

Saint Luke Church, Whitestone, N.Y.



*This day true peace has come down to us from heaven,
this day the heavens drip honey upon the entire world.
This day brought the dawn of new redemption, of the
deliverance announced of old,
of eternal happiness.*

*(Matins - Divine Office,
Roman Rite)*



In the joy of our savior's birth I wish to express Christmas Greetings to all our parishioners and their families, our friends and neighbors. May the Good News first announced by angels to shepherds continue to fill us with joy and gratitude for the love of God who sent us so great a savior. May the New Year be one filled with God's blessing especially peace, good health and the love of family and friends.

Today is the Feast of the Holy Family. As we remember the gift of the human family into which we were born, let us also remember the gift of God's family - the Church - into which we were born through the waters of Baptism. Stronger than blood the water of Baptism forms us into a holy people - God's family called to live together as one body; called to share our God given gifts and talents; called to proclaim Good News - a savior has been born to us, Christ the Lord.

I would like to share with you a contemporary prayer written on the feast of the Holy Family:

*God, our Father,
you are the guardian and guide of our lives.
Your word is joy, your will is life, your commands bring peace.
Watch over and guide us
as you did your Son's earthly family.
Through the celebration of this feast
help us to respond to your word and will,
That we may grow together as people of faith
and enjoy the peace of your Kingdom.*

Finally, I wish to express my thanks and sincere appreciation for all who shared their gifts of time, talent and finances to make our Christmas celebration so prayerful, joyful and beautiful - a real witness to our love for Christ, His Church - and one another. I am truly grateful and thank God for giving me the opportunity to serve you as your pastor.

God bless!

Let us pray for one another,

Mssa. 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.

**MASS SCHEDULE
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.



<i>December 20 Collection</i>	<i>\$8,993</i>	<i>Amount Needed</i>	<i>\$13,000</i>
<i>Envelopes Mailed</i>	<i>1,750</i>	<i>Envelopes Returned</i>	<i>320</i>

ANNUAL CATHOLIC APPEAL ---

As the Annual Catholic Appeal comes to an end I am pleased to announce our final figures: a total of \$149,500.84 has been pledged as of December 21, 2009 from 593 donors with \$144,251.84 already received. Again, your generosity has made the Annual Catholic Appeal a great success in supporting the mission of service both of the diocese and parish.



As I have said over and over again - **THANK YOU** to all who made a gift to the Appeal especially this year in difficult economic times. Your continued support is of great encouragement to me and a true sign of hope for the church - and our parish.

God bless!

Msgr. Tosi

LESSONS & CAROLS ---

Scheduled for Sunday, December 20th was cancelled due to the snow storm. We hope to re-schedule it sometime after the new year. Watch the bulletin for the new date.

And thank you to all involved in the parish music ministry for sharing their gifts to raise a joyful sound in celebration of Christmas. Their hard work, dedication and enthusiasm is greatly appreciated.

MARCH FOR LIFE ---

The Annual March for Life in Washington, D.C. will take place on Friday, January 22, 2010. A bus will leave Saint Luke at around 6:45am. A suggested donation of \$25 is being requested. If someone is unable to cover this request, there is no problem. However, all those interested must reserve a seat.

Please call Jim at 718-644-9534 or Arleen at 718-445-6259 for more information or to reserve a seat.

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.



PLEASE NOTE ---

The Rectory Office will close at 3:00pm on Thursday, December 31, 2009 and will reopen at 9:00am on Monday, January 4, 2010.



WE GET LETTERS ---

Thank you letters for your generous response to the Giving Tree:

RSHM LIFE CENTER

The RSHM Life Center staff wish to thank you for your generous donations. The gifts are so beautiful and will certainly bring much joy to many families this Christmas.

It is in giving that we express love for our neighbor, and through your kindness many children will have a brighter Christmas.

May the Christmas season fill each one with joy, and we pray that the New Year be filled with a deep peace for all those who suffer at this time.

*With sincere gratitude,
Sr. Susan Gardella, RSHM*

QUEENS NORTH CATHOLIC CHARITIES

December 17, 2009

Dear Ms. Filippi,

To you and all the parishioners of your church, thank you once again for such generosity this Christmas. Be assured that your gifts will go to families that are most in need. Merry Christmas and all the best in the New Year!

*Sha-nae Anderson
QNCC*

ST. JOHN'S BREAD & LIFE

December 17, 2009

Dear Ms. Pollini,

I would like to thank all who participated and donated to make this year's Sponsor a Family a success. I write this note, pleasantly tired from the hectic rush of the pre-holidays, deeply in awe of the generosity of individuals to those we serve. Your donation allowed us to provide a Merry Christmas for over 2,000 families.

Over the past year we served of 250,000 meals, saw some 25,000 individuals for much needed services, distributed over 140,000 meals through our unique Digital Food Pantry.

As we begin another year we continue the struggle and the mission of addressing those issues of poverty particularly as they apply to hunger. Thanks to your continued support we will be able to continue to feed body, mind and spirit.

*Gratefully,
Anthony Butler
Executive Director*

THANK YOU ---

To those who so generously donated to the George T. Breen Tuition Assistance Fund:

In Memory of Cornata Mifsud at the request of Thomas Breen & Family

In Memory of Dorothy Driscoll at the request of Olga Breen & Family

In Memory of Clair Garner at the request of Ollie Breen & Family &

Faye Damato & Family

In Memory of George T. Breen (Birthday 12/21) requested by

Patricia Breen-O'Neil

In Memory of George T. Breen (Birthday 12/21) requested by

Thomas G. Breen

In Memory of George T. Breen (Birthday 12/21) requested by Olga Breen

In Memory of George T. Breen (Birthday 12/21) requested by L. Donnelly

In Memory of George T. Breen (Birthday 12/21) requested by

Charles & Barbara Ephraim

Please remember the George T. Breen Tuition Assistance Fund at the time of the death of a loved one; or on the special occasions in life - birthdays, anniversaries, graduations, etc. Help pass on the gift of a Catholic School education to the next generation. Special cards are available to mark your gift. For additional information, call the Rectory.

A CHRISTMAS REFLECTION ---

The Father, who at the beginning created all things, has sent his Son to restore them and bring them back to their former state. In fact, he renewed the whole world which Adam, stripped of his youthfulness after his sin, had caused to fall into ruin. The creator of all things became the restorer. He gave them back their former beauty.

Ephraem

Second Century



CHRISTMAS

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

CATHOLIC ALUMNI PARTNERSHIP

On a visit to the United States, Pope John Paul II said: "Catholic Schools are a gift to the Church and to the Nation," and now, more than ever, we need to come together as a community to ensure that we are able to continue to provide this gift to future generations of children!

I am excited to report that St. Luke School is blessed to be one of more than 300 schools, across seven archdiocese, participating in the Catholic Alumni Partnership (CAP). CAP is enabling us to reconnect with the many men and women who walked the halls of our school. Mrs. Barbara Reiter has been, and will continually be, working closely with CAP staff to identify our alumni and creating opportunities for those individuals to become active members of our school community.

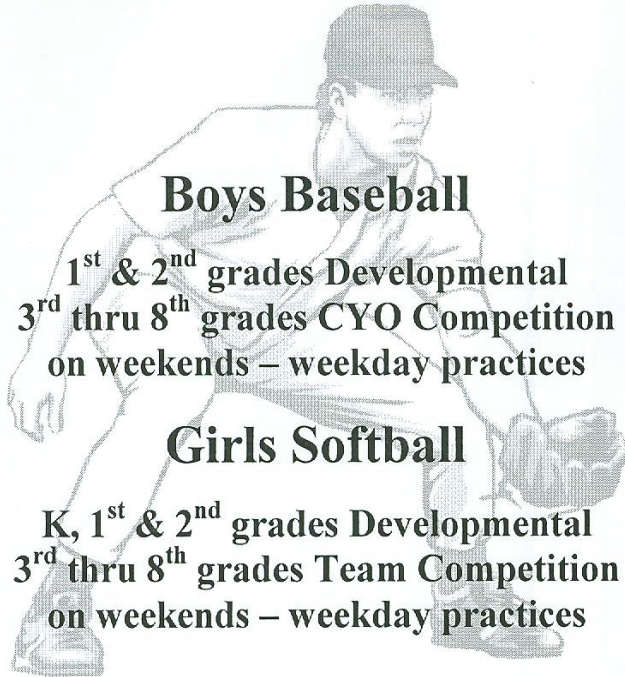
Whether you are an alumnus of our school or another Catholic elementary school, I urge you to be an active member of your elementary school community. Visit clickYES.com to learn if your school is participating in CAP.

If you have any questions, or would like additional information about CAP, please visit the St. Luke School website at www.SaintLukeOnline.com.

**REGISTRATION
FOR
TINY TOTS - NURSERY - PRE-KINDERGARTEN PROGRAMS
For the 2010-2011 School Year
Is currently underway.**

GUIDED TOURS AVAILABLE
Please call the school office for further information
718-746-3833

SPRING 2010 SEASON REGISTRATION



Boys Baseball

1st & 2nd grades Developmental
3rd thru 8th grades CYO Competition
on weekends – weekday practices

Girls Softball

K, 1st & 2nd grades Developmental
3rd thru 8th grades Team Competition
on weekends – weekday practices

Registration Dates & Times

2 Nights Only
No Late Registration

Tues. Jan. 12th 7-9 pm
Wed. Jan. 13th 7-9 pm

**At St. Luke's
Lower Church**

All fees payable by check only!

**All new players must present
copy of their birth certificate
and proof of address**

For more info. visit our website
www.slaacyo.org

*Register your email address with our site to
receive news and updates about SLAA*

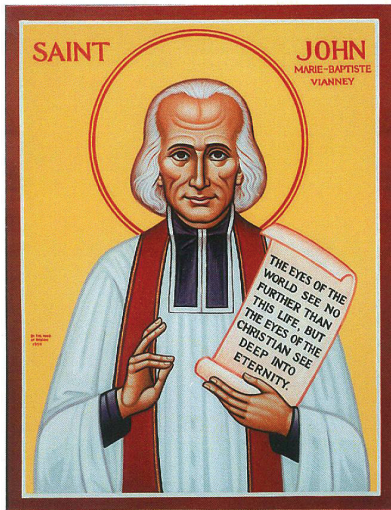


Boys & Girls Soccer

Pre-K & K Developmental
1st thru 8th grades Team
Competition on weekends –
weekday practices



St. Luke's Athletic Association



The Year of the Priest
June 2009 - 2010

YEAR OF THE PRIEST ~

The following was received by all the priests of the diocese from the Carmelite Nuns of the Monastery of Our Lady of Mount Carmel and Saint Joseph, Brooklyn for Christmas. We would like to share this reflection with you. Please pray for the priests of the church; for an increase in vocations and especially for your priests assigned to Saint Luke.

Christmas 2009

Dear Father,

Praised Be Jesus Christ and the Virgin Mary His Mother!

May the peace and joy radiating from our Infant Savior fill your heart this Christmas and in the coming year. We give thanks to our Lord in a special way this Jubilee Year, for the gift of the Holy Priesthood. For it is Your Reverence who brings Jesus to us! Through the Sacraments we are brought into contact with God; we are given the consolation of hearing, in the name of God, “your sins are forgiven”, and through the Holy Eucharist, consecrated by your sacred hands, we have the Real Presence of Jesus with us, and not only with us, but in us, and we in Him, through the reception of His Most Sacred Body in Holy Communion. What a sad exile this life would be without our Emmanuel, *God with us*, in the Eucharist!

Not only through the Sacraments do we come encounter Christ, but also in the person of your Reverence, since you are “another Christ” by the grace of your ordination. We are privileged to see, hear, and touch Christ in a special way through you. But Father, it is not for the Priesthood in general terms only for which we thank God, but for your Reverence’s personal response to our Lord, to follow Him intimately as His chosen Priest, offering your life in union with Him for the salvation of the world. Father, you are so very beloved by our Lord, and through the gift of your Priesthood, beloved by all of us your children.

May God reward and keep steadfast your witness to the world of making present once more, God’s Merciful Love. In gratitude to God, know that your Reverence is daily in our prayers and sacrifices. May our Lady, who is the most tender of Mother’s to her Priests, keep you from the snares of the evil one, and ever so close to the Heart of her Son.

Your Sisters in Jesus, Mary and Joseph
The Carmelite Nuns of Brooklyn

PRE-JORDAN PROGRAM

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

Baptism Class

Monday, January 11, 2010

Monday, February 8

Baptism Sunday

January 10 & 24

February 14 & 28

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

ATLANTIC CITY BUS TRIP ---

Join the St. Luke Golden Age Club for a bus trip to the Showboat 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.

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.

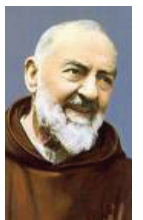
Jessica will answer questions or discuss wedding music by appointment. Please call the Music Office at 718-746-3862.



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PADRE PIO PRAYER GROUP ---

The next meeting of the Padre Pio Prayer Group will take place on Tuesday, December 29th in the Church. All are welcome to attend.



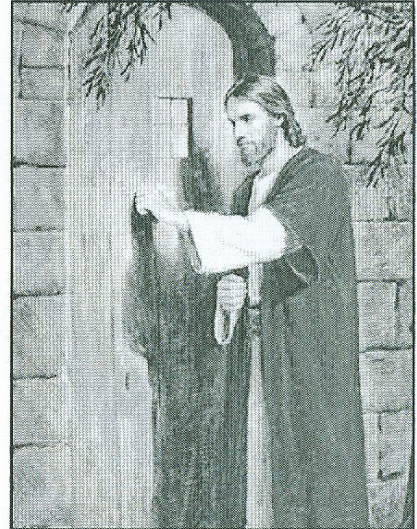
PROJECT ANDREW

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



SCRIPTURE READINGS

Mon. - 1Jn 1:5-2:2; Mt 2:13-18
Tues. - 1Jn 2:3-11; Lk 2:22-35
Wed. - 1Jn 2:12-17; Lk 2:36-40
Thurs.- 1Jn 2:18-21; Jn 1:1-18
Fri. - Nm 6:22-27; Gal 4:4-7; Lk 2:16-21
Sat. - 1Jn 2:22-28; Jn 1:19-28



WE PRAY FOR THE SICK OF THE PARISH:

**MAKAYLA MARGUILES
JOSEPHINE MADDI
ROBERT BOLIVAR
JENNIE ROMANO
FREDERICK MONTELEONE
JEAN HOWLETT
COSMO DITUCCI**

AND FOR THE DECEASED:

**FRANCES R. GIANNO
RITA V. EVOLA**

Collective Intentions Mass ---

The next Collective Intentions Mass will be celebrated on Saturday, January 9th at 12 Noon.

At this Mass we pray for:

JOHN HICKEY

ANNOUNCED MASSES FOR THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 28, 2009

Monday, December 28

7:00 Teresa & Giuseppe Matrullo
12:00 John Bubolich (Anniversary)

Tuesday, December 29

8:30 Michael Balbo
12:00 Deceased Members of the Politi Family

Wednesday, December 30

7:00 Antoinetta Pellegrino
12:00 Moramarco Family

Thursday, December 31

8:30 Nunzia Armondo
12:00 Domenico Monaco
5:00 *Vigil Mass*

Friday, January 1

SOLEMNITY OF MARY

7:30am, 9:00am, 10:30am, 11:45am, 1:00pm

Saturday, January 2

8:30 Valentino Forgione

MEMORIALS

The Altar Bread is in memory of **MARY & AL RONCI** at the request of their family; the Altar Wine is in memory of **FRANCESCO DAVI** at the request of his family; the Sanctuary Lamp is in honor of **COSMO J. DiTUCCI** on the occasion of his birthday; the candles are burning in memory of **MARION & CHARLES SAFFER** at the request of the Colombo & Sheridan Families.

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.



SAVE THE DATE ---

"Italia in Festa" will take place at Holy Cross High School on Monday, January 4, 2010 at 7:00PM. (Spettacolo con il rinomato gruppo-folk ESPERIA.) Il gruppo folk ESPERIA viene dalla Regione Lazio e si esibira' sia in canti e balli classic popolari. Sara' una serata di grande Italianita'. FREE ADMISSION!! Spread the news at the parish and to your relatives and friends!!