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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

Sundays 9-9:30 am

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

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.

**Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph  
December 26, 2021**

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

The Scripture Lessons we heard today from the Old Testament Book of Genesis and Saint Luke's Gospel have, for me at least, always been colored by the muted shades of age. In our Old Testament Lesson we meet Abraham and Sarah in their senior years, well past the season of childbearing, the age of someone living on Social Security, who hear God's promise they will have a son. Just imagine Sarah, in her tenth decade of life, sitting in the obstetrician's waiting room. Gaze into the eyes of everyone in their clan and see there etched both amazement and laughter. Make no mistake about it: Abraham and Sarah are now past the actuarial limits of life, awaiting the birth of their son, Isaac.

Then, from our Gospel Lesson, we meet Simeon and Anna. Saint Luke carefully tells us that Anna "was of a great age," meaning she was up in years. But Simeon, whose beautiful "*Nunc Dimitis*" we both chant and sing in the Divine Office and at Mass, is also assumed to be old. But St. Luke never says that. In fact, there is not one suggestion in the text that Simeon is advanced in years, teetering on the brink of death. Simeon has my imagination as I wonder: What if Simeon was not an old man, but rather a younger man---maybe even as young as middle age?

Make no mistake about it: our Old Testament Lesson bluntly tell us that Abraham, Sarah, and Anna are senior adults. In fact, we often glimpse God's sense of humor in these and other accounts in the Bible when someone up in years steals the show. These three people we would say are "*over the hill*" or "*past their prime*" end up being the very ones God chooses to use.

Indulge me here: What if Simeon was not an older man waiting to die, but rather a young man, in the prime of his life, waiting to live? If it was so---and it could very well be---this story could bring a rich, new texture to our lives. Let's see where this "other" possibility might take us. Why? Because here, three days after the birth of our Lord, we who are both young and old, could meet someone in this old story who knows where we live, who we are, and the nature of our human struggles. This man, living in prime time, has much to show us about living in every time.

What can Simeon show us? For one thing, I believe all of us know what it feels like to be captive to a compelling dream. For Simeon, schooled in the biblical accounts of Abraham and Sarah, Ruth and David, the one captivating dream of his life was to see the Lord's Messiah. There was a longing, a haunting, a yearning in his being to know that God had fulfilled God's promise to deliver God's people. When Simeon took our infant Lord in his arms, he held the dream that had held him from childhood.

Every one of us has dreams just like that. There is a yearning in our souls to turn the big page of life and there find a deeper sense of fulfillment and joy. For some, that is completing a long, demanding journey through college and graduate school. For others, it is starting the career of their dreams---really getting to do what they have wanted to do from the time they put a toy tool belt around their waist, or checked the heartbeat of a cherished doll. When that dream becomes reality, they can say with Simeon, "*Lord now you can dismiss your servant*" -- not to die, but to fully live; to fully enter into the life calling that has danced in their dreams for years.

I believe there is a second reality playing in the lines of the Scripture Lesson. Simply put, God is always in the business of bringing His salvation into the mainstream of our living. Simeon's prayer of thanksgiving put it this way: "*For my eyes have seen your salvation which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples.*"

We are now in the midst of the wonderful -- dare I say magical -- season of Christmas Time. The weeks Advent wait are over, we are celebrating the birth of our Lord with glorious carols and festive color. Christmas shouts many things, not the least of

which is that God is passionately and fully committed to saving the human family from our sins. This is the meaning of "Immanuel," "God with us." This is what we celebrate at every Mass, and it is Immanuel, the Lord Jesus whom we receive in Holy Communion

What if we who sing: "*Joy to the world, the Lord is come!*" could take that joyous carol and infuse our every moment with that reality? What would that be: that God is always, at every turn, bringing the gift of salvation, life, joy, hope, and peace to all who will hold the Christ child in their arms. There is not a person in our lives---family, friends, work associates, neighbors, fellow parishioners---who does not long for salvation to awaken, to erupt, shine in their lives. Simeon invites us to be salvation people, eager to live our lives with joyful purpose.

The last dimension of this wonderful story has to do with community. The theme of today's Mass is the Holy Family: thus our Scripture Lessons are about the family of Abraham and Sarah, Joseph, Mary, and Jesus. Simeon---and all of us---because of our Baptism, we are part of that family, too. When this hopeful, expectant man held our Lord in his arms, he saw in him, "*a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for the glory of God's people Israel.*" Simeon saw in our infant Lord the face of God for the whole world.

At the very heart of God's plan for all creation is the needed reality of community. Yes, we pray that genuine community is the marrow of our common life in the Church. Yes, we long for creative and affirming community wherever we live. My friends, this is God's dream, this was Simeon's dream, this can be our dream as well. Especially when we receive Him in Holy Communion, and hold Him our hearts each and every day our lives.

So where does this leave us? It leaves us with an invitation to journey with Simeon from Mass today into our world of opportunity and need. Like Simeon, we leave Mass not to die, but to live fully and faithful in the reality of our dreams; to live as salvation people; to live in community as God created us to live; to live as Jesus' disciples wherever we find ourselves each day. I believe this is God's dream for us. Having received the Lord in Holy Communion let us be God's gift to others for Christ, by all we say and do in our lives.

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



### **FIRST PENANCE**

We extend our sincere congratulations to our  
Sacramental children:

**Sophia Mejias, Kenneth Mulry,  
Armani Rodriguez, Madison Davie,  
Jayden Fajardo and Isabella Costello-Jordan,**

who celebrated the Sacrament of Penance for the first time on Sunday, December 12th. Both parents and teachers have guided these little ones to receive the Lord's mercy and forgiveness on this special and joyous occasion. It is our hope that these children will continue to follow in Jesus' footsteps all the days of their lives.

**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: 1 Samuel 1:20-22,24-28:**

Hannah dedicates her son, Samuel, to the Lord.

**Second Reading: 1 John 3:1-2,21-24:**

We are God's children now.

**Gospel: :Luke 2:41-52:**

The boy Jesus is found in the Temple.

**Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph**

*"See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are." (1 John 3:1)*

During this season of giving, let us remember a beautiful gift that we have received – being children of God! As God's children, it's in our DNA that we share and express our love for others as well. Tell your spouse, children, other family members and friends that you love them, every day! Also, pray for those people that are different than you, those that you may not like or those that go out of their way to annoy you. Your prayers may be the start of a new friendship.

**Pope's Intentions for January**

**For true human fraternity**—We pray for all those suffering from religious discrimination and persecution; may their own rights and dignity be recognized, which originate from being brothers and sisters in the human family.



<b>Saturday</b> 10:00 AM	<b>December 25 Christmas Day</b> People of the Parish
<b>Sunday</b> 10:00 AM	<b>December 26 Feast of the Holy Family</b> Bob Swank r/o Theresa Swank
<b>Monday</b> 7:30 AM	<b>December 27</b> Charles Nappa r/o Betty Meeker
<b>Tuesday</b> 7:30 AM	<b>December 28</b> Donald Kern r/o Robert & June Diller
<b>Wednesday</b> 7:30 AM	<b>December 29</b> Rose Mari r/o Vera Pisani
<b>Thursday</b> 7:30:00 AM	<b>December 23</b> Frank Mari r/o Vera Pisani
<b>Friday</b> 5 PM	<b>December 31 Vigil</b> People of the Parish
<b>Saturday</b> 10:00 AM	<b>January 1 Solemnity of Mary</b> People of the Parish
<b>Sunday</b> 10:00 AM	<b>January 2 The Epiphany of the Lord</b> People of the Parish

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.

**O Lord**, be present with all those who serve our country. Comfort their spirits with Your divine presence. Keep them close to You and grant them strength, wisdom, and grace.

*The Sanctuary Candle is lit this week in loving memory of Ken Phillips r/o Jean Tietjen.*



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 & light refreshments will be served and all are welcome!

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

**GROCERY CARDS** are available to purchase before & after each weekend Mass. *Grocery cards make great gifts. Please consider purchasing some for this Holiday Season.*

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**MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER**- celebrate your marriage and its many blessings by attending a Marriage Encounter Weekend? A Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend gives you the time and tools to revitalize romance, deepen communication, and nourish the spirituality in your marriage. The next Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend will be held February 4-6. Please apply ASAP as space is limited. Phone Tom or Ruth DeFalco 1-732-904-9636 for an application & information or visit: [www.wvme.org](http://www.wvme.org).



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

**December 12 \$2,572.00 Immaculate Conception \$468.00 Retirement Fund For Religious \$816.00**

**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/>

*We thank our bulletin advertisers who make this weekly publication possible. When you shop or use their services, let them know that you saw their ad hear in your parish bulletin.*

The Rectory Office will be closed Friday, December 31st.



**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>.





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