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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

Director of Religious Education

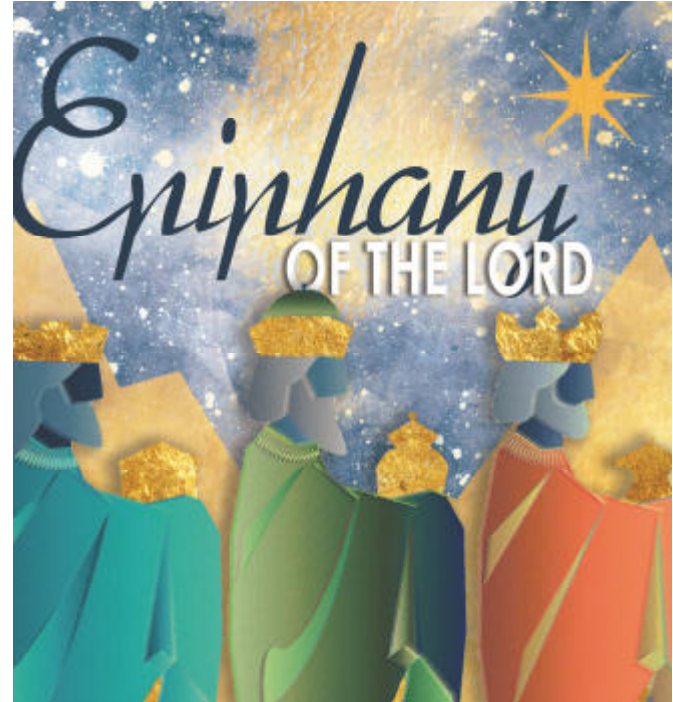
Jeanne Enteman (908) 754-8812, ext. 5
enteman@verizon.net

Youth Minister

Lidia D'Armiento (908) 591-8397
stlukesyouthnp@gmail.com

Bulletin Information

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



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.

The Epiphany Of The Lord
January 2, 2022

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

What would Christmas be without lights? Not too many weeks ago, I listened to the story of an exhausted husband who called me for counsel. "What's the problem?" I asked. "If my wife asks me to hang another string of lights, I am going to scream! All I have done for the last week is put lights on two Christmas trees, place hundreds of lights in the shrubbery, weave lights into the trees in our front yard, and wire lights around the front door of our home." I kept listening. "You know I love the Lord, Monsignor, but this light thing is about to do me in!"

Truth be told, none of us can imagine the seasons of Advent and Christmas without generous helpings of light. Lights twinkle on trees and on homes, and businesses populate their windows and displays with lights. I guess the power company loves Christmas!

Such is the nature of this season. It has always been so. In our Old Testament Lesson, the prophet Isaiah, preaching 500 years before the birth of Jesus, saw the time of His coming as an era of brilliant light. In fact, Isaiah goes so far as to call the coming One "a light to the Gentiles." In the lesson we hear today, the prophet summons the people to "Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you." See here no dim flashlight poking beams into a darkened room. Rather, God's coming in Christ is a global, generous light that makes all our darkened faces radiant with the wonder of God.

Sometime after the birth of Jesus---Scripture Scholars tell us as much as 2 years--star gazers we call Magi, or Wise Men, showed up at the palace of Herod the Great, king of Judah. These travelers made their living gazing into the heavens in order to make sense of life on earth. In a word, they were astrologers. In those days, the mysteries of the universe held humanity hostage both to wonder and fear. It was believed that events in the heavens told the fate of people and events on earth.

About the time of our Lord's birth, a cosmic anomaly of great import took place. What may have been a super nova lit the night sky with the glory of what these Magi called a new star. Being from lands east of modern day Israel, they journeyed toward the place where this star cast its light; the city of Jerusalem and its tiny suburb, Bethlehem. Bowing before Herod, the Wise Men informed the king of the magnitude of their discovery and asked him where they might find the newborn king. Paranoid and devious, Herod summoned his holy men who told him Bethlehem was where the promised Messiah would be born.

Herod sent the Magi off with instructions to find the child and, when they did, they were to come back and let him know so that he might go and worship him as well. And so, they went and found our Lord and his parents, living in what Matthew calls a "house." They opened their gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. But being warned in a dream, they returned to their home bypassing Jerusalem and the king who wanted our Lord's life.

What should we make of all of this? At the very least, these accounts speak of the generous light God brings in the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. Both Isaiah and Saint Matthew clearly tell us what we already know about the world in which we live. Though our lives are flooded with all manner of glitzy and glaring light, I believe you would agree, that in the most important places of our being, darkness is more the order of the day. Our culture has "dumbed itself down," slouching beneath a darkness of immorality, incivility, and crudeness unknown since the days of decadent Rome.

What Isaiah saw over 2,000 years ago is more obvious today than in centuries: "For darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the people." How tempted I am to spend the rest of this letter writing about the darkness, but our Scripture Lesson will

not let me. Why? Because the next word is "but." "But the Lord will arise upon you, and his glory will appear over you." God refuses to leave us to the menacing, thick darkness in which we have shrouded our lives. God comes to us with generous light, inviting us to experience a different species of existence where darkness is banished as an imposter.

As we come together to celebrate God's love for us at Mass and receive the Lord in Holy Communion, God invites you and I to live in the generous light of our Lord's coming. For me, that invitation suggests, at the very least, that we acknowledge our hunger for the light. Isn't it interesting that pesky bugs will flee the darkness of the night and fly toward light, even though the light will kill them? Why is it that we who know the darkness of life so often refuse to come to the light of Christ who alone can give us a meaningful and nourishing life?

The first decision we must make is to admit our lives are drowning in darkness. Then, with great courage, God invites us to step toward the bright and generous light of Jesus' love. Christmas means many things to all of us: family, traditions, gifts and giving, music and pageantry. But at its core, at the very center of Christmas, is this One who is "the bright and morning star," the "Light of the world," the living and life-giving Lord Jesus. His is a generous light that gives life to all who come to him.

What is it about Christmas and lights? In a word, Christmas is light, the manifestation of God's life in our hungry, dark world. As we receive Communion today, may we come to that light and live in God's light, now and always.

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



Saturday	January 1
10:00 AM	People of the Parish The Epiphany of the Lord
5:00 PM	People of the Parish Vigil
Sunday	January 2 The Epiphany of the Lord
10:00 AM	People of the Parish
Monday	January 3
7:30 AM	Thomas B. P. Tyson r/o Mary Jo Tyson
Tuesday	January 4
7:30 AM	Larry Hebert r/o Rosalie Hebert
Wednesday	January 5
7:30 AM	Mary & Rinaldo Marchi r/o Mary Jo Tyson
Thursday	January 6
7:30:00 AM	No Intention
Friday	January 7
7:30 AM	Jim Cardellichio r/o Rosealie Hebert
Saturday	January 8 Vigil
5:00 PM	Thomas & Ellen Barry r/o Maureen Barry
Sunday	January 9 The Baptism of the Lord
10:00 AM	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.

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 60:1-6:

Jerusalem shall be a light to all nations.

Second Reading: Ephesians 3:2-3a,5-6:

Gentiles are coheirs in the promise of Christ.

Gospel: Matthew 2:1-12:

The Magi seek out Jesus and do him homage.

The Epiphany of the Lord

“...They prostrated themselves and did him homage. Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.” (MATTHEW 2:11)

What gifts do you give to the Lord? Pope St. Gregory said that these three gifts represent what we should give God every day. Gold – we should reflect Christ’s wisdom in all our relationships. Frankincense – represents our daily prayer and adoration to God. Myrrh – is a symbol of our daily sacrifices that we unite with Jesus for the sake of others.

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.

The Church is open for prayer
Mon., Wed., & Friday 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, 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!

2021 Holiday Raffle

Congratulations to all the winners!

- 1st Prize \$2,135.00 Robert Billard
- 2nd Prize \$1,601.25 Richard Stankiewicz
- 3rd Prize \$1,067.50 Judy & John Finnegan
- 4th Prize \$533.75 Ashley Bannon

The total gross proceeds was \$10,675.00, of which \$5,337.50 (50%) went to our parish. To the parishioners who participated in our 50/50 holiday raffle, our sincere gratitude for your generosity and support. To those who assisted in the raffle mailing and documentation of returns, I thank you for your time and effort.

Monsignor Michael

TOGETHER IN CHARITY COLLECTION

On the weekend of January 9/10, 2022, the annual “Together in Charity” collection will be taken up at all Masses. The proceeds of this collection helps to fund Catholic Charities’ Parish Assistance Program, which provides 24 hour / seven-day-a-week assistance to parishes faced with individuals and families with serious and urgent financial, housing, or medical needs. In 2021, over 43% of the parishes in the Diocese availed themselves of this program. Please give generously to this collection and contribute to making this a blessed new year for a family or individual in crisis.

Parishioner Updates Requested

In an effort to keep our parishioner records current. Please call or email the rectory office if you are now solely using a cell phone, have changed your phone number, or address. We would also like to update our parish data base with your current e-mail address. Thank you.

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

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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.wwme.org.



WEEKLY COLLECTION

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

December 19 \$2,647.00 Online Giving \$490.73
Christmas Flowers \$1,015.00

A donation of \$150.00 was made in loving memory of
Lillian & Harold Frank
by their daughter, Susan Joannou.

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/>

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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