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THE CATHOLIC PARISHES OF ASCENSION & SAINT LUKE



Hail and blessed be the hour and moment in which the Son of God was born of the most pure Virgin Mary, at midnight, in Bethlehem, in piercing cold. In that hour, vouchsafe, O my God! to hear my prayer and grant my desires, through the merits of Our Saviour Jesus Christ, and of His Blessed Mother. Amen.

REV. KARL A. HAHR, PASTOR
REV. MR. PHILIP LAWSON, DEACON

OFFICE STAFF
ANNE MOSSEY
KAREN MINOR

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website: stlukevt.org

PARISH OFFICE HOURS
MONDAY 9:30AM TO 3:00PM;
TUESDAY—FRIDAY 8:30AM TO 2:00PM

CATECHETICAL MINISTRY
HEATHER NIELSEN, DRE (802) 922-1246
MARY BETH REDDING, DRE (802) 338-0197 OR
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BAPTISMS
CALL TO MAKE AN APPOINTMENT.
ONE GODPARENT MUST BE A PRACTICING AND CONFIRMED CATHOLIC

MARRIAGES
CALL SIX MONTHS BEFORE DATE IS SET

WEEKEND MASS SCHEDULE
SAINT LUKE PARISH
SATURDAY: 4:00PM
SUNDAY: 10:30AM

ASCENSION PARISH
SUNDAY: 8:30AM

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION
SAINT LUKE PARISH
TUESDAY: 4:00 - 4:55PM (with Adoration)
SATURDAY: 3:15PM - 3:55PM
SUNDAY: 10:00AM - 10:25AM (time permitting)

ASCENSION PARISH
SUNDAY: 8:00AM - 8:25AM

Liturgy Schedule for St. Luke & Ascension Parishes

Saturday, December 25th - Nativity of the Lord

Midnight - Ascension: For the parishioners

8:30 am - Ascension: For the parishioners

10:30 am - St. Luke: Prayers for the Varricchione grandchildren
by Jim Varricchione

Sunday, December 26th - The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

8:00 am - 8:25 am – Confessions at Ascension

8:30 am - Ascension: Adrian and Cecile L'Ecuyer
by Art and Sue Renaud
Gallant family by Jim and Cindi Cota

10:00 am – 10:25 am Confessions at St. Luke (time permitting)

10:30 am - St. Luke: For the Parishioners

Monday, December 27th - Saint John

9:00 am - NO MASS

Tuesday, December 28th - The Holy Innocents

4:00 pm - 4:55 pm —Adoration w/ Confessions at St. Luke

5:00 pm - St. Luke: Abigail Tobin by Vince and Mary Beth Redding

Wednesday, December 29th - Saint Thomas Becket

9:00 am - Ascension: Travis by the family

Thursday, December 30st

9:00 am - St. Luke: Armand Martin
by Vince and Mary Beth Redding

Friday, December 31st - Saint Sylvester I

9:00 am - June by your friend Marlene

4:00 pm - St. Luke: For the Parishioners

Saturday, January 1st - Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

9:00 am - Ascension: For the parishioners

4:00 pm - St. Luke: Holy Souls in purgatory
by the Redding family

Sunday, January 2nd - Epiphany of the Lord

8:00 am - 8:25 am – Confessions at Ascension

8:30 am - Ascension: For the people

10:00 am – 10:25 am Confessions at St. Luke (time permitting)

Companions with the suffering Christ: Please pray for the ill or confined, and those in need of healing: James Austin, Brenda Barkyoub, Linda Barrows, Tonia Barbin, George Bilodeau, Danielle & Pat Orioles, Clem Cardinal, Joanne Carey, Alice Collins, Barbara Cobiere, Charlotte, Jim Godin, Jean Gregoire, Infant Baby, James Kendall, Jo Ann Kendall, Jinny Bogni-LeMay, Jillian Mathieu, Ronald Morin, Ronald Morin, II, Lisa Ouimette, David Parisi, Kristy Pigeon, L. Q., Joseph Q., Fr. Donald Ravey, Eleanore Sawyer, Mary St. Arnold, Dan Valley, Delaney Werneke, Sam Wilbur, Inmates of the NW Correctional Facility

FINANCIAL REPORT

Collections for the Weekend of December 19, 2021

St Luke: \$ 1,936.10 Votive candles \$40.00

Ascension: \$ 1,788.50

Please consider using the Online Giving tool for your weekly donations. Visit our website at: www.stlukev.org and click "Online Giving" tab in upper righthand corner to sign up!

The Second Collection is for: Energy & Fuel

Our parish now has a subscription to FORMED, a premier online platform filled with over 4,000 Catholic studies, movies, audio dramas, talks, e-books, and even cartoons for our children. FORMED has content from over 60 apostolates, including Augustine Institute, Ignatius Press, and the Knights of Columbus, with material that is professionally produced, engaging, and solid in its catechism. Best of all, this material is free to you. You have easy access to all of the material on FORMED to support your own faith journey and that of your family members. You can enjoy FORMED on your computer or on your television with an inexpensive Roku device or Apple TV. You can even listen on your phone as you commute to work or do chores.

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Good Christian friends ... Now ye need not fear the grave: Jesus Christ was born to save!

The Son of God made man was invited to enter His own world through a back door. Exiled from the earth, He was born under the earth, ... Because He was born in a cave, all who wish to see Him must stoop. To stoop is the mark of humility. The proud refuse to stoop and, therefore, they miss Divinity. Those, however, who bend their egos and enter, find that they are not in a cave at all, but in a new universe where sits a Babe on His mother's lap, with the world poised on His fingers. The manger and the Cross thus stand at the two extremities of the Savior's life! He accepted the manger because there was no room in the inn; He accepted the Cross because men said, "We will not have this Man for our king." Disowned upon entering, rejected upon leaving, He was laid in a stranger's stable at the beginning, and a stranger's grave at the end ... His name means "Savior from sin." Once He received this name, Calvary became completely a part of Him. The Shadow of the Cross that fell on His cradle also covered His naming. This was "His Father's business" everything else would be incidental to it. ~ Fulton Sheen, *Life of Christ*

Military News: Please pray for the safety and well-being of our military personnel, especially those who have been deployed: Sgt. Brion Houston, Maj. Christopher H. Stafford and Jonathon Modugno



A Christmas Gift for St. Luke — Our Lady of Czestochowa

The Black Madonna is a painting of the Blessed Virgin and Christ Child. It is said to have been painted by St. Luke the Evangelist on the top of the Holy Family's table — a table built by Jesus. It was while Luke was painting the picture of the Blessed Mother that she told him the nativity stories and other events in the life of Jesus, which Luke recorded in his gospel.

This same story states that when St. Helen went to Jerusalem to search for the true cross in 326 AD, she happened upon this portrait of Our Lady. She gave it to her son, Constantine, who had a shrine built to house it. In a critical battle with the Saracens, the portrait was displayed from the walls of Constantinople and the Saracens were subsequently routed. The portrait was credited with saving the city. The painting was eventually owned by Charlemagne who subsequently presented the painting to Prince Leo of Ruthenia (northwest Hungary). It remained at the royal palace in Ruthenia until an invasion occurred in the eleventh century. The king prayed to Our Lady to aid his small army and as a result of this prayer a darkness overcame the enemy troops who, in their confusion, began attacking one another. Ruthenia was saved. In the fourteenth century, it was transferred to the Mount of Light (Jasna Gora) in Poland in response to a request made in a dream of Prince Ladislaus of Opola.

The legendary history becomes better documented with the painting's ownership by Prince Ladislaus. In 1382 invading Tartars attacked the Prince's fortress at Belz. In this attack one of the Tartar arrows hit the painting and lodged in the throat of the Madonna. The Prince, fearing that he and the famous painting might fall to the Tartars, fled in the night finally stopping in the town of Czestochowa, where the painting was installed in a small church. The Prince subsequently had a Pauline monastery and church built to ensure the painting's safety. In 1430, the Hussites overran the monastery and attempted to take the portrait. One of the looters twice struck the painting with his sword but before he could strike another blow he fell to the floor writhing in agony and died. Both the sword cuts and the arrow wound are still visible in the painting, despite attempts to fix them.

Later, in 1655, Poland was almost entirely overrun by the forces of Sweden's King Charles X. Only the area around the monastery remained unconquered. Somehow, the monks of the monastery successfully defended the portrait against a forty day siege and eventually all of Poland was able to drive out the invaders.

After this remarkable turn of events, the Lady of Czestochowa became the symbol of Polish national unity and was crowned Queen of Poland. The King of Poland placed the country under the protection of the Blessed Mother.

There have been reports for centuries of miraculous events such as spontaneous healings occurring to those who made a pilgrimage to the portrait. It gets its name "Black Madonna" from the soot residue that discolors the painting. The soot is the result of centuries of votive lights and candles burning in front of the painting. "Thank you" to the generous donor who has gifted a copy of the painting for the sanctuary at St. Luke's church.

December 26th: Feast of the Holy Family

Devotion to the Holy Family was born in Bethlehem, together with the Baby Jesus. The shepherds went to adore the Child and, at the same time, they gave honor to His family. Later, in a similar way, the three wise men came from the East to adore and honor to the newborn King with gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh that would be safeguarded by His family.

We can go further to affirm that in a certain sense Christ, Himself, was the first devotee of His family. He showed His devotion to His mother and foster father by submitting Himself, with infinite humility, to the duty of filial obedience towards them. This is what St Bernard of Clairvaux said in this regard, 'God, to whom angels submit themselves and who principalities and powers obey, was subject to Mary; and not only to Mary but Joseph also for Mary's sake [...]. God obeyed a human creature; this is humility without precedent. A human creature commands God; it is sublime beyond measure.'

Today's celebration demonstrates Christ's humility and obedience with respect to the fourth commandment, whilst also highlighting the loving care that His parents exercised in His keeping.

The Holy Family: the Model for Our Families

"...And now, at the end of my pastoral message, which is intended to draw everyone's attention to the demanding yet fascinating roles of the Christian family, I wish to invoke the protection of the Holy Family of Nazareth.

"Through God's mysterious design, it was in that family that the Son of God spent long years of a hidden life. It is therefore the prototype and example for all Christian families. It was unique in the world. Its life was passed in anonymity and silence in a little town in Palestine. It underwent trials of poverty, persecution and exile. It glorified God in an incomparably exalted and pure way. And it will not fail to help Christian families-indeed, all the families in the world-to be faithful to their day-to-day duties, to bear the cares and tribulations of life, to be open and generous to the needs of others, and to fulfill with joy the plan of God in their regard.

"St. Joseph was 'a just man,' a tireless worker, the upright guardian of those entrusted to his care. May he always guard, protect and enlighten families.

"May the Virgin Mary, who is the Mother of the Church, also be the Mother of 'the Church of the home.' Thanks to her motherly aid, may each Christian family really become a 'little Church' in which the mystery of the Church of Christ is mirrored and given new life. May she, the Handmaid of the Lord, be an example of humble and generous acceptance of the will of God. May she, the Sorrowful Mother at the foot of the Cross, comfort the sufferings and dry the tears of those in distress because of the difficulties of their families.

"May Christ the Lord, the Universal King, the King of Families, be present in every Christian home as He was at Cana, bestowing light, joy, serenity and strength. On the solemn day dedicated to His Kingship I beg of Him that every family may generously make its own contribution to the coming of His Kingdom in the world- 'a kingdom of truth and life, a kingdom of holiness and grace, a kingdom of justice, love, and peace,' towards which history is journeying.

"I entrust each family to Him, to Mary, and to Joseph. To their hands and their hearts I offer this Exhortation: may it be they who present it to you, venerable Brothers and beloved sons and daughters, and may it be they who open your hearts to the light that the Gospel sheds on every family." ~ St. John Paul II, *Familiaris Consortio*