



Third Sunday of
Advent

December 16, 2018

I am baptizing you with water,
but one mightier than I is coming.
I am not worthy to loosen the thongs of his sandals.

Luke 3:16

St. Luke Parish

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deep blue, reminding many people of Mary's presence at the heart of the Advent mystery. That theology is largely unplanned: it's all because of the clams!

—James Field, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

REJOICE!

Today has traditionally been called "Gaudete Sunday." The Latin tag is derived from Paul's appeal in the second reading to "rejoice always in the Lord," and the Latin Mass text based on that reading. The irony and paradox of this Christian joy is underlined by the fact that Paul wrote those words in prison. But from there he could see the progress of God's work.

Is it obvious to us? We feel that this is not the time for joy when there is so much suffering and moral evil. It is interesting, then, that the first reading is from the prophet Zephaniah, who is almost exclusively concerned with gloomy visions of Judgment Day. Today the Church selects the only optimistic text in Zephaniah, in which the prophet has been touched by the spirit of joy.

This, we are assured on all sides, is "the season of joy." Let us recapture that feeling of joy in our lives and reflect it to those who are joyless.

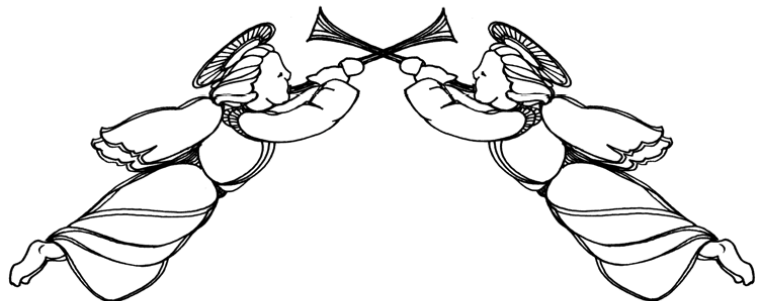
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TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION

Years ago, the trick question on religion quizzes would be to name all the liturgical colors, or the colors of the vestments worn at Mass. Rose is a color seldom seen, used at most two days a year. Today, "Gaudete Sunday," is one of those days. The name of the day is drawn from an opening verse in the old Latin Mass texts: *Gaudete* is Latin for "Rejoice!" This year's Gospel certainly reflects that mood as Elizabeth feels her infant within her leaping for joy at the presence of Mary. Mary's visit to her aged cousin is an act of compassion between women, as two kinswomen who are bearing children into the world share their joy.

Some churches retain the custom of having the priest wear rose vestments today, and many will use a rose candle in the Advent wreath. Violet is the official color for Advent and Lent, but many parishes employ different hues for each season, trying to keep them distinct. In medieval times, dye was costly, and poor parishes used unornamented plain cloth for vestments. Dyes were expensive and some colors, particularly purple, difficult to achieve. In England, purple dye was made from mollusks, yielding at best a deep indigo or blue and not the desired violet. Thus, the color of Advent in the British Isles has long been a

REJOICE IN THE LORD ALWAYS



REJOICE IN THE LORD ALWAYS

MASSES CELEBRATED

DURING THE WEEK

ARE HELD

IN THE CHURCH

SATURDAY — DECEMBER 15

2:00pm — Baptisms

4:15 — 4:45 — Confessions

5:00 — Rita Lewek req. by her family

SUNDAY — DECEMBER 16

8:30am — Gladys Avery req. by Patti Schwartz and for
The People of St. Luke Parish

11:00 — Marie Spiezio req. by Bob, Cindy and John
Van Alstine

MONDAY — DECEMBER 17

Mass will not be celebrated today

TUESDAY — DECEMBER 18

8:00am — Samantha Salazar req. by Elsa Salazar

WEDNESDAY — DECEMBER 19

8:00am — The Intentions of the Celebrant

THURSDAY — DECEMBER 20 — WINDSOR PARK

11:00am — Leo Jandrisits req. by his wife

FRIDAY — DECEMBER 21

8:00am — The Intentions of the Celebrant

SATURDAY — DECEMBER 22

4:15 — 4:45pm — Confessions

5:00 — Zaskowski & Olczyk families req. by Mary Olczyk
and for Edward & Marcella Schultz req. by their
family

7:00 — Simbang Gabi Mass

SUNDAY — DECEMBER 23

8:30am — The People of St. Luke Parish

11:00 — Eleanor McCaslin req. by Ava Lindahl



Please pray for the sick in our parish, especially Pat Angelo, Yecenia Bosley, Disabled Vets, Angel Faulkner, Louis Ramirez, John Rossi, Kathy Solberg and Ray Young.

Please remember our beloved dead, especially Judy Rehak, Father Dennis White and the men and women who have given their lives for our country.



December 9, 2018

REG. CHURCH SUPPORT

121 SUN. ENVELOPE CONTRIBUTIONS = \$3,681.00

LOOSE CONTRIBUTIONS = \$ 138.00

TOTAL COLLECTION = \$3,819.00

AVERAGE CONTRIBUTION = \$ 31.57

ST. LUKE PARISH WEBSITE DONATION = \$ 100.00

PARISH IMPROVEMENT = \$ 245.00

FAITH COMMITMENT = \$ 650.00

CAMPAIGN FOR HUMAN DEVELOPMENT = \$ 10.00

FLOWERS = \$ 10.00

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION = \$ 239.20

RETIREMENT FUND FOR RELIGIOUS = \$ 212.00

Thank you so much for your ongoing generous financial support of St. Luke Parish! Every amount contributed helps, so we respectfully ask that you continue to regularly use your church support envelopes. It is your generosity that allows us to do what we do. Please give as your financial needs allow.

TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading — Your God will sing joyfully because of you, as one sings at festivals (Zephaniah 3:14-18a).

Second Reading — Rejoice in the Lord always. I shall say it again: rejoice! (Philippians 4:4-7).

Gospel — Whoever who has two cloaks should share with the person who has none. Whoever who has food should do likewise (Luke 3:10-18).

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: Gn 49:2, 8-10; Ps 72:1-4ab, 7-8, 17; Mt 1:1-17
Tuesday: Jer 23:5-8; Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19; Mt 1:18-25
Wednesday: Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a; Ps 71:3-4a, 5-6ab, 16-17; Lk 1:5-25
Thursday: Is 7:10-14; Ps 24:1-6; Lk 1:26-38
Friday: Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a; Ps 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21; Lk 1:39-45
Saturday: 1 Sm 1:24-28; 1 Sm 2:1, 4-8abcd; Lk 1:46-56
Sunday: Mi 5:1-4a; Ps 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19; Heb 10:5-10; Lk 1:39-45

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

God comes. What shall we do? God, indeed is coming. Near at hand. At the door. Be busy! Be lovingly-kind, like God. Do mercy work. Being merciful does not require extraordinary behavior. It simply means, be human. That is, be holy. Prove that God is here by wrestling with conversion to Christ in ongoing ways—be genuine, be just, be fair. The gospel offers some suggestions: clean out the closet, share from the pantry, do not take what others need. Do mercy. Be mercy.

- ◆ Read Pope Francis' Apostolic Exhortation *Gaudete et Exsultate* of 2018 on the call to holiness in today's world. Here is a link:
http://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/apost_exhortations/documents/papa-francesco_esortazione-ap_20180319_gaudete-et-exsultate.html

- ◆ How will I be holy, be the "saint next door"?
- ◆ What mercy work will I do to share with those in need?

ST. LUKE PARISH MISSION STATEMENT

We, the Family of St. Luke Parish, are called through Baptism to celebrate the presence of Christ in our Lives and Sacraments. We were chosen and sent by Christ to live gratefully the life God has given us and to proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ. In the Spirit of **Faith, Service** and **Community**, we bring people closer to God and each other.

WE LOVE HAVING YOU AS PART OF OUR FLOCK!



Let's keep in touch! Get important updates via email and text.

This new tool we're using lets you choose what info you'd like to receive via email or text message—from the various ministries and groups in our church. You can unsubscribe any time.

There are 2 easy ways to connect (pick one):

Visit our church at: flocknote.com/stlukeparish3

or

Text stlukeparish to 84576 from your phone to subscribe to updates.

In To box, type 84576

In Message box, type stlukeparish

Text STOP to 84576 to stop txt notifications at any time.

Text HELP for help. There is no charge for this service, but your carrier message and data rates may apply. View privacy policy & conditions at www.flocknote.com/txt.

CCW CASH CARDS

Please stop by the hall table today to pick up your cash card order. Extra cards are available for sale. Groceries, gasoline, dining and shopping options are plentiful. Keep a card handy for any unexpected holiday gift giving. They are simple to wrap, mail or even carry. Even better—CCW earns donations for every card sold and you get full face value. Thank you!



First Eagle Bank
Fresh and Silk
Jameson's Charhouse
Jeans and A Cute Top
John and Tony's
Kane County Cougars
Kitzo Café
Dr. Len Vihnanek
Lou Malnati's
McAninch Arts Center
Manhattan's

Mapleberry
McAlister's Deli
Pepsi
Pilot Pete's
Red Apple Restaurant
Rooster's Barn and Grill
Schaumburg Boomers
Sporty's
Tasting de Vine
Trim Fitness
Urban Trends Hair Design

TEN THOUSAND VILLAGES

The Ten Thousand Villages store is open at St. Luke today after all Masses. Beautiful handcrafted items are available for purchase just in time for Christmas.

Ten Thousand Villages is nonprofit social enterprise that partners with small scale artisan groups in developing countries to bring their wares to market. This pioneering fair trade organization works with more than 20,000 makers in 30 countries in an effort to provide these artisans with a fair wage, respect and dignity. Come shop. Come share.

CCW CORNER

Amidst the hustle and bustle of holiday preparations, take a breather with prayer!

God of hope, who brought love into this world,
be the love that dwells between us.
God of hope, who brought peace into this world,
be the peace that dwells between us.
God of hope, who brought joy into this world,
be the joy that dwells between us.
God of hope, the rock we stand upon,
be the center, the focus of our lives
always, and particularly this Advent time.

THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU



Thank you to all of our parish members and area businesses who donated products, services and rental property for the raffle baskets and auction at the 2018 CCW Christmas Dinner. Their donations totaled nearly \$2,800.

Please support these businesses.

Anyways	Charkies
Brunch Café	Chicago White Sox
Brunswick Zone	Cooper's Hawk
Carol Stream Park District	Cozymel's
Carol's Garden	Culvers

EVERYONE IS INVITED!

TO THE FILIPINO "SIMBANG GABI" ON SATURDAY DECEMBER 22ND AT 7:00PM

Simbang Gabi literally means "evening or night Mass." It refers to the Philippine Catholic tradition of the novena, a series of nine dawn Masses usually celebrated during Advent from December 16th-24th, in preparation for Christmas Day. In the U.S., the practice of the *Simbang Gabi* has been adapted to local conditions, with the Mass being moved to the evening hours for practical reasons from December 15th-23rd.

This tradition was introduced by the Spanish Friars in the Philippines in the 17th century, to allow the farmers before going to the fields and the fishermen as they come back from the sea; to attend mass. After Mass, families and friends enjoyed the native delicacies spread out on the

grounds around the church, strengthening social and spiritual ties within the community.

Please join the **Filipino-American Association of Carol Stream** as we celebrate this tradition at St. Luke Church on **Saturday, December 22nd at 7:00pm**. There will be a reception in Jericho after the mass.



SPONSOR A NEEDY INDIVIDUAL OR FAMILY FOR CHRISTMAS

Catholic Charities is providing the opportunity for you to help their clients at Christmas this year. The Gift of Christmas is an annual program that fulfills wish lists for individuals who are served by Catholic Charities.

Read stories about clients and choose who you would like to help this Christmas. Or, if you prefer, you can direct your donation to an individual or family who hasn't been chosen yet.

Donating is simple: visit catholiccharitiesjoliet.org and click on "donate." Or, call 815/724-1140 to make your donation over the phone. To send a check, please note "Gift of Christmas" in the memo and send checks to:

Catholic Charities
16555 Weber Rd.
Crest Hill, IL 60403

If you have any questions, please call 815/724-1140 or email msnow@cc-doj.org.

Thank you and God bless you! Merry Christmas!

ST. VINCENT DEPAUL GROUP

St. Luke's SVDP group has a food pantry in the basement of our parish center. It is shelved, labelled and there is even a freezer that the ladies of St. Luke gave to us years ago. We need a few people to take donations of food, shelve it and keep it organized. You will not be called on to visit the poor who call upon us. If you and your friends would like to learn more about it (3-4 hours a week on your own time) please call 847/879-1431 and leave a message.

DUSTERS AND VACUUMERS NEEDED

We need your help!! Some of our volunteers that cleaned the church are no longer able to. So we need more volunteers. You would vacuum or dust or both just the sanctuary, not the rest of the building.

You would be scheduled every 4 weeks or less if we get more volunteers. You clean on your own schedule.

Please consider helping take care of your church.

You can call the office at 630/668-1325 or email us at stloff@aol.com and put dust/vacuum in the subject line.

Many hands make light work!!

A NEW START DANCE NEW YEAR'S EVE DINNER DANCE

Ring in the 2019 New Year, and enjoy an evening of dining, and dancing with Music by D.J. Mark

A catered buffet dinner will be served including: Wine, Soft Drinks, water, Coffee, Sweet table and Champagne toast at Midnight.

Tickets are \$45 per person and need to be purchase in advance, so as to give the caterer a count. No tickets will be sold at door.

For tickets call: Joan Neville at: 847/397-9643
Email: nevillejoan1@aol.com. 224/386-9166
Mail: checks made out to: A New Start & mail to c/o Joan Neville, 212 Still Water Ct, Palatine, IL 60067

Monday, December 31, 2018
7:00pm to 12:30am
St. Peter's Church
202 E. Schaumburg Rd,
Schaumburg, IL

INVITE YOUR FRIENDS!

ST. MICHAEL CHURCH
1st Floor, Faith Center
(317 W. Willow Ave.) Wheaton

**Alpha - 11-week series beginning Thursday,
January 10th**

Do you have friends or family members who have left the Church? Invite them to Alpha!

We believe everyone should have the chance to explore the Christian faith, ask questions, and share their point of view.

Join us each Thursday at 6:30pm for a two-hour session which includes dinner, a video series, and group discussions. Alpha is a series of sessions exploring the Christian faith, typically run over eleven weeks. Everyone is welcome

More information at stmichaelcommunity.org/alpha. You can also contact John Ellison at alpha@stmichaelcommunity.org or 630/462-5045.

LIFE LINE SCREENING

Life Line Screening, a leading provider of community-based preventive health screenings, will offer their affordable, non-invasive and painless health screenings at St. Luke Catholic Church on 2/5/2019. Five screenings will be offered that scan for potential health problems related to: blocked arteries which is a leading cause of stroke; abdominal aortic aneurysms which can lead to a ruptured aorta; hardening of the arteries in the legs which is a strong predictor of heart disease; atrial fibrillation or irregular heart beat which is closely tied to stroke risk; and a bone density screening, for men and women, used to assess the risk of osteoporosis.

Register for a Wellness Package which includes 4 vascular tests and osteoporosis screening from \$149 (\$139 with our member discount). All five screenings take 60-90 minutes to complete.

In order to register for this event and to receive a \$10 discount off any package priced above \$129, please call 888/653-6441 or text the word circle to 797979 or visit www.lifelinescreening.com/communitycircle.

SMALL PACKAGES, GREAT THINGS

The motto for Hershey's Kisses used to be "Big things come in small packages!" That also could be a motto for Bethlehem, for Baby Jesus and, indeed, for us. It's an important message to remember when we fear we're too weak to fix the world's problems, too small to fight the gigantic terror that threatens a loved one or too lacking in abilities we see in others.

"But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah," God declares through the prophet Micah (5:2, NRSV), "from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel." Bethlehem was a mere village. God's ruler for Israel started as an infant. His birthplace was a small stable, not a palace or temple. But size isn't everything. Big — that is, great — things can come in small packages. And thanks to the tiny baby who grew up to share immeasurably huge love with the world, God can do great things through you, too!

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IMPRESSIONABLE

A child's life is like a piece of paper on which every passerby leaves a mark.

—Ancient Chinese proverb

WITNESSES

Our actions are the best witnesses of our thoughts.

—Anonymous

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

The King of Israel, the LORD,
is in your midst,
you have no further misfortune to fear.

— *Zephaniah 3:15b*