

29th Sunday in Ordinary Time — October 17, 2021

Gospel

"For the Son of Man did not come to be served but to serve and to give his life as a ransom for many."

Mk 10:45

Welcome to

THE CHURCH OF *Saint Luke*

A ROMAN CATHOLIC COMMUNITY OF DISCIPLES

1980 Hillsdale Road
El Cajon, California 92019

(619) 442-1697
www.thechurchofstluke.org

Mission Statement

The Church of St. Luke is joyful, welcoming, caring, active family of believers striving to grow in knowledge of and love for God and each other. Challenged by the Word, nurtured by the Eucharist, and enlivened by the Spirit, we seek to live the message of Jesus in serving the needs of others both within our Parish and in the larger community.

Masses

Please check the St. Luke website for additional details.

www.thechurchofstluke.org

+ *Masks are Recommended* +

Wednesday, Thursday
& Friday—7:30am
Saturday—5:00pm
Sunday—9:00am
Sunday—11:30am

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturday—3:30pm

Parish Office Hours

Monday-Friday
9:00am—4:00pm
Call: (619) 442-1697
Fax: (619) 442-2293



29TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

"But it shall not be so among you. Rather, whoever wishes to

FIRST READING: ISAIAH 53:10-11

SECOND READING: HEBREWS 4:14-16

GOSPEL: MARK 10:35-45

First Reading:

Isaiah speaks of our redemption through the suffering of the Lord's servant. When have you experienced God's presence in your suffering?

Second Reading:

Hebrews tells us that Jesus is able to sympathize with our weaknesses because he, too, "has been tested in every way." What are some ways that you are tested in life?

Gospel:

Jesus uses the request of James and John as a teachable moment for his disciples on the importance of humility and service to others. What other qualities do you think are necessary for true discipleship?

Parish & Finance Councils, Gospel Meditation

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

The Parish Pastoral Council normally meets on the third Tuesday of the month. Visitors/observers are welcome. If you wish to have an item placed on the agenda, contact a Council Member to present it for you, or contact the Parish Office.

PARISH COUNCIL MEMBERS

Jane Cruz Alfano,
Parish Life Director
Fr. Don Coleman,
Parish Priest
Dcn. Dennie Nickell
Dcn. Jerry Stenovec
Julia Caputo
Chairperson
Theresa Dodd-Butera
Michele Curl
Bob Guarnotta
Michelle Hayford
Kay Krueger
Kevin Lawrence
Don Mercurio
Aaron Perry
Tom Selfani
Shannon Vint
Rich Warcholik

PARISH FINANCE COUNCIL

The Parish Finance Council meets every other fourth Wednesday of the month.

PARISH FINANCE COUNCIL MEMBERS

Jane Cruz Alfano,
Parish Life Director
John Krueger,
Chairperson
Amy Cannon
George Heidenreich
Cathy March
Dave Sapper
Jim Stepovich

ENCOURAGE DEEPER
UNDERSTANDING OF SCRIPTURE

Gospel Meditation

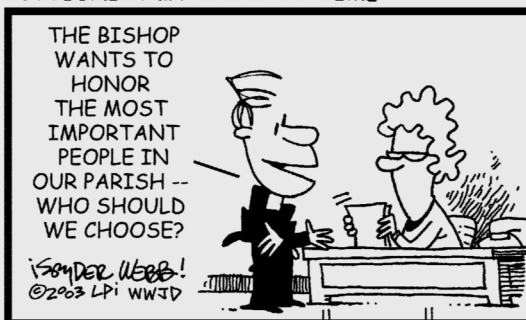
29th Sunday in Ordinary Time • October 17, 2021

“What do you wish me to do for you?” Whether we realize it, this is a question God is always asking. It’s an important question because the answer we provide will reveal a great deal about where our hearts lie. Our requests of God can often appear very noble and altruistic. They consist of requests for healing for someone in need of prayers, successful resolution of a personal conflict, assistance in overcoming a disease and myriad other desires for both ourselves and others. We are especially concerned about those we love and can easily find ourselves bringing their struggles to God for a hearing in our prayer.

Is that really all that prayer is about? The woman in today’s Gospel, having been put in her place by Jesus, was only looking out for the wellbeing of her sons. She was doing what mothers do, protecting and securing the livelihood of her children. But she was sadly mistaken, her request was not granted. We all make this same misguided mistake from time to time. The goal of prayer is not to convince God of the worthiness of our agenda or to gain a hearing. Sometimes we believe that the more we multiply our prayers or discover the right combination of supplications that we will receive more of God’s attention. That’s not how it works. Even though God desires to hear, know, and be an intimate part of what is on our minds, it goes much deeper.

What we need from God is a relationship. It’s a relationship that guides and immerses us in the very stuff of life and in the direction of the Gospel. This relationship sees God’s kingdom and agenda, not our own, as what is most important. It builds the strength of character necessary to bring God’s Gospel into a world that may not receive it with open arms. It may cause us discomfort and suffering. We are asked to heroically journey with God through suffering, hardship, ridicule, and even death! Ultimately, our desire from God must become our desire for God. It is only when this happens that the powerful words “thy will be done” will be found with sincerity and humility on our lips. Whatever God wishes becomes what we wish as we see this glorious union of wills. Our humble lives will then become powerful witnesses, and what happens to us in God’s eternal kingdom the result of his mercy. We become true servants and find ourselves discovering God’s definition of success. That definition has nothing at all to do with status, income, or privilege.

29th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



Prayer Requests, Weekly Readings and Mass Intentions

PHILIPPIANS 4:6

Prayer Requests

Mimi Murphy, Mary Sturm,
Janet Pickard, Gary Reece,
David & Annmarie Quezon,
Laman Abdulahad, Sophia David,

Dcn. Dennie Nickell, Nancy Ursey, Thelma Zinich, Jonathan Zumwalt & Family, Davin Brooks, Pat Maultra, Jerri Ann Carroll, Willy Gatus, Kristen Izotic, Chris Foraker, Brian Hill, Connie Bowen, Cherokee Eddy, Eileen Milnick, Jose Luis, Bobbie Allen, Frank Wilusz, Thomas Dennison, Michael Sanchez, Joanne Silva, Thomas & Charlie Frechette, Janice Jones, Meg and Jacob Seilheimer, Michele Peterson, John Vugrin, Marckis Lee, Carlos Zarate, Gail Balga, Bill Washkevich, Juan Jiménez, Donna McWalter, Cindy McLaughlin, Christian Colon, Sofia Healy, Citali Chavez, Rosalie Cline, Sandie Tessier, Logan Bedsole, Jeanette Craig, David Ashbaugh, Chris Martin, Mavi Ghio, Ryan Smith, Matthew Chu, Rose Falls, Richard Frechette, Reilly Phipps, Mike McFaul, Richard Spurling, Dean Mellos, Eric Matus, Gabe Eddy, Harriet B, Nora Toscano, Eugenio Cesena, Jeanne Brunner, Patty Hayes and Family, Glen Stewart, Corrine Warcholik, Colleen London, Laurie Lindow, Joey Enderwood, Bob Cole, Paul Folsom, Zoey Thomas, La Mice Denton, Brian Hill, Gary Corwin, Bill Phillips, Isaac Armas, Mary Botte, Lara Pasi, Ryan Cochran, Rachel Chavez, Michele Chavez, Helen Chu, Al Bowen, Joyce Kammer, Theresa Warcholik, Cheryl Berry, Natalie Enriquez, Candace Dayton, Ladel, Michael Ward, Nina Murphy, Noel Fisher, Karen Bennett, Christine Banuelos, Jose Orrantia, Mina Scannicchio, Carol Petrich, Carey Moore, Jose Azarza, Parker Landis, Joan Smith, Chase Laird, Alice Zizzo, Sophia Christensen, Cindy Russell, Karen Walker, Mike Murphy, Ann Mussomeli, Jeanine DeSanti, Joe James Sowards, Vie Liddell, Jennifer Soares, Dorothea Wall, Antoinette Daquisto-Guidi, Bob Weisham, Teri Harrison, Danielle P., Maria Warcholik, Mike Marcon, Theresa & Vito Siragusa, Tracy Weaver, Rick Gores, Sue Sullivan, Tommy Collet Sr., Richard Perricone, John Agostini, Austin Gatus, The Hill Family, The Morrison Family, Frances Colombo, Zaim Attisha, Teresa Russo; *all our relatives and friends who are sick or need prayers.*

To add or remove a name, please contact
Nancy Adema

PARISH FINANCES

In order to fulfill our budget, we need to receive an average of \$12,722 in the collection basket each week. Additionally, we have budgeted for an average of \$12,802 to be contributed monthly through our Online Giving contribution program.

Week of October 10th:

Weekly Mass offering: \$ 6,027.00
Weekly WeShare/Online Giving: \$ *not available*

SUPPORTING THE MISSION OF THE CHURCH: *Once you've made a decision on how much you should be giving, decide how to give.*

WAYS TO GIVE: You can use envelopes as many people do, or set up automatic donations through your bank (forms available in the parish office); you can go to *Online Giving* on the St. Luke website and set up an online giving plan. You may personally manage online giving or call the parish office to arrange a plan administered by the parish Business Manager. Online Giving Link: <https://www.thechurchofstluke.org> (click on **Online Giving**, on the right side of the menu bar). For additional information, please call the parish office at 619-442-1697.

Please pray for October Wedding Anniversaries



Ken & Susan Stempien 62 years
Rex & Karen Cole 55 years
Richard & Barbara Theisen 43 years
Miguel & Erika Villavicencio 23 years
Dan & Amy Cannon 21 years
Anthony & Marivel Gonzalez 16 years
Garrett & Susan Martin 16 years

If you would like to have your Wedding Anniversary placed in the bulletin, please call 619-442-1697.

Readings for the week of October 17

Sunday: Is 53:10-11/Ps 33:4-5, 18-19, 20, 22 [22]/
Heb 4:14-16/Mk 10:35-45 or 10:42-45
Monday: 2 Tm 4:10-17/Ps 145:10-11, 12-13, 17-18
[12]/Lk 10:1-9
Tuesday: Rom 5:12, 15, 17-19, 20-21/Ps 40:7-8, 8-9, 10, 17 [8 and 9]/Lk 12:35-38
Wednesday: Rom 6:12-18/Ps 124:1-3, 4-6, 7-8 [8]/
Lk 12:39-48
Thursday: Rom 6:19-23/Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6 [Ps 40:5]/Lk 12:49-53
Friday: Rom 7:18-25/Ps 119:66, 68, 76, 77, 93, 94
[68]/Lk 12:54-59
Saturday: Rom 8:1-11/Ps 24:1-2, 3-4, 5-6 [cf. 6]/
Lk 13:1-9
Next Sunday: Jer 31:7-9/Ps 126:1-2, 2-3, 4-5, 6 [3]/
Heb 5:1-6/Mk 10:46-52

Prayer Intentions

Saturday, October 16
5:00pm—Denise Tilaro, RIP, Manuel Abdulahad, RIP

Sunday, October 17
9:00am—Frank Alfano, RIP, Judy Gamble, RIP
11:30am—Parishioners of Saint Luke

Wednesday, October 20
7:30am—Shawn Fabian Jr., Spec Int

Thursday, October 21
7:30am—Brenda Tarango, Spec Int

Friday, October 22
7:30am—Presider's Intention

Saturday, October 23
5:00pm—Ray & Phyllis Ekhaml, Spec. Int.
Tommy Collet, RIP

Sunday, October 24
9:00am—Parishioners of Saint Luke
11:30am—Amir, Mansour, Miriam & Noruia Barbat, RIP

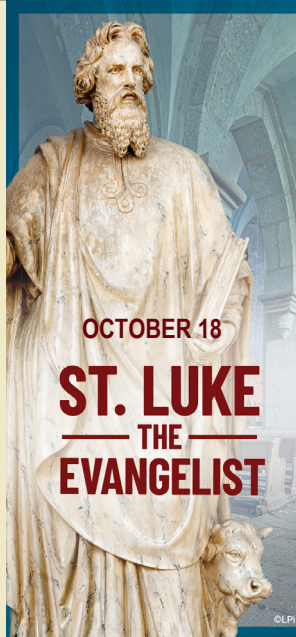


Parish Life

Luke, the writer of the Gospel and the Acts of the Apostles, has been identified with St. Paul's "Luke, the beloved physician" (Colossians 4:14). It is believed that Luke was born a Greek and a Gentile; in fact, Luke's gospel shows special sensitivity to evangelizing Gentiles. It is only in his gospel that we hear the parable of the Good Samaritan, that we hear Jesus praising the faith of Gentiles such as the widow of Zarephath and Naaman the Syrian (Lk.4:25-27), and that we hear the story of the one grateful leper who is a Samaritan (Lk.17:11-19).

According to the early Church historian Eusebius, Luke was born at Antioch in Syria. In our day, it would be easy to assume that someone who was a doctor was rich, but scholars have argued that Luke might have been born a slave. It was not uncommon for families to educate slaves in medicine so that they would have a resident family physician. Not only do we have Paul's word, but Eusebius, Saint Jerome, Saint Irenaeus and Caius, a second-century writer, all refer to Luke as a physician.

—Catholic.org



The Church of St. Luke

Fall Movie Series

6:30-8:30pm Tuesdays

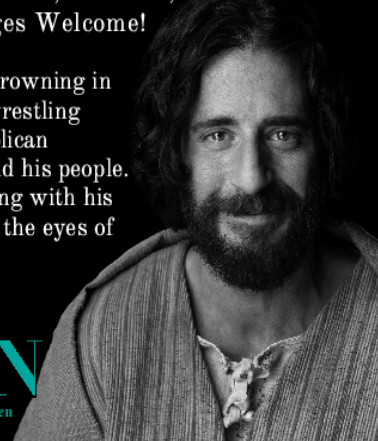
• October 5 • October 12 • October 19 •
October 26 • November 2

This dynamic series will take place outside in front of the Church. BYO Chairs, Blankets, & Snacks.

All Ages Welcome!

A charismatic fisherman drowning in debt. A troubled woman wrestling with demons. A gifted publican ostracized by his family and his people. A religious leader struggling with his beliefs. See Jesus through the eyes of those who met him.

The CHOSEN
<https://watch.angelstudios.com/thechosen>



Enter to Win

Knights of Columbus

Wine Raffle

\$10 each

or 3 for \$25

51% of proceeds benefit

Faith Formation!



September 23 - November 1
40 DAYS FOR LIFE



We will be covering prayer shifts
from 7am to 7pm every Monday
through October 31st



Planned Parenthood, 1685 E. Main Street, El Cajon
(near Greenfield and E. Main St., next to McDonalds)

For information, please contact:

Pat Riggs or
Becky

IN the month of October, the Catholic Church observes "Respect Life Month." During this Year of St. Joseph, the Holy Father invites us to reflect more deeply on how St. Joseph loved Jesus with a Father's heart. Joseph's unhesitating adherence to God's will as he faithfully and lovingly protected the Christ Child and the Blessed Mother bears witness to our own call as Christians to safeguard God's gift of human life.

THE 2020 Census shows the US population grew at the slowest pace since the 1930's. Every 30 seconds a baby is lost to abortion – 63 million abortions since 1973. At 6 weeks, the baby's heart has been beating for three weeks. The foundation of the brain, spinal cord and nervous system were made even before that. Two weeks earlier tiny arms began to bud and legs followed a few days later. A week later the color developed in the baby's eyes. Right now fingers and toes are making their appearance and the brain is developing 3 parts: one to experience emotion and understand language, one for hearing, and one for seeing. "The human life is sacred and the dignity of the human person is the foundation of a moral vision for society."

IN September of 2021, the San Diego Board of Supervisors passed a proposal stating that San Diego is a "champion for reproductive freedom." Governor Newsom signed legislation strengthening access to reproductive health care. He also invited anyone who is considering abortion to come to California where abortion is accessible to all.

MANY of you are already praying daily for an end to abortion. I want to especially invite you to be physically present with us at Planned Parenthood for one hour on Mondays. Our physical presence sends a strong message to our community that this prayer witness is important. It is vital work. One thing we know for sure: the more people pray together the stronger our prayers are. **For more information, or to sign up to pray, please contact Pat Riggs.**

Domestic Violence Outreach



What are the causes of domestic violence?

Domestic violence is learned, purposeful behavior and is a manifestation of the abuser's need to achieve and maintain power and control over the victim. Abusive behavior is learned and reinforced:

- Through observation
- Through experience
- In culture and in society
- In the family
- In communities, including schools and peer groups
- In faith, religious, and spiritual institutions

Through our failure to hold batterers accountable for their actions.



²The single most influential factor of domestic violence in adulthood is domestic violence in the household in which the person was reared. Children who grow up in an environment where control is maintained through verbal threats and intimidation and conflicts escalate into physical violence, are more likely to resort to the same methods of abuse as adults.

³There are, however, a number of predictors that may lead to domestic violence.

- An environment where violence is either taught, by example, or accepted as "normal" will imprint upon a child's psyche.
- Domestic violence is often linked to poor self-esteem, isolation from social support, a manipulative nature, and a desire for power and control.
- Drug and/or alcohol abuse may be a precursor to domestic violence. Substance abuse leads to out-of-control behavior. The number one commonality within the dynamics of most alcoholic families is poor emotional health.

Domestic violence is more frequent where individuals experience loss of physical health and/or wage-earning power.

Domestic violence is not caused by:

- | | |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Illness • Genetics or biology • Alcohol and drugs • Out-of-control behavior • Anger | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stress • The victim's behavior or actions • Problems in the relationship • Children or pets • Satan, demons, or evil influences |
|---|---|

Simply put, "There is no excuse for domestic violence."

Knights of Columbus Pancake Breakfast

This Sunday,
October 17th
10:00am

Pancakes,
Eggs, Sausage,
Coffee,
Orange Juice

Adults: \$7
Kids 11 & under
eat free!



LOOK FOR THE **Yellow Vests**

October 16th-17th

Join the St. Luke Knights of Columbus for their annual Tootsie Roll Fundraiser! All proceeds benefit persons with intellectual or developmental challenges at Noah Homes, St. Madeleine Sophie Center and The Arc East County Training Center.

Children's Liturgy of the Word
9 am & 11:30 am
Sunday Masses



Bring the Children!

HELP WANTED for the 9 am Mass!
Call or Contact Jenny@stluke-ec.org



Your 2021 Co-Chairs:
Mike Wasyliw
Tom Kelly

Parish Directory and Observances

PARISH DIRECTORY

Parish Life Director: Jane Cruz Alfano (619) 442-1697 x103

Parish Priest: Fr. Don Coleman (619) 442-1697

Deacon Emeritus: Dennie Nickell (619) 442-1697

Deacon: Jerry Stenovec (619) 334-1191

Financial Assistant: Tina Miller (619) 442-1697 x110

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secretary@thechurchofstluke.org

Facility Manager: Robert Stevenson (619) 442-1697 x109

facman@thechurchofstluke.org

Web Master: Madeline Flores

madeline@stluke-ec.org

Choir Director: Colin McColl

Organist: Susan Paul

FAITH FORMATION

Catechetical Ministry: Jane Cruz Alfano, Parish Life Director
(619) 442-1697 x103 pldir@thechurchofstluke.org

Coordinator of RCIA: Dcn. Jerry Stenovec
gerald.m.stenovec@boeing.com

Coordinators of PreK-5 Faith Formation:

Michelle Hayford; Catechesis of the Good Shepherd
(619) 442-1697 x 105 • CGS@thechurchofstluke.org

Jennifer Kroeger; Sacramental Preparation

(619) 442-1697 x 104 • K-5reled@thechurchofstluke.org

Coordinator of Middle & High School Faith Formation,

Youth & Young Adult Ministry: Evelyn Beale

(619) 442-2515 x106 • youthreled@thechurchofstluke.org

MINISTRIES & ORGANIZATIONS

Altar Servers: Jane Fuzak

Baptism Class: Dcn. Jerry Stenovec

Church Cleaning Crew: Peggy Nelson

Cub/Boy Scout Religious Emblems:

Shannon Vint

Domestic Violence: Rich Warcholik

Eucharistic Adoration: Mike Wasyliv

Eucharistic Ministers: Kathy LeMay

Knights of Columbus: Don Mercurio, GK

Lectors: Susan Smothers

Marriage Preparation: Jane Cruz Alfano

(619) 442-1697 ext.103

Marriage Support: Rich Warcholik

Ministry to the Sick and Homebound:

Dcn. Jerry Stenovec

Outreach Ministry: Ken Stempien (619) 442-1697

Prayer Chain: Nancy Adema

Culture of Life: Pat Riggs

Scrip: Ed Broadhurst

Small Church Communities:

Jane Cruz Alfano (619) 442-1697 x103

Society of St. Vincent de Paul:

Mike Wasyliv

St. Luke Business Network: Cathy March

Ushers: Susan Smothers

JOANIE MAITILASSO, Bulletin Editor

Office Phone: (619) 442-1697 • Fax (619) 442-2293

Office hours: **Monday - Friday, 9:00am - 5:00pm**

secretary@thechurchofstluke.org

DEADLINE FOR BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS: MONDAY AT NOON

Please call the church office with any inquiries.

Thank you!

This Week at St. Luke

Calendar events are subject to change. For additional calendar and event information, please visit www.thechurchofstluke.org

SATURDAY, 10/16 *St. Hedwig; St. Margaret Mary Alacoque*

Annual Tootsie Roll Drive

3:30pm Reconciliation

5:00pm Mass

SUNDAY, 10/17 *29th Sunday in Ordinary Time*

Annual Tootsie Roll Drive

8:15am Family/Pro-Life Rosary

9:00am Mass

10:00am Knights of Columbus Pancake Breakfast-Feast of St Luke

10:15am Catechesis of the Good Shepherd Levels I & II

11:30am Mass

MONDAY, 10/18 *❖ Feast of St. Luke ❖*

2:30pm Catechesis of the Good Shepherd Levels I & II

4:30pm Catechesis of the Good Shepherd Level III

4:30pm Middle School Ministry

TUESDAY, 10/19 *Sts. John de Brébeuf, Isaac Jogues, and Companions*

4:30pm Catechesis of the Good Shepherd Level III

6:30pm Fall Movie Series: Chosen

WEDNESDAY, 10/20 *St. Paul of the Cross*

7:30am Mass

4:00pm Catechesis of the Good Shepherd Level I & II

6:30pm RCIA Class

THURSDAY, 10/21

7:30am Mass

4:30pm Catechesis of the Good Shepherd Level II

5:30pm Pastoral Council Meeting

FRIDAY, 10/22 *St. John Paul II, Pope*

7:30am Mass

SATURDAY, 10/23 *St. John of Capistrano; World Mission Sunday*

11:00am Funeral Mass: Tom Collet

3:30pm Reconciliation

5:00pm Mass

SUNDAY, 10/24 *30th Sunday in Ordinary Time; World Mission Sunday*

8:15am Family/Pro-Life Rosary

9:00am RCIA - Rite of Recognition

9:00am Mass

10:00am High School Youth Group

10:15am Catechesis of the Good Shepherd Levels I & II

11:30am High School Core Team Meeting

11:30am Mass



A MESSAGE FROM OUR BISHOP

"Restrictions lifted, but caution prevails."

(Updated Aug. 4 2021) Since mid-June, when COVID-19 positivity rates fell to .7% (their lowest rate since the beginning of the Pandemic) and Bishop McElroy was able to lift all the Mass restrictions put in place to prevent the spread of the disease, two things have happened:

The highly contagious COVID-19 Delta variant has become the dominant strain of the disease in California and positivity rates have increased more than 10 times, topping 7.2% at the end of July.

Health authorities in San Diego and Imperial Counties are following CDC guidance that recommends everyone wear a face covering in indoor public settings, whether they have been vaccinated or not.

The Diocese continues to urge that anyone medically able to receive the COVID-19 vaccine do so and that anyone unvaccinated continue to use a mask around other people. The COVID-19 rules currently observed in our diocese are:

- **Masks are recommended at Mass and other indoor diocesan functions for everyone, regardless of vaccination status;**
- All restrictions on capacity and spacing for worship have been lifted;
- All limitations on meetings and social activities have been lifted;
- Distribution of the Eucharist on the tongue is now allowed, although it will continue to be available in the hand. The reintroduction of the shared cup will be determined sometime in the future;
- The dispensation from the obligation to attend Sunday Mass has ended. Some members will continue be exempt, however.
- It is recommended that non-family members bringing the Eucharist to the sick be vaccinated.
- Children under the age of 14 in formation classes and students in Catholic Children schools will have to continue to wear masks because is there no vaccine yet available for the bulk of these youngsters.

CATHOLIC LIFE EXPLAINED

Why Do We Do That?

Question: Are Catholics allowed to visit psychics? Why or why not?

Answer: It's part of human nature to experience some sense of unease and fear about the future. This can lead some people to seek out the services of psychics or consult horoscopes or turn to other occult practices or resources (e.g. Ouija boards or tarot cards). The Catechism of the Catholic Church is very clear that Catholics should avoid such practices: "Consulting horoscopes, astrology, palm reading, interpretation of omens and lots, the phenomena of clairvoyance, and recourse to mediums all conceal a desire for power over time, history, and, in the last analysis, other human beings, as well as a wish to conciliate hidden powers. They contradict the honor, respect, and loving fear that we owe to God alone" (no. 2116).

Despite the uncertainties we might feel, we are called to have faith and trust in God, confident of God's desire for what is best for us. This means that we are called to surrender, to pray and to reflect on how we can best move into the future in hope, knowing that God is with us.

church
CLEANUP

Please join us!
Monday, Oct. 25
9:00am-Noon

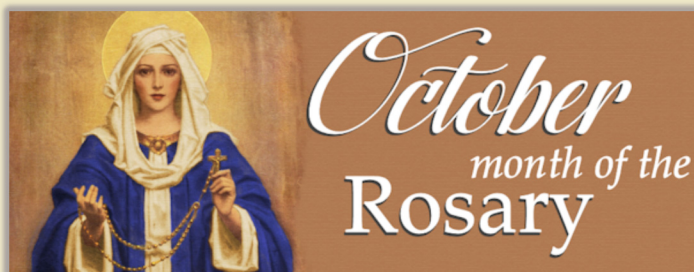
Questions? Please call
Peggy Nelson

The Taste of St. Luke returns!

Saturday, February 19, 2022

Exciting details are coming soon!

Please join us for a
Pro-Life/Family Rosary
Sundays at 8:15am
(before the 9am Mass)



World Mission Sunday is a day set aside for the Catholic Church throughout the world to publicly renew its commitment to the missionary movement. It is celebrated on the penultimate Sunday of October every year. It was created by Pope Pius XI in 1926

as the day of prayer for missions. This day fortifies our understanding of our shared call to **mission**, bestowed upon us at Baptism.

PRAY
and give generously



OCTOBER 23-24

A Walk Through the Mass: A Step-by-Step Explanation

Week Two: The Liturgy of the Word

Storytelling (Liturgy of the Word)

When we gather at a friend's home for a meal, we almost always begin with conversation, telling our stories. At Mass, after the gathering rites, we sit down and listen as readings from the Word of God are proclaimed. They are the stories of God's people.

Three readings and a psalm. On Sundays, there are three readings from the Bible. The first reading will be from the Old Testament (except during the Easter season). We recall the origins of the covenants God made with our ancestors in faith. The first reading often relates to the Gospel selection of the day and will give background and an insight into the meaning of what Jesus will do in the Gospel. Then we will sing or recite a psalm—a song from God's own inspired hymnal, the Book of Psalms. The second reading will usually be from one of the letters of Paul or another apostolic writing. The third reading will be taken from one of the four Gospels.

Standing for the Gospel. Because of the unique presence of Christ in the proclamation of the Gospel, it has long been the custom to stand in attentive reverence to hear these words. We believe that Christ "is present in his word, since it is He himself who speaks when the holy Scriptures are read in the church" (Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy, #7). The priest will again greet us with "The Lord be with you." He then introduces the Gospel reading while marking a small cross on his forehead, lips and heart with his thumb while praying silently that God cleans his mind and his heart so that his lips may worthily proclaim the Gospel. In many places, the congregation performs this ritual action along with the priest. The Gospel reading concludes with the ritual formula "The Gospel of the Lord" and we respond, "Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ," again proclaiming our faith in the presence of Christ in the Word.

Homily. Then we sit for the homily. A homily is more than just a sermon or a talk about how we are to live or what we are to believe. Given by one who is ordained, the homily is an act of worship rooted in the texts of the Mass and Scripture, especially the readings which have just been proclaimed. *The homily takes that word and brings it into our life today.*

Creed. On Sundays we stand and together recite the Nicene or Apostles' Creed. The recitation of the creed is both a series of core truths we believe as Catholics, and a statement of our faith in the Word we have heard proclaimed in the Scripture and the homily.

"The profession of faith links the Liturgies of the Word and Eucharist as the congregation recalls the mysteries of faith which will again be proclaimed in the Eucharistic Prayer. The people accept God's Word before they move on to the celebration of the Eucharist, which itself is a profession of faith" (Mysteries of Faith, FDLC, p. 48).

Universal Prayer. The Liturgy of the Word comes to an end with the Universal Prayer. Responding to the Word of God, we offer prayers for the needs and the salvation of all the world. The petitions usually fall into four categories: the Church, nations and their leaders, people in special need, and the local needs of our parish.



CHRISTMAS TREE FUNDRAISER

**All proceeds support the annual high school youth retreat!
Order now through November 15, 2021. Christmas Tree Farm
open at STL Saturday December 4 3:30pm-7:00pm to pick up
ordered products!**

**Already have an artificial tree? Consider buying a tree for an
active duty military family or local family in need!**

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