



ST. LUKE'S ORDINARIATE PARISH ✠ WASHINGTON DC

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# The Epistle

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## ADVENT LESSONS AND CAROLS

Mark your calendars (and invite your friends!): You won't want to miss St. Luke's service of Lessons and Carols for Advent, always one of the most beautiful evenings of the Christian year, at Immaculate Conception Church, Sunday, December 11, at 7:30 pm. St. Luke's is known for the high quality of our music, and this affords an excellent opportunity for parishioners and friends alike to hear a splendid choir in top form!

We will be celebrating our service of Lessons and Carols on Gaudete Sunday—the third Sunday in Advent. During Advent, we prepare for the coming of Christ, looking both back to the Nativity at Bethlehem and to the future when he comes again. The New Advent Catholic Encyclopedia says that Catholics are admonished to do three things during the Advent season:

- to prepare themselves worthily to celebrate the anniversary of the Lord's coming into the world as the incarnate God of love,
- thus to make their souls fitting abodes for the Redeemer coming in Holy Communion and through grace, and
- thereby to make themselves ready for His final coming as judge, at death and at the end of the world.

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Gaudete Sunday takes its name from the first Latin words of the introit for the Mass on this day: "Gaudete in Domino semper," which can be rendered "Rejoice in the Lord always." The theme of the Third Sunday in Advent is the Church's joy at the nearness of the Lord. Festive rose-colored vestments may be worn to symbolize this. Taking note of this custom in a sermon preached on Gaudete Sunday, the Benedictine Abbot Gueranger observed, "How touching are all these usages, and how admirable this condescension of the Church, wherewith she so beautifully blends together the unalterable strictness of the dogmas of the faith and the graceful poetry of the formulae of her liturgy. Let us enter into her spirit, and be glad on this third Sunday of her Advent, because our Lord is now so near unto us."

## ADVENT LESSONS & CAROLS

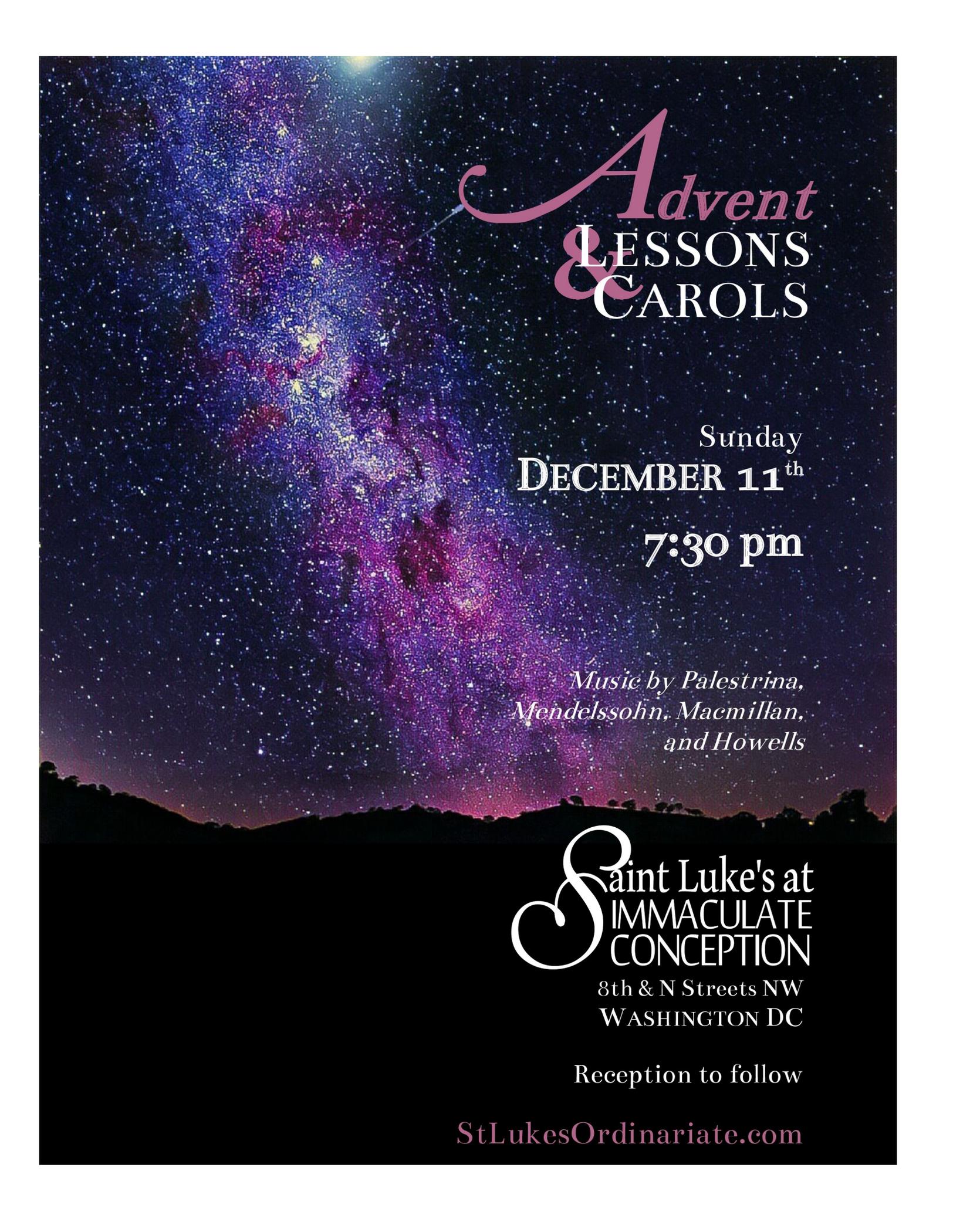


**SUNDAY 11 DECEMBER 2016**

Although Lessons and Carols, a worship service which celebrates the birth of Christ with readings from Genesis, prophetic writings in the Bible, and the Gospels, interspersed with Advent music, has become a popular tradition in many denominations, it is a ceremony that ought to have a special place in the hearts of Ordinariate Catholics. Its roots are in the Church of England, and specifically related to a family that included one of the great Anglican converts to the Catholic Church. It seems that one of the earliest mentions of such a service was an 1878 newspaper announcement that there would be a Christmas Eve service of carols at Truro Cathedral. A number of churches and larger towns seem to have been hosting similar services, but Truro Cathedral is important because the bishop of Truro was the Rt. Rev. Edward Benson. When Benson became Archbishop of Canterbury in 1883, he took Lessons and Carols with him, introducing it to a wider public. One of Bishop Benson's sons was Robert Hugh Benson, who was an Anglican clergyman before he began investigating the historical claims of the Anglican Church. He was subsequently received into the Catholic Church. Monsignor Benson, as he became, was named a supernumerary private chamberlain (chaplain) to the Pope in 1911. A prolific author, Benson wrote the novel *Come Rack! Come Rope!*, about a Saint Edmund

Campion-like priest in Elizabethan England put to death for his faith. If Bishop Benson introduced the ceremony of Lessons and Carols to a large number of worshippers, it gained further prominence in 1928 when King's College, Cambridge, hosted its first such service under the direction of Eric Milner-White, then Dean of King's College. In 1934, Milner-White devised the cycle for Advent Lessons and Carols, which is the service which we offer each year on Gaudete Sunday.

Our service of Lessons and Carols is always impressive, solemn, and joyful. This year the music will feature selections from Palestrina, Mendelssohn, James MacMillan, Ralph Vaughan-Williams, Charles Wood, and Herbert Howells. There will be a reception immediately after the service next door at the school. Parishioners are asked to bring wine, cheese, crackers, and cookies for the reception; email La-Verne Williams at [voisy@aol.com](mailto:voisy@aol.com) and let her know what you will bring.



*Advent*  
LESSONS  
&  
CAROLS

Sunday  
DECEMBER 11<sup>th</sup>

7:30 pm

*Music by Palestrina,  
Mendelssohn, Macmillan,  
and Howells*

Saint Luke's at  
IMMACULATE  
CONCEPTION

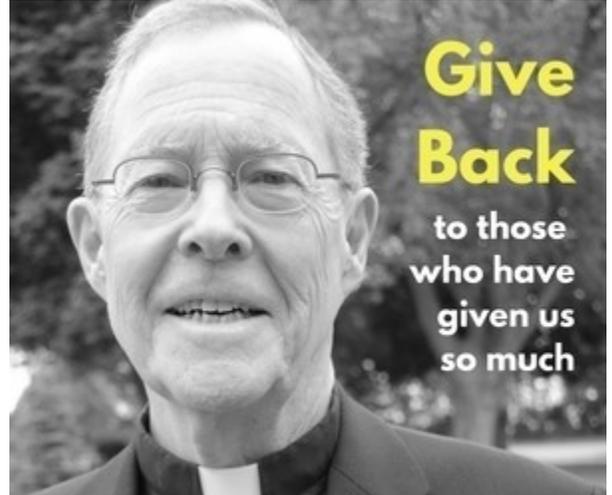
8th & N Streets NW  
WASHINGTON DC

Reception to follow

[StLukesOrdinariate.com](http://StLukesOrdinariate.com)

## SECOND COLLECTION FOR PRIESTS' RETIREMENT FUND

Our bishop is making it a priority to provide financial stability in retirement for Ordinariate priests, who have often made great sacrifices, leaving behind the financial security they enjoyed as Episcopal clergy, to come into full communion with the Catholic Church. Thus, Bishop Lopes is establishing the Ordinariate's Retirement Fund for Priests, which he hopes to create by raising and investing a \$500,000 corpus and raising another \$500,000 for distribution to retired priests vested in the plan for 10 years.



During the weekend of December 3-4, Ordinariate parishes and parochial communities will take up a second collection for the retirement fund for priests. Checks should be made out to the "Personal Ordinariate of the Chair of St. Peter." Please remember the sacrifices these men, and their families, have made and their zeal for the faith and give generously. We could not preserve our Anglican patrimony within the Holy Catholic Church without these sacrifices.

## CORPORAL WORK OF MERCY: MID-DECEMBER-JANUARY SOCKS AND GLOVES FOR THE HOMELESS

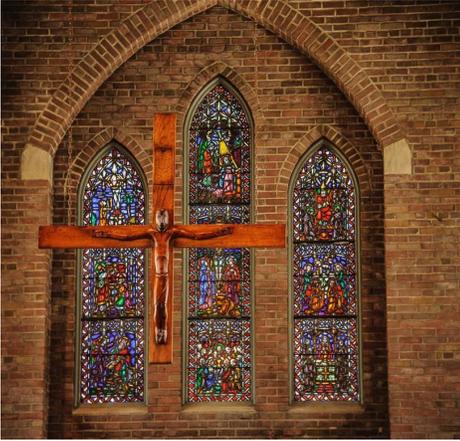


Cold weather is coming and with it special peril for the homeless, who are at risk for hypothermia and frostbite. Believe it or not, warm gloves or a thick pair of socks can make a big difference for someone on the streets. Therefore our Corporal Act of Mercy for the latter half of December and the month of January is collecting socks and gloves for the homeless. Thickness is the key consideration for both socks and the gloves for the homeless. Men's sizes are preferred. If you buy cotton socks, remember that sometimes two pairs are worn at the same time when it is cold. White is the preferred color for socks. We will collect the socks and gloves at the coffee hour after Mass.

Sometimes we encounter homeless people who are hungry and in need of shelter, but who are probably unable to make it to the nearest shelter on their own. When this happens, we suggest that you call the DC Shelter Hotline, which has vans that can be sent to help. The number is [800-535-7252](tel:800-535-7252). If you would like to be equipped at all times to offer help, carry some crackers with you. Crackers can provide immediate relief to someone who is hungry.

## EVENING PRAYER AT THE ABBEY

The 2017 schedule for Evening Prayer at the Abbey has been set. The first service of 2017 will be on January 7th. The service will continue to be held on the first Saturday of each month of the school year: January 7, February 4, March 4, April 1, and May 6. We take a summer break and resume in the fall on dates to be confirmed.



This quiet service of reflection and thanksgiving starts at 4 pm in the Abbey Chapel, and is followed by a time of fellowship and refreshment in the Fort Augustus Room.

Many thanks to our generous hosts, the monks of St. Anselm's Abbey, a community of the English Benedictine Congregation, which is a group of autonomous monasteries all drawing their origins in some way from the survivors of pre-Reformation Benedictine monasticism in England. The monks of St. Anselm's are generous supporters of the Ordinariate's mission in the DC metro area.

Please join us each month at St. Anselm's Abbey, 4501 South Dakota Avenue NE, Washington DC.

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### FROM THE DEACON-CANDIDATE'S DESK

When I became Roman Catholic, it was impressed upon me that prayer, especially personal prayer, would be important to my spiritual growth and my integration into the Church. One prayer I found most helpful was the Holy Rosary. I remember, growing up, praying the Rosary on Wednesdays, but in an Anglican manner.



The Rosary, revealed to St. Dominic (at least by pious tradition) is a prayer that truly makes us understand the relationship between Mary and her Son, Jesus Christ. We do not worship Mary at all, but we pray to her, asking her to intercede for us and for all our intentions, both known and those buried in the recesses of our heart.

I won't go into the structure of the Rosary, or each prayer, but will say that its efficacy has been proven, over the centuries, during times of personal or national difficulty. There are verified reports of wars being stopped, natural disasters being avoided, and parishes seeing exponential growth and joy, when people pray the Rosary with fervor and devotion.

St. Luke's, our spiritual home, needs your help. We need to grow and spread the Gospel of Christ. But, to do that, we need everyone's help. We need everyone to sacrificially give of our time, talent, and treasure. And, we also need our prayers, both personal and collective. As we enter into Advent and prepare ourselves to welcome the Christ Child, I ask that we pray an extra decade of our daily Rosary with the explicit intention for St. Luke's Church and our future. Dedicate St. Luke's to the guidance and protection of the Blessed Mother. Ask her to intercede with her Son on our behalf and for our intentions. We trusted God when we started our journey. Let us trust in His Mother to continue to lead and guide us as we enter this new aspect of our life together.

—Mark F. Arbeen

# Saint Luke's at IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

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St. Luke's at Immaculate Conception is a parish of the Personal Ordinariate of the Chair of Saint Peter, which was established on January 1, 2012 by Pope Benedict XVI in response to repeated requests by Anglicans seeking to become Catholic. Ordinariate parishes are fully Catholic while retaining elements of their Anglican heritage and traditions, including liturgical traditions.

**THE PERSONAL ORDINARIATE  
OF THE CHAIR OF SAINT PETER**

*That we all may be one*

## FROM THE PASTOR

*"And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us"*

We recite these words of the Last Gospel at the end of our Sunday Mass. A Gospel reading recalling the birth of our Lord and Savior at the completion of Mass may seem a little out of place. Cardinal Wuerl in speaking about the Last Gospel reminds us of its significance and placement. He teaches that, at the end of each Mass, we are reminded of our new beginning.

If salvation history were a movie, the birth of Jesus Christ would be the beginning of the last scene. His birth ushers in hope: hope in God fulfilling His promises; hope for eternal happiness; hope for a life free from the trials, tribulations, pains, and injustices of this life. Furthermore, the Incarnation of Christ ushers in new life to be experienced now in this life, by those who believe in Him.

God so loved the world He gave His only begotten Son, and He gave Him to the world as a baby born of a virgin. God so loves you and me, He became one of us, so that we may live in Him, in this world and the next. The Incarnation is a gift of God's love to and for us. In His love we become new beings and we have new life.

And the World became flesh and dwelt among us—when we hear these words let us be reminded of God's faithfulness, and of His love for us.

And may we never forget that in Jesus Christ we are invited to share in God's love forever and ever. In the Word becoming flesh, we received the greatest gift we could possible receive—we received the gift of God's love.

It is my prayer each of us be drawn deeper into the mystery of God's love this Christmas.

Merry Christmas to all!

*Fr. Mark Lewis*

**T**hursday, December 8th is the Feast of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary. This solemnity is the patronal feast of the United States, and a holyday of obligation.

It is the solemn obligation of all American Catholics to attend mass that day. Masses at Immaculate Conception Church on that day are the Ordinariate Mass at 8:30 am and the Novus Ordo Mass at 12:15 pm. If you are unable to attend one of these masses, please fulfil your mass obligation at a more convenient location.