

WEEKLY MASS SCHEDULE ~ Dec. 21 - 27, 2015

<u>Day</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Intention</u>	<u>Requested By</u>
Mon.	7:30 AM	Patricia Frazer	Chris & Fran Johnston
Tues.	7:30 AM	Frank Irilli	Andy & Pina Di Brizzi Silver
Wed.	7:30 AM	Helen & Harry Plante	Daughter, Vivian Plante
	11:00 AM	Kathleen & Dominick Frain	Anne Ray
Thurs.	7:30 AM	Florence Grobe	Daughter, Doris
Christmas Eve - "Vigil of Christmas"			
	4:00 PM (In Church)	Joseph & Frances Kopacz	Daughter, Barbara & Jerry Santangelo
	4:00 PM (In Parish Center)	St. Luke Parishioners	
	6:00 PM	Samantha Montemayor	Parents, Nimfa & Dom Montemayor
	12:00 Midnight	Carmela & Natale Campisi	Kathy & Rob Traina
Fri. ~ Christmas Day "The Nativity of the Lord"			
	7:00 AM	St. Luke Parishioners	
	8:30 AM	Erasmus Ferraro	Rick & Kristin Ferraro & Family
	10:00 AM	Deceased Members of the Molino & Zonghetti Families	Dolores Zonghetti Wife, Millie
	12:00 PM	Thomas M. Short	Husband, Charlie
Sat.	8:30 AM	Margaret Gulino	Francine & Fred Haas
	4:00 PM	The Haas & De Rogatis Families	Mom, Margaret, With Love
	5:30 PM	Barbara Jean Waterhouse	
Sun.	7:00 AM	St. Luke Parishioners	Salvatore Giliberti Sr. & Family
	8:30 AM	Carmelina Giliberti	The Family
	10:00 AM	Patricia Franklin & Kenneth Theiller	Mom & Dad
	12:00 PM	Brian Berardi	

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



To all our Parishioners & Visiting Families,

We would like to wish you a happy, healthy, blessed Christmas and New Year.!

Father Bob and Parish Staff



"Mary, Holy Mother of God"

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.



ST. LUKE ADVENT PENANCE SERVICE

Monday, Dec. 21, at 7:00PM

Please Note: Confessions will not be heard on Saturday, December 26.



Holy Year of Mercy

Pope Francis has proclaimed "A Holy Year of Mercy" to commence 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."

NEXT SUNDAY'S READINGS

December 27, 2015

1st Reading: Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14

2nd Reading: Colossians 3:12-21

Gospel: Luke 2:41-52

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

A Franciscan Christmas Blessing for Justice and Peace

May God bless you with discomfort...
at easy answers, hard hearts,
half-truths, and superficial relationships.
May God bless you so that you may live
from deep within your heart
where God's Spirit dwells.

May God bless you with anger...
at injustice, oppression,
and exploitation of people.
May God bless you so that you may
work for justice, freedom, and peace.

May God bless you with tears...
to shed for those who suffer from pain,
rejection, starvation and war.
May God bless you so that you
may reach out your hand
to comfort them and turn their pain into joy.

And may God bless you with
enough foolishness
to believe that you can make a difference
in this world, in your neighborhood,
so that you will courageously try
what you don't think you can do, but,
in Jesus Christ you'll have all the strength necessary.

May God bless you to fearlessly
speak out about injustice,
unjust laws, corrupt politicians,
unjust and cruel treatment of prisoners,
and senseless wars,
genocides, starvations, and poverty
that is so pervasive.

May God bless you that you remember
we are all called
to continue God's redemptive work
of love and healing
in God's place, in and through God's name,
in God's Spirit, continually creating
and breathing new life and grace
into everything and everyone we touch.

*Source: "Troubadour: A Missionary Magazine," published
by the Franciscan Missionary Society, Liverpool, UK:
Spring 2005.*



Support Group for Parents of Special Needs Children

Are you a family member caring for a special needs child or adult? If so, this group is for you. We share information and ideas, give support, and grow friendships. We meet the **3rd Thursday of each month** at the St. Luke Church, Toms River, 2nd Floor, Room #1, **from 7:00-9:00PM**.

For more information, call:
Mary 732-779-0925 or Eileen 732-803-3092

ALERT!

Ending slavery is everyone's work. U.S. Catholic Sisters Against Human Trafficking (USCSAHT) is a collaborative, faith-based network that offers educational resources, information about access to survivors' services, and engages in advocacy in an effort to eradicate modern-day slavery.

Visit the web site: sistersagainstrafficking.org

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN YOGA & SPIRITUALITY?

We are hoping to offer all St. Luke parishioners a chance to experience Yoga from the Ground Up. This will be a 6 week program from **January 6th/7th through February 10th/11th**. **The cost for this 6 week program is \$20**. We are asking those interested to please call 732-286-2222, and choose which session time you would prefer to attend (Wednesdays, 6:00 pm-7:15 pm or Thursdays, 9:00 am-10:15 am.) If there is enough interest in both times, we will have both classes.

St. Joseph's Carpenter Shop

Located inside St. Joseph Church
685 Hooper Avenue, Toms River
732-914-2457

Religious items of all types. Open Monday to Friday 9:30AM to 3:00PM, Sundays 8:30AM to 1:30PM. There is a beautiful selection of religious Christmas cards, ornaments and other Christmas items. Also available are Christmas Wafer Oplatek, Advent Wreaths and candles. Visa and Master Card are accepted and also special orders. Please stop in and enjoy this beautiful selection of gifts, rosaries, books and so much more.

St. Luke Pre-Baptism Classes...

for expectant and new parents are held on the first Monday of each month at **7:30PM**. Please call the Parish Office to register, 732-286-2222.

**The next class:
Monday, January 4, 2016**

St. Luke Rosary Altar Society

Meets on the second Tuesday of the month in the Parish Center. **The Rosary will be recited at 1:00** followed by a meeting and social. All ladies of the parish are invited to join us.

**Next meeting:
Tuesday, March 8, 2016
(No meeting in Jan. & Feb.)**



Religious Education News

This is Level 5 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.

Merry Christmas!

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, January 8, 2016
at 7:00-9:00PM** in the Parish Center.

St. Luke Bereavement Support Group

We have just completed our Fall session, and although we will not begin a new session until next year, you are not alone. If you need information concerning bereavement or any questions, please contact Anna Ascione-Hardman at 732-244-8557.

Rosary Makers

Meet on the 3rd Tuesday monthly, at **1:30pm** to make Rosaries for the missions and local nursing homes. Instructions and materials provided.

**Next meeting:
Tuesday, Jan. 29, 2016**

Prayer Shawl Ministry

Meets on the 3rd Wednesday monthly, **10:00am-12:00pm** to create shawls and lap throws to give to the bereaved, the infirmed and the lonely.

**Next meeting:
Wed., Jan. 20, 2016**



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 for Men, Sundays, 8:30AM-9:30AM; for more information call Mort Levy 732-600-6783.

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.

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.

Parishioners, Please Note:

If you are leaving New Jersey for the winter months, please call the Parish Office, 732-286-2222, so that we may stop delivery of your Church offering envelopes for the winter.

Collections for Dec. 5 & 6:

1st collection: \$17,849.00 *
2nd collection: 6,939.00 *

Please **do not** tape or staple your weekly collection envelopes.

If you would like to contribute by credit card or auto-debit, **FaithDirect**, forms are available in the Narthex or by signing up at www.faithdirect.net.

Thank you for your generous support.

* Weekly total does not reflect contributions through FaithDirect.



Pray for the Recently Deceased

Judith Juhasz

Ederlina Lozada

Burton Nickerson

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, Mary Ann Lucia, Gloria Rafanelli, Anne Repko, Thomas Repko, Charlie Rott, Stan Marszalek, Sister Marion Hicks, Catherine Salvatore, Donald Korba, Samantha Mahoney, Kimberly Alexander, Patricia Wolfgang-Spavold, Barbara Meidhof, Pat Kruse, Dean (Dino) Dourlaris.

Quote of the Week:

"In this Year of Mercy—there are two paths: one of those who hope in God's mercy and know that God is the Father; and then there are those who take refuge in the slavery of rigidity and know nothing of God's mercy. ...[recalling an even that took place in Buenos Aires, with an very elderly woman coming to confession, 'with eyes that were full of hope]: "I said: 'Grandma, are you coming to confession?' Because I was about to leave. 'Yes' she answered and I said: 'you have not sinned'. She said 'Father: we have all sinned-but God forgives all'. 'How do you know?' I asked, and she said: 'because if God did not forgive all, the world would not exist'. ...Before these two persons—the free one, the one with hope who brings God's mercy, and the closed, legalistic slave of his own rigidity, let us remember the words of the old lady and the lesson she gave me: God forgives all, He is just waiting for you to get close to Him."

-Pope Francis

WE NEED

Extraordinary Ministers to serve at the Nursing Homes, the Homebound and at Mass.

"You are God's hands and feet. You have been called."

MINISTRY HOTLINE

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



St. Vincent de Paul Society

What does love look like? It has the hands to help others. It has the feet to hasten to the poor and needy. It has eyes to see misery and want. It has the ears to hear the sighs and sorrows of men. That is what love looks like. - Saint Augustine

We would like to thank all of you who donated cash to provide Christmas Dinners for the needy in our area.. Your donations will help to make many Merry Christmas's. We would also like to thank the CCD students who helped receive donations at the Masses.

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:

TEA, COFFEE, DETERGENT, PAPER TOWELS

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



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.**

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.