

Saint Luke Church, Whitestone, N.Y.



Hail Mary, the most beautiful dove, which carried the word of God for us; we greet you with the Archangel Gabriel saying: Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with you. Hail, O Virgin, the glory of our race; you have borne Emmanuel for us. We pray that you will remember us before the Lord Jesus Christ, that he will forgive us our sins.



Coptic liturgy

Advent presents many figures from the Scripture for our contemplation and imitation - Isaiah, Zephaniah and the other prophets of the Old Testament; Elizabeth and Zachariah, Simeon and Anna, John the Baptist to name only a few. Yet there is no greater Advent figure worthy of our contemplation and imitation than Mary - Mother of God.

This week the church celebrates two feasts of Mary. On December 8th Mary is honored under her title of the Immaculate Conception. It is under this title that Mary is honored as patroness of our country - and of our diocese. On December 12th - Mary is honored under the title of Our Lady of Guadalupe recalling her apparition to Juan Diego in Mexico. Of special meaning to the people of Mexico, Our Lady under this title has been declared Patroness of the Americas by Pope Pius XII. Regardless of the title under which Mary is honored the church extols her faith, hope and charity. Her yes to Gabriel's message gave flesh to God's only Son whose birth we celebrate at Christmas.

Advent calls us to not only honor Mary - but to imitate her openness to do God's will. Mary's prayer must be the prayer of every Christian: "Let it be done to me as you say!" (Luke 1:26-38)

Such was the prayer of the Martyrs of El Salvador - Sisters Maura Clarke (formerly of Queens), Ita Ford (formerly of Brooklyn), Jean Donovan (lay woman whose mother went to The Mary Louis Academy) and Dorothy Kazel brutally murdered on December 2, 1980. Missionaries in El Salvador they worked especially with the poor proclaiming the Good News of Jesus. Their blood as the blood of all Christian martyrs water the seeds of faith. These martyrs are yet other Advent figures for our contemplation and imitation.

Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners now and at the hour of our death. God bless.

Let us pray for one another,

Mary. Tosi

CALENDARS 2010 --

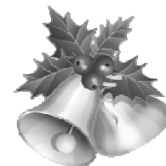
Are available at the doors of the church in both English and Italian. We wish to thank the Martin A. Gleason Funeral Home, John Aloysius Golden/Thomas A. Golden III, owners, for their yearly generous donation of these calendars to the parish.

November 29 Collection ----- \$14,474
Envelopes Mailed -----1,750

Amount Needed -----\$13,000
Envelopes Returned -----774

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.



**THE CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING ON THE GREAT LAWN
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2009**

SAINT LUKE PRESENTS

This special event will begin immediately after the 5:00PM Mass. Monsignor Tosi will bless the giant 45 foot pine tree located on the Great Lawn adjacent to the Saint Luke Rectory.

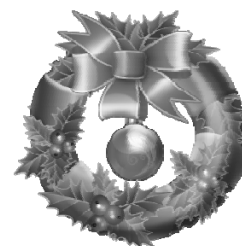
All Saint Luke parishioners and friends are welcome to celebrate this special night filled with music and song, prayer and refreshments. A performance by the Children's Choir will add to the joy of the evening.



Come join neighbors, friends and relatives in making the night bright in Whitestone with the true meaning of Christmas. Celebrate a wonderful parish tradition.

It's not too late to sponsor a tree in memory of or in honor of a loved one or to make a donation to help light the tree. Please call the Rectory at (718) 746-8102 for more information.

Hope to see you all on December 12th for this very special event!





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. THREE NIGHTS ON THE BIRTH OF JESUS

"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.



IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

On Tuesday, December 8, the church celebrates a Solemnity of Mary under her title of the Immaculate Conception. It is under this title that Mary is the Patroness both of our diocese and country.

The Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception is a Holyday of Obligation. All Catholics are obliged to attend Mass. The Mass schedule is as follows:

*Monday, December 7, 2009
7:30P.M. Vigil Mass*

*Tuesday, December 8, 2009
8:30A.M.
10:30 A.M.
12 Noon
7:30P.M.*

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



**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

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



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.

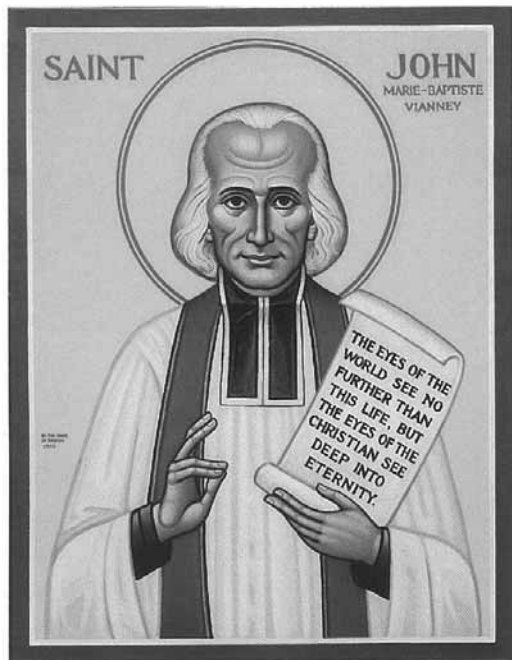


WHERE IS THE GIVING TREE?

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.



The Year of the Priest
June 2009 - 2010

The true mystery of Christmas is the inner brightness radiating from this Child. May that inner brightness spread to us and kindle in our hearts the flame of God's goodness; may all of us, by our love, bring light to the world.

Pope Benedict XVI

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.

PARISH SUPPORT PROGRAM ---

Your continued support of the Parish Support Program of increased weekly offering is most appreciated. Your generous response has made a real difference in the financial stability of the parish enabling the parish to take care of some long standing bills.

Each week along with the amount collected the average amount needed (\$13,000) is also listed. This needed amount had been arrived at for the last fiscal year ending August 31, 2009. I have asked the parish accountant to recalculate the weekly amount needed to cover the 2009-2010 budget which began on September 1, 2009. With increased costs I am sure the figure will increase.

Once again, thank you and God bless.

Msgr. Tosi

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.

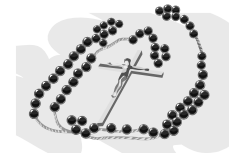


A LITTLE CHANGE OF PACE --- On Sunday, December 13 the Folk Group will be singing at the 11:45AM Mass; the Adult Choir will sing at the 10:30AM Mass. Not a permanent change it will give everyone the chance to experience the richness of our choirs. We thank both choirs for their generosity and willingness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



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.





Knights of Columbus

MSGR. FRANCIS J. DILLON COUNCIL, No. 5872
P.O. Box 570092
Whitestone, New York 11357

November 18, 2009

St. Luke's Parish
16-34 Clintonville St
Whitestone, NY, 11357

To Rev. Msgr. John C Tosi et al,

It is with great honor and thanksgiving that we, the Monsignor Francis J Dillon Council # 5872 give to St. Luke's Parish a gift of \$25,000.00 (twenty five thousand). We thank you for welcoming us not just to our parish, but to our "home!" It is great to be "home" where we once began.

Monsignor Tosi, accept this gift (check # 1544) on behalf of St. Luke's Parish toward the renovations and creation of a new parish hall in what once was the lower church.

We pray Monsignor, for you and this great parish, that which we pray at the end of each meeting, "that we may ever be united in charity, that God may bless our work, and aid us to keep our pledges for His greater glory."

Fraternally,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Edward Weisenburger', written over a circular stamp or seal.

Edward Weisenburger
Grand Knight: Monsignor Francis J Dillon Council # 5872

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.



THANK YOU ---

To all who made the altar server bake sale a success. A total of \$1,367 was raised to help support the altar server Christmas Trip. God bless you!



SACRAMENTAL CELEBRATIONS ---

During the month of November there were:

16 Baptisms

2 Weddings

9 Funerals



PADRE PIO PRAYER GROUP ---

The next meeting of the Padre Pio Prayer Group will take place on Tuesday, December 29th at 7:30pm in the church. Light refreshments follow. All are welcome to attend.



LAY CARMELITES, ST. LUKE'S CHAPTER ---

The Lay Carmelites will meet on Friday, December 11, 2009 at 7:00P.M. in the church.

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 phone number and a member of the St. Vincent de Paul Society will contact you.



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.

ST. LUKE'S ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION - DEVELOPMENTAL SWIMMING ---

Registration for Session 2 of Developmental Swimming will be held on Saturday, December 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.



ATLANTIC CITY BUS TRIP ---

GOLDEN AGE 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.





SCRIPTURE READINGS

Mon. - Is 35:1-10; Lk 5:17-26
Tues. - Gn 3:9-15,20; Eph 1:3-6,11-12;
Lk 1:26-38
Wed. - Is 40:25-31; Mt 11:28-30
Thurs.- Is 41:13-20; Mt 11:11-15
Fri. - Is 48:17-19; Mt 11:16-19
Sat. - Zec 2:14-17; Lk 1:26-38



WE PRAY FOR THE SICK OF THE PARISH:

**MAKAYLA MARGUILES
JOSEPHINE MADDI
ROBERT BOLIVAR**



**AND FOR THE DECEASED:
CHARLES A. CARLSON
NERINA PARMAGGIORE
JOSEPH COSTELLA**

Collective Intentions Mass ---

The next Collective Intentions Mass is on Saturday, December 12th at 12 noon.

At this Mass we pray for:

*Salvatore Totino
The Connors & Ryan
Families
Patrick Romagnano
Rosa Horvath*

ANNOUNCED MASSES FOR THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 7, 2009

Monday, December 7

7:00 Sabina Stigliano
12:00 Vitale Family
7:30 Feast Day Vigil Mass

Tuesday, December 8

Feast of the Immaculate Conception
8:30, 10:30, 12 Noon, 7:30pm

Wednesday, December 9

7:00 Patrick O'Connell
12:00 Alojz Trajbar

Thursday, December 10

8:30 Frank Raggo
12:00 Rocco Michielli & Family

Friday, December 11

7:00 Joseph Gargano
12:00 Gino & Cezerina Persic

Saturday, December 12

8:30 Nunzio DiPalma (27th Anniversary)



MEMORIALS

The Altar Breads are in memory of **CATHERINE KING** at the request of Jennifer McCarthy; the Altar Wine is in memory of **RALPH GARGANO** at the request of Lorraine & Mike Venditto & children; the Sanctuary Lamp is in memory of **ROSEMARIE & FRANK MOLFETTA** at the request of their children; the altar candles are burning in memory of **CECILIA PINTO** at the request of Anne & Teresa McNicholas.



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.

CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Back by popular demand...The Arcadia Brass Quintet at St. Mel Church on Sunday, December 13, 2009 at 4:30pm. Donation at the door \$15. Call (718) 886-0102 for more information.

Advent Evening of Prayer and Conversation for Women ---

"A Call and Response to Religious Life" on Wednesday, December 16 from 6:30-8:30pm at 310 Prospect Park West, Bklyn. Rsvp by Monday, Dec. 14 by calling 718-827-2454 or email Lamore@diobrook.org.