



*All powerful God, increase our strength of will for doing good
that Christ may find an eager welcome at his coming and
call us to His side in the Kingdom of Heaven.*

(Opening Prayer - 1st Sunday of Advent)

Today's Solemnity of Christ the King brings to a close the liturgical year. Next week the church begins the Season of Advent and a new liturgical year. For many Advent is four weeks of preparation for the celebration of Christmas. Yet how can we prepare to celebrate an event that already has taken place? While we can - and do - rejoice in so great a gift of our savior - Christ will not be born again in the stable of Bethlehem this Christmas morning. What then does Advent prepare us to celebrate?

Advent is about the present and future as well as about the past. The Opening Prayer asks that we prepare to welcome Christ as He comes to us each day and in the future. How? By increasing our strength for doing good!

The scripture readings of Advent as well as the prayers call us to rejoice in the incarnation of Christ that first Christmas and even more importantly to remember that the Lord comes to us now and will come again in glory at the end of the world.

When I was a boy I remember a holy card that made a great impression on me. It was a picture of Jesus knocking at a door - a big wooden door. Yet upon closer look you noticed something unusual. The door had no handle. The message was clear: Christ knocks at the door of our hearts - will we open the door and give Him welcome into our lives? Christ cannot enter if we do not open ourselves to His love. Simple, yet expressive of the Advent season. It is a season of beauty and joy as we prepare our hearts to be attentive to the Lord's knock so that we may be ready to let him into our hearts. But that is not the end. Having been filled with the love of Jesus Christmas calls us to share the gift of Jesus' love with others by the service and goodness of our lives.

Let us make good use of the weeks of Advent. Many opportunities for spiritual growth are being offered by the parish. I invite you to take advantage of these events.

God bless.

Let us pray for one another,

Msgr. Tosi

HAPPY THANKSGIVING ---

To all our parishioners as well as their families, relatives and friends and to our neighbors here in Whitestone. As we give thanks to God for all our blessings as individuals and as a country I especially give thanks for all of you - the good people of St. Luke parish. I am truly blessed to be your pastor! I am joined in this Thanksgiving wish by the entire pastoral staff who also are a true blessing for which we give thanks.

I hope to see you at Mass on Thanksgiving morning. God bless!

With prayers and thanks,

Msgr. Tosi



MISSION STATEMENT

As a community of believers in Jesus Christ and in communion with the universal church, we strive to follow the Lord's command to love God and one another. Rooted in word and sacrament, we grow together as a Eucharistic community inviting all to the Good News of Jesus.

<u>Nov. 15, 2009 Collection</u>	<u>Amount Needed</u>
\$14,824	\$13,000
<u>Envelopes Mailed</u>	<u>Envelopes Returned</u>
1,726	742

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Diocesan Commitment for 2009-2010 ---

The parish has received its parish assessment for 2009/2010. The amount is calculated based on the ordinary parish income (Sunday Collections; Holy Day Collections; Christmas/Easter Collections and all of the other parish collections) as reported to the diocese in our annual report of 2007/2008. The assessment is roughly 11% of the ordinary income.

Our 2009-2010 Diocesan Assessment is \$72,800 which must be paid to the diocese by August 31, 2010. The assessment is used by the Bishop to support the ministry and mission of the diocese.

MASS COUNT ---

The following figures of people attending Mass was sent to the Diocesan Pastoral Planning Office:

Weekend of November 8 & 9 - 2,179
Weekend of November 14 & 15 - 2,415

THANK YOU ---

The Little Sisters of the Poor ---

for your generous response to the appeal of the Little Sisters of the Poor last weekend at the Masses. A total of \$4,859 was given to support the work of the Little Sisters in providing a safe and comfortable home for the elderly men and women at Queen of Peace Residence in Queens Village. Please keep the sisters and residents in your prayers.

World Mission Sunday ---

for your generous contribution of \$2,285 to support the missionary activity of the church throughout the world.

THANKSGIVING DAY MASS

THURSDAY,

NOVEMBER 26, 2009 AT

9:30AM



Please join us for this greatest act of thanksgiving to God the giver of all our gifts and blessings.

**INSTALLATION OF
NEW EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS
OF HOLY COMMUNION**

Congratulations to those being installed as Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion today, November 22, at the 1:00PM Mass. Please keep them in your prayers as they begin this ministry of service for the parish: ***Bernard Bowles, Marge Bowles, Mary Chianese, Donna Fonseca, Jorge Fonseca, Teresa Marie Governale, Margaret Hui, Anthony Liuzzi, Philomena Nicaj, Carmine Polito, Ersilia Polito, Marilyn Rice, Matthew Ryan, Maria Schroeder, Raymond Sickles, John Sommer and Anna Sterlini.***

PARISH SUPPORT PROGRAM---

Your continued support of the Parish Support Program is greatly appreciated. Again, last week's collection shows a marked increase. Your generosity enables us to meet our financial obligation - and even pay some outstanding bills! Your commitment enables the parish to continue its many ministries and works of service.

With gratitude and a promise of prayers,

Msgr. Tosi

PLEASE NOTE:

There will be NO Religious Education classes taking place on Wednesday, Nov. 25 or Thursday, Nov. 26.

Altar Server Bake Sale ---

A Bake Sale will be held in the church basement after the 5pm Mass on Sat., Nov. 28 and after all the Masses on Sunday, Nov. 29 to raise funds for the Altar Server Trip. Please support the altar servers who are such a special part of our parish family.



ADULT ALTAR SERVERS:

Adult altar servers are needed to serve at Funeral Masses. If you are interested, please contact Father Vincent at the Rectory at (718) 746-8102



NEEDED ---Ushers/Ministers of Hospitality --- The parish is seeking parishioners to act as ushers or Ministers of Hospitality. This ministry is open to men and women. New members are urgently needed! If interested, please call Msgr. Tosi or Fr. Vincent at the Rectory.

PRE-JORDAN PROGRAM ---If you are planning a winter Baptism, please note the following dates: Baptism Class: Dec. 21, Jan. 11, Feb. 8

Baptism Sunday: Dec. 13 & 27, Jan. 10 & 24, Feb. 14 & 28

If you have any questions please call Sister Catherine T. Reilly, O.P. at 718-746-8531.

LECTORS ---

The workbooks for the new Liturgical Year beginning on the First Sunday of Advent, November 29, have arrived. Please stop by the Sacristy and pick up your copy. Please sign the sheet so we know who has taken a copy.

ALL LITURGICAL MINISTERS ---

The Little Blue Book of prayers and reflections for the Advent and Christmas Seasons are available in the Sacristy. Please pick up your copy and sign the sheet. Excellent Advent spiritual reading.

A LITTLE CHANGE OF PACE --- On Sunday, December 13 the Folk Group will be singing at the 11:45AM Mass; the Adult Choir will sing at the 10:30AM Mass. Not a permanent change it will give everyone the chance to experience the richness of our choirs. We thank both choirs for their generosity and willingness to visit all the Masses through the year.

WE ARE LOOKING FOR VOCATIONS FROM OUR PARISH ---

Do you know of any Priest or religious who were members of Saint Luke parish before they entered religious life or the seminary? Please call Father Vincent at (718) 746-8102.

ATLANTIC CITY BUS TRIP ---

Join the St. Luke Golden Age Club for a bus trip to the ShowBoat Hotel in Atlantic City on Tuesday, January 26, 2010. (There will be NO trip in December.) Bus leaves 8:00am sharp! Cost is \$25 per person. For more information please call Eileen at (718) 352-3902 or Martha at (718) 539-4396.



Gala New Years Eve Party

Thursday December 31, 2009

7:30 PM to 1:00 AM

Saint Luke Parish

Antipasto Pasta Sit Down Dinner



Coffee Desert Champagne Wine Beer

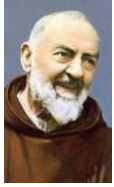
Soda Gift Baskets 50/50

Win a 32" RCA Flat Screen TV!

To make reservations and make a table call the rectory
at 718-746-8102 \$60 per person

\$30 per child 12 and under

Children under 7 free



PADRE PIO PRAYER GROUP ---

The next meeting of the Padre Pio Prayer Group will take place on Tuesday, November 24th at 7:30pm in the church. Light refreshments follow. All are welcome to attend.

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY NEWS ---



Members of the St. Vincent de Paul Society are available to make a friendly telephone call or “stop and chat” visit with our homebound parishioners. If you or anyone you know are interested, please call the Rectory at 718-746-8102. Leave your name and number and a member of the St. Vincent de Paul Society will contact you.

FOR COMMUNION CALLS ---

If you or someone you know is homebound and wishes to receive Holy Communion, please call the Rectory or Sister Catherine T. Reilly, O.P. to make arrangements for a communion call. The priests of the parish are most happy to bring Holy Communion to those who cannot get to church. Extraordinary Ministers are also available to bring communion.

URGENT REQUEST!

All Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion are required to inform Sister Catherine T. Reilly, O.P. of all their communion calls. No Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion has the permission of Msgr. Tosi to bring Holy Communion if they have not first notified Sister Catherine. You are asked to inform Sister of any changes to your Communion calls so that up to date records can be kept.

This is a very serious obligation on the part of the Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion. Any questions, please call Sr. Catherine at 718-746-8531.

St. Luke’s Athletic Association - Developmental Swimming ---

Registration for Session 2 of Developmental Swimming will be held on Dec. 12 at Bayside High School from 3-4:30pm. Space is limited. Fee is \$140 payable by check. For further information please go to www.slaacyo.org and click on Developmental Swimming.

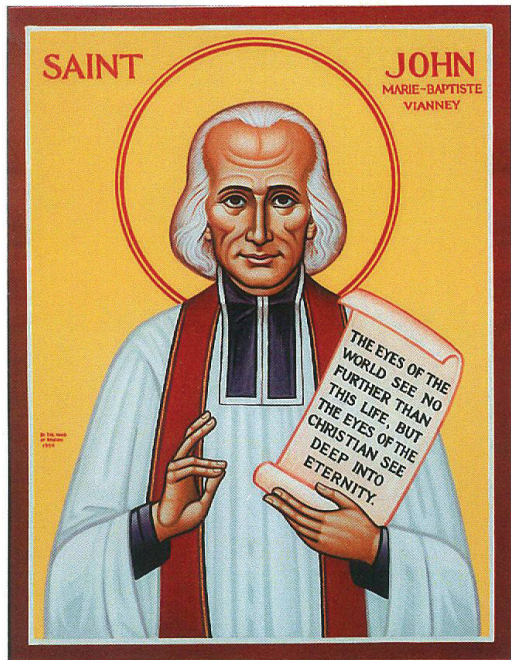


CONGRATULATIONS ---

To Geraldine Varrassi, one of our parishioners, who received the Wholeness of Life Award. The award is given by the Health Care Chaplaincy Association. The association is the largest provider of pastoral education in the U.S. It is a multi-faith organization that helps shape public health policy, provides accredited Clinical Pastoral Education and does research in spirituality. All participating healthcare organizations can nominate a staff member. Geraldine was nominated by Lenox Hill Hospital in N.Y.C. where she works as a nurse educator. This award is given to people who are kind, generous and supportive of others.

Congratulations and God bless.





A PRAYER TO THE MOTHER OF GOD FOR PRIESTS

O Holy Mother of God, pray for the priests your Son has chosen to serve the Church. Help them, by your intercession, to be holy, zealous, and chaste. Make them models of virtue in the service of God's people. Help them be pious in meditation, efficacious in preaching, and zealous in the daily offering of the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. Help them administer the Sacraments with love and joy. Amen.

Saint Charles Borromeo

The Year of the Priest
June 2009 - 2010

PLANNING WEDDING MUSIC AT ST. LUKE CHURCH

Among her responsibilities, Jessica Tranzillo Smith, Director of Music at St. Luke will assist engaged couples with all music arrangements for their wedding at the church. As Music Director she acts as cantor/soloist for all weddings and she will help choose vocal and organ music appropriate for Weddings. Consultation with Jessica is required before any musicians and/or soloists are hired from outside the St. Luke Music staff.

Jessica will answer questions or discuss wedding music by appointment. Please call the Music Office at 718-746-3862.

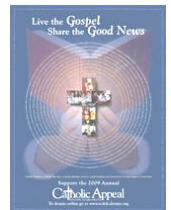
ANNUAL CATHOLIC APPEAL 2009

Once again the response of the parishioners of Saint Luke to the Annual Catholic Appeal has truly been a witness to your love of the church and the parish.

As of November 17 a total of \$145,001.84 has been pledged from 583 donors with \$133,216.84 already received making Saint Luke rank #6 among the over 200 parishes of the Diocese. Thank you to those who have made a pledge. Please continue to fulfill your promised gift.

With the Appeal ending in December - please consider making your gift today. Don't delay any longer. With your help we can reach last year's number of 700 donors.

The ministry of both diocese and parish have as a foundation the sharing of time, talent and yes - money by those who believe in the mission of the church. Your generous sharing of all three is what makes our parish so alive and vital a presence of Christ.





Advent
AT ST. LUKE CHURCH

- 1. Sunday celebration of the Eucharist and lighting of the Advent Wreath.**
The Sunday Eucharist with its Scripture Readings is at the heart of the Advent Season. The traditional lighting of the Advent Candles recalls the longing for Christ, true light of the world.
- 2. Family Mass, Sunday, December 20th at the 11:45AM Mass.**
Bring the family to this special Mass in preparation for the Christmas feast. Families will prepare the Nativity Scene during Mass. This Christmas tradition first prepared by St. Francis Assisi reminds us the true reason for the season.
- 3. Blessing of the Infant Jesus.**
On Sunday, December 20, the Fourth Sunday of Advent, there will be a special blessing of the infant Jesus. You are invited to bring the baby Jesus from your nativity scene at home to church for the blessing. Hay for your nativity set at home will be distributed.
- 4. Holy Night/Bright Star – Saturday, December 12 at 6:00PM.**
Make the night radiate with the Light of Christ. Join the community in lighting the parish Christmas Tree on the Great Lawn; sing Christmas Carols as the Nativity Scene is blessed; join in the lighting of the “Trees of Lights” in memory of or in honor of loved ones.
- 5. Lessons & Carols – Sunday, December 20 at 3:00PM.**
Celebrating the birth of Jesus, Nine Lessons and Carols is a service of worship which traditionally occurs during the Advent and Christmas season. The story of the fall of Adam, the promise of the Messiah, and the birth of Jesus is told in nine short Scripture Readings, interspersed with the singing of carols and hymns. This year our Choirs, Adult, Folk, Italian and Youth will lead us in the singing of Advent hymns and anthems to help us prepare for the birth of the Savior.



Advent
AT ST. LUKE CHURCH

6. *Come and visit us in peace, Lord and we will rejoice with hearts renewed.*

- Monastic Liturgy

Three nights of scripture study and reflection based on the Infancy Narratives of Matthew and Luke offered by the priests of the parish.

*Wednesday, December 2nd from 7:30pm-9:00pm – Fr. Chirichella
Infancy Narrative in the Gospel of Luke – Rectory Meeting Room*

*Wednesday, December 9th from 7:30pm-9:00pm – Fr. Dettmer
Infancy Narrative in the Gospel of Matthew – Rectory Meeting Room*

*Wednesday, December 16th from 7:30pm-9:00pm – Msgr. Tosi
Evening of Prayer “Rejoice with Hearts Renewed” – Church*

7. *Giving Tree*

An opportunity for people to share their blessings at Christmas with those less fortunate.

Also beginning in Advent ---

Offertory Procession at Sunday Mass – Beginning the First Sunday of Advent the gifts of bread and wine will be brought up in Procession from the back of the church led by an altar server carrying the Crucifix. The Presentation of the Gifts is an important element of the Mass representing the gift of our entire lives to the Lord. As the bread and wine is transformed into Christ’s Body and Blood so we too are transformed by our reception of Holy Communion. We become what we receive.

A more solemn celebration of the Mass will take place at the 11:45am Mass each week. It will include liturgical traditions of the Roman Rite – incense, Gospel Procession, sung Mass parts and even some Latin.



THE GIVING TREE



In the spirit of Christmas, St. Luke's Disciples in Mission
is bringing you



THE GIVING TREE



WHAT IS IT?

The Giving Tree is an opportunity for people to share their blessings
at Christmas with those less fortunate.

HOW DOES IT WORK?



The ornaments on the Giving Tree have gifts written on them.
Choose an ornament and take it home.
Purchase the gift and attach the ornament to the wrapped present.
Place the gift under the Giving Tree before or after any mass
by December 13th.



WHERE DO THE GIFTS GO?

All gifts are distributed to people in need through several organizations.



WHERE IS THE GIVING TREE?



The tree will be located in the church.
Ornaments may be taken the weekend of November 28 – November 29.
Gifts may be returned under the Giving Tree **before** or **after** all masses
no later than the weekend of December 12 – 13.

VERY IMPORTANT!!!!
WE CANNOT ACCEPT GIFTS AFTER DEC. 13TH.
GIFTS WILL BE DISTRIBUTED TO ORGANIZATIONS ON DEC. 14TH.



**SAINT LUKE
HOLY NIGHT-BRIGHT STAR CELEBRATION
2009**



Help make our community radiant with the Light of Christ. Holy Night-Bright Star offers all our parishioners, friends and neighbors the opportunity to light up a tree by remembering or honoring the people that have touched our lives.

These Trees of Lights will be placed on the Great Lawn around the Parish Christmas Tree. In this way we can remember or honor those people dear to us while lighting the night for Christ - the true light of the world!

For a donation of \$250 you can dedicate a Tree of Lights in memory of or in honor of a loved one. Your donation will include:

1. One fresh cut 5 foot Christmas tree decorated with lights.
2. A sign containing the name of your loved one on each tree.
3. Assist with the lights and star for the Parish Tree.
4. A Mass for all our loved ones will be celebrated at 5:00PM on the night of the lighting - Saturday, December 12th, 2009.

If you would like to donate a Tree of Lights for a loved one:

1. Complete, sign and return the below Sponsored Tree Form.
2. Please attach a check for \$250 payable to St. Luke Church.

Any questions --- please call the Rectory at 718-746-8102.

All are invited to sponsor a tree as a special way of saying "I'm thinking about you at Christmas."

There will be a limited number of Sponsored trees and those trees will be assigned on a first come basis. We are hoping that all Sponsored trees will be filled by November 30, 2009 and we therefore ask for your earliest possible response. This year's Holy Night-Bright Star display will run from December 12th, 2009 to January 10th, 2010. We are looking forward to your joining us in this year's celebration.

Please cut on line below.

SPONSORED TREE APPLICATION

I/we would like to sponsor a tree in memory or in honor of:

Name of loved one _____
(Print Name)

Sponsored by _____ Telephone _____
(Print Name)

Signature _____ Date _____

Lessons and Carols

Scripture and Song in Preparation for the Lord's Birth



with the
St Luke
Youth Choir
Adult Choir
Italian Choir
Folk Group

Jessica Tranzillo Smith
Director of Music

December 20, 2009
3:00 in the Afternoon

St. Luke Church
16-34 Clintonville St
Whitestone, New York

(718) 746-3862 for more information



SCRIPTURE READINGS

Mon. - Dn 1:1-6,8-20; Lk 21:1-4
Tues. - Dn 2:31-45; Lk 21:5-11
Wed. - Dn 5:1-6,13-14,16-17,23-28;
Lk 21:12-19
Thurs.- Dn 3:68-74; Lk 21:20-28
Fri. - Dn 7:2-14; Lk 21:29-33
Sat. - Dn 7:15-27; Lk 21:34-36



WE PRAY FOR THE SICK OF THE PARISH:

**THOMAS GEORGE BREEN
JOSEPHINE MADDI**



AND FOR THE DECEASED:

CHRISTOPHER MEANEY

Collective Intentions Mass ---

The next Collective Intentions Mass is on Sunday, November 22 at 11:45am.

At this Mass we pray for:

**Domenico Ursino &
Filomena Monti-Fraraccio
Vincenzo & Antica Licul &
Luigi & Dina Zazzi**

ANNOUNCED MASSES FOR THE WEEK OF NOVEMBER 23, 2009

Monday, November 23

7:00 Eugene Taheny
12:00 Thomas Murphy

Tuesday, November 24

8:30 Mary Caruso
12:00 Antonia & Liborio Mattina

Wednesday, November 25

7:00 Anna & Mike Zulich
12:00 Thomas Murphy

Thursday, November 26

9:30 *Thanksgiving Day Mass*

Friday, November 27

7:00 Michael Martinelli
12:00 Muriel, Rose, Marion & Katie

Saturday, November 28

8:30 Rachel Bona



MEMORIALS

The Altar Breads are in memory of **LINETTA LATHAM** at the request of the Scardamaglia & Neglia Families; the Altar Wine is in memory of **MICHAEL O'CONNOR** at the request of Cosmo & Marie DiTucci; the Sanctuary Lamp is offered **IN THANKSGIVING FOR PRAYERS ANSWERED**; the candles are burning in memory of **LINETTA LATHAM** at the request of the St. Luke Folk Group.





Community News

125th Anniversary ---

Holy Name of Jesus School, Brooklyn, N.Y. will celebrate its 125th Anniversary on January 31, 2010. The celebration includes liturgy, open house and a buffet dinner in Shepherds Hall. For more information, please call 718-768-7629 or email alumni contact information to hjalbumni@yahoo.com.



FOOD PANTRY ---

Grace Episcopal Church, 14-15 Clintonville St., Whitestone reaches out to all members of the community in need of extra help in eating a healthy, well-balanced meal. The Food Pantry is open every Friday from 10am until 11am.



Donations and volunteers are also welcome. For info please call Grace Episcopal Church at 718-767-6305.

TOY DRIVES ---

Please help support the Annual Christmas Toy Drive for St. Mary's Children's Hospital sponsored by the Martin A. Gleason Funeral Home, LLC. All you need to do is bring NEW, unwrapped boxed toys or games to any one of our three locations. Sorry, but stuffed animals cannot be accepted. The fun starts now through December 17, 2009. All toys and games will be delivered to St. Mary's Children's Hospital on December 18, 2009. For more information please call Gleason's Funeral Home at 718-359-1122. They are located at the following addresses: 10-25 150th Street, Whitestone; 149-20 Northern Blvd., Flushing and 36-46 Bell Blvd., Bayside.



Help put smiles on the faces of needy children by giving them a present to unwrap during the holidays. You can participate by bringing new and unwrapped toy donations to: Assemblywoman Ann-Margaret Carrozza's office located at 213-33 39th Avenue, Bayside, Suite 238 or Dr. Robert Mittman's office at 38-21 Bell Blvd., Bayside. Please drop off gifts by Thurs., Dec. 17, 2009. If you have any questions regarding the gift drive or any other community issues, please call Assemblywoman Carrozza's office at (718) 357-3588.