

WEEKLY MASS SCHEDULE ~ DEC. 7 - 13, 2015

<u>Day</u>	<u>Intention</u>	<u>Requested By</u>
Mon., 7:30 AM	Mary Gregorio	Marilyn A. Gibney & Jillian Phillips
Holy Day Vigil Mass ~ Immaculate Conception of Blessed Virgin Mary:		
4:00 PM	John Wetzler	Wife, Rosalie
7:00 PM	Deborah A. Kay	Mary Ann Perkins
Tues., Dec. 8 - Immaculate Conception of Blessed Virgin Mary:		
7:00 AM	Peggy Walter	Husband, Al Walter
8:30 AM	Kenneth Kling	Children
11:00 AM	Regina Ivan	Husband, William F. Ivan
Wed. 7:30 AM	Frank Irilli	Cosmo & Josephine Di Brizzi
11:00 AM	Frank Torre	Delores Torre
Thurs. 7:30 AM	Joseph Maccaro	Terri Pavlovcak
Fri. 7:30 AM	Martin Teevan	Eileen & Bill Strallow
11:00 AM	Margaret Dugan	Sister, Sheila & James Cahill
Sat. 8:30 AM	Thomas Faone	The Frassetto Family
4:00 PM	Frank Paul Stabile	Wife, Anne
5:30 PM	Patrick & Teresa Ippolito	Patricia Ployce
Sun. 7:00 AM	St. Luke Parishioners	
8:30 AM	The Dougherty & Laurence Family	Theresa Dougherty
10:00 AM	Josephine & Alfred Verga	Juanita & Tom Moriarty
12:00 PM	Cosimo Cangiano	Wife, Maria Cangiano

Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

December 8, 2015

(Holy Day of Obligation)

Mass Times: Monday, Dec. 7 ~ 4:00PM & 7:00PM

Tuesday, Dec. 8 ~ 7:00AM, 8:30AM & 11:00AM

Note: The Parish and Religious Ed offices will be closed in observance of the holy day.



Pray for the Recently Deceased

*Lois A. Soriano-Axelson
Thomas J. Penna*

*Michael Guarini
Ronald J. Fossett*

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, Anita Menafra, 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, Jeannette Wolcott, Kathleen Langon, Helen Dudek, Paula O'Neill, Ederlina Lozada, Mary Ann Lucia, Gloria Rafanelli.

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



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 13, 2015

1st Reading: Zephaniah 3:14-18a

2nd Reading: Philippians 4:4-7

Gospel: Luke 3:10-18

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

FROM THE PASTOR. . .

Advent

Human beings cannot live without hope. Unlike the animals, we are blessed—or cursed—with the ability to think about the future and to fear our actions to shaping it. So essential is this to human life, that human beings cannot live without hope, without something to live for, without something to look forward to. To be without hope, to have nothing to live for, is to surrender to death in despair. But we can find all sorts of things to live for and we can hope for almost anything: for some measure of success or security or for the realization of some more or less modest ambition; for our children, that they might be saved from our mistakes and sufferings and find a better life than we have known; for a better world, throwing ourselves into politics or medicine or technology so that future generations might be better off. Not all these forms of hope are selfish; indeed, they have given dignity and purpose to the lives of countless generations.

But one of the reasons why we read the Old Testament during Advent is to learn what to hope for. The people of the Old Testament had the courage to hope for big things: that the desert would be turned into fertile land; that their scattered and divided people would eventually be gathered again; that the blind would see, the deaf hear, the lame walk; that not only their own people, but all the peoples of the earth, would be united in the blessings of everlasting peace. Clearly, their hopes were no different from ours or from any human being's lasting peace, tranquil lives, sufficiency of food, an end to suffering, pain and misery.

Thus we hope for the same things as the Old Testament people, for their hopes are not yet realized. But we differ from them in two ways. First, the coming of Jesus in history, as a partial fulfillment of God's promises, immeasurably confirms and strengthens our hope. Secondly, we differ from the Old Testament people because Jesus has revealed to us that God is not afar off, but is already in our midst. Hence the importance in the Advent liturgy of John the Baptist and of Mary: because they recognized the new situation, they serve as models for the Church in discerning the presence of our Savior in the world.

Taken from "The Spirit of Advent," Mark Searle, in Assembly, Volume 7:1. Notre Dame Center for Liturgy, Notre Dame, IN

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, December 7**

St. Luke Rosary Altar Society

Reminder: Annual Christmas Luncheon for Rosarians on **Dec. 8 at 12:00** noon in the Parish Center. Advanced ticket purchase was required by Dec. 1st.

Religious Education News

This is Level 3 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.

On Tuesday, December 8, 2015, there is no PREP class and the office will be closed in observance of the Feast of the Immaculate Conception.

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.



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. 19, 2016
(No meetings in Dec.)**

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., December 16**

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.

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.

GIVING TREE & PUDGE'S TREE

All gifts for Our Giving Tree and Pudge's Tree need to be returned, **UNWRAPPED** with the tag (it is our only way of getting gifts where they belong) **by this weekend, DECEMBER 6th** (so we can get gifts ready for distribution). THANK YOU for your continuing generosity and the smiles and love you bring to young and not as young and all God's creation through it.



Wrapping of gifts will take place on 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 your scissors.



"Poinsettia Angels" ...

will be available for dedication at the weekend Masses only through this **Sunday, December 6th**. Donations are \$15 and \$25.

Collections for:

Nov. 21 & 22 Total: \$16,612.00 *

Nov. 28 & 29 Total: 16,949.00 *

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.

Quote of the Week:

Pope Francis when asked if he considered going to Armenia to commemorate the 101st anniversary of the tragedy that afflicted the population, as he did last year in Turkey:

"Last year I promised the three Patriarchs that I would go: the promise is there. I do not know if it will be possible to do so, but the promise stands. ... As for wars, wars are due to ambition. I am talking about wars that are not a legitimate defence against an unjust aggressor, but rather wars, wars are an 'industry'! ... War is a business, a weapons business. Terrorists, do they make their weapons? Perhaps the odd small one. Who gives them the weapons for warfare? There is a network of interests involved, and behind this there is money, or power: imperial power, or economic power. ... But we have been at war for many years, some times more than others: the pieces of the war are smaller, then they become bigger. ... I don't know what the 'Vatican position' is, but what I think is that wars are a sin against humanity. They destroy humanity, they are causes of exploitation, of human trafficking, of so many things. ... Wars are not of God. God is the God of peace."



St. Vincent de Paul Society

SVdP and CCD students will be accepting cash donations next 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. Christmas Baskets will be distributed on December 19.

Your donations of food helped us to provide 141 families with a Thanksgiving turkey dinner with all the fixings and 772 bags of groceries. This far surpasses past years. We are looking to the generous support of our parishioners to help us provide the same support for Christmas.

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:

COFFEE, LAUNDRY DETERGENT & SOAP

Thank You For Helping Us To Help The Needy. God Bless!

<https://tinyurl.com/lh54ntf0>



Blessing of the Bambinos and the Bambinelli

Our St. Luke tradition of Blessing the Bambinos and the Bambinelli will take place on 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.

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."

To answer:

732-286-2222 x 310

Yoga & Spirituality Class

The Yoga & Spirituality Class is offering an evening program for Advent on **December 9th at 6:00PM** in the St. Luke Parish Center. This is a make up class for a missed session in November and is open to all



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.**

Thank You!

The Ladies of St. Luke Prayer Shawl Ministry would like to thank all who so kindly supported our Craft Sale for Yamba Uganda. We raised over \$1900, all of which will be used to supply the medical clinic in Uganda with equipment and medications. There, adults and children are dying for lack of a fully equipped clinic and medications which we take for granted here in the States. May God bless you abundantly for your generosity.

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.