



Saint Luke the Evangelist

A Roman Catholic Community

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FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

"Hail, full of grace! The Lord is with you." But she was greatly troubled at what was said and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. Then the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name him Jesus." Lk. 1: 28-31



Among the thousands of portrayals of this most famous and intimate scene only Mary herself witnessed;

Fra Angelico's magnificent depiction stands out. Here we find the moment when the beautifully ornate messenger of God – the archangel Gabriel – enters Mary's stylized yet simple house to announce to her that she will bear the Son of God. Mary and Gabriel's arms are folded across their chests in mutual respect. Mary wears blue, which symbolizes truth and spiritual love. The book on her lap is likely Isaiah (which foreshadows the coming of Christ) and comes from a tradition that says she was reading when the angel arrived. Her empty rooms and her solitude symbolize her perpetual virginity. In the garden we see an image of Adam and

Eve being cast out of the Garden of Eden reminding us that Mary – the Mother of God – is the *new Eve* intended to bring forth the *new Adam* (Christ) to save us from our Original Sin. Other details include the hand of God appearing in the upper left corner sending a dove (Holy Spirit) descending to Mary with a small roundel of Christ himself overseeing his incarnation; reminding us that Christ has was "born of the Father before all ages."

GATHER HYMNAL 1001
Fourth Sunday of Advent

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, December 23

4:00pm **Russell, Theresa, &
Therese Macaluso** by their family
6:00pm **Spanish Mass**

Sunday, December 24

7:30am **Shirley Davis (19th Anv)**
by nephew Paul
9:00am **Elvira Lonardo & Attilio Lonardo**
by their family
(NO 11AM MASS)

CHRISTMAS EVE MASSES

4:00pm

6:00pm Pageant

9:00pm Spanish

CHRISTMAS DAY

9:00am & 11:00am

Tuesday, December 26

9:00am **Alan Dodd**
by his family

Wednesday, December 27

9:00am **William Colwell**
by Paula Sparks

Thursday, December 28

9:00am **Paul Daniel Sullivan**
by his wife

Friday, December 29

9:00am **Larry Boyd**
by Knights of Columbus

Saturday, December 30

4:00pm **Martha, Jeanne & Thaddee**
by Tchagou family
6:00pm **Spanish Mass**

Sunday, December 31

7:30am **Ida Laino**
by her family
9:00am **Francis & June Miller**
by Lonardo family
11:00am **Salvatore Romano**
by his family

**We invite you to pray
the Rosary everyday after
the 9am weekday Mass
Monday through Friday**

Please Pray for...

Susan Bailey, Chloe Nascimento, Jonathan Tomashefsky,
Brian Howland, Michael LeBlanc, Mary Mahan, Becky Rawson
Bev Longime, James Wright, Evelyn Croteau, Beth Lambert, Lynn St. Jean
Annabelle Duvane, Shirley DePalma, Agnes Limberger, Zachary Collins,
Kupaa Keiley, Tiffany Kelley, Margie Morcone, Sharon Beaulieu,
Nick Johnson, William Fargelli, Stephen & Kimberly Bankcroft, Toby Claufon,
Joe Smith, Dawn Haight, Carol Aloisi, Teresa Putnam, Carmelia Potenti,
Charles Arkle, Leanne McCann, Ellie Carlson, Jane Burke, Hayleigh Scott,
Kellan Keough, Dorothy Clinton, Sr. Pamela Philbin, Karen Mooney,
Sarah McMenemy, Kristine Ann Jackson, Helen Galica, Erik Olsen, Vicki Foley,
Brendon Crowley, Richard Kane, Grace Roche, Jack Curtin, Jim Bennett,
John Lynch, Kathleen Farrar, Kirolos Gergis, Gregg Merloni, Tome Valadao,
Gene Buffo, Christine, Patrick, Robert & Coutinho family
Maryann Bisco, Susan Garry, Melvin Boucher, T.J. Bautz, Joan Fallon,
Edward Hubbell, Nancy Camp, David Perry, John Durnan, Linda Darby,
Jean Hope, Annie Mason, Nancy Santory, Laonya Mobley, Maria Matejko,
Gary Wilson, Jr., Debbie Giroux, Kevin & Donna Brennan, Luz Chavez,
Carlene Beck, Joel Rivera, Mary Payant, James Thomas, Christina Narensky,
Ann Martin, Michael Berthuime, Trisha Suzi, Norman Beland,
Sofia Shahin, Sarah Cox, Hailie McLatchey, Barbara Auger, Barbara Barnes,
George Cabana, Beverly Taylor, Jeanne Amendola, Jack Walker, Daniel Baker
Rebecca Coax, Robert Trant, Michael McAndless, Michael Del Pozzo,
Joan Sanders, David Sawyer, Madison Knopf, Claire Kennedy, Susanne Ollman,
Frank Sannelli, Pat & John Lusek, Michael Zancewicz, Kristy Cautello,
Judy Melfa, Neil Kenny, Joseph Malzone, Lois Kerbel, Michael Turpin,
Elise Ollman-Kahle, Patricia Amorelli, Connor Blaney, Debbie Krikler,
Demetrius Mobley, Gary Shults, Erin Magrane, George Beecher

**Let us remember to pray for all the men and women who are
over seas in harm's way.**

We remember those who have died

**EXPOSITION OF THE
BLESSED SACRAMENT & ADORATION
TUESDAY 9:30AM TO 6:00PM
Divine Mercy Chaplet 3:00pm
Prayers For Sanctity of Life 5:00pm
BENEDICTION AT 6:00PM**



**Dismas volunteers help to transport bikes on Giving Tree
distribution day**

Cover: : Fra Angelico, *The Annunciation*, c.1426.

Source: The Prado, Public Domain, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=49194133>

Text © Christian A. Hedrick



From the Pastor...

IT'S CHRISTMAS!

It is beginning to look a lot like Christmas; I'm dreaming of a white Christmas. It's the most wonderful time of the year. Last Christmas, I gave you my heart; All I want for Christmas is you...

I'm pretty sure you have heard some of these songs. They speak about how special this time is, what beautiful memories we have from our childhood, family gatherings, wintertime, and so on.

Talking about cultural appropriation, this celebration is full of different elements from various cultures and traditions. The genius of the Catholic faith is the capacity to combine all those traditions and enlighten them with the mystery of Jesus' nativity.

Indeed, the whole reason for this celebration is Jesus Christ and the mystery of the Incarnate Son of God who made his dwelling among us. Nothing fancy about that. The Father almighty chose a humble family from a humble town in a small country. And yet, this mystery we celebrate elevates human life, even in its lowest state, to a higher dignity.

Let's celebrate this Christmas by being aware the Child sleeping in the night, He will bring us goodness and light!



Christmas Mass Schedule

CHRISTMAS EVE MASSES, December 24

4:00pm Church & Parish Center

6:00pm Pageant

9:00pm Spanish

CHRISTMAS DAY December 25

9:00am & 11am Mass

TO OUR ST. LUKE COMMUNITY

A **HUGE heartfelt thank-you** to all of you wonderful parishioners of St. Luke's! You took tags and shopped and wrapped and brought your gifts so that we all could help 163 Westborough families (nearly 400 children) have a love-filled Christmas this year. A special extra thank you to all of our team who helped with the sorting and processing to get each gift to where it needed to go. This is such a huge group effort that it only works because of all of you and we are so grateful! We wish you a Blessed and Merry Christmas and a new year of peace and love.



Karen Lonardo
and the Interfaith Giving Tree Program Team



SAINT LUKE THE EVANGELIST CHURCH

Diocese of Worcester
Office of the Bishop
49 Elm Street
Worcester, Massachusetts



Christmas 2023

"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope." (Romans 15:13)

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

The Gospel accounts of Jesus' birth involve a disparate group of people---the sinless virgin, the upright Joseph, an indifferent innkeeper, Jewish shepherds, pagan magi, the ruthless Herod, incurious scribes, and murderous soldiers. Among this radically varied group, there was one thing in common. They were all---each one of them---loved by God. They were each the reason Christ was born. To each He would call. For each He died.

What was true that long ago night in Bethlehem remains true this day in our world. God loves each one of us. He loves those in the pews each week, twice a year or not at all. He loves those who have just come from the confessional and those who have not yet made it there. He loves those who acknowledge and worship Him and those who do not recognize Him and are far off.

Jesus Christ is the one savior of the world. He loves us all and He calls us all. As people whose freedom God respects, our response is critical. It determines if we find peace in this life and in the next. His peace is a gift. We do not earn it. We can only accept it. We accept it by believing in Him and what He has revealed, by striving to follow Him with our lives, and, by our repentance, accepting His freely offered, limitless mercy for our failures.

I pray that, whatever our situation and circumstance this Christmas, we may all be deeply moved by the wonderful love of God who so loved the world that He sent His Son as our Savior. May we turn anew to Jesus Christ, find a welcome place in His Church, and with it the joy, peace and hope God intends for us all.

With every prayerful best wish for a Merry Christmas, I remain,

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Robert J. McManus
Bishop of Worcester

Giving Tree



Thank you

To our St Luke's Parish Family,

On behalf of St Luke's Outreach, I would like to express my gratitude for the overwhelming kindness and generosity that you have given our parish and our community this Christmas season. The outpouring of love that you have shown to those in need, is truly amazing.

During the past few years, we have seen a substantial increase in the number of families in Westborough who are in need. This year, in particular, we have been working with many immigrant families who have come to this country with little more than their hopes and dreams. It is only through the generous support from our entire community that the Interfaith Giving Tree has been able to provide gifts to hundreds of children whose families are facing economic insecurity.

Together with St Luke's, five other Westborough churches contributed to make the Interfaith Giving Tree Program an incredible success again this year. Generous donations were also made by local organizations including: The Rotary Club, Westborough Women's Club, Westborough Civic Club, Women of St Luke's and The Knights of Columbus, who donated 100 warm jackets for children in need!

The Women of St Luke's assembled and decorated 160 holiday gift bags filled with treats for our seniors, and residents of group homes throughout our community. Volunteer took time delivering the treats as well as their "Christmas Presence" on each of their visits.

I would like to give a huge thank you to Karen Lonardo, and her "Elves" for their continued dedication coordinating the Interfaith Giving Tree. This is truly a "labor of love" that Karen has given our parish for many years. She works tirelessly to ensure that no child is forgotten. As always, thank you for saying "yes" and for sharing your blessings with those less fortunate.

Wishing you and your family Christmas Peace!
Nan Ford/Parish Outreach Coordinator



Over 40 brand new bicycles were donated to the Giving Tree.



Mustard Seed Soup Kitchen

St. Luke's is serving at the Mustard Seed on January 5th. We will be serving chicken, rice pilaf, vegetables, fruit and dessert. Please see the signup sheet in Flocknotes for details. **We are changing the drop off location to the parish center parking lot. Please deliver the food hot to the parking lot between 3 and 3:30 on Jan. 5th.**

Any questions, please call or email Sue Black at 508-212- 748, susanblack08@gmail.com.

SAINT LUKE THE EVANGELIST CHURCH



ST. LUKE THE EVANGELIST CHURCH
70 West Main Street, Westborough

PARISH CENTER OFFICES
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Office 508-366-5502
Faith Formation & Outreach 508-366-8509
www.stlukes-parish.org

PARISH STAFF:

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Email: frsagar@stlukes-parish.org

Craig Stine, Director of Music

email: music@stlukes-parish.org

Denise Pelkey, Youth Minister

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Melissa Baril Lower, Faith Formation

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Nan Ford, Parish Outreach

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Pam Vaccari, Parish Ctr. Secretary

e-mail religiousoffice@stlukes-parish.org

Linda Underwood, Finance Manager

e-mail financeoffice@stlukes-parish.org

Lawrence Orlando, Building and Grounds

Patrick Malone, Building and Grounds

ST. LUKE'S PASTORAL COUNCIL

EMAIL: pastoralcouncil@stlukes-parish.org

Ellen Gualtieri, Chair

Kathleen Gorczyca, Vice Chair

Colin Murphy, Secretary

Michael Alden

Christian Hedrick

Deborah Foody

John Griffin

Bill Kenney

Tom Kieler

Brian McLaughlin

Irma Torres

Deborah Ziegler

Mass Schedule

Saturday: 4PM, in Spanish 6PM

Sunday: 7:30AM, 9:00AM, 11:00AM

Weekday Masses

Monday through Friday,

9:00 AM

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SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

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SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE

*Please contact a Priest at least six months
in advance*

RCIA

*Contact the parish secretary if interested
in becoming Christian in the Catholic faith
tradition.*

VISITATION OF THE SICK

*Our extraordinary ministers are always pleased
to bring the Eucharist to parishioners who are
unable to join us for weekly worship. If you or a
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