

Detail from Nativity of Mary
by the Master of the Life of the
Virgin, circa 1460, Munich.
We celebrate the feast of the
Nativity of the Blessed Virgin
Mary on the 8th of September.



ST. LUKE'S ORDINARIATE PARISH ✠ WASHINGTON DC

The Epistle

Every month, the people of St. Luke's take on a Corporal Act of Mercy as a parish. We strive to feed the hungry, clothe the naked, and comfort the sick. Some of our Works touch on the spiritual works of mercy as well. This month and last, we are striving to assist the San Miguel School to "instruct the ignorant" by providing a first-class Catholic education to the very poorest boys in the District.

A WORTHY ACT OF MERCY: SUPPLIES FOR SAN MIGUEL SCHOOL

"A Lasallian middle school transforming lives and breaking the cycle of poverty" is how San Miguel School on Georgia Avenue in Northwest Washington describes itself. When boys come to San Miguel School in the sixth grade, they generally test a year or two below grade level. But then the miracle happens: two years later, the entire class is proficient in math and reading. One hundred percent go on to area Catholic high schools and 97 percent continue on to college. San Miguel keeps in touch with boys throughout their educational careers. When, for example, a San Miguel graduate who couldn't afford a school lunch wasn't eating in his new Catholic high school, San Miguel quietly intervened to get the young man free lunches.

"To be frank, if I hadn't gone to San Miguel," Christian Gonzalez [the first San Miguel graduate to attend the academically rigorous St. Anselm's Abbey School]

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Science is part of the rigorous academic program of San Miguel School.



The arts are not neglected in the boys' formation.

wrote on the San Miguel blog, “I would not have the opportunity I have now at St. Anselm’s. San Miguel helped me through all the way; they had my back.” Christian is taking AP history, Latin, and theology, and belongs to the Book Club. “St. Anselm’s is also located near a forest, so every day we are sure to see at least one deer up and about, which is pretty sweet,” Christian wrote back to his middle school alma mater.

St. Luke's fall Corporal Act of Mercy is collecting school supplies for San Miguel. This allows our parish to offer support in some small way to a school that prides itself on providing a Catholic education for boys who come exclusively from families living in poverty and who otherwise would not receive a Catholic education. The Christian Brothers, who sponsor but do not own San Miguel, are part of a community that was founded in France in 1680 by St. John Baptist de La Salle and whose charism is “to provide a human and Christian education to the young, especially the poor.” San Miguel is a non-tuition school.

The majority of the kids are from families from Latin America. Eighty-five percent are Catholic but the school welcomes boys who are not Catholic. San Miguel achieves its impressive results through a dedicated staff, a nine-hour school day (until 5 pm), an extended school year (200 days), tutors who can give one-on-one help, and professional counseling services. It offers an expanded curriculum in language, arts, science, and math. San Miguel alumni do far better than the national and local norms for completion of high school. The school is named for St. Miguel Febres Cordero, an Ecuadorian La Salle Brother, who devoted his life to educating the poor and who was canonized by Saint Pope John Paul II on October 21, 1984.

St. Luke's parishioners can donate school supplies to help continue San Miguel's mission in two ways: by going onto the school's “wish-list” on their [website](#) and sending contributions through Amazon, or by bringing them to Mass on Sunday. No donation is too small, and any donation connects us with the mission of the La Salle Brothers and the people they serve.

FATHER CHRISTOPHER PHILLIPS RETURNS TO DC

Father Christopher Phillips, founding pastor of Our Lady of the Atonement in San Antonio, Texas, visited St. Luke's at Immaculate Conception on July 2nd to talk to St. Luke's parishioners on how to grow a parish. He will be returning to visit us on Sunday, September 24th. Did you miss his visit in July? Make a plan to join us on the 24th for the 8:30 am Mass and the coffee hour which follows.

EVENING PRAYER AT THE ABBEY RESUMES

Once a month, on Saturday afternoons during the school year, a group of former Anglicans, now Catholic, gather at St. Anselm's Abbey Chapel to say together the resonant words of the service of Evening Prayer. Four laymen from St. Luke's take it in turn to lead the congregation through the prayers, while a schola guides the service in the canticles and appointed psalms.

The schola of the St. Thomas of Canterbury Society leading a psalm in 2012



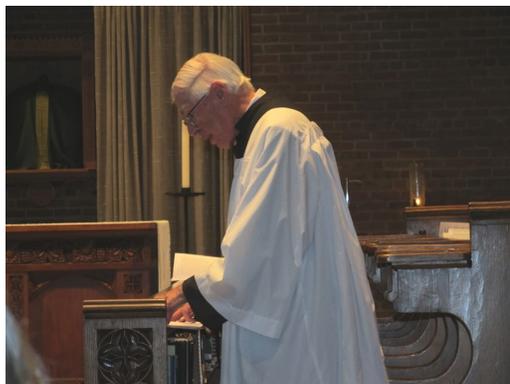
This relationship with the Abbey, and the regular services that grew from that, began

back in the summer of 2010, when a group of local Catholics and inquiring Anglicans, inspired by the promulgation of *Anglicanorum coetibus* and the creation of the Ordinariates, sought a way to gather local Anglicans into the Ordinariate project. Catholics Jenn and Greg Chudy, who have a longstanding friendship with St. Anselm's Abbey, thought that the English Benedictine Congregation would be a likely source of support for this enterprise. The brothers of St. Anselm's and their then-prior, Fr. Simon McGurk, graciously agreed. A group of DC and Northern Virginia Episcopalians and former Episcopalians, taking the name of the St. Thomas of Canterbury Anglican Use Society, decided to hold regular services at the Abbey as a gathering point for a future Ordinariate community.

In September of 2010 the STCS held their first Evening Prayer according to the Book of Divine Worship, which they continued celebrating on the third Saturday of each month until the summer of 2012, when the Society was folded into St. Luke's after the parish entered the Ordinariate. With the kind permission and

encouragement of Br. Ignacio Gonzalez (the Abbey's vocations director) and current prior Fr. James Wiseman, St. Luke's resumed the practice of monthly Evening Prayer in November of 2015.

So, if you haven't come before, mark your calendar to join us in singing hymns, chanting psalms, and meditating on the Scriptures. And linger afterwards for coffee hour in the Abbey's Fort Augustus Room.



Gary Schenk officiating at Evening Prayer last spring

evening prayer

AT THE ABBEY

saturdays at 4 pm

sep9 oct7 nov4 dec2

st anselm's abbey
4501 south dakota ave ne

hosted by
Saint Luke's at
IMMACULATE
CONCEPTION

THE DEACON-CANDIDATE'S DESK

by Mark F. Arbeen



My brothers and sisters, during any time of change, there can be a tendency to see some people stay away, waiting to see what is going to happen, and wonder how they will fit into the revised structure.

Praised be to God, this has not happened at St. Luke's. For that, I know that the transition team, and our new Pastor, is truly grateful. I am pleased to see so many of you at Mass, receiving the Sacraments, and praying for the future of St. Luke's. I have seen some of us step up and take on new roles and ministries. This tells me that our Chief Shepherd, Bishop Lopes, was correct: St. Luke's is a parish that is strong, stable, and can adjust to change with love and devotion to God and His Church.

So, now that we are approaching the end of the transition, I would like to take a moment and reflect on where we go from here. On August 6th, our new Pastor was in town and celebrated the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass for us. Afterwards we had the opportunity to meet and talk with him. Now, in one more month, he will be with us to stay. In this last month, what will we do? What will I do? What will you do?

Now is the time for each of us to look at our personal commitment to the future of our parish. We need to decide how we can help our parish grow and flourish. We need to come up with an individual plan on our time and talent, which can best be utilized to move our parish onto new heights. There are plenty of opportunities to serve your parish. I ask you to pray and discern where your talents can be utilized.

Throughout Holy Scripture, Jesus talks—utilizing parables—about our own gifts, and how we use them. Whether it is the parable of the talents, or the parable of seed falling on the ground, or the parable of the lamp under the bushel, Jesus teaches us that each of us must use our given talents and time to the glory of God. It is through these, and other parables, that we know our time should be spent not in personal pursuits, but in service to God, His Church, and His people.

St. Luke's is our parish home. It is the place we come for the Sacraments, for prayer, and for fellowship with our brothers and sisters in Christ. It is up to each of us to want St. Luke's to grow and flourish. God has been good to us. Let us continue to be good to St. Luke's by taking on responsibility for its continued success and growth.

Oremus Pro Invicem

by Randy King



Dear Brothers and Sisters of St. Luke's,

In my introductory article I promised to give you, over the course of a series of articles, a taste of the diaconate: the history of the order, the mission and functions of the deacon in the daily life of a parish, and perhaps where the diaconate appears to be headed particularly within the Ordinariates.

So we must start with a short history lesson (zzzzzz). As dull as history can sometimes be, it is important to know where the order of deacons came from to know where it is and where

it is going. So, onward.

There is near total agreement within the Church that the order of deacons began with a realization by the Apostles that the rapidly growing Church was dividing their attention between their wholly spiritual labors and the pastoral and charitable work also necessary to the life of the early Church, between pure evangelization and the everyday needs of those who were already believers. The Apostles needed help, help that apparently could not be trusted to just anyone. The Apostles asked that amongst the community seven men of “good reputation, filled with the Holy Spirit and wisdom” (Acts of the Apostles Ch. 6) be elected to fulfill duties both spiritual and pastoral amongst the community. The Apostles laid hands on these men, signifying their mission was not to be a lay apostolate but rather a new category of Holy Orders.

Throughout the life of the early Church, two characteristics of the deacon became clear: he would serve his bishop as job one, and his ministry would be wide-ranging across charity, administration, teaching, occasional preaching, and liturgical functions.

Over the early centuries of the Church, as this relationship between bishop and deacons grew, deacons became trusted advisers and often successors to their bishops. Eventually in the Western Church, the priesthood resisted this diaconate role, and many of the traditional diaconal roles of charity were being subsumed by monastic orders, drastically reducing the importance of the deacon as an order. Eventually, by around the 8th Century, the diaconate in the West was reduced to a transitional role toward priesthood, while in the Eastern Church the diaconate remained as a permanent order.

For a host of reasons, by the 1950s many within the Western Church were calling for a return of the diaconate as a permanent order. In 1967 Pope Paul VI issued an apostolic letter to restore the permanent order of deacons in the West; in 1968 the National Conference of Catholic Bishops (now the USCCB) petitioned the Vatican to restore the diaconate as a permanent order in the US. This petition was granted, and in 1971 the first norms for the formation of deacons as a permanent (largely married) order was promulgated.

In later articles we'll discuss those norms and later formation documents and discover what deacons were meant to be, and what we practically are and do. Until next time....

Yours in Christ,

Randy

HOW TO HELP THE PEOPLE OF HOUSTON

It has been impossible to miss hearing of the terrible flooding that Hurricane Harvey's rain has brought to Houston. We may feel helpless in the face of such devastation. But there is much we can do to help our brothers and sisters.

There are many charities which are responding to the tragedy unfolding in Houston. Besides the ever-present American Red Cross, there are two major Catholic charitable organizations which are mobilized to help now: The Knights of Columbus Disaster Relief [visit their [website](#) to donate] and Catholic Charities [both the [national organization](#) and the local [Galveston-Houston](#) branch are accepting donations]. Please be generous.

Saint Luke's at IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

8TH & N STREETS NW
WASHINGTON DC 20001

Very Rev. Timothy Perkins
Interim Administrator
Rev. John Vidal
Incoming Pastor [October 2017]

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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

My dear brothers and sisters,

Events in Texas have disrupted life for so many communities and people in the Ordinariate. Fr. Vidal and his wife Helene evacuated their Corpus Christi home as Hurricane Harvey approached, but have now returned home safe to repair the happily-minor damage to their property. Still, this upheaval means that Fr. Vidal's moving preparations were thrown off track; he will not be able to take the time to visit us again on September 10th as planned. We now await his arrival in early October.

An email from the Chancery on Monday August 28th notified us that up to that point, the Chancery and the Cathedral were not flooded, and that the Chancery staff had all reported in as safe in their homes. Bishop Lopes is in Australia throughout this week for the 5th anniversary celebrations of the Personal Ordinariate of Our Lady of the Southern Cross.

I attach below Fr. Vidal's email request for the prayers of our people and our friends for all those whose lives have been affected by Hurricane Harvey. Let us be ever mindful of the needs of others.

Your sister in Christ,



Administrative Manager, St. Luke's Ordinariate

Mostly we need to ask people to pray. It is easy to let our day-to-day lives make us forget about the thousands of people suffering. I strongly urge our people to put a reminder on their phone to 'ding' them every hour during the day so that a short prayer may be said. Here are a couple of suggestions:

Almighty and most merciful Father, through your Son who calmed the seas to quench the fear of his disciples, we are joined in the trials and tribulations of our brethren in Texas. We beseech thee to comfort and succor those who endure the continuing effects of hurricane Harvey; Be the defense of those who are in the path of danger; Open the way for evacuation. Help loved ones to find one another in the midst of chaos; Console those who mourn; Provide assistance to those who need help. Give rescuers strength, wisdom and compassion. Send your holy angels to ease the fears of those who suffer and enliven in all of us the hope of the Resurrection. Through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Saviour. Amen.

Our Lady of Walsingham, Pray for us.

St. Anselm, Pray for us.

St. Augustine of Canterbury, Pray for us.

St. Bede the venerable, Pray for Us

St. Medard, Pray for us.

Or simply,

St. Michael the Archangel, defend us in battle. Our Lady of Walsingham, pray for us. Lord, have mercy upon us; Christ, have mercy upon us; Lord, have mercy upon us.

Fr. John



Sunday, September 17th: RITE OF RECEPTION AND CONFIRMATION

Sunday, September 24th: Fr. Christopher Phillips [pastor emeritus, Our Lady of the Atonement], celebrant