

Sunday, May 21, 2023

The Ascension of The Lord

PARISH OFFICE HOURS

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

Email: stluke.dc@adwparish.org
www.stlukechurchsj.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, S.E. WASHINGTON,
DC 20019



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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 2023 is "You are my inheritance O Lord, you have made my destiny secure." [Psalm 12:8] 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 St. Luke Church

Monday: 10:00am & Thursday: 10:00am

Wednesday Bible Study: 6:00pm

Holy Hour/ Adoration

Every First 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.

PASTOR'S CORNER

Ascension Day: Ascension of Our Lord

The Ascension is the event, where Jesus arose into heaven, at the end of his time on earth. Jesus' time on earth began with his birth. It was interrupted for three days by His death on the Cross. During that time, He descended into the realm of the dead and preached the Gospel to the good people who died before Him. This allowed those good and holy souls--the righteous dead, as we call them--who accepted Christ as their Savior to proceed to heaven. On the third day after his death and burial, Jesus Christ was raised from the dead, an event we call the Resurrection. He spent the next 40 days preaching and preparing His disciples to perform the work of preaching and baptizing all people.

At the end of this 40 day period, Jesus ascended into heaven. We call this the Ascension.

The Bible tells us what happened on that day:

1. In my earlier work, *Theophilus*, I dealt with everything Jesus had done and taught from the beginning
2. until the day he gave his instructions to the apostles he had chosen through the Holy Spirit, and was taken up to heaven.
3. He had shown himself alive to them after his Passion by many demonstrations: for forty days he had continued to appear to them and tell them about the kingdom of God.
4. While at table with them, he had told them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for what the Father had promised. 'It is', he had said, 'what you have heard me speak about.'
5. John baptised with water but, not many days from now, you are going to be baptised with the Holy Spirit.'
6. Now having met together, they asked him, 'Lord, has the time come for you to restore the kingdom to Israel?'
7. He replied, 'It is not for you to know times or dates that the Father has decided by his own authority,
8. but you will receive the power of the Holy Spirit which will come on you, and then you will be my witnesses not only in Jerusalem but throughout Judaea and Samaria, and indeed to earth's remotest end.'
9. As he said this he was lifted up while they looked on, and a cloud took him from their sight.
10. They were still staring into the sky as he went, when suddenly two men in white were standing beside them, and they said, 'Why are you Galileans standing here looking into the sky? This Jesus who has been taken up from you into heaven will come back in the same way as you have seen him go to heaven.' (Acts of the Apostles 1:1-11)

It is said that by His death and Resurrection, Jesus opened the gates of heaven for all humanity. This is true, and His Ascension demonstrates this to us. It is His proof that those of us who believe in Him in faith and follow Him will also be raised on the last day, and enter into heaven. From heaven, Jesus hears our prayers and intercedes for us with His Father. We celebrate this on Ascension Sunday, which is celebrated forty days after Easter. Traditionally it is celebrated on a Thursday as a Holy Day of Obligation. The Church presently observes it on a Sunday to allow more of the faithful to attend Mass. It remains a Holy Day of Obligation, and the faithful are reminded that all Sundays are obligatory by default. The Ascension should not be confused with Pentecost, which is celebrated 50 days after Easter. Pentecost commemorates the descent of the Holy Spirit on the disciples of Christ, after His Ascension.

Culled from <https://www.catholic.org/lent/ascension.php>

A REFLECTION FOR THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD - TERESE WIER

Decoupled from violence through divine restoration that surpasses all understanding, the Infinite with eleven invites us to collaborate in becoming twelve, the fullness of time. In each moment, with each breath, word, and deed we are called to respond by aligning the beauty and the suffering of our lives in this garden with Jesus' teachings of willful ascension to the creator, led and accompanied by the Holy Spirit.

As they climbed from the basecamp, they surveyed the rock. Its constitution they knew to be inviolable, made for sure footing. Despite this, they doubted as we often do. Christ provided instructions through the Holy Spirit whose presence would soon be with them by second baptism for all time in all places. *Go tell and baptize the world with love.*

After they rose above the tree line and reached the summit, after the last word was spoken, a cloud took Christ from their sight. His earthly body, too, was from dust. Did he return to the divine constellation? The eternal guardian of the galaxies?

He is the brilliant one in her crown of stars, *el Señor del cielo* (the Lord of heaven).

As in the annunciation, it is with our openness to the Spirit of wisdom and revelation that God may be seen and known. Such accompaniment is necessary to traverse life in this garden, nurture our Family and enlarge the space of our tent.

Reliance on Christ offers strength amid the poison that remains in our garden; our brothers and sisters being cut from the Tree of Life like the branches of Jesus' crown of thorns. The depth of this sorrow was well-known by Christ and his mother. The apostles knew it. Those who loved them knew it. We know it as we grieve these losses of life, different from the mothers and fathers, wives and husbands, sons and daughters, sisters and brothers and friends of those taken. *Lord have mercy.* As St. Paul prays, May God "exercise His great might in you."

Can we transform the poison by adding Love to its chemistry? Is it possible for us to heal the pain and prevent destruction by turning towards, facing, and taking a few steps closer to one another? Would it make a difference if we stepped up and said, "I was wrong," followed by another step, "I'm sorry,"? Would it make a difference if we stepped up and said, "I was hurt," followed by another step, "I forgive you,"? Is it possible for us to take these steps together and repeat them until we're dancing in peace and love?

As the eleven descended the hillside and returned to the garden basecamp, they embraced their charge which is now ours: sow Love in the image and likeness of the creator. On earth as it is in heaven. Align and ascend through compassionate individual and communal responses to difference and suffering knowing all are sacred, held by grace; all are revered, held by truth; and, all are loved unconditionally, held by the creator.

In this we can rely upon the brilliant one dancing in the crown of stars.

U.S. Catholic Sunday Reflections

HAPPY BIRTHDAY/ANNIVERSARY

We would like to wish a wonderful happy birthday to
Judy Travers & Steven Williams
 and a wonderful wedding anniversary for
Mr. & Mrs. Walter and Betty Gale.

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

Readings for the week of May 21, 2023

Sunday: *Ascension:* Acts 1:1-11/Psalms 47:2-3, 6-7, 8-9 (6)/Ephesians 1:17-23/
 Matthew 28:16-20
Seventh Sunday of Easter: Acts 1:12-14/Psalms 27:1, 4, 7
 -8 (13)/1 Peter 4:13-16/John 17:1-11a
Monday: Acts 19:1-8/Psalms 68:2-3ab, 4-5acd, 6-7ab/John 16:29-33
Tuesday: Acts 20:17-27/Psalms 68:10-11, 20-21/John 17:1-11a
Wednesday: Acts 20:28-38/Psalms 68:29-30, 33-35a, 35bc-36ab/John
 17:11b-19
Thursday: Acts 22:30; 23:6-11/Psalms 16:1-2a and 5, 7-8, 9-10, 11/John 17:20-
 26
Friday: Acts 25:13b-21/Psalms 103:1-2, 11-12, 19-20ab/John
 21:15-19
Saturday: *Morning:* Acts 28:16-20, 30-31/Psalms 11:4, 5 and 7/John 21:20-25
Next Sunday: *Vigil:* Genesis 11:1-9 or Exodus 19:3-8a, 16-20b or Ezra
 37:1-14 or Joel 3:1-5/ Psalms 104:1-2, 24, 35, 27-28, 29, 30 (see 30)/Romans
 8:22-27/John 7:37-39
Extended Vigil: Genesis 11:1-9/Exodus 19:3-8a, 16-20b/
 Ezra 37:1-14/Joel 3:1-5/ Psalms 104:1-2, 24, 35, 27-28, 29, 30 (see 30)/Romans
 8:22-27/John 7:37-39
Day: Acts 2:1-11/Psalms 104:1, 24, 29-30, 31, 34 (see
 30)/1 Corinthians 12:3b-7, 12-13/John 20:19-23

Church Support

Please consider making a donation to sup-
 port our parish during these trying times.
 You may Drop off or mail your gifts to the
 parish. You may give online through
 our website:

<http://www.stlukechurchssj.org/>

And clicking on the donate button.

You may also TEXT: 202-335-3116

WEEKLY MASS

Monday 5/22
 God's blessing & pro-
 tection for Chosen & Tier-
 ra by Wilson Family
 Eternal repose of the souls
 of the Erica Mansaray
 Nkele+++ by Bernadine
 Conrad
Tuesday 5/23
 Easter Weekday
Wednesday 5/24
 Easter Weekday

Thursday 5/25
 For the people who at-
 tend weekly Masses by
 Mercer Patterson
 Healing prayers for
 Anthony & Jacqueline Wil-
 son by Wilson Family
Friday 5/26
 Easter Weekday
Saturday 5/27
 Eternal repose of the
 soul of Milton Young+++
 (BB) by Connie Young-
 Lawrence
 Eternal repose of the
 soul of Agnes Queen+++ by
 Bernadine Conrad

Pray for the Sick & Shut-In of Our Parish

- | | | | | |
|------------------|-------------------|----------------------|------------------------|---------------------------|
| Barbara Barnes | Joyce Diggs | Melvin Jamison | John Quarles | Lois Williams |
| Blanche Bourm | Lamont Diggs, Sr. | Mary Ann Johnson | Doreene Redd | Wellington Waters |
| Barbara Batts | Crawley Easley | David & Keisha Jones | Corley Redd | Dolores Woodard, Jr. |
| Tanisha Bennett | Marita C. Edelin | Dawn Lattimer | Regina Rivers | Harold Woodard, Sr. |
| Tammy Berry | Joshua M. Faison | Lawrence Lee | Leroy Sandifer | |
| William P. Brown | Kimbolyn Flowers | Maria A. Logan | Betty Smith | St Luke military |
| Ruth Bundy | Anthony Flowers | Bernadette Mahoney | Helen Smith | families. |
| Beatrice Carroll | Betty Gale | Barbara Mallory | Kayla Tatum | |
| Rita Clines | Tina Garvin | Sadie Mason | Rolland Taylor | All the Homeless men |
| Melinda Conrad- | Katrina Griffin | Doris McCannon | Gloria Thompson-Price | and women in our com- |
| Brown | Steve Halle | Alice L. Montague | James F. Thompson, Jr. | munity. |
| Edith Cornish | Chris Hawkins | Veronica Murray | Barbara B. Tyler | |
| Aniceto Charles | Faye L. Hawkins | Kathy Ndouga | Wayne A. Wallace | Please pray for all those |
| Patricia Chase | Brenda Henson | David Neal | Marquita Ward | who are sick but have |
| Valene Chemoo | Carolyn Holland | Martha Neal | Shiela Washington | no one to pray for them |
| Joyce Cristwell | James Holley | Florence Patterson | Steven Washington | |
| Alvera Dance | Rudolph Holley | Silvia Perry | Charles Watson, Jr. | |
| Iyana Davage | James Hughes | Gertrude Quarles | Cecelia Williams | |



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.

St. Luke Parish Weekly Schedule

Mondays Morning Mass @ 10:00am (will also be livestreamed)

Wednesday Bible Study Live Stream & Voice @ 6:00pm

Thursdays Morning Mass @ 10:00am (will also be livestreamed)

First Friday Adoration @ 6:00pm

Saturday Holy Rosary (Voice call only) @ 6:00pm

Sunday Mass 8:30 am & 11:00am (11am mass will also be livestreamed)

To continue assisting St. Luke: You may **DROP OFF** your donation or **MAIL** your check or visit our **WEBSITE** <http://www.stlukechurchssj.org/Donate> OR **TEXT**: 202-335-311621

\$2,893.98

Offertory Contributions for 5/14/2023

May God reward you abundantly for your generosity.

Quote of the Day

In his life Christ is an example showing us how to live in his death he is a sacrifice satisfying our sins in his resurrection a conqueror in his ascension a king in his intercession a high priest. -
Martin Luther

PARISH NEWS

MEMORIAL MASS for Michael Vincent Crawford on Friday May 26, 2023. Greeting at 10:00am . Funeral Mass at 11:00am. Please pray for the family.

JOSEPHITE ORDINATION: The Josephites are inviting all to the Ordination celebration of Dn Henry Ihuoma, Ifiok Umanna, George Agwu on **Saturday June 3rd**. Mass begins at 10am and reception follows after Mass at the center.

THANK YOU to every one who has supported, shared and donated to our Double Good Popcorn Fundraiser for our FCC Scholarship Fund. We were able to sell over \$2,000 in popcorn and received nearly \$250 in donations. Thank you all again!

ALL ORGANIZATIONS and those others who want to reserve a date on the Parish calendar from July through December 2023 please have your dates to the Rectory by the second week in June. You may call the Rectory on 202-584-8322 or email the Rectory at stluke.dc@adw.org. Thank you.

2023 SCHOLARSHIP: The 2023 online application for the Father Charles T. Coughlin Scholarship is now available. If you are currently enrolled into a college, university or trade school, and require financial assistance, please feel free to apply. The deadline to apply for the scholarship is June 16, 2023. Please note, a gmail (google email) account must used/created to access the scholarship application. Please visit the following website to apply: <http://shorturl.at/pyOV2>

MEMORIAL DAY AT CEMETARIES “We remember those who sacrificed their lives to serve others.” On Memorial Day, come gather in loving memory of family, friends and fellow citizens who have given their lives for our freedom. A special Outdoor Memorial Day Mass will be held on Monday, May 29, 2023, on the sacred grounds of the Catholic cemeteries of the Archdiocese of Washington. Masses will be celebrated at 10:00 A.M. at All Souls Cemetery, 11401 Brink Rd., Germantown, MD, (301) 428-1995; Gate of Heaven Cemetery, 13801 Georgia Ave., Silver Spring, MD, (301) 871-6500; Mt. Olivet Cemetery, 1300 Bladensburg Rd., NE., Washington, D.C., (202) 399-3000; Resurrection Cemetery, 8000 Woodyard Rd., Clinton, MD, (301) 868-5141; St. Mary's Queen of Peace Cemetery, 38888 Dr. Johnson Road, Mechanicsville, MD 20659 (301) 475-5005.