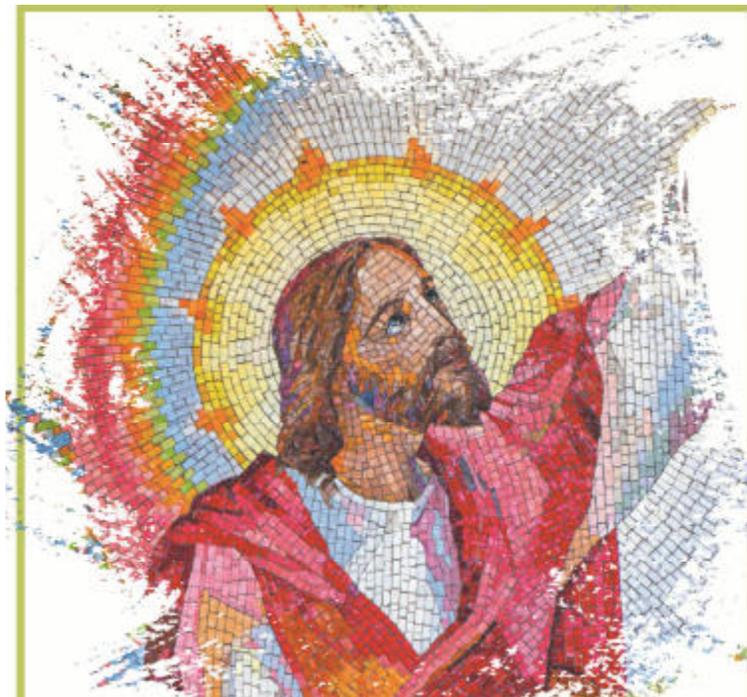
Lidia D'Armiento (908) 591-8397

stlukesyouthnp@gmail.com

Bulletin Information

Rectory Office (908) 754-8812 ext.3

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



THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER
April 18, 2021



Dear Sisters and Brothers,

The Sea of Galilee---also known as the Sea of Tiberias---is the beautiful site where so much of the mission of Jesus was located. This is where Jesus called fishermen to be his disciples. This great inland freshwater lake, surrounded by hills, has been known for millennia for its plentiful stocks of fish.

Pope Francis, in his 2015 environmental encyclical, *Laudato si'*, writes of praising God for the natural world and warns about plundering natural resources. He called us to realise the implications of failing to value the life and refreshment we receive from water, which is getting scarcer globally. He reminds us that we journey through life with our fellow creatures and calls for ecological conversion where, as he puts it, *"the life of the spirit is not dissociated from the body or from nature or from worldly realities, but lived in and with them, in communion with all that surrounds us"* (#216).

Today's Gospel Lesson of Jesus' appearance by the Sea of Galilee after the resurrection is one of the great dramatic stories in the New Testament. Most of the disciples had returned to Galilee and were just sitting around until Peter perked them up by suggesting that they went fishing. The implication is that the disciples were likely to resume their life as fishermen in Galilee and were low in spirits. The atmosphere of discouragement was only heightened by their inability to catch any fish. A man shouts to them from the shore and tells them where to cast the net and find the fish. Immediately, the nets are heaving with the catch. When the disciples reach shore, they realise it is Jesus, and he feeds them. He has fish already on the fire, yet he invites them to bring some of their abundant catch in a mutual sharing.

On the shores of the Sea of Galilee they once more find themselves called. Saint Peter especially is asked to reaffirm his love for Jesus three times, overriding his denying of Jesus three times. What Jesus always did among the disciples he does again--he gives life and hope in abundance. Over that intimate meal of bread and fish by the lake they are jolted into their new reality as lifelong missionaries for Christ. Galilee is the place where it all began. It is amidst the beautiful and bountiful environment of Galilee that it begins again.

What you and I have to remember is that being followers of Jesus gives our lives meaning and direction. We are often busy but without a strong sense of purpose and meaning. Yet it's exciting, as it was for the disciples, for us to recognise that Jesus is here---living and ready to engage with us as we journey through life. Today's Gospel Lesson also reminds us that an encounter with Jesus can lead us to take unexpected paths. To see with the eyes of faith Jesus calls us to let go of our private and limited

vision. Our mission today includes recognising our connection in love with the natural world that is God's creation. Pope Francis has called upon all human society to respond to the cry of those who are poor and the cry of the earth. In today's New Testament Lesson it is not just humanity that praises God, but all living things in creation. As we offer God the *"fruit of the earth"* in the Eucharist, we are called to respond to the world's poor people, who are struggling to survive amidst the diminishing abundance of the natural world and ravages caused by climate change. We also reflect that followers of Jesus are called to be people of hope. Amid the disappointments in everyday life or the violence in today's world or human abuse of God's creation, we are to look for the signs of hope and retain a positive vision. Even when we feel unworthy and powerless, God is with us and blesses us.

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. Happy Easter!

May God always be pleased with us!

Monsignor Michael

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 for the Week

Saturday	April 17	8:00 PM	John Benderoth r/o Ed & Linda Smith
Sunday	April 18 Third Sunday of Easter	10:00 AM	People of the Parish
Monday	April 19	7:30 AM	No Intention
Tuesday	April 20	7:30 AM	No Intention
Wednesday	April 21	7:30 AM	No Intention
Thursday	April 22	7:30 AM	No Intention
Friday	April 23	7:30 AM	No Intention
Saturday	April 24	5:00 PM	People of the Parish
Sunday	April 25 Fourth Sunday of Easter	10:00 AM	Jesse Blajek r/o Mary Jo Tyson

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



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. Personal visits to arrange intentions are always welcomed.

READINGS THIS WEEKEND

First Reading: Acts of the Apostles 3:13-15,17-19(47B):

Peter preaches that Jesus has been raised from the dead and calls upon the people to repent.

Second Reading: 1 John 2:1-5a: Those who know God keep his commandments.

Gospel Luke 24:35-48: Jesus appears again to his disciples and shares a meal with them.

Third Sunday of Easter

“Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, ‘Peace be with you.’ But they were startled and frightened...” - LUKE 24:36-37
Throughout the day we have many opportunities to “see the face of Jesus” in others and to “be the face of Jesus” to others. Do we take that opportunity to provide “peace” to those we encounter or are we afraid of what others will think of us and do nothing? Pray for the strength and courage to live a “God-centered” life and not a “self-centered” life.

Pope's Intentions for April

Fundamental Rights We pray for those who risk their lives while fighting for fundamental rights under dictatorships, authoritarian regimes and even in democracies in crisis.



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 office.

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 or Maria D'Antuono at mdantuono23@msn.com for the meeting invitation.

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

2021 Bishop's Annual Appeal

Transformed by Christ's Body and Blood –

Sent on Mission to Light a Fire in the Heart of the Church

Thank you to all who have given so generously to the 2021 Bishop's Annual Appeal. If you have not made a pledge, there is still time to participate. Mail your gift to: Diocese of Metuchen, Bishop's Annual Appeal, PO Box 4000, Metuchen, NJ 08840-4000 or give online at www.diometuchen.org/BAA.

To date, the Development Office has received pledges totaling \$9,263.00 and payments totaling \$7,568.00 from 45 parishioners.

This represents 27.2% of **St Luke's** \$34,000.00 goal.

Thank you for your efforts

Catholic Relief Services Second Collection

Next weekend –April 24/25.

Funds from this collection provide food to the hungry, support displaced refugees, & bring Christ's love & mercy to vulnerable people here & abroad. Please give generously & help **Jesus in disguise**. Learn more about the collection at www.usccb.org/catholic-relief.

Catholic Charities NJ Hope and Healing April 2021

For information to receive crisis counseling services pertaining to COVID-19, call (732) 204-6510 or email hopeandhealing@ccdcom.org



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 still a limit of 57 people socially distanced 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.

- Easter \$12,709.00**
- Online Giving \$663.58**
- Easter Memorial Flowers \$988.00**
- Retired Clergy \$1,350.00**

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



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