

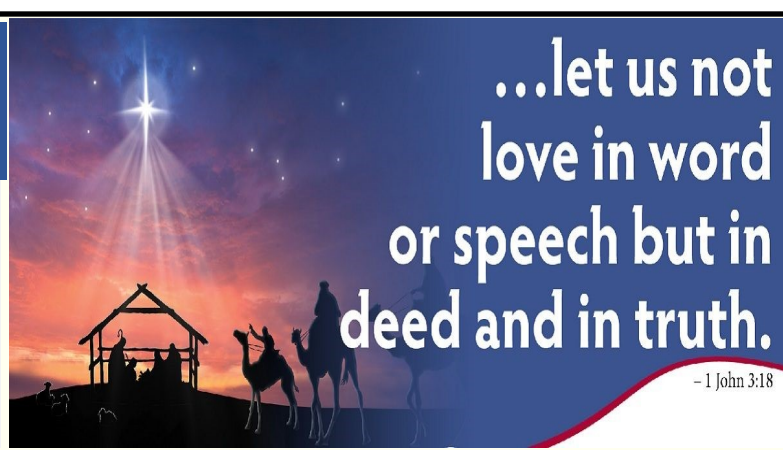
Sunday, December 22, 2019

Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe

PARISH OFFICE HOURS

Monday - Thursday: 9am - 4pm
Fridays & Weekend: By Appointment

Email: stluke.dc@adwparish.org
www.stlukechurchssj.org



Staffed by the Josephite Fathers and Brother

Serving Washington DC (Far S.E., N.E., and Prince Georges County since 1957)



ST. LUKE
CATHOLIC CHURCH
4925 E. CAPITOL STREET, WASHINGTON, DC 20019
(202) 584-8322 FAX: (202) 584-3421



PASTORAL STAFF

PASTOR

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(202) 584-8322 Ext. 101

IN RESIDENCE:

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(202) 584-8322

Deacon

Richard Walker
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SISTER

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SECRETARY

Ms. Michele Peters
(202) 584-8322 Ext. 102

**DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS
EDUCATION**

Mrs. Shirley Williams

DIRECTOR OF CENTER

Mrs. Hope Brown
(202) 584-1400

Welcome

St. Luke is a warm and embracing parish family. We gladly extend our love and warmth to all those who desire to worship and follow our Lord, Jesus Christ. Come join us to celebrate the Holy Eucharist which is the source and summit of our Christian life. Our theme for 2019 is "Teach us to number our days, that we may gain a heart of wisdom." [Psalm 90:12] Together we will praise God, love one another and serve each other.

Mass Schedule

Saturday Vigil Mass: 4:00pm

Sunday Masses: 8:30am & 11:00am

2nd Sunday 1:15pm (Igbo) 3rd Sunday 1:15pm (French)

Weekday Masses

In the Martin De Pores Chapel

Monday: 10:00am

Tuesday: 8:00am

Wednesday: 8:00am Thursday: 10:00am Friday: 8:00 am

Stations of the Cross

Every Friday 6:00pm . -7:00pm

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturday: 3:00-3:45pm Sunday: 7:30am-8:15am

Sunday: 10:00am-10:45am Or by appointment

Sacrament of Baptism

Infant Baptism registration takes place at the Parish Office prior to baptism preparation class which is held on the First Saturday of each month. Baptism takes place every First Sunday after the 11:00 a.m. Mass. Please call parish office for more information.

Weekday	Time	Feast of the Day	Mass Intention For the Week	Requested By
Saturday 21st	4:00pm	Fourth Sunday of Advent (v)	For those who are homeless in our community	Parish Family
Sunday 22nd	8:30am 11:00am	Fourth Sunday of Advent Fourth Sunday of Advent	For all those who have helped us in our journey of faith.	Parish Family
Monday 23rd	10:00am	St. John SR	For all Friends and relatives deceased and souls of purgatory	Beatrice Kouemou
Tuesday 24th	7:00pm 10pm	The Eve of Our Lords Birth (English) The Eve of Our Lord's Birth (French)	In gratitude to God for another opportunity to celebrate the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ.	Parish Family Parish Family
Wednesday 25th	10:00am	The Nativity of the Lord	For Hope, Peace, Joy and Love in our Families	Fr. Cornelius
Thursday 26th	10:00am	St. Stephen Feast	Eternal repose of the soul of Ruth T. Williams+++	Hilda McDougald
Friday 27th	8:00am	St. John Feast	For the poor in our midst	Parish Family

PASTOR'S CORNER

WHAT'S LOVE GOT TO DO WITH IT ... EVERYTHING BY MANAL GHOSAIN

What is love? Can we define it? Quantify it? Is there a right or wrong type of love? I don't know if I can answer any of the above questions. Maybe it's easier to determine what love is not, in order to get a glimpse of what love could be. This is not a how to article. It's a message, maybe a bit incoherent, from my heart—I hope it reaches yours.

Love is not a second hand emotion. Love is the first and foremost driving influence behind anything good humanity has ever done. Love, at the most basic level of existence, is the instinct that keeps us alive. Love is curiosity to explore and learn. Love is the compass of the mind, the beat of the heart and the beauty of nature. Love is a voice aching to be heard ... a body longing to be caressed ... a soul yearning to be touched. Love is the presence that listens, the hands that caress and the gesture that touches. Love is the innocence of children, the wisdom of elders and the enthusiasm of youth.

Love does not break hearts. Lack of (or fear of) love does. Love is what nourishes the heart. Love heals our wounds and gives us strength when we need it most. Love is the tears of joy welcoming a newborn. It is the tears of sorrow saying goodbye to a departing being. Love is a celebration of life and its transient expressions. Love is what touches the depth of our soul. **Love is not physical.** It is the excitement that precedes and the joy that supersedes physical impulses. Love is the ethereal romance ... the nudge of passion ... the soft whisper of sensuality ... the echo of desire.

Love is not logical. No one knows why we feel how we feel. We just do. Love is the pulse of life ... the rhythm of seasons ... the gravitational pull of the moon. Love is the sprinkle that equally accentuates the artistic and the mundane. **Love is not premeditated.** It is the spontaneous eruption of longing and chemistry. We feel love but cannot understand it.

Love is not an old-fashioned notion. Love defies time and trends. Love is democratic. Love comes in all shapes, sizes and colors. All feel it, rich and poor, healthy and sick, gay and straight. **Love is not religion.** However, religion—in its true essence—is an expression of love.

Love is not close-minded. Love opens our world to possibilities beyond our wildest dreams.

Love does not judge. Love supports and never isolates. Love embraces and never discourages. Love is the spectrum of action from a gentle random act of kindness to the willingness to give up the most precious possession for a just cause. **Love does not lie.** Love is the truth that shines no matter what, or when. Love is what makes us cheer for the underdog and stand up for what is right. **Love is not despair.** Love is the resilience of the human spirit that picks up and moves on. Love is the many doors that open for every one that is slammed shut. Love is what uplifts the masses to march and stand tall in the face of tyranny. Love is the flag of aspiration in every revolution for a better now and brighter tomorrow.

Love is freedom to be, and let be—freedom from fear and oppression. Love is the spark of hope in every dream that it can come true. Love transcends what is. Love elevates to what could be. **Love is not force.** It is the immeasurable power of unity and connection. Love is the ultimate realization of our oneness. Love is always a choice. No one can ever be forced to love or fall out of love.

Excerpt culled from <https://www.onewithnow.com/what-is-love/>

REFLECTION FOR FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Each Advent season, we prepare to welcome Jesus into the inns and stables of our hearts. But Jesus' coming wasn't welcomed by everyone with choirs of angels. For St. Joseph, the first coming of Jesus was a bit more complicated. *"When his mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found with child through the Holy Spirit."* For Joseph, opening his heart (and home) to Jesus meant, at best, appearing to all the world like a man who had impregnated his wife out of wedlock. At worst, he appeared a cuckold, raising the child of another man. God doesn't always appear the way we expect.

For some of us, the birth of Christ is a bit relationally complicated. Perhaps over the past few months, a loved one has died. This Christmas, you're taking it upon yourself to keep up the traditions and hold the family together. Welcoming Jesus means welcoming grief. Perhaps it's a difficult relative (or two or three) and it's all you can do to bite your tongue and swallow your pride while they're under your roof. Welcoming Jesus means welcoming strife, discord, and tension.

Yet *"do not be afraid,"* the angel says. Do not be afraid. Why? Because we celebrate the birth of *"Emmanuel, which means 'God is with us.'"* Before Jesus' earthly ministry would begin, Jesus would lose his father, Joseph. God is with us in our grief. Wherever Jesus went, he stirred up controversy and faced down challenging personalities. God is with us in our stress.

The trick is, like Joseph, to allow supernatural grace to prevail. Joseph was a good man, filled with natural virtue in that he didn't want to *"expose [Mary] to shame."* Yet he was prepared to *"divorce her quietly"* all the same. Our natural abilities only take us so far.

Where is receiving Jesus complicated this Christmas season? Are you relying on your own strength to get you through, or are you truly ready to accept the grace of Emmanuel, God with us?

Liturgical Publications 2015

**LECTORS SCHEDULE FOR
DECEMBER 29**

4:00pm Mass
K.H. Ndouga & P. Wines

8:30am Mass
N. Douglas & M. Greene

11:00am Mass
A. Pace & B. Kouemou

**E.M.H.C. SCHEDULE FOR
DECEMBER 29**

4:00pm Mass
R. Watson & V. Watson

8:30am Mass
D. Savoy & J. Schofield

11:00am Mass
R. Brooks & T. Russell

Readings for the Week of December 22, 2019

Sunday: Isaiah 7:10-14/ Psalms 24:1-2, 3-4, 5-6 [7c, 10b]/Romans 1:1-7/
Matthew 1:18-24

Monday: Malachi 3:1-4, 23-24/Psalms 25:4-5ab, 8-9, 10 and 14/Luke 1:57-66

Tuesday: 2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Psalms 89:2-3, 4-5, 27 and 29 [2]/
Luke 1:67-79

Wednesday: Vigil: Isaiah 62:1-5/Psalms 89:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29 [2a]/Acts 13:16-
17, 22- 25/Matthew 1:1-25 or 1:18-25

Midnight: Isaiah 9:1-6/Psalms 96:1-2, 2-3, 11-12, 13 [Luke 2:11]/Timothy 2:11-
14/Luke 2:1-14

Dawn: Isaiah 62:11-12/Psalms 97:1, 6, 11-12/Timothy 3:4-7/Luke 2:15-20

Day: Isaiah 52:7-10/Psalms 98:1, 2-3, 3-4, 5-6 [3c]/Hebrews 1:1-6/Jn 1:1-18 or
John 1:1-5, 9-14

Thursday: Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59/Psalms 31:3cd-4, 6 and 8ab, 16bc and 17 [6]/
Matthew 10:17-22

Friday: 1 John 1:1-4/Psalms 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12 [12]/John 20:1a, 2-8

Saturday: 1 John 1:5—2:2/Psalms 124:2-3, 4-5, 7b-8 [7]/Matthew 2:13-18

Next Sunday: Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14/ Psalms 128:1-2, 3, 4-5 [cf. 1]/
Colossians 3:12-21 or 3:12- 17/Matthew 2:13-15, 19-23

HAPPY BIRTHDAY/ANNIVERSARY

We would like to wish a wonderful happy birthday to Earnest E. Payton, Iris O. Payton, Westley Douglas I, James Queen and a wonderful wedding anniversary to Mr. & Mrs. Earnest E & Iris O. Payton.

**MAY THE JOY OF THE LORD
BE YOUR STRENGTH!!!**

Church Support

LAST SUNDAY'S COLLECTION:

Thank you for supporting our parish.
May God reward you abundantly
\$4,685.45

LAST SUNDAY'S ATTENDANCE:

357

Pray for the Sick & Shut-In of Our Parish

Barbara Barnes
Blanche Bourm
Barbara Batts
Tanisha Bennett
Tammy Berry
Ruth Bundy
Beatrice Carroll
Melinda Conrad
Brown
Edith Cornish
Aniceto Charles
Patricia Chase
Valene Chemoo
Joyce Cristwell
Alvera Dance
Iyana Davage

Marita C. Edelin
Irena Fields
Florence M. Fields
Tina Garvin
Elizabeth Gillem
Florence Hall
Steve Halle
Milton Harris Sr.
Chris Hawkins
Charlene Haywood
Brenda Henson
Norma Henson
James Holley
Rudolph Holley
James Hughes
Melvin Jamison

Mary Ann Johnson
David & Keisha Jones
Lensor Jones
Dawn Lattimer
Lawrence Lee
Fred Lewis
Maria A. Logan
Bernadette Mahoney
Doreene Mahoney
Barbara Mallory
Doris McCannon
Alice L. Montague
Veronica Murray
David Neal
Florence Patterson
Marlene Patterson

Silvia Perry
Lillian Pharms
Kecia Proctor
James Ratiff
Doreene Redd
Xavier Roots
Leroy Sandifer
Betty Smith
Kayla Tatum
Rolland Taylor
Gloria Thompson
James F. Thompson,
Jr.
Matthew Thompson
Barbara B. Tyler
Wayne A. Wallace
Shiela Washington

Steven Washington
Cecelia Williams
Wellington Waters
Dolores Woodard, Jr.
Harold Woodard, Sr.
St Luke military families.

All the Homeless men and women in our community.

Please pray for all those who are sick but have no one to pray for them

PARISH NEWS AND EVENTS



Dear Parishioners, our Tree of Life has not fully bloomed. We are continuing the sale of leaves the northwest corner of the inside of the church (East Capitol St. side) There are 21 leaves still available for memorializing deceased family members or posting your current family names or beliefs. Each leaf is \$250 and can be paid in monthly installments. All proceeds will be used for the improvement of our beautiful church. Please contact Kathy Harris Ndouga if you would like more details at (202) 575-8732.

CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE

December 24—6:00pm Caroling and Children's Pageant
December 24—7:00pm Mass of the Eve of Our Lord's Birth
December 24—10:00pm Christmas Eve (French Mass)
December 25—10:00am Christmas—The Nativity of the Lord
December 31—4:00pm & 10:00pm New Year's Eve Masses

SODALITY FUNDRAISER The Sodality will be selling a gourmet popcorn "Double Good". Half of the proceeds will go to the church. The popcorn is being sold in the back of the church after each Mass. For any additional information or questions you may contact Trenita Russell at 301-336-0744.

ARCHDIOCESAN NEWS

WORLD WIDE MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER "Therefore every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire." Make sure your marriage bears good fruit. Participate in a Marriage Encounter Weekend on February 28 through March 20, 2020 in College Park, MD. Sign up on Moments4marriage.org or leave a message at 301-541-7007. Sign up early!

NATIONAL SHRINES CHRISTMAS DINNER FOR THOSE IN NEED: The Basilica of the National Shrine will sponsor dinner for those who are alone or in need on Christmas Day, December 25. Volunteers are needed to assist in preparing, serving and delivering meals as well as assisting with other logistics. Those interested in volunteering may sign up on line at www.nationalshrine.org/Christmas dinner or call (202) 526-8300.

SILENT ADVENT RETREAT WEEKENDS FOR MEN: *Experience His Presence in the Silence!* Find solace this Advent Season by escaping from the hectic, noisy world and experiencing a personal encounter with the Christ Child. These retreats touch on so many important aspects of the spiritual life. For Men: Jan. 31 through Feb. 2. Cost is \$250 per person. Registration is required. Find more retreats and links to register on their website www.ourladyofbethesda.org. Our Lady of Bethesda Retreat Center, 7007 Bradley Blvd., Bethesda, MD 20817.

FOR SINGLE CATHOLIC: 22nd Annual Epiphany Party at St. Raphael Church 1513 Dunster Rd., Rockville, MD 20854; Saturday, Jan. 11, starting at 7 pm. Includes delicious Greek dinner, salsa dance lessons, complementary wine and beer, DJ and more. Send \$21 check donation by Jan. 3 to SCS Epiphany Party, St. Raphael, 1590 Kimblewick Rd., Rockville, MD 20854, Or \$23 by credit card at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/epiphany-party-tickets-82529723625>; (\$27 cash, card or check at the door.) For more info. Call 240-426-5589.

"MARRIED COUPLES" Retreat at Priestfield Retreat Center Kearneysville, WV. Spend a special weekend with your spouse and come away spiritually refreshed and enlightened! The dates are March 20, 21, 22, 2020 or March 27, 28, 29, 2020. For more information call : Elaine Galeone at 410-252-5355 M-F 8am—4pm or email retreat2020@gmail.com. Weekends fill up quickly so make your contact soon.