

# St. Luke Roman Catholic Church

1674 Old Freehold Road, Toms River, NJ 08755

Very Rev. Robert S. Grodnicki, Pastor

Parish Office: 732-286-2222 Religious Education Office: 732-505-0108

Website: stlukestomsriver.org

## December 27, 2015

### WEEKLY MASS SCHEDULE ~ Dec. 28, 2015 - Jan. 3, 2016

<u>Day</u>	<u>Intention</u>	<u>Requested By</u>
Mon. 7:30 AM	Anthony Ficarra	Susan & John De Millio
Tues. 7:30 AM	Marian Dowling	Loving Sister, Margaret Waterhouse
Wed. 7:30 AM	Vincent & Anne Raphael	Eileen Raphael
11:00 AM	Jason Reinhart	James & Sheila Cahill
Thurs. 7:30 AM	Vincent & Anne Raphael	Eileen Raphael
<b>Holy Day Vigil ~ "Mary, Holy Mother of God":</b>		
4:00 PM	John Orrico	Lou & Pat La Rocca
<b>Fri., January 1st ~ Holy Day, "Mary, Holy Mother of God":</b>		
7:00 AM	Eileen T. Smith	The Cioffi Family
8:30 AM	Charles Ingulli	Robert & Carole Deutesh
11:00 AM	Louis Ragusa, Sr.	James & Andrea Donachy, III
Sat. 8:30 AM	Paciencia Martinez	Cecilia Magtuloy
4:00 PM	Rosanna D'Adamo	Kathryn Sweeney
5:30 PM	Ronald Heitmann Sr. ~ 21st Anniv.	The Heitmann & Bengivenga Family
Sun. 7:00 AM	St. Luke Parishioners	
8:30 AM	Doris Bowden	St. Luke Rosary Altar Society
10:00 AM	Jennifer Furda	Mom, Dad, Mike & Sandy
12:00 PM	Joseph Tomasulo	Margaret Waterhouse



### *"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 Friday, Jan 1, 2016.



*A Happy and Blessed New Year  
to All Our Parishioners & Visitors!*

*Father Bob and Parish Staff*



*Thank You!*

*For everyone who helped with the  
Giving Tree and decorating the Church  
for Christmas... Thank you!  
May God Bless you always!*



### **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."

### **NEXT SUNDAY'S READINGS**

**January 3, 2016**

1st Reading: Isaiah 60:1-6  
2nd Reading: Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6  
Gospel: Matthew 2:1-12

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

# Christmas

On the evening of December 24, the Church begins its celebration of the Nativity of the Lord. Four Masses are assigned for the Solemnity of Christmas: a Vigil Mass, a Mass during the Night, a Mass at Dawn, and a Mass during the Day. In past centuries, the last three were known as the Mass of the Angels, the Mass of the Shepherds, and the Mass of the Incarnate Word, titles derived from the Gospels assigned to each liturgy.

The celebration of Christmas does not end with these four Masses, however, for the most central mysteries' observances continue beyond a single celebration or day to allow time for extended reflection and celebration. While the secular world seems to want to conclude Christmas the next day, the Church is just beginning to celebrate. The celebration extends through the Octave (eight days) that concludes on January 1, and even beyond through the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord (*see Universal Norms on the Liturgical Year and General Roman Calendar, no. 12*).

The days of the Christmas Octave include many special feasts. On December 26, we celebrate the Feast of St. Stephen, the first martyr, followed by the Feast of St. John, Apostle and Evangelist, on December 27. On December 28, we remember the Holy Innocents, the sons of Israel massacred by Herod in his futile effort to destroy the newborn King of the Jews. On the Sunday in the Octave,<sup>1</sup> we celebrate the Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph, honoring the human family in which Jesus grew to maturity, a model for our families as well. On the octave day itself, January 1, we celebrate Mary, the Mother of God, recalling “the divine, virginal and salvific motherhood of the Blessed Virgin Mary” (*Directory on Popular Piety and the Liturgy, no. 107*).

The Christmas season continues with the celebration of the Solemnity of the Epiphany, honoring the manifestation of Jesus as Messiah to the Magi from the East, a sign that Gentiles too are called into the unity of God's Kingdom. Though traditionally celebrated as the conclusion of the Twelve Days of Christmas, in the United States, this observance has been transferred to the Second Sunday of Christmas, meaning that it can be celebrated on any day between January 2 and January 8. The Christmas season concludes with the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord, when, through the descent of a dove, God made manifest that Jesus was his beloved Son, sent for the salvation of the world. When the Epiphany is celebrated on January 7 or 8, this feast is celebrated on the following Monday.



*This article is an abridged excerpt from the Essential Guide to Seasons and Saints, USCCB, 2013. Excerpt from Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments, Directory on Popular Piety and the Liturgy, copyright © 2001, Libreria Editrice Vaticana (LEV), Vatican City State. Used with permission. All rights reserved.*

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*1 When there is no Sunday in the Octave, the feast is transferred to the preceding Friday*

### 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 6 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.

### Happy New Year!

As per our schedule, there will be **NO PREP CLASS** this week, Dec 28-31, and the PREP Office will be closed. **Classes will resume on Monday, January 4, 2016.**

Just a reminder! The Level 8 Confirmation retreat will take place on Friday, January 8 from 7pm-10pm and Saturday, January 9 from 10 am-1pm. Please keep these candidates in your prayers as they continue their final preparations for Confirmation.

### 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](http://www.paxteens.com)

**The next meeting: Friday, January 8, 2016**

### 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**

### 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**

### 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.

### 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.

### 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.

### 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 6<sup>th</sup>/7<sup>th</sup> through February 10<sup>th</sup>/11<sup>th</sup>**. **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.



### 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.**



## Pray for the Recently Deceased

Judith Juhasz

### 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:

"I invite all Christians, everywhere, at this very moment, to a renewed personal encounter with Jesus Christ, or at least an openness to letting him encounter them; I ask all of you to do this unfailingly each day. No one should think that this invitation is not meant for him or her, since 'no one is excluded from the joy brought by the Lord'. The Lord does not disappoint those who take this risk; whenever we take a step towards Jesus, we come to realize that he is already there, waiting for us with open arms. Now is the time to say to Jesus: 'Lord, I have let myself be deceived; in a thousand ways I have shunned your love, yet here I am once more, to renew my covenant with you. I need you. Save me once again, Lord, take me once more into your redeeming embrace'".

(Pope Francis, *Evangelii Gaudium* ¶ 3)

### 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

*He has brought down rulers from their thrones but has lifted up the humble. He has filled the hungry with good things but has sent the rich away empty. He has helped his servant Israel, remembering to be merciful to Abraham and his descendants forever, even as he said to our fathers. (Luke 1:52-55)*

**God loves the poor. He is among them. And if we are going to celebrate the birth of His Son with any sense of conscience, we must be with them, as well.**

### 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>

## Breakfast at the Knights

The Knights of Columbus, Council 4969, is sponsoring a **catered breakfast** for the benefit of their God's Special People Program on **Sunday, January 17, from 8:00-11:00AM** at the Council home, 113 Tennyson Avenue, Toms River, NJ. The God's Special People program benefits many local organizations that provide services to special needs children and adults. Ticket donation is \$9.00; children under five are free. Tickets available from John Budenas (732-600-3657) or at the Council home and must be purchased by Tuesday, January 12. **No tickets will be sold at the door.**

## 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](http://www.myinvestorsbank.com/Care2Share) or by speaking with Kathleen Muzzio at 732-286-2222 x 306.