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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

Parish Office (908) 754-8812 ext.3
stlukesinfo@gmail.com



23RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

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.

23rd Sunday In Ordinary Time
September 5, 2021

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

There are times when we yearn for peace and quiet time away from honking horns, screeching brakes, blaring music, throbbing washing machines and jarring jets. We treasure such periods of rest for our sensitive ears. But do you know how difficult it would be to find a moment of peace and quiet if our ears were only a bit more sensitive?

Scientists tell us that if they were but slightly more powerful, we would be tuned into the chatter of rats. Were our ears three times more powerful, we would be tuned into our own heart beats and digestive processes. Were they five times more powerful, we would hear what bats were saying. And as the din grew louder, as more of nature's secret sounds assaulted our sense of hearing, the possibilities for peace and quiet would decrease proportionately. If our ears were exposed to all sound, the roar would be intolerable; deafening. In nature's grand design, there are sounds that are not intended to be heard with the naked ear.

Jesus lived in a society that placed a high value on the sense of hearing. Few people could read. Moreover, reading materials were costly and rare. To acquire knowledge, people depended largely on word-of-mouth. They were accustomed to listening and memorizing. Thus, in the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus says to the crowd, "You have heard" this or "You have heard" that, and then goes on to make His own point. Remember, there were no textbooks, no pamphlets, no news releases. To know what Jesus was teaching, you had to listen.

We don't know much about the deaf man in today's Gospel Lesson whom Jesus cured. We do know that his infirmity had placed him in a position of isolation. Not only was he cut off from the sounds of the world and the voices of his fellow men, but also, under Roman law, a deaf man was classified as mentally incompetent. To this victim of physical infirmity and social ostracization, Jesus speaks: "Ephphata!" (that is, "Be opened!") and, "at once, the man's ears were opened; he was freed from the impediment, and began to speak plainly" (Mk.7:34-35).

Scientists tell us that the deaf person who suddenly recovers his hearing is likely to find exposure to the world of sound a frightening experience. During the adjustment period it is not uncommon for the cured person to seek to return to the world of silence. It takes time and conditioning to learn how to interpret sounds, how to distinguish between those which threaten and those which do not. It takes time, to learn how to listen. Being born with the ability to hear is not of our own doing, but the ability to listen is an art that we must develop ourselves.

Jesus says, "You have heard the commandment, 'you shall love your countryman but hate your enemy.' My command to you is: love your enemies, pray for your persecutors" (Mt.5:43-44). We hear the words, but are we listening?

Jesus says, "You have heard the commandment 'An eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth.' But what I say to you is: offer no resistance to injury. When a person strikes you on the right cheek, turn and offer him the other" (Mt.5:38-39). We hear the words, but are we listening?

"No man can serve two masters," Jesus says. "He will either hate one and love the other or be attentive to one and despise the other. You cannot give yourself to God and money" (Mt.6:24). We hear the words, but are we listening?

"Love one another as I have loved you" (In.15:12). "If a man wishes to come after Me, he must deny his very self, take up his cross, and begin to follow in My footsteps" (Mt.16:24). "The last shall be first and the first shall be last" (Mt.20:16).

We hear all these words of Jesus, but are we listening? Our ears may be wide open to hear God's Word, but unless our hearts are open to receive the message, we are not listening: we are deaf spiritually.

To listen to God's Word, we turn toward Him in the spirit of complete openness and receptivity, of complete love and trust. In the words of one spiritual writer, we turn toward God "as a flower turns toward the sun to absorb its creative energy." Only in this attitude of reverential listening can we confront our own deepest and most authentic self—the self which is responsible for all our words and actions.

In today's Gospel Lesson, when Jesus cured the man's deafness, He simultaneously relieved him of his speech defect. "The man's ears were opened, he was freed of his impediment, and began to speak plainly," Mark tells us. So it is with our spiritual deafness. By turning our hearts toward God "as a flower turns toward the sun to absorb its creative energy," by allowing His loving presence to flood us and nourish us, we not only become listeners but, by the miracle of God's Grace, we also become doers of the Word.

In other words, if we are not doing we can be sure we are not listening. Neither the Sermon on the Mount nor ten thousand eloquent

sermons from this or any other pulpit will, of themselves, advance the cause of Christ a single step. Christian sermons are not preached merely to be heard. They are preached to be taken to heart and lived. Unless they have served to remove the impediments of spiritual apathy and indifference, the words have fallen on deaf souls: people hearing without listening.

"And in the naked light I saw ten thousand people, maybe more. People talking without speaking, people hearing without listening." These lines from the song, "Sounds of Silence," reflect a keen insight into the human failing that perhaps is responsible for most of the alienation that exists among human beings: people's failure to communicate honestly and decently with one another; people talking without speaking; people hearing without listening; people cutting themselves off from real contact with one another.

Recall the Transfiguration recounted in Matthew's Gospel Chapter 17! Jesus' face, Matthew tells us, "became as dazzling as the sun, His clothes as radiant as light" and suddenly "Out of the cloud came a voice which said, 'This is My beloved Son on whom My favor rests. Listen to Him.'" Listen to Him! Make whatever adjustment in your life that may be necessary to allow the voice of forgiveness and compassion and love to penetrate your soul. Listen to Him! Resist every temptation to return to the old sounds of vengeance, retribution and hate. Listen to Him! Resist every temptation to acquire money and things at the expense of honesty and decency in human relationships.

Listen to Him! But, be prepared! The more you listen to Him, the closer you get to Him. The more you listen to Him, the closer you will get to one another. And when we do, that's the real miracle! And God will always be pleased with 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.

May God always be pleased with us!

Monsignor Michael .



Mass Intentions for the Week

Saturday 5:00 PM	September 4 William & James Barry r/o Maureen Barry
Sunday 10:00 AM	September 5 23rd Sunday In Ordinary Time People of the Parish
Monday 9:00 AM	September 6 Labor Day People of the Parish
Tuesday 7:30 AM	September 7 Eric Christie r/o Maureen & Patrick McGroarty
Wednesday 7:30 AM	September 8 No Intention
Thursday 7:30 AM	September 9 Mary Magdalene Ememe r/o Florence Ememe
Friday 7:30 AM	September 10 Rose Ememe r/o Children & Grandchildren
Saturday 5:00 PM	September 11 People of the Parish
Sunday 10:00 AM	September 12 24th Sunday In Ordinary Time Rose Ememe r/o Children & Grandchildren

Labor Day Mass 9:00 am in the church.

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. Personal visits to arrange intentions are always welcomed.

READINGS THIS WEEKEND

First Reading: Isaiah 35:4-7a:

Isaiah prophesies about God's vindication.

Second Reading: James 2:1-5: James teaches that there is to be no partiality within the Christian community.

Gospel: Mark 7:31-37: Jesus restores a man's hearing and speech.

23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

"Did not God choose those who are poor in the world to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom that he promised to those who love him?" JAMES 2:5 What is more important – being rich in faith or rich in possessions? Society tells us that possessions are most important. God teaches a different lesson. When we are rich in faith, we keep God first and experience true joy and peace. When we put possessions first, we soon realize we can never have enough and happiness is fleeting. When we put faith over possessions we truly realize it is better to give than receive.

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!

Message from Monsignor Michael

Recently it has come to my attention that some parishioners have received an email request from me asking for money so that I can buy gifts for the parish staff. This email is a scam. It is not from me. Your weekly contributions are adequate for the operation of our parish. I or my staff would not make this kind of request. If you receive one of these emails, please do not respond. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

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 to 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 or text to 732-595- 2392. Visit www.InspireFamilyLifeCenter.com for more info.

HOMELESS PREVENTION

If you need help with homelessness prevention or basic needs, in Somerset County you can call NORWESCAP at 908-454-7000 ext. 1118 or 1160, in Middlesex County call Catholic Charities MultiService Program at 732-826-6278

The Rectory Office will be closed on Labor Day.



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 Office.

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.

August 22 \$3,465.00

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/>

Bishops Appeal Status

As of 8-30-21, 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.



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