

WEEKLY MASS SCHEDULE ~ Dec. 14 - 20

<u>Day</u>	<u>Intention</u>	<u>Requested By</u>
Mon. 7:30 AM	Josephine Piejak	Daughter, Irene Piejak
Tues. 7:30 AM	Daniel Metroka	Terri Pavlovcak
Wed. 7:30 AM	Josephine Kempton & Joan Kempton Nascak	Son & Brother, John Kempton Jr.
11:00 AM	Thomas J. Flannagan	Wife, Patricia
Thurs. 7:30 AM	Ronald Nunes	Charlie & Kathy Muzzio
Fri. 7:30 AM	Genevieve & George Rusnack	Children
11:00 AM	Eleanor Biggins	Loving Husband, Tom
Sat. 8:30 AM	Eugene Muller	The Muller Family
4:00 PM	The Farese, Milkunas & Nevedomsky Families	Mary Ann Farese
5:30 PM	Mary John & Roland De Francisco	Daughter, Doris Taylor
Sun. 7:00 AM	St. Luke Parishioners	Intentions Listed Below Husband & Don Wife, Rita Devcich
8:30 AM	Multiple Intentions	
10:00 AM	Angela Nisivoccia	
12:00 PM	Joseph M. Devcich	

Multiple Intentions Mass

Sunday, December 20, 2015 ~ 8:30AM

Michael H. Perks	R-Millie Short
Alfred Piehl	R-Daughter, Millie Short
Elaine Chifulini	R-The Clause Family
Lina Colluccelli	R-Gloria Marchio
Harry Foti	R-Wife, Norma Foti
Grace Zingone, Carmela & Natale Campisi	R-Kathy & Rob Traina
Leonard Dioguardi	R-Fran & Vince De Bonis
Peter Timpone	R-Wife, Mary
Helen & Richard Bator	R-Sister, Vivian Plante
Gilda Larity	R- Kathy & Kevin Langon
Mary Langon	R-Kathy & Kevin Langon
Linda De Fresco	R-Joanne & Fred Rizzo
Ronald Cohen ~ 1st Anniversary In Heaven	R-Family
Brother Phillip Oswald (Living)	R-Dee Dee
Brother Edwin Gallagher (Living)	R-Dee Dee
Hildegard Pearl	R-Jim & Marygene Fagan
Felicia Grace Chiodi	R-The Chiodi Family
Josephine R. De Luca	R-Mary Dugard & Lois Spitaletto
Lorraine Scozzari	R-Husband, Phil
Josephine & Vincent Maglione	R-Niece, Carmela Kaiser

Christmas Mass Schedule



Christmas Eve Masses:

Thursday, Dec. 24, 2015

4:00PM (Church & overflow in Parish center),
6:00PM & 12:00 Midnight Mass

Christmas Day: Friday, Dec. 25, 2015 -

7:00AM, 8:30AM, 10:00AM, & 12:00PM



“Mary, Holy Mother of God” Masses

**Friday, January 1, 2016
(Holy Day of Obligation)**

Thursday, Dec. 31 Vigil ~ 4:00PM

Friday, Jan. 1, New Years Day ~

7:00AM, 8:30AM, & 11:00AM.


Note: The Parish Offices will be closed Thursday, Dec.24 & Friday, Dec. 25, and closed Friday, Jan 1, 2016.



NEXT SUNDAY'S READINGS December 20, 2015

1st Reading: Micah 5:1-4a
2nd Reading: Hebrews 10:5-10
Gospel: Luke 1:39-45

Readings may be found at:
<http://www.usccb.org/nab/>



Holy Year of Mercy

Pope Francis has proclaimed “A Holy Year of Mercy” which commenced on December 8, 2015 through November 20, 2016. The Motto for this Holy Year is “Merciful like the Father” and it is intended to ‘serve as an invitation to follow the merciful example of the Father who asks us not to judge or condemn but to forgive and to give love and forgiveness without measure.”

DATES OF ADVENT PENANCE SERVICES

St. Barnabas, Bayville ~ Mon., Dec. 14.,
at 7:00PM

St. Joseph, Toms River ~ Tues., Dec. 15,
at 7:00 PM

St. Maximillian Kolbe, Toms River ~
Wed., Dec. 16, at 12:00-1:30PM

St. Justin, Toms River ~ Fri., Dec. 18,
at 7:00PM

St. Luke, Toms River ~ Monday, Dec.21,
at 7:00PM



Francis opens Jubilee year with call for church that puts mercy before judgment

[Vatican City](#)

Pope Francis has launched his yearlong push for a global Catholic church of mercy and forgiveness, starting the Jubilee year focused on the subject by opening the holy door at St. Peter's Basilica and calling for a church that always puts mercy before judgment.

In a solemn Mass attended by tens of thousands in a chilly St. Peter's Square and marked by an unusually high security presence, the pontiff also praised the work of the Second Vatican Council and said the newly-opened Jubilee "compels us not to neglect the spirit which emerged" from that event.

"This Extraordinary Holy Year is itself a gift of grace," Francis said during the homily at the Mass. "To enter through the Holy Door means to rediscover the deepness of the mercy of the Father who welcomes all and goes out to meet everyone personally."

"How much wrong we do to God and his grace when we affirm that sins are punished by his judgment before putting first that they are forgiven by his mercy!" the pope exhorted. "It is truly so," he said. "We have to put mercy before judgment, and in every case God's judgment will always be in the light of his mercy."

"Let us abandon all fear and dread, for these do not benefit men and women who are loved," said Francis. "Instead, let us live the joy of encounter with the grace that transforms all."

A Jubilee year is a special year called by the Catholic church to receive blessing and pardon from God and remission of sins. While most Jubilees have been focused on calling pilgrims to Rome to receive such pardon, Francis has widely expanded his Jubilee, asking that dioceses throughout the world open their own holy door at a cathedral or other church to expand the practice globally.

A holy door is a door normally designated in special churches -- like the four papal basilicas in Rome -- to be opened only during Jubilee years as a sign of the possibility of re-entering into God's grace. Francis opened the holy door in St. Peter's Basilica towards the end of the Mass Tuesday. Standing in front of the door, located at the northeast corner of the Vatican basilica, the pontiff asked God to grant "a year of grace, a favorable time to love you and our brothers and sisters in the joy of the Gospel."

Calling Jesus "the shining face of your infinite mercy, safe refuge for us sinners, needing of forgiveness and peace" and saying that Christ is the door "through which we come to [God]," the pope pushed through the door open slowly with both hands while walking through.

Retired Pope Benedict XVI, looking a bit frail while grasping a cane to walk, was the second person to follow Francis through the door, and the two pontiffs embraced and spoke briefly both before and after the opening of the threshold.

Both Francis' homily at the Mass and the ceremony itself also paid tribute to the Second Vatican Council, which officially closed its work on Dec. 8, 1965. The Council, known colloquially as Vatican II, has been a hot point for conversation in Catholic circles over the past 40 years, with some praising its work to reform certain aspects of the church's teachings and others saying those reforms may have gone too far or have been misinterpreted.

The Eucharistic celebration Tuesday was opened with readings of excerpts from the Council's four constitutions and its documents on ecumenism and religious liberty. In his homily, Francis said the Council documents "verify the great advance in faith" made at the event. In the first place, however, the Council was an encounter," said the pontiff. "A true encounter between the Church and the men and women of our time." "An encounter marked by the force of the Spirit, who pushed the Church to emerge from the shoals which for many years had kept her closed in herself, to set out once again, with enthusiasm, on her missionary journey," he continued.

"It was the resumption of a journey of going to meet every person where they live: in their cities, in their homes, in their workplaces," he said.

CONTINUED NEXT PAGE

"Wherever there is a person, the Church is called to reach out to them to bring the joy of the Gospel," said Francis. "After these decades, we again take up this missionary push with the same power and enthusiasm."

The Jubilee challenges us to this openness, and compels us not to neglect the spirit which emerged from Vatican II, that of the Samaritan, as Blessed Paul VI reminded at the conclusion of the Council," he said. "May our passing through the Holy Door today commit us to making our own the mercy of the Good Samaritan."

Francis' opening of the holy door in St. Peter's Tuesday is just one of a number of signs and symbols the pope and the Vatican will undertake in coming days to stress the opening of the Jubilee year and the focus on the boundless nature of God's mercy.

The pontiff already made one special sign during his November visit to the Central African Republic, [opening a holy door](#) at the cathedral in the capital of Bangui a full eight days before the official opening of the Jubilee. That was the first time in the centuries of celebration of Jubilee years that a pontiff opened a holy door in any city other than Rome

The pope will open the holy door at his cathedral church -- the Basilica of St. John Lateran -- on Sunday, when U.S. Cardinal James Harvey will also open the holy door at Rome's Basilica of St. Paul's Outside the Walls. The pontiff, in a first for a Jubilee year, has called for similar holy doors to be opened in dioceses across the world that same day. Francis will open the door of Rome's Basilica of St. Mary Major, the fourth papal basilica, on Jan. 1.

Francis has also said he will be making a special sign of mercy one Friday of the month each month during the Jubilee. The first will come Dec. 18, when he is to open a door at a Caritas center in Rome that provides shelter and food for those in need.

The holy year will get a special push Feb. 10, Ash Wednesday next year, when the pontiff will commission some 800 priests from around the world to serve as "Missionaries of Mercy," giving them a special mandate to go among dioceses and forgive even canonical penalties normally reserved to the Holy See.

"Today's feast of the Immaculate Conception has a specific message to communicate to us: It reminds us that in our life all is gift, all is mercy," said the pontiff. "The Holy Virgin ... helps us to rediscover always more divine mercy as the distinctive characteristic of the Christian."

"It is the synthesis-word of the Gospel, mercy," he said. "It is the fundamental trait of the face of Christ: that face that we recognize in the diverse aspects of his existence: when he goes out to meet all, when he heals the sick, when he sits at table with sinners, and most of all when, nailed to the cross, he pardons; there we see the face of divine mercy."

The closing of the Mass Tuesday emphasized that while the Jubilee year is oriented towards evincing God's immeasurable mercy towards us, it also is meant as a forceful push to show Catholics around the world to be merciful to one another -- and to everyone else.

"Be merciful as your Father is merciful," a deacon intoned, ending the liturgy.

[Joshua J. McElwee is NCR Vatican correspondent. His email address is jmcelwee@nconline.org. Follow him on Twitter: [@joshimac](#).]

SERVICE MEETINGS:

Women's Alcoholics Anonymous, Sundays, 10:00AM in Madonna Room

Alcoholics Anonymous, Sundays, 7:00PM in the Parish Center. (Closed Meeting)

Alcoholics Anonymous, Tuesdays, 8:00PM, in the Parish Center. (Open Meeting) For additional info call Jim at 732- 552-8865.

Al-Anon Meeting, Mondays, 11:00AM, in Madonna Room

Al-Anon Meeting, Thursdays, 7:30PM, in Madonna Room. For info, call Peggy Ell at 732-240-3316.

Parent Al-Anon Meeting, Fridays, 7:00PM, in Madonna Room. For more information, call Jeanie at 732-966-1382.

Nar-Anon , Mondays, 7:30PM-9:00PM, in Madonna Room

Nar-Anon Meeting, Tuesdays, 7:30PM, in Madonna Room

Gamblers Anonymous, Saturdays, 9:30AM-11:30AM in Madonna Room

Gamblers Anonymous, Sundays, 5:45PM, in Madonna Room. (Open Meeting)

Parents of Disabled Children Support, 7:00PM, 3rd Thursday of each month.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

This is Level 4 Mass Weekend. Please **write your name on the front of the bulletin**, have it signed by someone in church ministry and turn in this signed bulletin at your next class.

During the week of December 14 – 17, the children in Levels 1-6 will experience our version of Las Posadas. This ceremony recalls Joseph and Mary's search for shelter when they arrived in Bethlehem; followed by Christmas activities in the classroom.

As per our schedule, there will be **NO PREP CLASS for two weeks, Dec 21-24, and Dec 28-31**. Classes will resume on Monday, January 4, 2016.

Pax Youth Group

7th & 8th Graders are invited to join; games, activities, hang out & pizza while getting closer to God! Check out our web site: www.paxteens.com

The next meeting: Friday, December 18 at 7:00-9:00PM in the Parish Center.



Pray for the Recently Deceased
Ronald J. Fossett Anita Menafra

Please Pray for the Sick

Myn Greuter, Joan Greuter, Elisa Greuter, Linda Greuter, Cayden Napolitano, John Kempton, Simon Amato (child), Deacon Bob Puglisi, Jo Hardardt, Michael Agro, Chuck Kraut, Libertine Javelosa, Pat Petzold, Pat LaRocca, Nina Parisi, Margaret Boland, Eugene Deehan, Martha Olmstead, Yolanda Salvatore, Joseph Alphonse Weikel (child), Gurprit Chhatwal, Jenny Ralph, Claire Hansen, Marie Gentile, Steven Haas, Lil Schneller, Bob Schneller, Enes Holsten, Joseph Italiano, Vincent Brady, Larry Reagan, Virginia Heywood (child), Robert Harraden, Margaret Longenberger, Joann Salek, Laura Petrolino, Phil DiBello, Bill Smith, Joe Morriello, Maryanne Molner, Victori Johnson, James Joseph White, Maureen Driscoll, Lisa Penna, Jacquelyn Lombardo, John Mc Manus, Pamela Mc Cabe, Tina Pilot, Phyllis Scarpello, Shirley Foco, John Higgins, Dolores Buck, Ralph Nolfi, Denise Schmitt, Kathleen Langon, Helen Dudek, Paula O'Neill, Ederlina Lozada, Mary Ann Lucia, Gloria Rafanelli, Anne Repko, Thomas Repko, Charlie Rott, Stan Marsqalek, Sister Marion Hicks, Catherine Salvatore, Donald Korba, Samantha Mahoney, Kimberly Alexander.



Blessing of the Bambinos and the Baminelli

Our St. Luke tradition of Blessing the Bambinos and the Baminelli will take place this Sunday, **December 13th at the 12:00 pm Mass.** All of the babies baptized during this past year are invited to receive a special blessing and all parishioners are invited to bring their 'bambinello' or Baby Jesus that will be placed in your home crèche to Mass to be blessed.



Giving Tree Gifts

Wrapping of the gifts will take place this **Sunday, December 13th, at 2:30PM** in the Parish Center. We are in need of some gift wrap and gift wrappers. If you can help, please bring scissors.

Church Decorating

Wednesday ~ December 23rd ~ 6:00PM
 All Parishioners are invited to join us as we decorate our parish for Christmas. Pizza, cookies and merriment will be provided. Please RSVP at 732-286-2222.



St. Vincent de Paul Society

Take up my cross (their cross) and follow Me, going to the poor, being poor, being one with them, one with Me. Little—be always little. Be simple, poor, childlike. Preach the gospel with your life.

- Catherine Doherty

Due to the holidays, there will be no General Meeting in December.

SVdP and CCD students will be accepting cash donations this weekend after all of the Masses to buy turkeys and fixings for our Christmas Basket program. The Monmouth/Ocean Food Bank does not provide turkeys so we must purchase them. We are looking to the generous support of our parishioners to help us provide a wonderful Christmas dinner for those in need. Christmas Baskets will be distributed on December 19.

We Are Here To Help

For those in need of financial assistance, please contact us at **(732) 244-3916**. Calls will be returned promptly.

The **Food Pantry** distributes food to those in need, within our parish boundaries regardless of religious affiliation, on Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 10AM to 12:45PM. Please bring current identification and proof of residence.

How You Can Help

Use the envelopes available in the Church pews and in the Narthex to make financial contributions. Contributions of food for the pantry may be placed in the large wooden box in the Narthex. **Please do not leave refrigerated/frozen food donations in the wooden box in the narthex – deliver them to the pantry during their normal hours.**

**OUR FOOD PANTRY NEEDS:
 LAUNDRY DETERGENT & SOAP**

Thank You For Helping Us To Help The Needy. God Bless!
<https://tinyurl.com/lh54ntf0>

Newly Baptized Members of St. Luke Church

- Julianna Faith La Marsh** ~ Daughter of Jamie and Jennifer La Marsh
- Lucas David Oleksy** ~ Son of David and Danamarie Oleksy
- Aiden James Pietz** ~ Son of Devin Schwartz and Robert Pietz

RCIA



Have you or someone you know not been baptized but would like to explore the desire to become Catholic? Have you or someone you know been baptized but have not completed one or both of the remaining Sacraments of Initiation (First Eucharist and/or Confirmation) but desires to participate fully in the sacramental life of the Church? **Contact us at 732- 286-2222 x 311.**

MINISTRY HOTLINE

If you are interested in serving, call **732-286-2222 x 310**

St. Luke Church has joined Investors Bank's Care2Share Affinity Program.

For every account you link to the Church of St. Luke, Investors Bank will donate monies based upon the average balance of the linked deposits. Additional Information can be obtained at any Investors Bank branch, at www.myinvestorsbank.com/Care2Share or by speaking with Kathleen Muzzio at 732-286-2222 x 306.