



December 8, 2024

Budgeted Sunday Support

\$4,039.00

Regular Sunday Envelopes \$2,949.00

Candles & Votives \$82.00

Parish Projects \$150.00

Total \$3,181.00

Thank you for your generosity and continued support of St. Luke Parish!

May the Holy Spirit guide and comfort us as we journey together. Amen.



CMAA Pledge Report for St. Luke Parish

Monthly pledge payments for CMAA pledges should be made in the next few days. It is very important that these pledges be paid so that our parish will reach our goal. Once we have reached our goal in paid pledges, 70% of the amount over goal will be returned to the parish for our needs.

Parish Goal \$20,400.00

Amount Pledged \$14,799.00

Amount Paid \$14,799.00

Remaining Balance \$0.00



"The country Parish in the Heart of DuPage"

ST. LUKE INFORMATION

401 COCHISE COURT
CAROL STREAM, IL 60188

Clergy:

Rev. Michael Pennock - *Administrator*
Rev. Marty Gabel - *Weekend Associate*
Rev. Antony Josef - *Visiting Associate*

Parish Office:

Monday - Thursday 9:00am - 3:00pm
Friday CLOSED
Phone: 630-668-1325

Email: parishofficestluke@gmail.com

Website: stlukecarolstream.org

Social Media: Find us on Facebook & Instagram

Religious Education:

Classes are on Sundays
Email: religiusedstluke@gmail.com

Parish Staff:

Nicolette Simonetta - *Administrative Assistant*
parishofficestluke@gmail.com
Melissa Rubino - *Bookkeeper*
bookstluke@gmail.com
Chris Colangelo - *Director of Buildings & Grounds*

St. Luke Parish
Third Sunday of Advent - December 15, 2024



THIRD SUNDAY OF
ADVENT

Confessions available: Monday and Friday at 9:30am and Saturday at 4:15pm
Masses celebrated on Monday and Friday at 10:00am,
Saturday at 5:00pm and Sunday at 10:00am
Eucharistic Adoration is available on Thursday from 6:00pm to 7:00pm

Sunday Reflection

Taken from <http://stpaulcenter.com/>

The people in today's Gospel are "filled with expectation". They believe John the Baptist might be the messiah they've been waiting for. Three times we hear their question: "What then should we do?"

The messiah's coming requires every man and woman to choose—to "repent" or not. That's John's message and it will be Jesus' too (see **Luke 3:3; 5:32; 24:47**).

"Repentance" translates a Greek word, metanoia (literally, "change of mind"). In the Scriptures, repentance is presented as a twofold "turning" - away from sin (see **Ezekiel 3:19; 18:30**) and toward God (see **Sirach 17:20-21; Hosea 6:1**).

This "turning" is more than attitude adjustment. It means a radical life change. It requires "good fruits as evidence of your repentance" (see **Luke 3:8**). That's why John tells the crowds, soldiers, and tax collectors they must prove their faith through works of charity, honesty, and social justice.

In today's Liturgy, each of us is being called to stand in that crowd and hear the "good news" of John's call to repentance. We should examine our lives, asking from our hearts as they did: "What should we do?" Our repentance should spring not from our fear of coming wrath (see **Luke 3:7-9**) but from a joyful sense of the nearness of our saving God.

This theme resounds through today's readings: "Rejoice! . . . The Lord is near. Have no anxiety at all", we hear in today's Epistle. In today's Responsorial, we hear again the call to be joyful, unafraid at the Lord's coming among us.

In today's First Reading, we hear echoes of the angel's Annunciation to Mary. The prophet's words are very close to the angel's greeting (compare **Luke 1:28-31**). Mary is the Daughter Zion—the favored one of God, told not to fear but to rejoice that the Lord is with her, "a mighty Savior".

She is the cause of our joy. For in her draws near the Messiah, as John had promised: "One mightier than I is coming".



Readings for the Weekend:

Zephaniah 3:14-18, Isaiah 12:2-6
Phillipians 4:4-7, Luke 3:10-18

Mass Readings for the week and beyond:

Can be found at
<https://bible.usccb.org/readings/calendar>

Mass Intentions

December 14 - December 20

Saturday, December 14

†Rita Lewek
†Elaine Rosser
St. Luke Memorial Society

Sunday, December 15

†Elaine Rosser
†Vincenzo Giustino
Parishoners of St. Luke Parish

Mass intentions can be requested through the parish office during office hours or by calling the office at 630-668-1325.

Please pray for the sick in our parish:

Karen Belmonte, Mike Bryant, Marge Cline, Nestor Cruz, Harold Ellingsworth, Ron Erickson, Angel Faulkner, Kit Ford, Alex Greiff, Carole Hible, Cyndi Holich, Tiffany Jacobelli, Donna Marazzo, Abby Peck, Debbie Rubino, Bernadine Savage, William Serna, Jeffrey Skrobott.

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



Season of giving

DONATE BLOOD TODAY!

Thursday
December

19

1:30PM – 6:00PM

Helpful tip:
Make sure to eat a healthy meal and drink plenty of water before donating.

PHOTO ID REQUIRED!

Any donor related questions:
Call 1-800-7TO-GIVE

Carol Stream Community Blood Drive

Located at Fountain View Recreation Center
910 N. Gary Ave. Carol Stream IL

EVERY DONOR WILL SAVE UP TO 3 LIVES!

Please make an appointment on-line:
<https://tinyurl.com/Donate-Blood-12-19-24>

Or Scan QR Code ----->

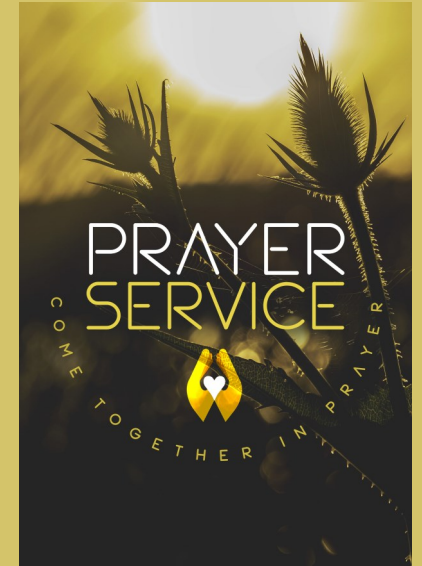


Appointments preferred; Walk-ins are welcome!

Sponsored by:
Corpus Christi Knights of Columbus Council 10958



ADVENT PRAYER SERVICE

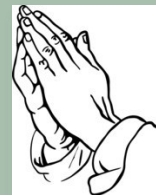


St. Luke is offering an Advent Prayer Service on Monday, December 16th at 7:00 pm. All are welcome to attend this special service.

PREPARE YE THE WAY OF THE LORD



Fr. Mike shares a quote from St. John Paul II: "Immaculate Heart! Help us to conquer the menace of evil, which so easily takes root in the hearts of the people of today."



Catholic Charities Counseling Services Available

Catholic Charities provides outpatient counseling in DuPage, Will, Grundy, Kendall, Kankakee, Ford and Iroquois counties. We offer individual, group, family, and couples therapy, including specialized services like anger management and preventive education programs.

Our services are available to those in financial need, and we accept most major insurance. If you or a loved one are struggling with anxiety, depression, substance use, or relationship issues, we are here to help.

Call 815-723-0331 for more information to verify insurance coverage, or to schedule an appointment.

Luminaria Kits on sale

after masses

December 14, 15 and 21, 22

Luminarias are lights made from brown paper bags weighted down with sand and a candle inside. These are typically arranged outdoors in rows to create elaborate walkway displays. The hope in displaying luminarias is that the lights will guide the spirit of the Christ child to one's home.

Kits are \$5.00 and will make 10 lights.



Have you ever made or wanted to make a pilgrimage to a holy site? Before answering that, let's establish the difference between a vacation and a pilgrimage. A vacation is a leisure trip for a "getaway," usually focused on relaxation, entertainment, and exploration. A Catholic pilgrimage, on the other hand, is a spiritual journey to a sacred site with the purpose of deepening one's faith, seeking divine grace, or fulfilling a religious vow. While vacations prioritize personal enjoyment, pilgrimages emphasize not only some personal enjoyment but also spiritual growth and devotion.

The foundation of a pilgrimage is found throughout both the Old and New Testaments. Examples include Abraham's journey of faith and St. Paul's missionary journeys with and for our Lord. Even the Gospels provide accounts of pilgrimage: each year, Jesus' parents traveled to Jerusalem for the Feast of Passover. In His adult life, Jesus continued this tradition, journeying throughout the Holy Land and ultimately returning to Jerusalem to face His suffering, death, and resurrection.

One of my favorite pilgrimage sites is the Sanctuary of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Mexico. Because I worked in Mexico and lived in close proximity to the sanctuary, I have visited many times and have brought friends and family to this holy site. The basilica and grounds are stunning and reflect vibrant cultural expressions of faith and devotion. This inspirational site is where countless people bring their hopes, struggles, and gratitude. Standing before the image of the Virgin, you can palpably feel the love and trust people have placed in her for centuries.

As we approach the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe on December 12, I am certain that many of you would love to travel on a pilgrimage to Mexico to visit her. However, because of distance, time, expense, or other constraints, that possibility may be out of reach. Let me offer some ideas for making a more local pilgrimage, particularly to Our Lady of Guadalupe.

This past October, I had the opportunity to join the Knights and Dames of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulcher. Their investiture Mass took place at the Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe in La Crosse, Wisconsin. It is just a short four-hour drive from the Joliet area. Completed in 2008, this Marian shrine invites pilgrims and visitors to an extraordinarily beautiful place of prayer and devotion. With a variety of chapels and gardens, the 70-acre site evokes similar feelings of love for Our Lady and her Son, Jesus, as I have felt while visiting the shrine in Mexico.

If La Crosse still feels too far to travel, consider "El Cerrito" in Des Plaines, IL. This Sanctuary of Our Lady of Guadalupe includes life-sized statues depicting the apparitions of the Virgin Mary to Saint Juan Diego. These statues are part of a dedicated space within the sanctuary, offering visitors a chance to pray and reflect on this sacred moment.

Perhaps your holiday travels this season unexpectedly bring you close to a shrine. It's convenient to locate various shrines online at sites such as www.catholicshrines.org or www.catholicpilgrimagesites.wordpress.com/sites-by-state.

If you prefer staying closer to home for your pilgrimage, consider doing a Visitation of the Seven Churches in your local community during Holy Week. In this Catholic tradition, pilgrims visit multiple churches on the evening of Holy Thursday to reflect, pray, and meditate on Christ's Passion and sacrifice. It may not be a pilgrimage of long distance, yet it certainly embodies the spiritual journey of faith and devotion.

Several priests in the Diocese of Joliet from time to time offer Catholic pilgrimages to various sacred sites around the world. One priest recently shared with me his motivation for leading pilgrimages: "Pilgrimages provide an opportunity to broaden our horizons as the past comes into contact with the present, and we are changed by this interaction. Every pilgrim is called by Jesus to go on a journey of encounter where He introduces us to our larger family as we meet the saints who wait for us at each holy site."

As we prepare to celebrate Christmas, remember that shepherds, kings, and even angels made their pilgrimage to worship and adore our Savior at His birth. As we walk our own journeys of faith and life, may God bless you abundantly as, together, we as a Church continue to make our pilgrimage to our final destination: the heavenly Jerusalem.

OPENING OF THE JUBILEE YEAR 2025



On Sunday, December 29, throughout the world Catholics will gather at their Cathedral Churches to celebrate the opening of the Jubilee Year 2025.

The Diocese of Joliet will celebrate the opening of this Jubilee Year at the 10:30 am Mass on December 29, at the Cathedral of St. Raymond Nonnatus in Joliet. Everyone is invited to this very special Mass as a worldwide celebration of the Jubilee Year 2025 begins. This will be a very special time for the Church and plans have been made to celebrate this Jubilee Year throughout the Diocese. In the coming weeks, we will be sharing with you these important days, times and places where we will gather to continue our celebration of the Jubilee Year.

ST. LUKE PARISH CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE



Christmas Eve
Tuesday, December 24
4:00 pm



Christmas Day
Wednesday, December 25
10:00 am



New Year's Eve
Tuesday, December 31
5:00 pm



New Year's Day
Wednesday, January 1
10:00 am

We wish all of our parishioners a very
Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year!

Simbang Gabi 2024

Saturday, December 21st 5:00 pm



“Simbang Gabi” literally means “Night Mass”. It is a Filipino tradition to prepare spiritually for Christmas and to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ. In the Philippines, it is held at the crack of dawn for 9 consecutive days from December 16th to the 24th.

It began in the 1600s when Spanish priests held early morning/pre-dawn services so that fishermen who were back from the seas & farmers on their way to the fields could gather for worship, then celebrate by the sharing of food. This custom eventually became a distinct feature of Philippine culture & became a symbol of sharing.

The Filipino American Association of Carol Stream (FAACS) cordially invites you to join us at mass to celebrate Simbang Gabi, and the reception in Jericho immediately following Mass.

Christmas Toy Drive

CCW would like to thank everyone for donating toys to the annual Village Sharing Program. The Fire Department stopped by our parish on Dec. 2 to visit and pick up your generous gifts. CCW collected 13 very full bags to share! Thank you for making an impact and adding our St. Luke spirit to local families in need.

