



“Teach me to seek you, and when I seek you show yourself to me, for I cannot seek you unless you teach me, nor can I find you unless you show yourself to me. Let me seek you in desiring you and desire you in seeking you, find you in loving you and love you in finding you.”

St. Anselm of Canterbury



Third Sunday of Advent

Today, the Third Sunday of Advent, is traditionally known as Gaudete Sunday so called from the first word of the Entrance Antiphon. *Gaudete* translated from the Latin means *Rejoice* and thus sets a tone of joyful expectation for the Lord's birth and Second Coming as does the rose - colored vestments worn by the priest.

As Christmas draws near the church urges us to practice the Christian virtue of joy. Yes, joy should truly be a basic characteristic of every Christian and of the church. Yet often we Christians seem so sad and tired from the many pressures, problems and worries of life. Often I am afraid our faith seems less than joyful and more of a burden reduced to mere do's and don'ts.

What then is the cause of our joy? Does that mean there are no problems, anxieties or sufferings for the Christian? Are we Christians blind to the pain and hunger of the human family? Of course not!

The cause of our joy is Christ - whose coming in the flesh is the birth of our hope. The cause of our Christian joy is the hope found in our salvation in Christ. In the midst of human life with all its darkness, we live in the joy of Christ's Light. For the Christian lives in the sure and certain hope of the victory of Christ over all suffering and pain and yes, even over death itself. We Christians share the victory of Christ through the waters of our baptism for as St. Paul states - having died with Christ we shall also live with Christ.

THE WOOD OF THE MANGER SHALL BECOME THE WOOD OF THE CROSS. In that mystery of Christ's death and Resurrection is the cause of our joy and the reason for our hope.

Rejoice and be glad for in Christ all is made new.
God bless.

Let us pray for one another,

Marg. Lisi

CHRISTMAS PRAYER
In preparation for Christmas

Loving God, with great joy we prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus.

Help us to share the song of the angels, as we pray and work toward universal peace.

As the shepherds found you with joy that first Christmas, help us to discover anew the joys of divine love, and may we allow kindness to others rule in our hearts.

Help us to worship you in freedom with the Magi, as we pray for all people with understanding hearts.

May we find happiness this Christmas in being called your children, forgiving and forgiven.

(Here mention your petitions)

We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.

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.

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


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 scene at home will be distributed.



4. 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

5. THREE NIGHTS ON THE BIRTH OF JESUS

**“Come and visit us in peace, Lord and we will rejoice with hearts renewed.”
- Monastic Liturgy**

Come to the final night of our Advent series on the Birth of Jesus. Msgr. Tosi will lead us in an Evening of Prayer on the Christmas Mystery. Beginning at 7:30PM, the theme of the evening is “Rejoice with Hearts Renewed”. All are welcome.



ALSO BEGUN 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.



CHRISTMAS

2009

Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord

Confessions will be heard on

Saturday, December 19

1:00PM-3:00PM

Christmas Eve Masses*

Thursday, December 24

4:30PM

6:00PM

****Please note that there is NO 5:00PM***

Mass on Christmas Eve.

The schedule remains the same as

Last year.

The Mass at Midnight

Carol singing beginning at 11:30PM

Christmas Day

Friday, December 25

7:30AM

9:00AM in Italian

10:30AM

11:45AM

1:00PM

There is NO 5:00PM Mass on

Christmas Day.

***At all the Christmas Masses, the first
collection is for the support of our Parish;***

the second collection at the Offertory

of the Mass is for

Catholic Charities.

NEW YEAR'S DAY

SOLEMNITY OF MARY,

MOTHER OF GOD

New Year's Eve

Thursday, December 31

Mass at 5:00PM

New Year's Day

Friday, January 1

7:30AM

9:00AM in Italian

10:30AM

11:45AM

1:00PM

There is NO 5:00PM Mass on

New Year's Day.

According to the decision of the United

States Conference of Catholic Bishops,

when the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of

God occurs on a day other than

Saturday or Monday,

it is a Holyday of Obligation.

Therefore, this year the

Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

is a Holyday of Obligation

Catholics are obliged to attend Mass.

SAINT LUKE SCHOOL
WHERE FAITH AND KNOWLEDGE MEET
718-746-3833 www.SaintLukeOnline.com



WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 16
8:30AM-12:00PM

COME SEE ALL THE WONDERFUL ITEMS WE HAVE FOR SALE.

**JEWELRY, HOME GOODS, ACCESSORIES, TOYS,
GIFTS FOR MEN, WOMEN & KIDS.**

**BAKED GOODS, CRAFTS, GRANNY'S ATTIC TABLE
FREE GIFT WRAPPING**

**OVER 100 RAFFLES, SUPER RAFFLE PRIZES
PICTURES WITH SANTA**

AND MUCH MORE!!!

MERRY CHRISTMAS!!

***ST. LUKE SCHOOL
PRINCIPAL'S LIST***

Congratulations to the following students who have achieved Principal's List! These students have maintained an average of 97% or higher in all subjects in the first trimester marking period.

Grade 4

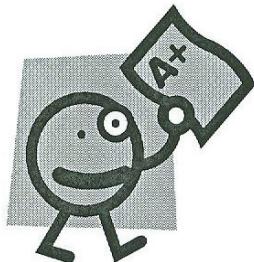
Michelle Runco
Timothy Sommer
Steven Spiezia
Briana Stephenson

Grade 5

Sabrina Antonelli
Michelle Doherty
Massimo Indolini
Emma Kegel
Alexandra Leichnam
Fiachra McDonagh
Neeraj Sakhrani
Alexa Ware

Grade 6

Sabrina Blaskovic
Aisling McDonagh
Michael Rubin



Grade 7

Paula Begonja
Peter Begonja
Gianni Cotoia
Kristen Cournane
Gabrielle DiDonato
Christina Doherty
Sarah Estevez
Lauren LiCalzi
Giulia Macchiarulo
Victoria Pascullo
Nicholas Saladin
Zachary Weinberger

Grade 8

Massimo Antonelli
Katie Bowles
Nikolas Colak
Stephen Dierks
David Lago
John Martakis
Olivia Schultze
Lisa Ventura

MOMMY & ME

All Moms, Dads, (and Grandparents!) and their little ones are welcome to join in on the fun on Tuesday mornings from 9:30-11:00AM. Admission is only \$5.00. Please come by for some playtime, sharing and caring.

**Christmas Party
December 15**

We are expecting a visit from Santa! Come & share in the festivities!!



CONGRATULATIONS ---

To Frank D’Elia, winner of the Regional Intermediate Mathematics Bee! Frank competed with 30 fourth through sixth graders at Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament School in November.



EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION ---

Just a reminder - Msgr. Tosi will meet with all the Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion - recently installed as well as past members - on Monday, December 14th at 7:30PM in the church.



MUSIC MINISTRY NEWS ---

Today we welcome the Folk Group to the 11:45AM Mass and the Adult Choir to the 10:30AM Mass. Thank you to both choirs who will be visiting all the Sunday Masses (as well as Saturday 5:00PM) throughout the year. In this way everyone will have the opportunity to experience the richness of our choirs.



WRITING YOUR CHRISTMAS CARDS?

Don’t forget our adopted seminarian Bruce Moreno. Why not write him some words of encouragement? His address is: Mr. Bruce Moreno, Cathedral Seminary of the Immaculate Conception, 7200 Douglaston Parkway, Douglaston, N.Y. 11362.



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 Dessert 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

DECEMBER 6 COLLECTION --- \$13, 267
ENVELOPES MAILED --- 1,750

AMOUNT NEEDED --- \$13,000
ENVELOPES RECEIVED ---729

ANNUAL CATHOLIC APPEAL 2009



Will come to a close on December 31, 2009. Once again a most sincere thank you to those who supported this important annual appeal providing much needed financial backing to the mission and ministries of both the diocese and parish.

As of December 9, 2009 a total of \$146,126.84 has been pledged from 585 donors with \$141,251.84 received. This is a most remarkable amount especially in these difficult economic times. Your support is yet another witness to your generosity and love for the church.

And there is still time to make a gift to the Appeal. Please send in your gift before December 31st. God bless.

PARISH SUPPORT PROGRAM ---

Continues to show increase in the weekly collection. Such a constant increase provides greater financial stability to the parish and enables us to keep current in meeting our parish financial obligations.

Again, thank you and God bless.

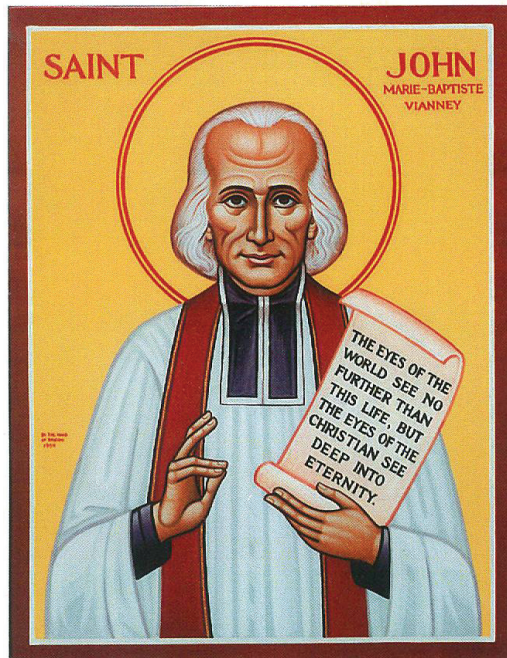
Msgr. Tosi

AN ADVENT REFLECTION

We should always observe Advent with faith and love, offering praise and thanksgiving to the Father for the mercy and love he has shown us in this mystery.

- St. Charles Borromeo





The Year of the Priest
June 2009 - 2010

“The priesthood is the love of the heart of Jesus. O, how great is the priest! If he realized what he is, he would die. Without the priest, the passion and death of our Lord would be of no avail. It is the priest who continues the work of redemption here on earth... What use would a house filled with gold, were there no one to open its door? The priest holds the key to the treasures of heaven: it is he who opens the door: he is the steward of the good Lord; the administrator of His goods...Leave a parish for twenty years without a priest and they will end by worshipping the beasts there. The priest is not a priest for himself; he is a priest for you.”

St. John Vianney

PLANNING WEDDING MUSIC AT SAINT 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.

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.



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.



ANNOUNCED MASSES FOR 2010 ---

There are still a few announced Masses left for 2010 at 7:00am ONLY. If interested, please call the Rectory at 718-746-8102.



St. Luke School

16-01 150 Place ~ Whitestone, New York ~ 11357

718-746-3833

Visit us at www.SaintLukeOnline.com



Registration

for

Tiny Tots ~ Nursery ~ Pre-Kindergarten
Programs

For the 2010-2011 School Year
Begins December 7th, 2009

OPEN HOUSE

Visit our newly equipped early childhood classrooms
with SmartBoard Technology

Thursday, December 10 - 9:30AM - 11:00AM

Tuesday, December 15 - 12:30PM - 2:00PM

Guided Tours Available

Please call the school office for further information

718-746-3833

PROJECT ANDREW

is an opportunity for young men to learn more about the priesthood by joining Bishop Nicholas DiMarzio and other priests and seminarians from the Brooklyn Diocese for an evening of prayer, dinner, and conversation.

Our next Project Andrew will be on:

**SUNDAY,
JANUARY 31, 2010
6:00 PM**

**THE POPE JOHN PAUL II
HOUSE OF DISCERNMENT
341 HIGHLAND BOULEVARD
BROOKLYN, NY 11207**



Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, then I will come in to him, and will dine with him, and he with me.

Revelation 3:20

SCHEDULE

- 6:00 pm Arrival
- Evening Prayer
- Dinner
- Informal Discussion/
Presentation
- Questions and Answers
- Closing Prayer

*For more information or
directions, please contact:*

Fr. Kevin Sweeney
Vocation Director

Fr. Kevin Abels
Associate Vocation Director

Phone: 718-827-2454

Fax: 718-827-2167

Email:
vocations@diobrook.org



PRE-JORDAN PROGRAM

If you are planning a winter Baptism, please note the following dates:

Baptism Class	Baptism Sunday
Monday, December 21, 2009	December 13 & 27, 2009
Monday, January 11, 2010	January 10 & 24
Monday, February 8	February 14 & 28

For more information or to schedule a Baptism, please call Sister Catherine T. Reilly, O.P. at 718-746-8531.



AGERS GOLDEN AGEERS ATLANTIC CITY BUS TRIP ---
 Join the St. Luke Golden Age Club for a bus trip to the Show-boat Hotel & Casino in Atlantic City on Tuesday, January 26, 2010. (THERE WILL BE NO BUS TRIP IN DECEMBER)
 Bus leaves at 8:00am sharp! Cost is \$25 per person. For more information please call Eileen at (718) 352-3902 or Martha at (718) 539-4396.
 Also....don't forget to join us every Thursday at 1pm in the school hall for our weekly meeting. Our membership is growing and you are always welcome.





SCRIPTURE READINGS

Mon. - Nm 24:2-7,15-17a; Mt 21:23-27
Tues. - Zep 3:1-2,9-13; Mt 21:28-32
Wed. - Is 45:6c-8, 18,21c-25; Lk 7:18b-23
Thurs.- Gn 49:2,8-10; Mt 1:1-17
Fri. - Jer 23:5-8; Mt 1:18-25
Sat. - Jgs 13:2-7,24-25a; Lk 1:5-25



WE PRAY FOR THE SICK OF THE PARISH:

**MAKAYLA MARGUILES
JOSEPHINE MADDI
ROBERT BOLIVAR
JENNIE ROMANO**



AND FOR THE DECEASED:

**UGO GOLLUSCIO
ANTHONY BABICH
MARIE L. WEINBERGER
ANGELO PERRINO, SR.**

Collective Intentions Mass ---

The next Collective Intentions Mass will be celebrated on Sunday, December 20th at 1:00PM.

At this Mass we pray for:

*Vincent Maggio
10th Anniversary*

ANNOUNCED MASSES FOR THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 14, 2009

Monday, December 14

7:00 Aniela Latkowski
12:00 Josephine Carew (Birthday)

Tuesday, December 15

8:30 John & Mary Tuohy
12:00 Desmond McDonagh

Wednesday, December 16

7:00 Margaret Lupoli
12:00 Bellomo Family

Thursday, December 17

8:30 Stanley Beck
12:00 Cecilia DiTucci & Peter Delle Donna

Friday, December 18

7:00 Louis John & Louis Anthony Nicolosi
12:00 Antonella Mattina

Saturday, December 19

8:30 Deceased Members of the Cataldo & Iracondo Families



MEMORIALS

The Altar Breads are **IN THANKSGIVING TO THE PARISHIONERS OF ST. LUKE CHURCH** at the request of Judy DeAngelis; the Altar Wine is in memory of **MR. & MRS. JAMES TORRENZANO** at the request of their daughter Josephine Turrisi; the Sanctuary Lamp is in memory of **ANTONIO CARINGELLA** at the request of his Aunt Antoinette.

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.

UNITED STATES CENSUS 2010 - EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Be a part of the 2010 Census Team and earn more than just a paycheck - be a part of history! Good pay, flexible hours, paid training, work close to home, mileage reimbursement, temporary part-time jobs. Call the toll-free recruiting line today - 1-866-861-2010.

POPPENHUSEN INSTITUTE ---

114-04 14TH Road, College Point, N.Y.

Charles Dickens' "A Christmas Carol" performed by The Once Upon A Time Theater Co. on Sunday, December 27th at 5PM. Please bring a canned or boxed food item for the local pantries that are in need of support due to the increased number of people utilizing their services. Program is funded in part with public funds from the N.Y.C. Dept. of Cultural Affairs and the N.Y.S. Office of Parks & Recreation and Historic Preservation. Call (718) 358-0067 for more information.

