

# 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](http://stlukestomsriver.org)

## WEEKLY MASS SCHEDULE ~ JANUARY 2 - 8, 2017

Day	Time	Intention	Requested By
Mon.	7:30 AM	Ann Julia Hansen	Carol Dobrzynski
Tues.	7:30 AM	Julia Irene Hickey	John & Patricia Connelly
Wed.	7:30 AM	James Mc Clellan	Frances Barchi
	11:00 AM	James Brady	The Meehan Family
Thurs.	7:30 AM	Eric Bray	Carol Dobrzynski
Fri.	7:30 AM	Anthony Piejak	Daughter, Irene Piejak
	11:00 AM	Stephanie Seibel	Helen Donald
Sat.	8:30 AM	Paul Kwitowski	Mollie King
	4:00 PM	Carole Henning	St. Vincent de Paul Society
	5:30 PM	Jennifer Furda	Parents & Mike and Sandra
Sun.	7:00 AM	St. Luke Parishioners	
	8:30 AM	Rachel & Robert Kaiser	Son, Greg & Carmela Kaiser
	10:00 AM	Marion Cotto	The Rosary Group at Harrogate
	12:00 PM	Barbara Lentini	Sheryl Mirsky

**Parishioners, Please Note: The Parish & Religious Ed Offices will be closed Monday, January 2nd.**



### Pray for the Recently Deceased

Joyce Palica Marilyn Schadt

Kathleen Byrnes

### 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 848-226-6220.**



### 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, Chuck Kraut, Libertine Javelosa, Pat Petzold, Nina Parisi, Margaret Boland, Martha Olmstead, Yolanda Salvatore, Joseph Alphonse Weikel (child), Gurprit Chhatwal, Jenny Ralph, Joseph Italiano, James Joseph White, Francis Lewis Jr., Richard Coburger, Pat La Rocca, Claire Hansen, Anthony Cuccaro, Walter Windeknecht, Jane Windeknecht, Richard Link, Jean Stulich, Vera Steingraber, Marco Leone, Phil Gatti, Robert P., Diane Gallio, Peter Melluse, David Lagno, Mary Hayes, Maryanne Molner, Can Nguyen, James Rauh, Vito Ottomano, Alyssa Colosi (child), Pete Turner, Anne Silvestri, Hugh Noble, Donna Clemente, Diana Frassetto, Sheila Cahill, Debra Nacovsky, Bill Coles, John Waters, Lillian Schneller, Bob Schneller, Christopher Cirone, John De Millio, Mickey Jackiewicz.

### This week's Senior Moment

“Let your reminiscing at special times in your life help you see all the ways that God has been in your life so far. Then, you can look ahead with faith and hope because your history shows you that God is with you ... always!”

“Even Better After 50!”  
Dr. Richard Johnson, PhD

### NEXT SUNDAY'S READINGS

January 8, 2017 ~ The Epiphany of the Lord

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/>

*The Urbi Et Orbi is given by the Bishop of Rome (Pope Francis) to the city and to the world.*

**URBI ET ORBI 2016**

Dear Brothers and Sisters, Happy Christmas!

Today the Church once again experiences the wonder of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Saint Joseph and the shepherds of Bethlehem, as they contemplate the newborn Child laid in a manger: Jesus, the Savior.

On this day full of light, the prophetic proclamation resounds:

**“For to us a child is born, To us a son is given. And the government will be upon his shoulder, and his name will be called ‘Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.’” (Is 9:6)**

The power of this Child, Son of God and Son of Mary, is not the power of this world, based on might and wealth; it is the power of love. It is the power which created the heavens and the earth, which gives life to all creation: to minerals, plants and animals; it is the force which attracts man and woman, and makes them one flesh, one single existence; it is the power which gives new birth, pardons faults, reconciles enemies, and transforms evil into good. It is the power of God. This power of love led Jesus Christ to strip himself of his glory and become man; it led him to give his life on the cross and to rise from the dead. It is the power of service, which inaugurates in our world the Kingdom of God, a kingdom of justice and peace.

For this reason, the birth of Jesus was accompanied by the angels’ song as they proclaimed:

**“Glory to God in the highest, And on earth peace among men with whom he is pleased!” (Lk 2:14)**

Today this message goes out to the ends of the earth to reach all peoples, especially those scarred by war and harsh conflicts that seem stronger than the yearning for peace.

Peace to men and women in the war-torn land of Syria, where far too much blood has been spilled. Above all in the city of Aleppo, site of the most awful battles in recent weeks, it is most urgent that assistance and support be guaranteed to the exhausted civil populace, with respect for humanitarian law. It is time for weapons to be still forever, and the international community to actively seek a negotiated solution, so that civil coexistence can be restored in the country.

Peace to women and men of the beloved Holy Land, the land chosen and favored by God. May Israelis and Palestinians have the courage and the determination to write a new page of history, where hate and revenge give way to the will to build together a future of mutual understanding and harmony. May Iraq, Libya and Yemen – where their peoples suffer war and the brutality of terrorism – be able once again to find unity and concord.

Peace to the men and women in various parts of Africa, especially in Nigeria, where fundamentalist terrorism exploits even children in order to perpetrate horror and death. Peace in South Sudan and the Democratic Republic of the Congo, so that divisions may be healed and all people of good will may strive to undertake the path of development and sharing, preferring the culture of dialogue to the mindset of conflict.

Peace to women and men who to this day suffer the consequences of the conflict in Eastern Ukraine, where there is urgent need for a common desire to bring relief to the civil population and to put into practice the commitments which have been assumed.

We implore harmony for the dear people of Colombia, which seeks to embark on a new and courageous path of dialogue and reconciliation. May such courage also motivate the beloved country of Venezuela to undertake the necessary steps to put an end to current tensions, and build together a future of hope for the whole population.

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### St. Luke Pre-Baptism Classes...

for expectant and new parents are held in the church 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 2nd**

### 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 14th**

## Religious Education News

**This is a Level 1 Mass Weekend.**

Please remember to put your name on the front of the bulletin before you get it signed by someone in Church ministry. Turn in this signed bulletin at your next class.

The PREP office is closed and there is **NO CLASS** on Monday, January 2. PREP classes resume on Tuesday, January 3, 2017.

The Confirmation Retreat will be held on Friday evening, January 6, 2017. All Level 8 students are expected to attend with either a parent or their sponsor. Please keep our Confirmandi in your prayers as they begin their final preparations.

**Our Religious Education program is in great need of Substitute Teachers!** Can we call on you when a catechist is unable to come to class? If you could help us, please call the PREP office at 732 505-0108.

**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.

### 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, January 17th**

### Prayer Shawl Makers

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., January 18th**

### SERVICE MEETINGS:

**Adler Aphasia Community Group, 10:00am-12:00pm, 1st & 3rd Fridays**, in Madonna Room. For info or to register, call Wendy Greenspan at 973-530-3981.

**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, Mondays, 7:00PM**, "Sacrifice Group", in Parish Center.

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

**Alcoholics Anonymous, Wednesdays, 6:00PM**, in Parish Center.

**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.

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

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

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

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

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

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

### 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 6, 2017  
at 7:00-9:00PM** in the Parish Center.

### Bereavement - Continuing Support Group

#### Thursday Evenings

This support group offers a safe place to those who have experienced bereavement and feel the need for further support. This support can continue with our group as we help each other on our path to healing and friendship. **Registration is required.** Please call for additional meeting details: **Ann Ascione-Hardman: 732-244-8557.**

## **YOUR HELP IS NEEDED!**

Our need for volunteers for ministry is ongoing.

- Extraordinary Ministers
- Lector
- AV Ministry
- Usher
- Children' Choir
- Children's Liturgy
- Choir
- Altar Server

And more!

Please call the St. Luke Parish Office at 732-286-2222 or  
The Ministry Hotline at 848-226-6218.

Peace to all who, in different areas, are enduring sufferings due to constant dangers and persistent injustice. May Myanmar consolidate its efforts to promote peaceful coexistence and, with the assistance of the international community, provide necessary protection and humanitarian assistance to all those who gravely and urgently need it. May the Korean peninsula see the tensions it is experiencing overcome in a renewed spirit of cooperation.

**Peace to those who have lost a person dear to them as a result of brutal acts of terrorism, and to those who have sown fear and death into the hearts of so many countries and cities.**

Peace - not merely the word, but a real and concrete peace - to our abandoned and excluded brothers and sisters, to those who suffer hunger and to all the victims of violence. Peace to exiles, migrants and refugees, to all those who in our day are subject to human trafficking. Peace to the peoples who suffer because of the economic ambitions of the few, because of the sheer greed and the idolatry of money, which leads to slavery. Peace to those affected by social and economic unrest, and to those who endure the consequences of earthquakes or other natural catastrophes.

Peace to the children, on this special day on which God became a child, above all those deprived of the joys of childhood because of hunger, wars or the selfishness of adults.

Peace on earth to men and women of goodwill, who work quietly and patiently each day, in their families and in society, to build a more humane and just world, sustained by the conviction that only with peace is there the possibility of a more prosperous future for all.

Dear brothers and sisters,

“For to us a child is born, to us a son is given”: he is the “Prince of peace”. Let us welcome him!



## **St. Vincent de Paul Society**

### **HELP WANTED – HOME VISITORS**

We are in great need of Volunteers to visit Guests in their homes to gather information and evaluate the guest's situation and make recommendations on how we can help. Home Visitors work in pairs and prepare reports of their findings so the SVdP Board can determine if and how much financial or other aid will be given. This is a wonderful ministry and a great way to bring your Catholic faith to those in great need. This is truly what the Lord calls us to do. Please pray on this topic and call us with any questions regarding your participation in this ministry.

### **HELP WANTED - INTAKE PERSONS**

Volunteers are needed to work in the SVdP Guest Intake ministry. Prospective guests call in on our Hot Line phone and leave messages outlining their needs. You monitor messages left on the Hot Line Voice Mail several times during your shift from the comfort of your home and do call backs to the prospective guests to gather more specific information and to then fill out an intake form. There are detailed procedures for this work and training will be provided. Requires clerical level computer skills. Please remember, all of this can be done from your home on a schedule of your convenience.

**SVdP General Meeting on Tuesday January 17 at 6:30PM in the Narthex. New members welcome**

### **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.

**FOOD PANTRY NEEDS:  
LAUNDRY DETERGENT, PAPER TOWELS, &  
TOILET PAPER, COFFEE**

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

**<http://www.stlukeconference.org/>**