

A "mite box" for
our Building Fund



ST. LUKE'S ORDINARIATE PARISH ✠ WASHINGTON DC

The Epistle

BUILDING OUR FUTURE: A STEP EACH DAY

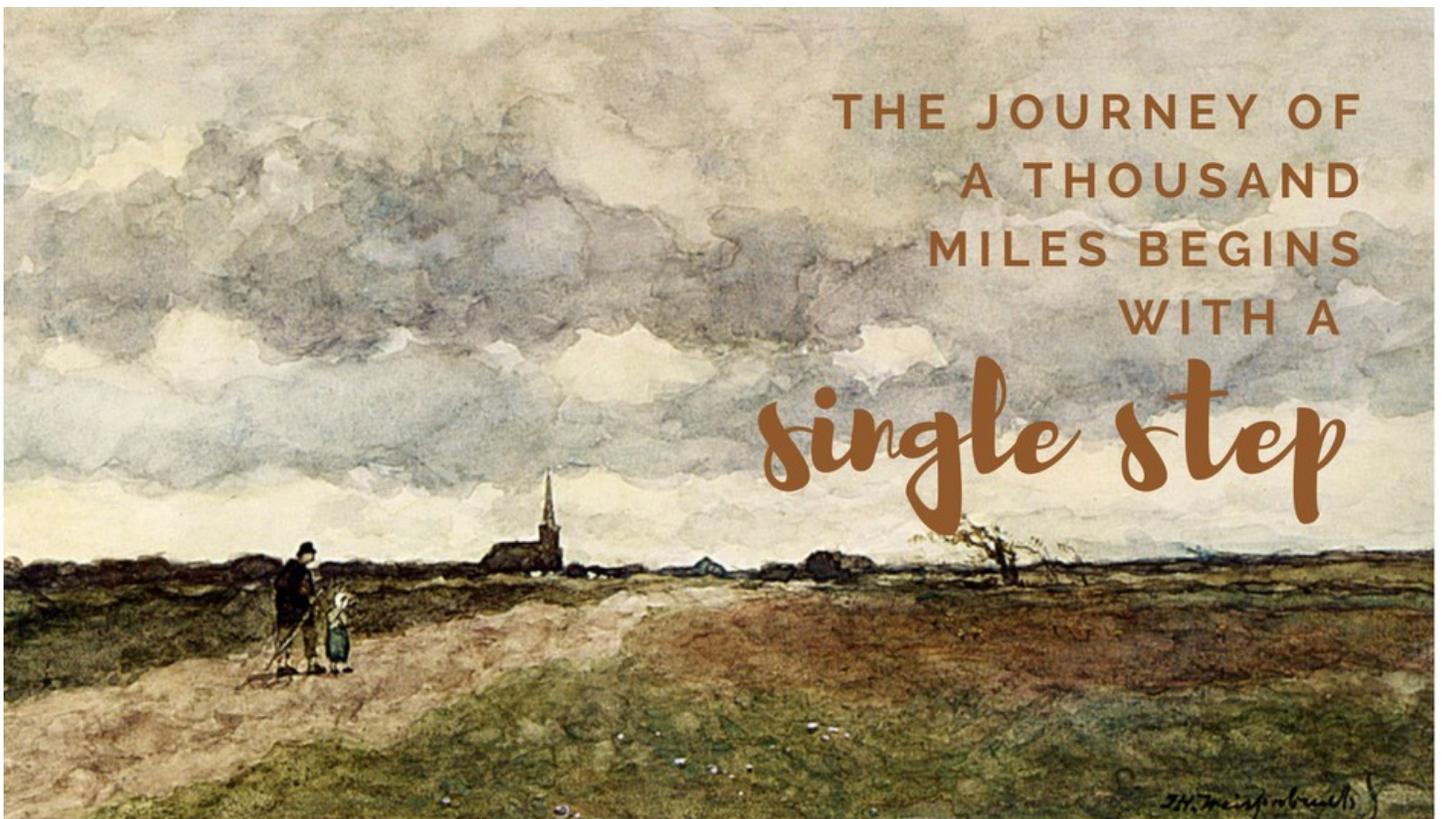
We are grateful that we are able to worship at a beautiful church in downtown Washington, but we must never forget our goal is to have a church and parish facilities of our own. To that end we're adapting the old custom of the "mite box" that many of us remember as part of our heritage. We put change in our mite boxes—named to honor the widow's mite in the Gospels—during Lent (presumably for something we had "given up") and presented what we had collected to the church on Easter Sunday.

As a way of helping St. Luke's acquire a building, we want to do something similar all year long. We're asking parishioners of St. Luke's at Immaculate Conception to collect their spare change at the end of the day. Small church-shaped boxes will be

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available the first Sunday of March. Like the little cardboard boxes of our childhoods, the idea is the same: we make sacrifices to participate in the mission of the Church. Having a church of our own will mean that we can engage in more parish activities and schedule masses when we want to. If you long to have a Christmas Eve Midnight Mass celebrated according to the Ordinariate's Book of Divine Worship, a building of our own can make this dream come true.

At the end of the Mass on the first Sunday of each month, this “mite box money” will be collected. This is a way of keeping a church of our own in our minds daily—and of collecting funds to reach that goal. If we are doing this, the ideal of having our own building will become something concrete in our minds, not a hazy ambition that we mean to see one of these days. And mites add up! We urge all our parishioners to adopt this habit.



BISHOP'S APPEAL: THE LORD HAS DONE GREAT DEEDS

“As we have witnessed over the past year, the Personal Ordinariate of the Chair of St. Peter is thriving in its unique role of evangelization,” the Most Reverend Steven J. Lopes writes. Bishop Lopes notes that Ordinariate parishes have seen growth as more people enter into full communion with the Catholic Church, that the Ordinariate has been blessed with vocations, and that we have become ever more integrated into the life of the Catholic Church. Quoting from Psalm 126, our bishop proclaims, “The Lord has done great deeds for us, indeed.”

The words of the psalm serve as the theme for our 2017 Bishop's Appeal. Responding to the Bishop's Appeal is a way to help in the Ordinariate's mission of evangelization. "God's abundant generosity towards the Ordinariate invites us to deepen our commit to draw others into the Eucharistic communion of the Church," Bishop Lopes writes. "We are called to be active participants in our shared mission of evangelization to our brothers and sisters who seek the fullness of faith, and to those within the Church whose faith has grown lukewarm."

Pledges for the Bishop's Appeal were taken up the last Sunday in February, but the Appeal runs until December 31. You can give at any time during the year. St. Luke's at Immaculate Conception parishioners may still make a lump sum contribution to the Appeal, or pledge a specified amount to be charged to your credit card at monthly intervals. Financial support to our fledgling Ordinariate is important to lay a strong structural foundation for the future. Giving is also an opportunity to join with others across the Ordinariate to bring services that no one parish can accomplish.

The Bishop's goal for this year's Appeal is \$225,000. Our share here at St. Luke's is \$10,502. As Bishop Lopes explained in his letter, the funds raised will go towards these activities: supporting our clergy (including formation and pastoral care); parish development (including digital tools and canonical services); communicating the faith (informing and inspiring members and friends about our work and mission and identity); and evangelization (this will offset Bishop Lopes travel to Ordinariate parishes and parochial communities to teach and preach the faith in the U.S. and Canada).

If you haven't given—or if you have—there is still ample time to participate in the mission of the Ordinariate by giving to the Bishop's Appeal. There are three ways to give: credit card online, email or fax, or a check in the mail. The address for a check is:

The Personal Ordinariate of the Chair of Saint Peter

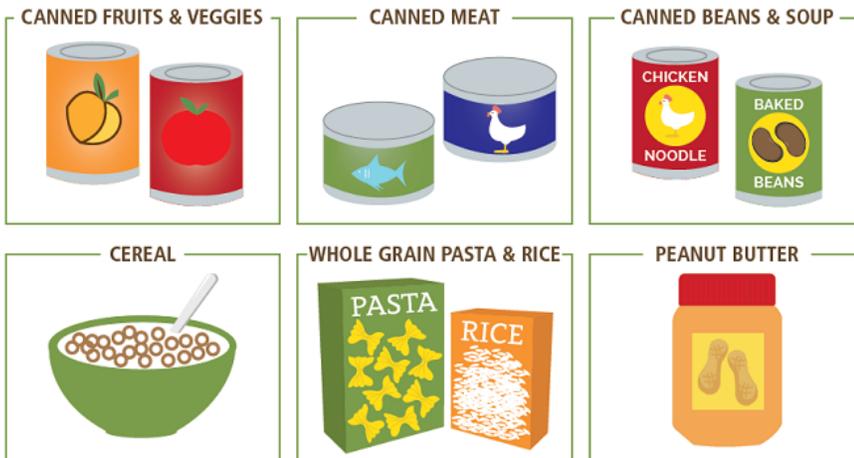
P.O. Box 55206 | Houston, Texas 77255

If you have further questions, please contact Jenny Faber at 346-247-2208 or giving@ordinariate.net.



MARCH CORPORAL WORK OF MERCY: LENTEN FOOD DRIVE

FOOD DRIVE MOST NEEDED ITEMS



St. Luke's corporal act of mercy for March will be participation, with the assistance of the Knights of Columbus, in Catholic Charities' Lenten Food Drive, which serves food-insecure families and individuals. We will distribute grocery bags for members to take home and fill after Sunday Mass on March 19th and the collection of the bags will take place the following Sunday March 26th.

According to Catholic Charities, donations will help hungry families throughout our local community, helping to stock parish pantries and pantries at Catholic Charities Southern Maryland Food Bank. To ensure that the food bank receives the items that are needed, parishioners should look at the directions on the grocery bags. Categories of foods are assigned beginning on the first letter of your last name. This is a wonderful way to help people who may otherwise not have enough, and it is also yet another way to make certain that this Lent a time when we do something for others. We hope that all members of St. Luke's will give something—whether you contribute a number of items or a single, small item.

The USCCB notes that in Lent “we are asked to devote ourselves to the spiritual and corporal works of mercy that ‘remind us that faith finds expression in concrete everyday actions meant to help our neighbors in body and spirit.’” This is a concrete action that will be of help to our neighbors. Last year, the Lenten Food Drive collected more than 157,804 pounds of food from 124 parishes and schools. It is hoped that this year that record will be surpassed.



EVENING PRAYER AT THE ABBEY: MARCH 4TH

Our monthly service of Evening Prayer, in the chapel of St. Anselm's Abbey [4501 South Dakota Avenue NE], will take Saturday, March 4th, at 4 pm. Come chant with us some psalms and canticles. And then join us for an hour of fellowship in the Abbey's Fort Augustus Room.

This beautiful service of reflection and thanksgiving is held the first Saturday of each month of the school year. The remaining dates for this school term are March 4th, April 1st, and May 6th.

THE DEACON-CANDIDATE'S DESK

By Mark F. Arbeen



In the early Church, the catechumenate period was very long, a year or more. The last stretch of time before baptism, confirmation, and first Holy Communion was the time for the candidates to purify themselves one last time from those vices that kept them from fully embracing God. It is from this tradition that we get the Season of Lent (40 days—except Sundays—from Ash Wednesday through Holy Saturday).

For us, who have already been received, this period is a time for us to examine our lives, our hearts, and our consciences to re-commit ourselves to our Baptismal Promises. The way we do this “examination” is through prayer, fasting, and almsgiving.

In prayer, we talk with God. We take intentional time from our schedule to pray and communicate with the Father. This is a good time to “get your wings dusted” as a fine priest once told me, through the Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession). The Archdiocese of Washington and the Diocese of Arlington have a wonderful program “The Light Is On,” where each parish provides Confession every Wednesday evening throughout Lent.

The church only requires us to fast from food (one large meal and two smaller meals that do not equal one meal) on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. But fasting can also include other types of “fasting.” Look within your heart and see if there are things you do (social media, always looking at your phone, games, etc.) that keep you from spending time with your family or in prayer. It is fasting from those items that can be very beneficial. By giving something like that up, you may find that it has been a hindrance, or block, from truly following God, and you can find long-term benefit from not returning to them in such a harmful manner.

Almsgiving is more than just dropping a few coins into the cup of a homeless person (although that is a good thing to do). It is truly examining your self, and how you look at all the gifts God has given you. How have you returned them, or how have you taken care of them? Are you the hoarder, like the man who buries his talent in the ground? Or are you one who works and increases the talents God gave you, so you can return more to Him?

I will pray for each of you, that you will have a Holy Lent, that you discard those items that keep you separated from God and your family; that you find time to pray and thank Him for all the gifts He has given you; that you re-examine your possessions and talents to make sure you are giving God your best. I ask you to pray for each other too. It is through our collective prayers that we can have the strength to come through Lent and enter into Eastertide better and more holy people of God.

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

SEEK YE FIRST THE KINGDOM OF GOD

The Gospel lesson for the last Sunday before Lent begins with these words from our Lord, "No one can serve two masters. He will either hate one and love the other, or be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon." As we prepare to enter the Lenten Season, these words of Jesus should be burned into our hearts and minds.

Jesus is teaching we must not place anything above our love and desire for God. Thus, His teaching is in complete conformity with the first commandment, "You should love the Lord your God, with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength; and you shall have no other gods before me." We are to love and desire God above all else.

Desire and love are two passions which an individual can control. When you really think about it, we truly desire what we truly love. Thus, in loving God, we desire Him. We must make it our aim to love God above all else.

St. Paul reminds us, "Every athlete exercises self-control in all things. They do it to receive a perishable wreath." Just as the athlete orders his or her life toward a certain goal, so too should

the Christian. Just as the goal of the athlete permeates every aspect of his or her life, so too should the Christian's goal.

"No one can serve two masters. He will either hate one and love the other, or be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon." As we enter the Lenten season, let us consider what in us might rival our love for God. May we choose to love God above all, and order our lives toward that goal.

I pray you have a blessed Lent.

Fr. Mark Lewis



Don't forget to reset your clocks on the evening of March 11th.

Daylight Saving Time begins on Sunday March 12th.

"Spring forward, fall back."