

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

January 3, 2016

WEEKLY MASS SCHEDULE ~ Jan. 4 - 10, 2016

<u>Day</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Intention</u>	<u>Requested By</u>
Mon.	7:30 AM	Suzanne Wurzler	Terry & Sal Rizzo-Cascio
Tues.	7:30 AM	Daniel Cajohn	Sister, Deborah Weingroff
Wed.	7:30 AM	Stephonie Seibel	Sister, Helen Donald
	11:00 AM	Joseph Tomasulo	Martin & Barbara Ruby
Thurs.	7:30 AM	Anthony Piejak	Daughter, Irene Piejak
Fri.	7:30 AM	Stella Sichenze	The Tiplady Family
	11:00 AM	Doris Bowden	Madeleine Johnsen
Sat.	8:30 AM	James Hagan	Susan & John De Millio
	4:00 PM	Concetta & Aniello Mennella & Sons, John & Ralph	Carol & Anthony Mennella
	5:30 PM	Frank & Patricia De Fresco	Joanne & Fred Rizzo
Sun.	7:00 AM	St. Luke Parishioners	
	8:30 AM	Margaret Lidaka (Living)	Pat Forthuber
	10:00 AM	Josephine & Alfred Verga	Tom & Juanita Moriarty
	12:00 PM	Eloisa Silva & Elena Renard	Ed & Silvia Okolita



Entering the house they found the child with Mary, his mother.

Thank You!

We hope everyone has enjoyed how the Parish has been decorated for Christmas. We had a wonderful time doing it. And to all those who gave up their evening to help: THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU!!!!!! May God's Peace Be With You in 2016!!!



Pray for the Recently Deceased

Pat Kruse

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, Virginia Heywood (child), 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, Donald Korba, Samantha Mahoney, Kimberly Alexander, Patricia Wolfgang-Spavold, Barbara Meidhof, Dean (Dino) Dourlaris, Art Muldoon.

On January 10, 2016, we will celebrate the Baptism of the Lord. After this date, we will be making the Poinsettias available for parishioners to take home.

Did you realize Lent is just over 1 month away? (February 10th)

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.' Resources to assist us in celebrating this Holy Year of Mercy will be made available in the Narthex, on our website: www.stlukestomsriver.org and by following us on Twitter: [stlukespar](https://twitter.com/stlukespar)



NEXT SUNDAY'S READINGS

January 10, 2016

1st Reading: Is 42:1-4, 6-7

2nd Reading: Acts 10:34-38

Gospel: Lk 3:15-16, 21-22

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

Urbi et Orbi
25 December 2015

Dear brothers and sisters, Happy Christmas!

Christ is born for us, let us rejoice in the day of our salvation!

Let us open our hearts to receive the grace of this day, which is Christ himself. Jesus is the radiant “day” which has dawned on the horizon of humanity. A day of mercy, in which God our Father has revealed his great tenderness to the entire world. A day of light, which dispels the darkness of fear and anxiety. A day of peace, which makes for encounter, dialogue and reconciliation. A day of joy: a “great joy” for the poor, the lowly and for all the people (cf. Lk 2:10).

On this day, Jesus, the Saviour is born of the Virgin Mary. The Crib makes us see the “sign” which God has given us: “a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger” (Lk 2:12). Like the shepherds of Bethlehem, may we too set out to see this sign, this event which is renewed yearly in the Church. Christmas is an event which is renewed in every family, parish and community which receives the love of God made incarnate in Jesus Christ. Like Mary, the Church shows to everyone the “sign” of God: the Child whom she bore in her womb and to whom she gave birth, yet who is the Son of the Most High, since he “is of the Holy Spirit” (Mt 1:20). He is truly the Saviour, for he is the Lamb of God who takes upon himself the sin of the world (cf. Jn 1:29). With the shepherds, let us bow down before the Lamb, let us worship God’s goodness made flesh, and let us allow tears of repentance to fill our eyes and cleanse our hearts.

He alone, he alone can save us. Only God’s mercy can free humanity from the many forms of evil, at times monstrous evil, which selfishness spawns in our midst. The grace of God can convert hearts and offer mankind a way out of humanly insoluble situations.

Where God is born, hope is born. Where God is born, peace is born. And where peace is born, there is no longer room for hatred and for war. Yet precisely where the incarnate Son of God came into the world, tensions and violence persist, and peace remains a gift to be implored and built. May Israelis and Palestinians resume direct dialogue and reach an agreement which will enable the two peoples to live together in harmony, ending a conflict which has long set them at odds, with grave repercussions for the entire region.

We pray to the Lord that the agreement reached in the United Nations may succeed in halting as quickly as possible the clash of arms in Syria and in remedying the extremely grave humanitarian situation of its suffering people. It is likewise urgent that the agreement on Libya be supported by all, so as to overcome the grave divisions and violence afflicting the country. May the attention of the international community be unanimously directed to ending the atrocities which in those countries, as well as in Iraq, Libya, Yemen and sub-Saharan Africa, even now reap numerous victims, cause immense suffering and do not even spare the historical and cultural patrimony of entire peoples. My thoughts also turn to those affected by brutal acts of terrorism, particularly the recent massacres which took place in Egyptian airspace, in Beirut, Paris, Bamako and Tunis.

To our brothers and sisters who in many parts of the world are being persecuted for their faith, may the Child Jesus grant consolation and strength.

We also pray for peace and concord among the peoples of the Democratic Republic of Congo, Burundi and South Sudan, that dialogue may lead to a strengthened common commitment to the building of civil societies animated by a sincere spirit of reconciliation and of mutual understanding.

May Christmas also bring true peace to Ukraine, offer comfort to those suffering from the effects of the conflict, and inspire willingness to carry out the agreements made to restore concord in the entire country.

May the joy of this day illumine the efforts of the Colombian people so that, inspired by hope, they may continue their commitment to working for the desired peace.

Where God is born, hope is born; and where hope is born, persons regain their dignity. Yet even today great numbers of men and woman are deprived of their human dignity and, like the child Jesus, suffer cold, poverty, and rejection. May our closeness today be felt by those who are most vulnerable, especially child soldiers, women who suffer violence, and the victims of human trafficking and the drug trade.

Nor may our encouragement be lacking to all those fleeing extreme poverty or war, travelling all too often in inhumane conditions and not infrequently at the risk of their lives. May God repay all those, both individuals and states, who generously work to provide assistance and welcome to the numerous migrants and refugees, helping them to build a dignified future for themselves and for their dear ones, and to be integrated in the societies which receive them.

On this festal day may the Lord grant renewed hope to all those who lack employment; may he sustain the commitment of those with public responsibilities in political and economic life, that they may work to pursue the common good and to protect the dignity of every human life.

Where God is born, mercy flourishes. Mercy is the most precious gift which God gives us, especially during this Jubilee year in which we are called to discover that tender love of our heavenly Father for each of us. May the Lord enable prisoners in particular to experience his merciful love, which heals wounds and triumphs over evil.

Today, then, let us together rejoice in the day of our salvation. As we contemplate the Crib, let us gaze on the open arms of Jesus, which show us the merciful embrace of God, as we hear the cries of the Child who whispers to us: “for my brethren and companions’ sake, I will say: Peace be within you” (Ps 121[122]:8).

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.)

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 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.

Religious Education News

This is Level 7 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, PREP Classes resume on Monday, January 4, 2016.

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

First Reconciliation for Level 2 students will take place on **Wednesday, January 13, 2016, at 4:30 pm** in the Church. Please keep these children in your prayers as they prepare for this sacrament of forgiveness and healing.

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

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.



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.

WE NEED YOU

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

We will begin training on a monthly basis.

“You are God’s hands and feet.
You have been called.”

MINISTRY HOTLINE

732-286-2222 x 310

Quote of the Week:

"In the Year of Mercy, every Christian family can become a privileged place on this pilgrimage for experiencing the joy of forgiveness. Forgiveness is the essence of the love which can understand mistakes and mend them. How miserable we would be if God did not forgive us! Within the family we learn how to forgive, because we are certain that we are understood and supported, whatever the mistakes we make."

~Pope Francis, homily for Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph

Wise Women & Men Still Seek Him

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 or by speaking with Kathleen Muzzio at 732-286-2222 x 306.



St. Vincent de Paul Society

Starting January 1, all Food Pantry guests must reregister. Guests must supply proof of residence, verification of eligibility for public assistance or low income qualification (if applicable). Guests must also supply verification of the number of persons in the household and the birth dates of all children. We are also converting to a computer centered database system.

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.**

ALERT!

January is National Slavery and Human Trafficking Awareness month. Women, men and children in the U.S. and around the world are subjected to forced labor, domestic servitude and the sex trade at the hands of human traffickers. U.S. Catholic Sisters are working together to end this crime. Learn more about it at **sistersagainstrafficking.org**. Ending Slavery is everyone's work.