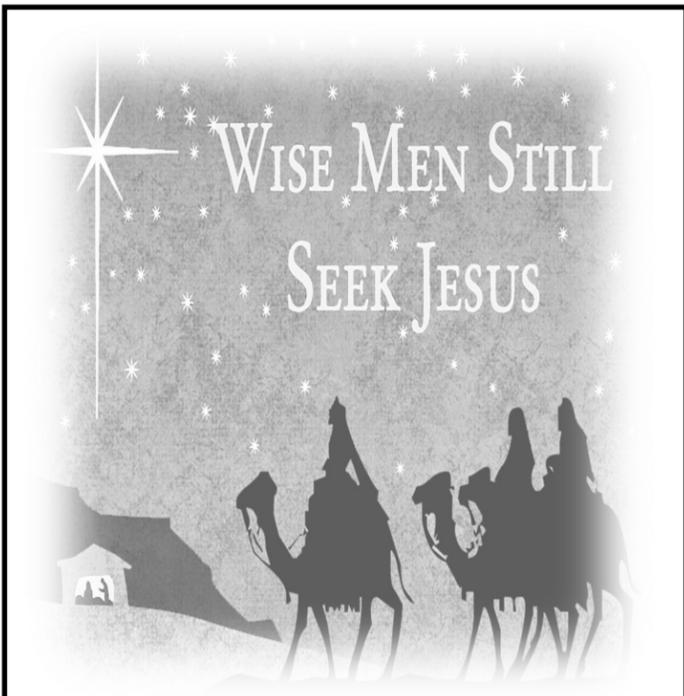


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**THE CATHOLIC PARISHES OF ASCENSION & SAINT LUKE**



*When Jesus therefore was born in Bethlehem of Juda, in the days of king Herod, behold, there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem. Saying, "Where is He that is born king of the Jews? For we have seen His star in the east, and are come to adore Him."* *Matthew 2: 1-2*

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

**OFFICE STAFF**  
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**PARISH OFFICE HOURS**  
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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

# Epiphany of the Lord

## Liturgy Schedule for St. Luke & Ascension Parishes

**Saturday, January 1<sup>st</sup>** - 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 2<sup>nd</sup>** - 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)

**10:30 am - Saint Luke:** Mike Wright

by Mary Wright

**Monday, January 3<sup>rd</sup>** - Holy Name of Jesus

**9:00 am - NO MASS**

**Tuesday, January 4<sup>th</sup>** - Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton

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

**5:00 pm - St. Luke:** Frank and Simone Varricchione

by Jim Varricchione

**Wednesday, January 5<sup>th</sup>** - Saint John Neumann

**9:00 am - Ascension:** Souls in Purgatory

by a parishioner

**Thursday, January 6<sup>th</sup>** - Saint Andre' Bessette

**9:00 am - St. Luke:** Donna Varricchione

by Jim Varricchione

**Friday, January 7<sup>th</sup>** - Saint Raymond of Penafort

**9:00 am - Vance Bacon**

by Mike Cross and Faith Cross

**Saturday, January 8<sup>th</sup>** -

**4:00 pm - St. Luke:** Vance Bacon

by the Q's

**Sunday, January 9<sup>th</sup>** - Baptism of the Lord

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

**8:30 am - Ascension:** Peter and Germaine Smith

By Art and Sue Renuad

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

**10:30 am - St. Luke:** For the People

**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

**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

# January 2, 2022

## FINANCIAL REPORT

**Collections for the Weekend of December 26, 2021**

**St Luke: \$ 2,175.00 Votive candles \$22.72**

**Christmas \$ 2,935.81 Energy and Fuel \$1,388.00**

**Ascension: \$ 1030.00**

**Christmas \$ 995.00 Energy and Fuel \$ 622.00**

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

## What is "Stewardship"?

You'll notice in your box of envelopes a monthly second collection for "Stewardship." From the book of Genesis we read that Adam and Eve were placed in the Garden to tend it; they were made God's stewards. In a similar way each of us should see him/herself as stewards in our own particular place in God's creation. Especially we need to recognize our responsibility to care for the proclamation of the Gospel in our particular place in the Church. The Stewardship collection aims at caring for the practical needs of our parish buildings and grounds, so that we have a place to gather and worship God; we have a place to welcome others that they too might hear the proclamation of the Gospel. The care that we put into the church buildings is a sign of our love for God — *Where your treasure is, there also will your heart be* (and vice versa). So that just as through the sacrifice of our parents we have a place to gather with the Lord, we want to leave the same for our children. The Stewardship Collection will help to keep the buildings and grounds of our parish in good condition for future generations.

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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Enter the zip code for Fairfax

Enter your name and your email address

That's it! You're in. Now you can get the free FORMED app for your phone by searching *FORMED Catholic* in your app store.

## Choice

Abortion advocates do not want to talk about facts or science, but they love to talk about "choice". They refuse to be called "pro-abortion", but they gladly accept the label, "pro-choice". Indeed, nothing has so clouded and confused the politics of the abortion debate more than the misconstrued application of this word. For years, abortion advocates have sought to bestow upon "choice" a nobility of its own, thereby avoiding discussion of what is being chosen. [www.pro-lifearticles.org](http://www.pro-lifearticles.org)

*Thank you so much to all those who helped with the Christmas Masses, and, in a special way, to those who donated flowers to beautify the churches for the celebration. Thank you. Together you helped us all to see the light of Christ shining in the mystery of Christmas.*

*On a personal note, I want to thank those who sent cards and gifts to wish me well in the Christmas season. Priests really do see our parishioners as family, and we appreciate when you remember us in the same way. Please know of my prayers for each of you, especially during the holy sacrifice of the Mass. May God continue to bless you and your loved ones in the New Year!*

~ Fr. Hahr

## Victorian Manger Herbs

In the Victorian era, herbs were popularly used to add scent and color to the Christmas decorations, especially those herbs native to Bethlehem. These came to be connected to the Nativity stories through legends. Of particular note are the manger herbs.

Legend tells that while Mary rested, Joseph cleaned the old hay from the manger and lined it with fresh grasses and herbs he had gathered. Among his gatherings was bedstraw, a common stable plant easily found in fields and along roadsides. It was used to stuff mattresses and pillows, but legend points out that it was nothing more than a common weed with white flowers that had no fragrance. This changed when our Lord was laid upon it. When His sacred head touched the lowly weed it was forever changed. The flowers turned to a golden yellow color, and instantly the foliage had a sweet fresh scent. In addition to being used for bedding, farmers came to feed it to their cows to sweeten the milk.

Pennyroyal is another plant that Joseph is thought to have gathered for the manger bed. It was considered a weed that was low-growing and did not bloom, but Joseph chose to use it because of its minty smell. The little herb burst into bloom at the moment of Jesus' birth and since then, has bloomed a bright purple flower—the color of royalty. It's believed that the scents of these flowering herbs were pleasing to Jesus, Mary, and Joseph. Also in the manger grass was horehound, with its soft and velvety leaves. It was believed to have healing powers, but also meant sorrows were to come. It was one of the bitter herbs placed on the Passover tables to commemorate the Jewish exodus from Egypt. It's said that Mary wept when she found the horehound among the manger plants. She tried to remove the herbs, but it was too tightly woven among the other plants and her efforts were unsuccessful. As she picked through the plants, she also found thyme, a symbol of courage and endurance, and this tempered her sorrow.

Two other herbs of the manger that were to later have a role in this story were lavender and rosemary. When Mary, Joseph, and the baby Jesus fled to Egypt, they ran through a thick field with rosemary to escape the murderous soldiers. As they made their way through the dense vegetation, legend says that other shrubs crackled and whispered as the family ran through them and tangled their feet. But rosemary shrubs silently parted, then closed the path behind them, preventing soldiers from seeing them. In gratitude the Mother Mary offered a blessing and spread her cloak over a rosemary shrub. Instantly, the pale flowers were turned to a heavenly blue color.

Once the family was safe, they stopped to rest beside a stream. While the baby Jesus slept, Mary rinsed her cloak and our Blessed Lord's clothing in the stream. She then laid the laundry on two shrubs to dry. Both shrubs, lavender and rosemary, were so honored to serve the family that they both stood tall and gave off a fragrance that penetrated and remained in the fabrics the family wore. Again, Mary blessed them, and to this day the plants have a sweet fragrance. Even today, rosemary is used indoors to freshen the air and to add a holiday scent to rooms. Some families add it to their Advent wreathes as it is still thought to bring good luck throughout the year.

## The Life Of The Child Jesus In Egypt And In Nazareth

Our Blessed Redeemer spent the first part of His childhood in Egypt, leading there for several years a life of poverty and humiliation. In that land Joseph and Mary were foreigners and strangers, having there neither relatives nor friends. Only with difficulty could they earn their daily bread by the labor of their hands. Their home was poor, their bed was poor, their food was poor. Here Mary weaned Jesus; dipping a piece of bread in water, she would put it in the sacred mouth of her Son. Here she made His first little garments and clothed Him with them. Here the Child Jesus took His first steps, stumbling and falling as other children first do. Here too He spoke His first words, but stammeringly. O wonder of wonders! To what has not God lowered Himself for love of us! A God stumbling and falling as He walks! A God stammering in His speech! Not unlike this was the poor and humble life that Jesus led in Nazareth after His return from Egypt. There, until He was thirty years old, He lived as a simple servant or workman in a carpenter shop, taking orders from Joseph and Mary. "And He was subject to them." Jesus went to fetch the water; He opened and closed the shop; He swept the house, gathered the fragments of wood for the fire, and toiled all day long, helping Joseph in his work. Yet who is this? God Himself, serving as an apprentice! The omnipotent God, who with less than a flick of His finger created the whole universe, here sweating at the task of planing a piece of work! Should not the mere thought of this move us to love Him?

*O Jesus, my Savior! When I consider how, for love of me, Thou didst spend thirty years of Thy life hidden and unknown in a poor workshop, how can I desire the pleasures and honors and riches of the world? Gladly do I renounce all these things, since I wish to be Thy companion on this earth, poor as Thou wast, mortified and humble as Thou wast, so that I may hope to be able one day to enjoy Thy companionship in heaven. What are all the treasures and kingdoms of this world? Thou, O Jesus, art my only treasure, my only Good! I keenly regret the many times in the past when I spurned Thy friendship in order to satisfy my foolish whims. I am sorry for them with all my heart. For the future I would rather lose my life a thousand times than lose Thy grace by sin. I wish never to offend Thee again, but always to love Thee. Help me to remain faithful to Thee until death. O Mary, thou art the refuge of sinners, thou art my hope. Amen*

## The Grace of the Epiphany

It makes explicit what is implicit in Christmas. It proclaims to the nations what has occurred in Bethlehem, and what that divine occurrence has made possible, namely, the union of the Heavenly Bridegroom with His Bride, the Church, which being catholic will embrace both Jews and Gentiles. Just as we speak of the three births at Christmas (the Word's birth in eternity, Jesus' birth of Mary, and the birth of Christ in our souls by faith and baptism) we also speak of a trinity of mysteries in the Epiphany. The first was a manifestation of the Savior of the world to the gentiles in the persons of the Magi. The second, at our Lord's baptism, a manifestation, via the descent of the Holy Ghost and the Voice of God the Father, of the Holy Trinity, and of Christ's Divine Sonship. It was also a revelation of the means by which men might be united to God, as the sacrament of Baptism was instituted on this occasion. The third was a manifestation of Christ's power in a public way, the miracle at Cana being the "beginning of miracles" that "manifested His glory" (John 2:11). It showed forth not only Christ's power, but also His blessing of holy matrimony, which is itself a symbol of the union of Christ and the Church. All of these are epiphanies of our Lord in the tradition of the Church.

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