

The Reception
into Full Communion
of St. Luke's Parish
October 9, 2011



ST. LUKE'S ORDINARIATE PARISH ✠ WASHINGTON DC

The Epistle

“TIS GOOD, LORD, TO BE HERE”

We hope as many of our friends as possible will join us at our 8:30 am mass on Sunday, October 9th to help St. Luke's mark an important milestone in our history: it will be the fifth anniversary of St. Luke's reception into the Catholic Church.

We aren't exaggerating when we say that this was a historic event. St. Luke's was the first Episcopal church to come into the Catholic Church under the provisions of then-Pope Benedict XVI's *Anglicanorum Coetibus*. *Anglicanorum Coetibus* was a 2009 apostolic constitution that allowed Episcopal parishes to be received into the Church, while retaining elements of Anglican tradition and liturgical practice.

Father Mark Lewis, our pastor, doesn't hold back when it comes to the significance of the then-pope's action on behalf of Anglicans. “Every now and then, a momentous event takes place. Few if any since the Reformation have more significance than *Anglicanorum Coetibus*,” Father Mark once explained to a reporter. “Pope Benedict XVI, with one fell swoop of the pen, opened the door for whole groups of Anglicans to reunite with Holy Mother Church.”

And what are we doing to celebrate? We're marking the day in the most appropriate

Volume 2, Issue 10
October 2016

manner possible: by welcoming more new Catholics into Holy Mother Church. Bishop Steven J. Lopes will confirm five adults at Mass that day. We'll also have a potluck brunch afterwards. It's a good opportunity to meet the bishop, if you haven't already, and to congratulate our new Catholics.

We share their excitement as it seems like yesterday that around sixty members of St. Luke's stepped forward during a beautiful Mass in the Crypt Church at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception to be received into the Catholic Church and then confirmed by an exuberant Donald Cardinal Wuerl.



And it was a magnificent day. Osita Okafor found himself at the head of the line and was asked by a Washington Post reporter what it felt like to be first. "Oh, my God, I must be blessed," he replied. Father Mark, who for a brief time until he was ordained as a Catholic priest, was a layman, was dressed in a suit and tie. Nevertheless, as a good shepherd, he hovered at the end of the line to make sure all his sheep made it up to the Cardinal before he presented himself.

Rite of Reception and Confirmation,
Crypt Church of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, Washington DC, October 9, 2011



Since that day, a great deal has happened at St. Luke's, and we have much for which to be grateful—and much yet to do. Among our other milestones: Father Mark was ordained a Catholic priest by Cardinal Weurl on June 23, 2012. For three years after

St. Luke's became Catholic, the parish was able to rent the old St. Luke's in Bladensburg, Maryland, from the Episcopal Diocese of Washington, with an option to buy or move at the end of that time.

St. Luke's was fortunate to be able to move to Immaculate Conception Church, and on September 7, 2014, Father Mark celebrated our first regular Sunday mass at this beautiful church. The parish is grateful to Monsignor James Watkins, former pastor of Immaculate Conception, and now Father Adam Park, pastor of Immaculate



Conception, for their generosity in welcoming us. Monsignor Jeffrey Steenson, then ordinary of the Personal Ordinariate of the Chair of St. Peter, was present that first Sunday. Holly Henderson, a parishioner who had been baptized as an infant at the old St. Luke's, provided the bread and wine for our first regular Mass at Immaculate Conception

In November of 2015, Pope Francis—partly in response to urgings from Monsignor Steenson, who felt that the time had come for the Ordinariate to have a bishop—named then-Monsignor Steven J. Lopes as the first bishop of one of the Personal Ordinariates.

It is almost impossible to overstate the importance of this move by the Holy Father. “With this appointment, Pope Francis affirms and amplifies Pope Benedict’s vision for Christian unity, in which diverse expressions of one faith are joined together in the Church,” a statement from the Ordinariate said. As an official of the Congregation of the Doctrine of the Faith, Bishop Lopes helped nurture the Ordinariate and was directly involved in developing Divine Worship, our missal, which is both fully Catholic and a treasury of beloved Anglican texts.

The new missal—another important milestone—was introduced the first Sunday of Advent in 2015, and Bishop Lopes was consecrated a bishop in Houston, Texas on February 2 of this year (with a full contingent of St. Luke's parishioners on hand for the mass and other festivities). And in yet another milestone, the bishop chose St. Luke's as the place to celebrate his first Chrism Mass in March of this year.



When St. Luke's made the decision to enter the Catholic Church, after much discernment, parishioner Patrick Delaney told a reporter from the Catholic News Agency that it was "like correcting 500 years of history." The first five years of the next five hundred, God willing, have been exciting, but we have much to do. Our next major milestone: St. Luke's goal is to have a church building of our own within ten years. Please join us on the journey—and please be present on October 9.

PLEASE BRING A DISH TO THE POTLUCK BRUNCH

We expect a larger than usual gathering after our October 9 Mass and confirmations. If you can, please help us by bringing a dish to share with others. Please sign up with La-Verne Williams and let her know what you are bringing: voisy@aol.com.

DID YOU KNOW...?

- ◆ Fr. Lewis had written a letter to Benedict XVI, dated November 18, 2009, expressing interest in the Ordinariate. A return letter was received from the office of the Vatican Secretary of State which stated Fr. Lewis' letter had been transmitted to the Congregation of the Doctrine of the Faith—which is where Bishop Lopes was assigned at the time.
- ◆ St. Luke's received over 500 e-mails congratulating and welcoming us into the Catholic Church. We received greetings from people all over the world.
- ◆ Bishop Peter Elliott, Auxiliary Bishop of Melbourne and Episcopal Delegate in Australia for the implementation of the Apostolic Constitution *Anglicanorum Coetibus*, phoned Fr. Lewis just prior to October 9, 2011 to congratulate and welcome us.
- ◆ Msgr. Keith Newton, ordinary of the Personal Ordinariate of Our Lady of Walsingham, celebrated the very first Catholic Mass at St. Luke's, Bladensburg, on October 10, 2011.
- ◆ Pope Benedict XVI imparted his Apostolic Blessing upon St. Luke's on September 15, 2012.

CORPORAL WORK OF MERCY FOR OCTOBER FEEDING THE HUNGRY

Our corporal act of mercy for October looks forward to Thanksgiving, a time of year when we especially want to share our good fortune with others. The Central Union Mission hosts an annual Thanksgiving dinner for the homeless. A mere \$2.09 provides one hot meal at the Mission. Fifty dollars would help 24 people, but the mission welcomes gifts in all amounts. No contribution is too small.

To facilitate making contributions, you will find envelopes from the Central Union Mission in your bulletins during the month of October and on the information table at coffee hour.

Central Union Mission is a faith-based nonprofit that operates six locations in the Washington metropolitan area. It provides emergency shelter, a camp for children, computer and job training and many other services. According to its website, the gift of a single meal "fills an empty stomach, nourishes a hurting soul, and helps change a life forever." Please consider making a donation.

ANNUAL STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN

Our annual stewardship campaign will kick off on October 16. You will be receiving material about stewardship and a pledge card on October 2. Please read the material you will be receiving throughout the month, and pray about your financial support to St. Luke's. Pledge cards will be collected in the offering plate October 30.

All adult members of the parish are expected to financially support the parish. In fact, financial support is one of the five Precepts of the Church, to which you are obliged. We particularly ask all those who have come into the Catholic Church with St. Luke's or by her ministry and who no longer attend Mass here to help support the parish. Your financial support will help assure St. Luke's will be here in the future to help others make the same journey you have made. We all owe a debt of gratitude to St. Luke's. Please support our ministry!

You Are Invited!

I invite each of you to join Vickey and me as founding members of the St. Luke's Legacy Society. You too can be a founding member of this society by remembering St. Luke's in your will or other estate plans. Founding membership for the St. Luke's Legacy Society will be accepted from October 16-30. Please see the sign up form below. —Fr. Mark Lewis

REMEMBER ST. LUKE'S IN YOUR WILL

Request For Information

I would like a representative of St. Luke's who is familiar with estate planning to contact me about exploring the best ways for me to give.

Legacy Society Enrollment

Please enroll me/us – I/we already qualify for inclusion in the Legacy Society by virtue of having remembered St. Luke's Parish in my/our will or other estate plans.

I wish to be listed anonymously in the roll of Legacy Society members.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, ZIP: _____

Telephone: _____ E-mail: _____

PLEASE RETURN TO OR CONTACT:

Planned Giving
St. Luke's Parish Office
4002 53rd Street
Bladensburg MD 20710

Or contact the parish office at
202-999-9934 or by e-mail at
info@stlukesordinariate.com

Saint Luke's at
IMMACULATE
CONCEPTION
LEGACY SOCIETY

Everyone who joins our legacy society by October 18, the Feast of St. Luke, will be recognized as a charter member of the Society!

OUR PARISH PILGRIMAGE: A HUGE SUCCESS

God's Servant First: The Life and Legacy of St. Thomas More, an exhibit at the St. John Paul II National Shrine, had members of St. Luke's transfixed by the marvelous objects we saw on our parish pilgrimage. We saw gorgeous medieval chasubles, vellum books, and relics of St. Thomas More. A real stand out for an Ordinariate parish was a Book of Hours that had been defaced in the reign of the Protestant Edward VI. The feast of St. Thomas Becket had been erased. We saw a hat St. Thomas More had worn as a young lawyer and a crucifix he owned and which was given to England's Stonyhurst College in 1755 by Father Thomas More, SJ, the last male descendant of the saint.



A display depicting the 1535 execution of St. Thomas More by Henry VIII
[CNS photo/Tyler Orsborn]

All the objects in the show are from the collections at Stonyhurst, the oldest functioning Jesuit school in the world. It was originally founded in 1593 at Saint-Omer, near Calais, in the Spanish Netherlands. It is famous for having sent priests to England and almost certain martyrdom during the reign of Elizabeth I. John and Charles Carroll, respectively the first Catholic prelate in the U.S. and a signer of the Declaration of Independence, were educated at Stonyhurst. Several items related to the Carrolls are on display in this excellent exhibit from the Stonyhurst collections.

We also visited the permanent collection of artifacts relating to Saint John Paul II and had a good time

socializing with each other afterwards over pastries brought by Susan White.

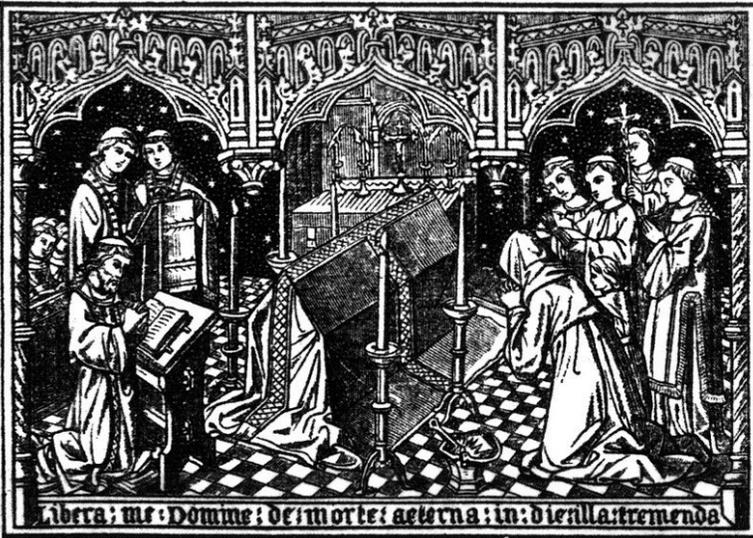
The Thomas More exhibit is here through March 31st—if you were unable to join us for the parish pilgrimage, you owe it to yourself to make a private pilgrimage. The St. John Paul II National Shrine is place of pilgrimage operated by the Knights of Columbus, and is open daily from 10am to 5pm.

NOVEMBER'S SAINTS AND HOLY SOULS

All Saints Day, November 1, and All Souls Day, November 2, are coming up. All Saints Day, which falls on a Tuesday this year, is a Holy Day of Obligation. All Saints commemorates all the saints who see the Beatific Vision, those whose names are known to us and those whose names we do not know.

Do the saints need us to commemorate them?

As St. Bernard of Clairvaux wrote with regard to this great feast of the Church, the saints “have no need of honor from us; neither does our devotion add the slightest thing to what is theirs.... But I tell you, when I think of them, I feel myself inflamed by a tremendous yearning.” All Saints is an ancient feast that grew out of the practice of commemorating martyrs. The Saints are the Church Triumphant.



Unlike the saints, the dead we commemorate on All Souls do have need of our prayers. All Souls commemorates the faithful who have died but are still in Purgatory. They are the Church Suffering who have died with venial sins on their souls or still need purgation for confessed mortal sins. The Catholic practice of praying for the dead is thus tied to Purgatory. Prayers are beneficial for souls in Purgatory. Starting on October 16th, Father Mark will be collecting the names of those for whom you want prayers offered during the All Souls' novena in early November.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Saturday

OCTOBER 1ST

St. Anselm's Abbey 4pm

EVENING PRAYER AT THE ABBEY

Sunday

OCTOBER 9TH

St. Luke's at Immaculate Conception 8:30am

BISHOP'S VISITATION

The days of

OCTOBER 9TH-18TH

Anniversary of the Parish's Reception to the Feast of St. Luke

NOVENA OF THANKSGIVING

Sunday

OCTOBER 16TH

Sunday morning following Coffee Hour

FAMILY FAITH FORMATION CLASS

Please check our website for more information on upcoming events!
StLukesOrdinariate.com

Saint Luke's at IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

8TH & N STREETS NW
WASHINGTON DC 20001

The Very Rev. Mark W. Lewis, Pastor

OFFICE

4002 53RD STREET
BLADENSBURG, MD 20710

202-999-9934

STLUKESORDINARIATE.COM

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

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

If we are lucky, we get to experience some joyful events in our lifetime. October 9, 2011 is such a day for me. That day is unforgettable, because the events of that day changed the direction of my life. Thus, it was more than unforgettable; it was life changing. I dare say all who have crossed the Tiber and converted to the Catholic Faith can say the same.

We are fortunate and blessed to have been prepared and guided by the Holy Spirit for our return home to the comfort and safety of Holy Mother Church. When we were anointed during our confirmation, our relationship with God changed. In a particular way, we were received into the Catholic family; we truly shared the faith of all the saints—past, present and future—which they received through the teachings of the Apostles.

We who have converted to the Catholic Faith know the joys of coming home. The joys of converting to Catholicism are best described in these parables: “The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and covered up; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field. Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls, who, on finding one pearl of great value, went and sold all that he had and bought it” [Matt. 14:34-46]. We know the joys of finding the hidden treasure or the pearl, because we have found the holder, or vessel of Truth.

All of us who now attend St. Luke's, or who have become Catholic through her, are invited to share in the celebration of St. Luke's fifth anniversary into the Catholic Church. May we all come home to St. Luke's to celebrate our coming home to THE CHURCH.

We are truly blessed!

Fr. Mark Lewis

PRAYER FOR THE NOVENA OF THANKSGIVING

Most gracious Lord, whose mercy is over all thy works; We praise thy holy Name that thou hast been pleased to conduct thy servants in safety, through the perils of life's journey, to the haven of thy Holy Catholic Church, the blessed company of all faithful people.

We now desire to return our thanks unto thee for thy holy Church, begging thee to confirm and strengthen it in purity of faith, in holiness of life, and in perfectness of love, and to restore to it the witness of visible unity; and more especially for the gift of the Ordinariate, planted by God as an instrument of unity, whereof we are members; that in all things it may work according to God's will, serve him faithfully, and worship him acceptably.

And may we remain duly sensible of thy merciful providence towards us, and ever express this thankfulness by a holy trust in thee, and obedience to thy laws; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Our Lady of Walsingham, pray for us.