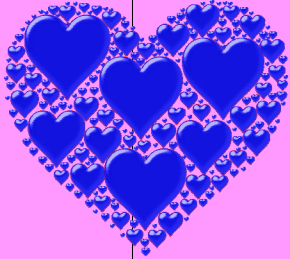


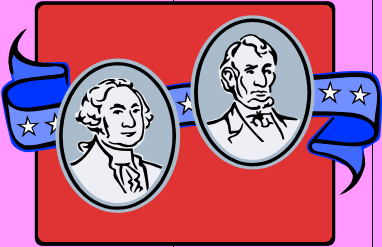


JER — Jericho
PCC — Parish Center Chapel
RE — Religious Education

St. Luke Parish

February 2018

Confession:
Saturday 4:15 - 4:45pm
Liturgies:
Saturday — 5:00pm
Sunday — 8:30 & 11:00am
Tuesday — Friday - 8:00am
Mass in Church

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 6:30pm Bell Choir practice rm 4 7:00pm Choir practice	2 Home Sick Visits 	3 6:00 - 8:00pm GOF all rms All Masses- Blessing of Candles & Throats
4 9:40 - 10:50 RE all rms	5	6 7:00pm Booster mtg. Jer	7	8 6:30pm Bell Choir practice rm 4 7:00pm Choir practice	9 6:00 - 8:00pm Girl Scouts rm 4	10 All Masses - Cash Card Sales Happy Birthday Fr. Danny
11 9:40 - 10:50 RE all rms & Mass 11:00 Anni- versary Mass & reception	12	13 7:00pm VFW - rm 1	14 Ash Wednes- day Services 12:00 & 4:00pm 7:00pm Mass 	15 7:00pm Choir practice	16 8:30 - 10:00am Stations of the Cross in Church	17 2:00 Baptisms
18 9:30 - 11:00 Bible Study - PCC 9:40 - 10:50 RE all rms Confirmation Bake Sale	19	20	21	22 7:00pm Choir practice	23 8:30 - 10:00am Stations of the Cross in Church	24 All Masses Spaghetti dinner ticket sales
25 8:30-1:00 Blood drive-Jer 9:30 - 11:00 Bible Study-PCC 11:00 Mass Anointing of the Sick	26	27	28			

St. Luke Parish

**Rev. Danilo Soriano
Pastor**

Religious Education

Tel: 630/665-2322

stlrp@aol.com

Parish Office Tel: 630/668-1325

Parish Office E-Mail: stloff@aol.com

Website: www.stlukecarolstream.org

By Don L. Fischer

SCRIPTURE: DEUTERONOMY 18:15-20; 1 CORINTHIANS 7:32-35; MARK 1:21-28

We move more deeply today in our understanding of the ministry of Jesus. Oftentimes, in order to understand something new, we compare it to something we have known. That comparison sharpens our sensitivity to what is new, to what is coming. What I sense in these readings today, especially in the reading from Deuteronomy and the gospel from Mark, is a comparison between two kinds of prophets. We find two different kinds of people who speak for God. In the Old Testament, we find a figure who is responding to a fear-based religion. The people are afraid of God, for God is so powerful and so good that people are not as comfortable with him as God would like them to be. Moses is basically saying, "You people have said that you really want someone who will be drawn from your kin. You want someone who will speak first to God, because you are afraid to be close to him. And because he is kin with you — because he knows you and you know him and you both have similar experiences — you feel it will be best for him to explain to you what God is asking." They want someone to be an intermediary between God who is awesome and powerful, demanding and distant — and themselves.

The role of prophet in the Old Testament is one who very clearly understands what God is saying to the people. If the people listen attentively and if they do not follow these words, there will be very serious ramifications. In other words, this is a voice one must listen to or things will not go well. People will be punished. Along with that description comes the very challenge to people like me — to anyone who stands up and represents Christ. All of us are called to bring this figure Christ to people. In the Old Testament, God says anyone makes statements that are not true, those who get caught up in their own egos or history or situation and start proclaiming a message that is not truly God's, will die. They will cease to be a prophet; they will cease to be effective. We recognize two things: First, the longing of the people to have somebody who is closer to them speak to them. Second, the insistence upon the truth. This is the God of truth who longs to put us in touch with what is real and true. In the very beginning of his work, God recognizes how important this is. He needs people to present him as he is. Let's look at the developments over many, many years when we see this new prophet, Jesus. Jesus is the perfect prophet. He is a great teacher. We sense a couple of very important things in the reading from Mark. This figure is certainly one of us. He is human in all dimensions. I think it's so exciting to look at the life of Jesus and realize how ordinary it all was. He lived the first 30 years of his life in a small village. He was probably considered to be illegitimate by the people around him because of the story of his mother's pregnancy. He probably experienced a lot of rejection. He was loved. He was hated. He was understood. He was misunderstood. He just grew up in a normal human context. He knows what it's like to be human. The Messiah could have come on some great cloud or lived in a great palace. He could have come down now and then to meet with the ordinary folks. That wouldn't have been nearly as exciting as having somebody who experiences our life, standing up and talking to us about how we are to live that life. What that life could really be like. What it really could be like to live in the kingdom right now. It's a way of seeing and being that he's inviting us into. It can be entered into as quickly as we decide to pass through its threshold.

The image of Jesus in the gospel passage has two interesting facets: One, that Jesus is beginning to preach a message that is very different from a message that sounds like there is a God who is distant and very far from us. This God is interested only in our performance and telling us what to do from afar. If we don't do it, we die.

Jesus' message is radically different. Instead of a God who is distant and telling us what to do from afar, Jesus' message is all about a God who comes and dwells within us, enabling us to be what he calls us to be. Very different from a God who tells us what to do from a distance. This God enters into us and enables us to be somebody. We are able to be connected to all the things we might call our destiny. Our part, our destiny, is connected to something much, much bigger. People are astonished at his message. There is a second facet to Jesus' message. It's the way he speaks. He doesn't speak like the religious leaders of the day. He speaks with an inner authority. Let me delve into that. It's something you and I have experienced over and over again when it comes to natural leaders. People don't generally have much influence on others when they simply tell them what to do. Or that they have the truth, or think they possess the truth. They proclaim this truth as a statement of their wisdom. Somehow these people don't have the ability to move us very far. But when somebody enters into our life and seems to have this authority we find in the gospel, we can be deeply moved. I want you to imagine with me that the authority rooted in Jesus was the simple power that he carried within him that represents the best we can be. He believed in us; he believed we could find this wholeness that is our inheritance. Not in his words but in his belief in us.

When someone walks into our presence and tells us that they believe in us, telling us stories that connect to our experiences and speaking a word of hope while putting us in touch with a process that is real and true, they have enormous authority. We sense that Jesus is a new kind of prophet who is connected to people's experiences. He carries within himself an understanding of how the spiritual world works. He simply wants to share this with people. He's not interested in judging them. He's not interested in their past. He's interested in them entering now into his kingdom. This is incredibly liberating. I have to say that the old system, where someone is speaking from a distance and telling us to do something or we will die, is a fear-based religion. Jesus' way, on the other hand, is not fear-based. It is love-based. How do you not love someone who walks into your life and believes in you and wants you to be better? Wants to teach you. Wants to show you things. Wants you to be able to do the work with their support, with the energy they long to pour into you. The most exciting aspect of the message of Jesus is that he's constantly trying to teach you and me that we have this kind of God in our midst. Jesus is not someone who changes the Old Testament God. He's simply revealing the fullness of who God is. We look at a slow, unfolding process of the personality

of this God in our life. It was important in the Old Testament to begin with a God who was awesome. Monotheism is one of the great themes of the Old Testament. We had to find a God who was stronger than all of the other gods — someone who was radically in control and knew exactly what he wanted and what was right. He was a God who would proclaim the truth to his people. To be told what to do was the beginning. It is important to know that we have a God who is the source of all truth. Then we discover that this God is not simply at a distance telling us what to do; he wants to enter into us. He wants to be a part of us, and enable us to achieve the goals.

One of the ways Jesus gives his message is through experience in the gospel. Jesus directly addresses the evil found in this man in the synagogue. Two things are very important to recognize: Jesus approaches people who are struggling with their demons, with their problems, and instead of addressing the person as evil, he addresses the evil itself. He addresses the negative energy, that dark side we struggle with. Jesus is able to name the evil as somewhat separate from the person. Instead of looking at a person and saying, "You are really messed up. You are no good," he's able to look at a person and see the source that messes them up. Jesus can see their goodness, and tries to free them from the source that is blocking their goodness. It's a totally different approach from what we sometimes experience from people in authority or who know what's wrong. Jesus is never filled with a spirit of condemnation for the person who isn't what they should be. He goes in and separates these issues to help us so much in terms of holding onto our self-esteem when we're not really doing what we should be doing. Jesus brings us into a place where we can recognize that there are forces, situations that have occurred in our lives, that have really blocked us from being the man or woman that we want to be. It doesn't mean that we are not that person; it just means that it's blocked. We need to work on freeing ourselves from that block. The word evil means a block, a barrier. Jesus comes into the world to give us power over evil. What he makes so clear is that evil recognizes him. Evil knows what Jesus is about. Evil knows that Jesus has the secret to free people. The powers that work against our goodness are stronger than our human weakness. But there is a power available to us that can deal with these issues. We have been given healing power through God.

When the people recognize the healing power in Jesus, they know they have found a source of overcoming the negative energies that flow all around us. That's the reason for the excitement over this new, wonderful kind of prophet.

This kind of prophet was never, ever expected, but deeply longed for. When we celebrate the liturgy of the word, we always carry a separate book for the gospel because we are followers of Christ. The reading from Paul to the Corinthians today can be so easily misunderstood. In that reading, Paul seems to be saying that the only way we can truly be spiritual people is to separate ourselves from the concerns of the world and relationships. It's almost as if we would find God in a vacuum. We have to understand that Paul is talking about a situation where he thought Jesus was coming immediately. That image of Jesus coming any moment led Paul to make judgments as to how people should live. Be careful, though, of some of these images. We are not followers of Paul. We are followers of Christ. It doesn't mean Paul isn't right in his advice. But it means we need to be very careful with Scripture and not quote every passage of Scripture with the same weight. The weight of the Scriptures that speak of the power of Jesus reveal where the power really is.

© 2003, Don L. Fischer
Liturgy.com

Please pray for the sick in our parish especially, Pat Angelo, Marge Austin, Yecenia Bosley, Doris Costa, Angela D'Ambrosio, Disabled Vets, Angel Faulkner, Krista Hildenbrand, Dominick Liberio, Tom McGuire, John Rossi and Raine Young.



Please remember our beloved dead especially Felipe Billote, Jr. and the men and women who have given their lives for our country.

January 21, 2018

REG. CHURCH SUPPORT	
125 SUN. ENVELOPE CONTRIBUTIONS	=\$3,604.00
LOOSE CONTRIBUTIONS	=\$ 231.60
TOTAL COLLECTION	=\$3,835.60
AVERAGE CONTRIBUTION	=\$ 30.68
FINANCIAL FREEDOM	=\$ 105.00
CHURCH IN LATIN AMERICA	=\$ 142.31

MASSES CELEBRATED

DURING THE WEEK

ARE HELD

IN THE CHURCH

SATURDAY — JANUARY 27

4:15 — 4:45pm Confessions
5:00 — The People of St. Luke Parish

SUNDAY — JANUARY 28

8:30am — The Intentions of the Celebrant
11:00 — The Intentions of the Celebrant

MONDAY — JANUARY 29

Mass will not be celebrated today

TUESDAY — JANUARY 30

8:00am — For the Holy Souls

WEDNESDAY — JANUARY 31

8:00am — The Intentions of the Celebrant

THURSDAY — FEBRUARY 1

8:00am — The Intentions of the Celebrant

FRIDAY — FEBRUARY 2

8:00am — The Intentions of the Celebrant

SATURDAY — FEBRUARY 3

4:15 — 4:45pm Confessions
5:00 — Ron Kulesza req. by his family and for
The St. Luke Parish Memorial Society

SUNDAY — FEBRUARY 4

8:30am — The People of St. Luke Parish
11:00 — John Capezio req. by Leon and Lois Moore

TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading — Moses spoke to all the people, saying: "A prophet like me will the LORD, your God, raise up for you" (Deuteronomy 18:15-20).

Second Reading — Brothers and sisters: I should like you to be free of anxieties (1 Corinthians 7:32-35).

Gospel — The people were astonished at Jesus' teaching (Mark 1:21-28).

The English translation of the Psalm Responses from *Lectionary for Mass* © 1969, 1981, 1997, International Commission on English in the Liturgy Corporation. All rights reserved.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: 2 Sm 15:13-14, 30; 16:5-13; Ps 3:2-7;
Mk 5:1-20

Tuesday: 2 Sm 18:9-10, 14b, 24-25a, 30 — 19:3;
Ps 86:1-6; Mk 5:21-43

Wednesday: 2 Sm 24:2, 9-17; Ps 32:1-2, 5-7; Mk 6:1-6

Thursday: 1 Kgs 2:1-4, 10-12; 1 Chr 29:10-12;
Mk 6:7-13

Friday: Mal 3:1-4; Ps 24:7-10; Heb 2:14-18;
Lk 2:22-40 [22-32]

Saturday: 1 Kgs 3:4-13; Ps 119:9-14; Mk 6:30-34

Sunday: Jb 7:1-4, 6-7; Ps 147:1-6; 1 Cor 9:16-19,
22-23; Mk 1:29-39

FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

We should be amazed! Every Sunday, we hear Jesus Christ speak to us in the Bible readings. Every Sunday. Every Liturgy. Today, we are amazed at his clarity, at his authority. Even the unclean spirit knows him to be Holy and God.

- How do I see Jesus' holiness active in the world?
- What do I need to hear from him?
- What will that lead me to do?



HOMEBOUND PARISHIONERS

Father Soriano is setting up a time to visit our parishioners who are homebound. If you or a member of your family is homebound and would like a visit and receive communion from Father, please notify the office. The name will be added to the list.

The visits will be scheduled for the first Friday of the month. You can call the office at 630/668-1325 or email at stloff@aol.com. Please put homebound in the subject line.

DIOCESE OF JOLIET/OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

Reverend Danilo Soriano
St. Luke Parish
421 Cochise Ct
Carol Stream, IL 60188

Dear Father Soriano,

I want to thank you for your fine accommodation on my visit to your parish this past weekend. It was both enjoyable and informative to me as I endeavor to become better acquainted with the parishes and the communities I serve as Bishop of the Diocese of Joliet. I particularly enjoyed the opportunity to get to know the people of St. Luke Parish in Carol Stream and I hope that the visit has allowed them the opportunity to get to know me better as well. I look forward to future visits.

Thank you for your ministry to the people of St. Luke Parish, and for your service to the Diocese and for your accommodation. Please pray for me, as I will be praying for you.

Most Reverend R. Daniel Conlon
Bishop of Joliet

CCW REMINDER

Preorder the cash cards that are most helpful to you by completing the order form at the back of church. Bring back the form to the drop box in back of church next weekend. CCW will have your order ready for pickup on February 10th and 11th. A percent of every card provides a rebate from the merchant to CCW. You always receive the full-face value of your purchase. Consider paying your Kohl's charge balance off with cash cards! Don't forget about Valentine's day approaching. As always, thanks for your support. You help fund CCW activities in Jericho that we host for the parish.

**ANNUAL WEDDING
ANNIVERSARY MASS
SUNDAY
FEBRUARY 11, 2018
11:00 AM**

A Tradition continues ...



Married couples who are parishioners of St. Luke are invited to attend this very special Mass. Couples who will celebrate a wedding anniversary divisible by five, such as 5th, 10th, etc. during 2018 and those celebrating 50 plus years are invited to be part of our celebration. Also, if this is a significant anniversary or extenuating circumstances, you are welcome to participate. A special invitation is extended to couples married in 2017 who will be celebrating their first anniversary in 2018.

Fill out the form and drop it in the collection basket at any Mass or call the parish office at 630/668-1325. Please respond by February 5th.

On February 11th, please arrive by 10:40 and come to Jericho to check in. **Please bring a wedding photo in a frame so we can display them. We would like to keep them for a week and place in the hallway. Put your name on the back.** Couples will process into church with Father. You can sit wherever you want with your families.

After Mass please come to Jericho along with your children and family members for a small reception.

<p>ANNIVERSARY MASS FEBRUARY 11, 2018 11:00</p> <p>Names _____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>Address _____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>Phone No. _____</p> <p>Number of years Married _____</p>

I WAS HUNGRY AND YOU FED ME

There are many families and individuals in Carol Stream who go hungry. The Neighborhood Food Pantry at Lutheran Church of the Master serves residents of our community. Can you help?

Carol Platt, site coordinator at the Lutheran Church of the Master food pantry (580 Kuhn Rd., Carol Stream) is reaching out for volunteer drivers for the food pantry vans: Mondays from 11:00am-1:00pm Wednesdays and Thursdays from 9:00am-11:30am. Substitute drivers are welcome, too. Volunteer drivers, in a team of 2, drive vans to local grocery stores to pick up food donations and return with the food to the church. Drivers need to be able to pick up a 25 pound box.

If you have a little time to share and would like to help out with this wonderful food ministry, please contact Carol at 630-201-4963. Interested volunteers will need to provide a current driver's license and current insurance card, plus fill out a simple form.

WORLDWIDE MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER

Don't miss out on the upcoming enrichment for married couples and religious on February 2nd-4th at the Wyndham Garden Hotel in Elk Grove Village. The enrichment begins with a private weekend experience including 11 presentations about practical tools for growing in loving relationships, and provides ongoing enrichments after the weekend from the Worldwide Marriage Encounter community.

For information on applying, please go to www.me-chicagoland.org and say YES TODAY, to God's call to love one another!

CELEBRATORY EVENTS FOR COUPLES IN FEBRUARY

Each year, World Marriage Day, held on the second Sunday of February, honors husband and wife as the foundation of the family, the basic unit of society. Two different dinner dances are being held this February for couples.

Eastern DuPage Marriage Enrichment Ministry is inviting all engaged and married couples in the Joliet Diocese to come celebrate Valentine's Day with your best friend by attending 5:00 Mass with a blessing for all couples, followed by a fun evening of dinner and dancing in the parish hall. The "Sweetheart Dinner Dance" will be held on Saturday, February 10th at Christ the King Parish at 1501 S. Main Street, Lombard.

For more information you can send an email to www.easterndupagemem@gmail.com.

This year's World Marriage Day Dinner Dance, sponsored by Worldwide Marriage Encounter, will be held at the Prairie Bluff Golf Club, Crest Hill, on Saturday, February 17th, from 6:00-10:00pm. All are invited. The cost of the event is \$75 per couple or \$40 per person.

For more information or to register, please go to www.wmme-chicagoland.org/communitynews.php.

NEW BEGINNINGS

After a divorce or the death of a spouse, what used to be "US" is no longer. It is a life transition that is neither welcome nor easy. However, eventually it is necessary to transition to "ME".

New Beginnings is a weekly self-help support group for the widowed and the divorced or those going through a divorce as we adjust to our new roles as singles again. We are a non-profit ministry of St. Raphael Catholic Church, 1215 Modaff Rd. in Naperville. Our focus is on the spiritual, intellectual and emotional growth of our members.

Our group is unique in that we meet every Tuesday night at 7:30pm (arrive at 7:15pm) on a drop-in basis (no signup is required) to address the stages of loss after initial grief.

Besides having speakers, we have a rotating schedule of discussions revolving around topics surrounding the needs of the newly single. For more details and any schedule changes, go to <http://www.newbeginnings-naperville.com> where you can also view videos regarding the divorced and widowed experiences.

Feel free to contact our Chairperson Cindy Soviak at 815/254-2383 or info@newbeginnings-naperville.com. Come see if we can be a part of your future.



© Annika Nelson