

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**

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](mailto:stlukesinfo@gmail.com)

## **Director of Religious Education**

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

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

## **Youth Minister**

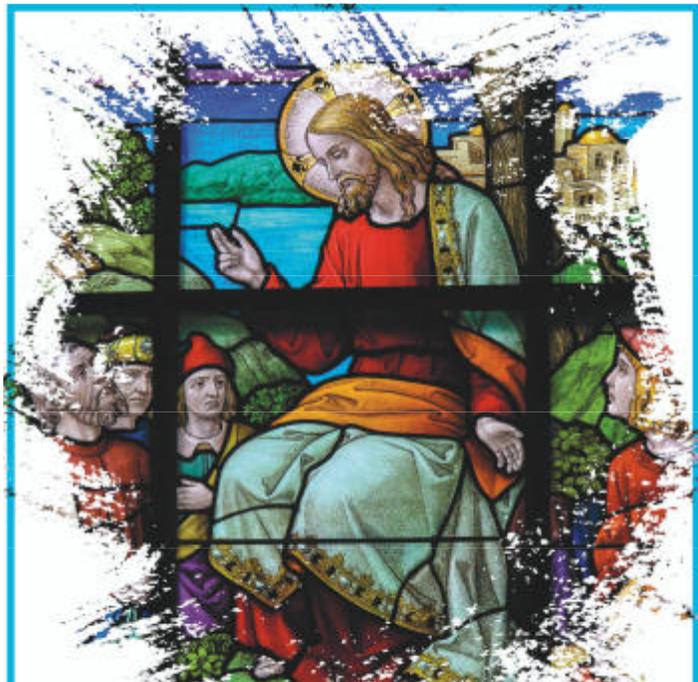
Lidia D'Armiento (908) 591-8397

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

## **Bulletin Information**

Parish 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.

**22nd Sunday In Ordinary Time**  
**August 29, 2021**

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

I am sure you know that during the Prohibition years of the early twentieth century, alcohol could only be secured by illegal means. There was no government sponsored regulatory oversight to insure the quality or purity of the product. And so, bootleggers and moonshiners could sell any product, at any price, as long as there was a thirsty and eager buyer who would pay the price. Sometimes the buyer paid with their lives, as death rates soared due to inferior or poisonous substances blended in with the illegal alcohol. But one of the merchants who provided this illegal trade during the Prohibition was a man named William McCoy. He had a reputation for peddling only the purest alcohol products, without any inferior additives. Soon his name became synonymous with undiluted purity. On the street this pure product was given the slang name, the Real McCoy.

The “Real McCoy”, that’s what we all want, isn’t it? I don’t mean the alcohol product of the 1920’s, but we all want to know that we are getting the real thing when we purchase an item or enter a relationship. We’ve all been burned before by insincere people, or inferior quality merchandise, pretending to be more than they were. In our relationships, in the products we buy, in the leaders we admire—we just want the genuine article, the real thing, the “Real McCoy”. But how can we be sure something, or someone, is the real thing, through and through? As the old saying goes, “You can’t judge a book by its cover.” And similarly, we are often wrong when we assume the quality of the inside based upon the appearance of the outside. When it comes to judging human character and values, the stakes get even higher. So, how do we discern whether a person is the “Real McCoy”, since we humans are such masters at the art of duplicity? Or to turn the question for the parents and teachers and pastors among us, how can we develop genuine character and values in people? Through the centuries two strategies have emerged.

The first strategy we might call the method of *outside in*. That is, train and guide the inner character of a person by enforcing good behaviors that can be seen and measured. And after these good patterns have been established long enough, so that they become second nature, the person’s inner character will naturally be shaped for the good. There is much to commend this strategy. We teach our children to brush their teeth, wear their seat belts, and say “thank you”, reinforcing these good behaviors so often that they become grooved patterns, in the hope that the children will become genuinely careful about their health and authentically good mannered towards others as they grow up.

Essentially, this *outside in* strategy was the methodology of the Pharisees in Jesus’ day. The Pharisees were passionate about faith, studious about scripture, and committed to help people observe and live by the commandments and precepts God had given to His people. These are all good values, indeed. But like so many of us, the Pharisees tried to get to the heart by regulating action, shaping the spirit by enforcing good patterns of behavior. In other words, moving from the *outside in*. In our Gospel lesson for today, we overhear this very debate between Jesus and the Pharisees regarding cleanliness and purity. The Pharisees thought that reinforcing ritual washing and kosher food preparation would eventually cleanse the spirit of a person and make them pure before God. Since it is difficult to discern the inner purity of a person, it is much easier to establish laws to regulate behavior that can be observed. This is the premise and hope behind legalism. The thought goes like this: since good behaviors eventually shape good character, laws should be created to regulate and enforce good behaviors and provide a system of punishment for behaviors that do not conform. This was the strategy of the Puritans in Colonial times. It was the strategy behind the Prohibition movement. It is the strategy behind many well-meaning movements to legislate morality today. But for all its commendable value, the *outside in* method does not insure pure character. Puritan values did not grow an ideal pure society in Colonial America. Prohibition did not keep people from desiring alcohol. And as Jesus pointed out to the Pharisees, ritual washing does not necessarily insure a pure soul before God.

The second strategy to discern and to shape human character we might call *inside out*. That is, the best way to know the true heart of a person is to know them from the inside—their character, their values, their stories that have shaped them. This method of evaluation assumes that behind the mask, beneath the artificial world of titles, possessions, and beauty, beyond the reach of human legislation and regulation, the true heart of a person resides. Here, in the inmost thoughts and heart of a person, a crooked and corrupt soul can hide under the layers of practiced good manners; and similarly, the pure heart of a saint can reside under the scruffy and tattered exterior of a broken life. So how are we to know the heart? Of course, this

is much more difficult for mere mortals like us. We know God sees the heart, but since we cannot judge with certainty on matters of the inner person, how can we practice the strategy of *inside out*?

One way is simply to pay attention to inner clues, to look deeper than the exterior, to watch and listen for signs of the guiding values of a person’s soul. It is so tempting to make snap judgments about people based on very limited and external clues. How many times must we experience the failure of profiling to know how limited and fallible it is? For instance, some of the on-line matchmaking services these days are attempting to offer personality inventories and character evaluations, since so many single adults have been burned by dating decisions based on a picture and few well-rehearsed pick-up lines. One employer plays a round of golf with prospective new hires or executives up for promotion, or takes them to a restaurant for a meal. He is not interested in their golf handicap, nor in their table etiquette. He is looking deeper. This employer wants to see how the prospect handles adversity on the golf course and how honest they are with their scores, or how respectful they are toward servers at the restaurant. Crisis shows character. Small details hint toward character. There is no infallible way for us humans to discern the heart, especially in a limited amount of time. But we can at least attempt to bypass the obvious rehearsed exterior most of us perfect, and listen for the inner values that really define a person. For even greater assurance, there is the passage of time. Over time what is on the inside works its way to the surface, like seeds sprouting under the soil and making their way to the sunlight. Character works from the *inside out*, from the heart to the behavior, more surely than the other way around. That is why Jesus refocused the discussion of purity where it belongs, on the inside. It is here that we must be clean, whether or not our hands are washed correctly.

Remember, if you want to judge the quality of a piece of clothing, you have to turn it *inside out* and examine the stitching. By the grace of God, people are made the same way.

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 .



<b>Saturday</b>	<b>August 28</b>
5:00 PM	People of the Parish
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>August 29 22nd Sunday In Ordinary Time</b>
10:00 AM	Jean Mullen r/o The Mullen Family
<b>Monday</b>	<b>August 30</b>
7:30 AM	Vince Carrino Living Intention r/o Mary & Jeff Lawler
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>August 31</b>
7:30 AM	Vince Carrino Living Intention r/o Mary & Jeff Lawler
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>September 1</b>
7:30 AM	Helen Curran r/o June & Bob Diller
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>September 2</b>
7:30 AM	No Intention
<b>Friday</b>	<b>September 3</b>
7:30 AM	Frances X. Galla, Jr. r/o June & Bob Diller
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>September 4</b>
5:00 PM	William & James Barry r/o Maureen Barry
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>September 5 23rd Sunday In Ordinary Time</b>
10:00 AM	People of the Parish

**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.

**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.

**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: Deuteronomy 4:1-2,6-8:**

Moses tells the Israelites to observe the commandments that God gave them.

**Second Reading: James 1:17-18,21b-22,27:**

James teaches that Christians should be doers of the Word. ; Husbands and wives should love one another as Christ loves the Church.

**Gospel: Mark 7:1-8,14-15,21-23:** Jesus teaches that it is that which comes from our hearts that defiles us.

**22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time**

“Be doers of the word and not hearers only...” JAMES 1:22

It’s easy to understand the definition of stewardship – living a grateful and generous life. The hard part is doing it! How do your actions reflect God’s word? Do you share your time in prayer with God? Do you use your talent to help those in need? Are you generous with your financial resources? If not, what are you waiting for?

**Pope’s Intentions for September**

An Environmentally Sustainable Lifestyle: We pray that we all will make courageous choices for a simple and environmentally sustainable lifestyle, rejoicing in our young people who are resolutely committed to this.

**Please continue to assist with sanitizing the pews after Mass. Wipes can be found at the entrance of the church, on the left & right sides, & on the windowsills in the back. Thank you.**

**INSPIRE FAMILY LIFE CENTER OPEN HOUSE**

**Sunday, September 12th 51 Mt. Bethel Road, Warren, N.J.**

Inspire Family Life Center, a brand new, pro-life pregnancy resource center, is hosting an Open House on Sunday, September 12th 10am – 1pm. Come see their beautiful facility, learn more about their life-changing Mission & Vision, how they will impact our local communities, and how you can get involved. Inspire will offer pregnancy testing, ultrasound, pregnancy options counseling, material aid and abortion alternatives at no cost.

RSVP to [info@inspirefamilylifecenter.com](mailto:info@inspirefamilylifecenter.com) or text to 732-595- 2392. Visit [www.InspireFamilyLifeCenter.com](http://www.InspireFamilyLifeCenter.com) for more info.

**MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER**

With summer winding down, why not treat yourself to a Marriage Encounter Experience? A Worldwide Marriage Encounter Experience gives you the time & tools to revitalize romance, deepen communication, & nourish the spirituality in your marriage. Join us from the comfort of your home via Zoom for eight evening sessions, 7:00 – 9:30 PM, presented on Monday & Thursday evenings from September 27-October 21.

Phone Tom & Ruth DeFalco 1-732-904-9636 for an application. Visit us at: [www.wwme.org](http://www.wwme.org) for more information.

**COUNSELING AND WELLNESS SERVICES**

If you or someone you know needs counseling or is impacted by addiction, Catholic Charities Diocese of Metuchen can help. Individual and family therapy for children and adults is available. For an appointment, call (800) 655-9491.



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, powdered & shelf-stable milk, & 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** meetings are held every 2nd and 4th Sunday directly after the 10:00 AM Mass in the Parish Center’s large meeting room. Coffee and light refreshments will be served and all are welcome!

***Please provide the Rectory Office with your current email address & phone number.***

**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.*

\*\*\*\*\*

**READERS** Our parish is in need of Readers for the weekend Masses. For more information, please call the Rectory Office or see Monsignor Michael after Mass



The Church is open for private prayer Mon., Wed., & Friday 10 am to 12 p.m.

**WEEKLY COLLECTION**

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

Our bulletin is only possible because of advertisements from our generous sponsors. Please let our bulletin advertisers know that you see their ad here & thank them!

**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/>

**Bishops Appeal Status**

As of 8-23-21, the Development Office has received pledges totaling \$41,273.00 & payments totaling \$34,773.00 from 80 parishioners. This represents 121.4% of our \$34,000.00 goal. Thank you!

**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 & some events have been cancelled/postponed until further notice.***



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



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**

