



Church of St. Paul
82 Lake Road West
Congers, NY 10920

Church of St. Ann
16 Jefferson Street
Nyack, NY 10960

PastorSpasa@gmail.com

Parish Office:

82 Lake Road West, Congers, NY 10920
Phone: (845) 268-4464/-4465 Fax: -6790

Email: office@spasaparish.org

Website: spasaparish.org You Tube: Spasa Parish



Rev. Vladimir Chripko, C.O. Pastor

Rev. **Roman** Dominik Palecko, C.O. Assistant Pastor

Rev. Narisetty **Arogya** Raju, C.O. Parochial Vicar • Rev. **Joseph** Kumar Narisetty, C.O. Parochial Vicar

Rev. Maniraguha **Jean Paul** Ruriho, Parochial Vicar

Rev. **George** Torok, C.O. Weekend Assistant

♦♦ ST. PAUL ♦♦		♦♦ ST. ANN ♦♦
Deacons	Dominic Buonocore	Luke Conroy, Director RCIA Charles DeGroat (Retired) Gerald Fenton, Liturgy Coordinator
Parish Office Hours	9:00 am-3:00 pm Monday—Thursday	
Cemetery/Assistant to Pastor	Lisette Diaz Lisette.sor3@gmail.com	
Religious Education Program	(845-268-5442) Email: Carmen.sor2@gmail.com Carmen Hernandez	Lisette Diaz
St. Anthony-St. Paul School	Dr. Anna Adam, Principal (845-623-2311); St. Anthony, grades 2 to 8 Jessica Perez, Asst. Principal (845-268-6506) St. Paul, PreK/UPK, Kindergarten, Gr. 1	
Music Ministry		Vincent Green
Sunday Masses	Saturday 5 pm Sunday 7:30 am 10 am, 12 pm, 6 pm	Saturday 5:30 pm, 7 pm (Spanish) Sunday 8:45 am, 11:30 am
Weekday Masses	Monday—Friday 6:30 & 8:30 am Saturday 8:30 am	Monday—Saturday 7:30 am
Streamed Masses	Monday—Saturday 8:30 am Sunday 12:00 pm On our YouTube Channel SPASA PARISH	Monday—Saturday 7:30 am Sunday 8:45 am On our website SPASAPARISH.ORG
Confessions	Saturdays 4:00-4:45 pm Anytime by request.	Saturdays 4:30-5:15 pm Anytime by request.

Sacrament of Baptism — To schedule a Baptism at St. Paul or St. Ann please call the rectory at 845-268-4464. Baptism instruction classes are held the last Thursday of each month at 7 pm at the St. Ann School in Nyack. Please call the rectory to register.

Sacrament of Marriage — Engaged couples should contact the Rectory at least six months in advance in order to arrange for their participation in the marriage preparation program. Please email assistantpastor@spasaparish.org.

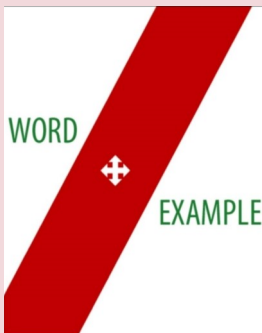
Anointing of the Sick — If someone is homebound or in the hospital, please notify the Rectory. Arrangements can be made for the sick person to receive the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick. Holy Communion is brought to the homebound by our Ministers of Holy Communion.

June 20, 2021 The 12th Sunday in Ordinary Time

<u>ST. PAUL'S CHURCH</u>		<u>ST. ANN'S CHURCH</u>	
Saturday	June 19, 2021	Saturday	June 19, 2021
5:00 PM	Joseph LeLoup — 12th Anniversary	5:30 PM	Joseph "Gus" DeCort
Sunday	June 20, 2021	Sunday	June 20, 2021
7:30 AM	Robert M. Sbordone (L)	8:45 AM	Rachel Savarese
10:00 AM	Loreta Ibanez	11:30 AM	Leighton Sanguinetti
12:00 PM	Louis DePalma	Second Collection for the Poor	
6:00 PM	Victor Zanabria		
Monday	June 21, 2021	Monday	June 21, 2021
6:30 AM	Triumfando Tan & Jasmine Tan	7:30 AM	Edward Meara
8:30 AM	Richard Byman		
Tuesday	June 22, 2021	Tuesday	June 22, 2021
6:30 AM	Lucio G. Calungcagin Jr. — 1st Anniversary	7:30 AM	Marie & Gaetano Gebbia
8:30 AM	Lucio G. Calungcagin Jr. — 1st Anniversary		
Wednesday	June 23, 2021	Wednesday	June 23, 2021
6:30 AM	Ernesto Venancio Badong — 1st Anniversary	7:30 AM	John Barch
8:30 AM	Fr. Salvador Anonueva (L)		
Thursday	June 24, 2021	Thursday	June 24, 2021
6:30 AM	Festa Family	7:30 AM	Amanda Pietro — 1st Anniversary
8:30 AM	Richard Cullen		
Friday	June 25, 2021	Friday	June 25, 2021
6:30 AM	Robert M. Sbordone (L)	7:30 AM	Brian Stewart — 9th Anniversary
8:30 AM	Robert & Maureen Clark		
Saturday	June 26, 2021	Saturday	June 26, 2021
8:30 AM	Basak & Cangro Family	7:30 AM	George Bryant Patricia & Charles Westwater
5:00 PM	Thomas Higgins	5:30 PM	Brian Knecht
Sunday	June 27, 2021	Sunday	June 27, 2021
7:30 AM	Josefina Loria — Anniversary	8:45 AM	Daniel Kirwan — Anniversary
10:00 AM	Joseph Mirth	11:30 AM	John Barch
12:00 PM	Kevin Reynolds	Second Collection for Air-Conditioning	
6:00 PM	Diana Lim		

Now you can now find out which masses are available for your special intentions and schedule them online. Go to our parish website, SPASAPARISH.ORG. On the homepage, click on the Mass Intentions box for instructions and access to the "Mass Intentions Booking" page. You may also reserve the sanctuary lamp at either church or at St. Ann's Chapel. You can make your offering by credit card. Or you can call the parish office (845-268-4464) to schedule masses the traditional way and make your offering by credit card, cash, or check.

JUNE 23, 2021
20TH ANNIVERSARY
DEACON LUKE CONROY'S
ORDINATION TO THE DIACONATE



"Receive the Gospel of Christ, whose herald you have become. Believe what you read, teach what you believe, and practice what you teach."

The words above come from the Ordination rite for deacons. As the Bishop presents a book of the Gospels to each new deacon, he directs him to go out into the world as a sacramental sign of Christ the servant — believing, teaching, and living in a way to remind all the baptized of our call to love God and be people of service.

Now deacons are not meant to be set apart from ordinary people. For this reason they live with their families, work alongside others in their jobs, and move and act as members of their communities. And we have been most blessed to have among us as our teacher and fellow traveler as we follow Jesus, **DEACON LUKE CONROY**, who this Wednesday, June 23, will celebrate his 20th anniversary as a deacon.

Deacon Luke was ordained on June 23, 2001, at St. Patrick's Cathedral by Cardinal Edward Eagan, Archbishop of New York. He assisted at his first mass as deacon the following day — 11:30 Sunday mass at St. Ann's — and the whole parish celebrated at the reception, held in the school cafeteria, in his honor. And then he set out to work.

One of the responsibilities of a deacon is to perform baptisms. We don't know how many babies Deacon Luke has baptized in the past 20 the years, but Baptism is one of the favorite parts of his ministry. He loves running into young people all around the county — at the Shop Rite, in the mall — who tell him that he baptized them!

Another is preaching. Deacon Luke is known for his thoughtful homilies, and he feels it was a great honor to be able to preach at the funerals of two of the great pillars of the St. Ann's community, Ann Marie Ventriglia and organist George Bryant.

Deacon Luke has a great love and fascination for the bible, especially the Synoptic Gospels (i.e., Matthew, Mark & Luke), and he tries to share his enthusiasm and inspire others to come to understand how relevant scripture is in our lives. After his ordination, he returned to St. Joseph's Seminary in Yonkers (four years, part-time) to earn a Master's degree in Sacred Scripture. One summer he conducted a popular 6-week class after Sunday mass on the Synoptic Gospels.

Another of Deacon Luke's loves is teaching about our faith in the RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults) program for people who want to become Catholics or complete their Sacraments of Initiation (Eucharist and Confirmation). He was asked to take on this ministry by pastor Robert Henry, who sponsored Luke for the diaconate. Deacon Luke has continued RCIA, along with his wife, Nancy, for all these years. He loves getting to know each candidate and sharing the beautiful teachings of the Catholic faith and is continually amazed over their conversion stories of what animated them to become part of the Catholic Church.

You can find Deacon Luke leading the First Friday evening Holy Hours, the Stations of the Cross, the annual New Year's Eve Holy Hour before the Blessed Sacrament, the Tenebrae service during the Triduum, or playing the role of the Bishop St. Nicholas at the children's Christmas Party, blessing animals at the Feast of St. Francis, or assisting at the outdoor summer masses at Marydell.

And, as always, he will be here when you need him — a compassionate man, a good friend, the herald of Christ for all of us at St. Paul & St. Ann's, a believer, a teacher, and an example to us all. **On pages 8 and 9, our parishioners, in gratitude, speak for themselves about Deacon Luke.**

Photos: (top) Cardinal Edward Eagan ordains Deacon Luke; (middle) After the ceremony: Deacon Luke, his wife, Nancy, their daughter, Anya and Cardinal Eagan; (bottom left) A section of the holy card issued for Deacon Luke's ordination. It shows his beloved St. Francis preaching to the birds about God's love for them. The back of the card has the prayer of St. Francis — "Make me a channel of Your peace."; (bottom right) One of Deacon Luke's favorites — a graphic representation of the deacon's mission: to preach the Word and lead by example.

FROM THE RECTORY

PARISH OF ST. PAUL & ST. ANN STAY CONNECTED with LATEST NEWS & UPDATES



OUR WEBSITE

SPASAPARISH.ORG

Mass streamed from St. Ann's, Monday thru Saturday 7:30 am; Sunday 8:45 am.

Photos, bulletins, mass schedules, events, and other parish information.



OUR YOUTUBE CHANNEL

SPASA PARISH

Mass streamed from St. Paul's, Monday thru Saturday 8:30 am; Sunday 12:00 pm; Archived videos.



OUR MASS SCHEDULING APP

SPASAMASS.ORG

View available masses and schedule one online for a loved one or your special intention.



ONLINE GIVING TO OUR PARISH

SPASAPARISH.CHURCHGIVING.COM

Arrange for online giving. Support our parish and manage your giving online.



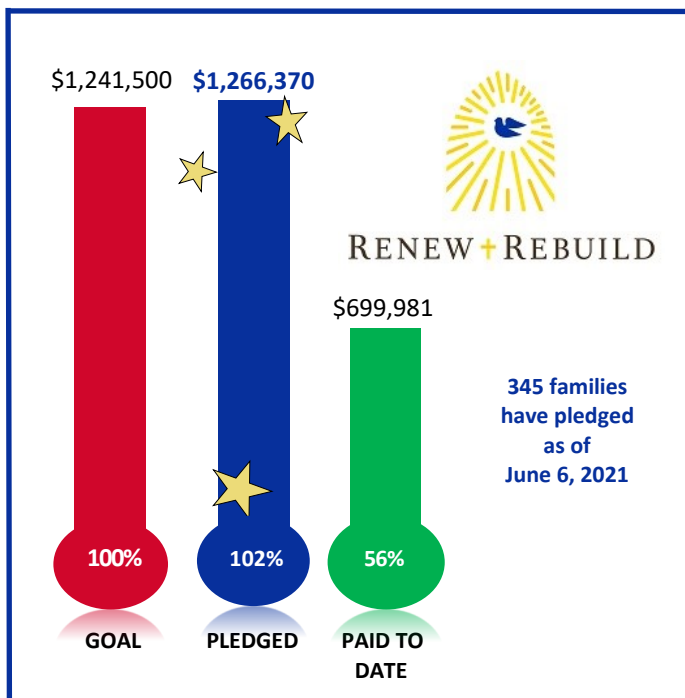
FLOCKNOTES

Sign up to receive important emails or texts from the pastor and the Archdiocese.



STPAULS.FLOCKNOTE.COM/
or text STPC to 84576 from your phone

STANNYACK.FLOCKNOTE.COM
or text SACC to 84576 from your phone



Are You "SURE" You're a Registered Parishioner?

Many times we meet people at church who attend mass, take part in events, or perhaps even have received their sacraments here. We're so very glad you're with us and part of our community. But that alone does not make you a parishioner. To be a member of the parish you have to REGISTER. Registering is very easy. You can register online at spasaparish.org or at the parish office. It only takes a few minutes.

Everyone over the age of 18 is encouraged to register. Even if you're an adult who received all your sacraments here as a child and still attend mass here, you need to register.

Why register? First and foremost, it's very important to register so we can serve your needs when, for example, you need a sponsor certification letter for Baptism or Confirmation. Also, to receive an acknowledgment of your donations for your income tax filing, you need to be registered so we have an official record of your giving over the year.

So, please join us officially and register with the parish so we can meet all your needs now and in the future!

INSTRUCTIONS FOR SPONSOR CERTIFICATION LETTER

In order to receive a sponsor certification letter from the Parish of St. Paul & St. Ann, you must be an ACTIVE, REGISTERED PARISHIONER for 6 MONTHS. IF YOU ARE NOT OFFICIALLY REGISTERED AND DO NOT ATTEND MASS, YOU WILL NOT RECEIVE A LETTER.

The role of a sponsor is to lead a Christian life in a manner that faithfully fulfills the obligations of the Catholic faith. A sponsor must be living the Catholic faith and be able to be part of the sponsored person's life after the Baptism, who can guide him/her spiritually.

A sponsor must also:

- Be at least 16 years of age
- Have received the Sacraments of Baptism, Eucharist & Confirmation
- If married, must be married according to the laws of the Catholic Church

May 2021 Collection

	05/02/21	05/09/21	05/13/21 Ascent	05/16/21	05/23/21	05/30/21
St. Paul and St. Ann	11,256	10,320	2,899	10,346	10,226	9,692
SP and SA	5,595 + 11,795					
Parish Giving & We share						

300 CLUB WINNERS

Congratulations to the Lucky Winners of our **BIG DRAWING FOR JUNE!**

- | | | |
|------|---------|-------------------------|
| #204 | \$50 | Laura Chiorazzi |
| #105 | \$100 | Liz O'Brien |
| #072 | \$350 | Christine Christian Roy |
| #175 | \$1,000 | Frank Costanzo |



Prayer for the Sick

We pray that the sick of our parish, our relatives, and friends will experience God's healing love, especially:

Regina Caroli, John Francis Long,
Vincent & Monica Rippa, Baby Finn Rooney,
Louis Zamparo, Evan Dalsass
Marinela Aberion Aguas,
Emilia Raphael-Olivier, Carolyn Pagliuca,
Noah Diaz, Manuel Tucay

Please call the rectory (268-4464) to be placed on the list of those who need prayers in time of illness, or call with the names of any sick family members or friends. The name will remain on the list for 3 weeks and then be removed unless we hear from you that the person still needs our prayers.

Memorial Intentions — Week of June 20

Sanctuary Lamp (St. Paul)

Leonard Ronald Sanker

Sanctuary Lamp (St. Ann)

Chapel (St. Ann)



SPASAMASS.ORG

THE MASS BOOK IS OPEN

You may now schedule masses for your intentions through December 2021

You can find available masses and schedule them online at SPASAMASS.org. Just select the day & time.

If you would like to reserve the **SANCTUARY LAMP CANDLE** to be lit for a week for your special intention, you can do that here too:

Select Church you want; click on the **Sunday** of the week you'd like; select the **11:55** time.

If you'd like the candle at St. Ann's Chapel, select the **11:50** time.

Mass Intentions When we face the death of someone, even a person who is not Catholic, to have a Mass offered for the repose of his or her soul and to offer our prayers are more beneficial and comforting than any sympathy card or flower arrangement. To have a Mass offered for a birthday, anniversary, or special need is appropriate, beneficial, and appreciated. You can find out what masses are available and schedule them online at SPASAMASS.ORG or call the office, 845-268-4464.

Our Beloved Dead

Please remember in your prayers our deceased fellow parishioners, family, and friends.

Marie DeMillio, Richard Byman,
Guy Guido, Joseph Picarello,
Anthony Strupewinski, Carolyn Kovalcik,
Ripson Eduardo Wong Huemura,
Mary Moore, Virginia Berkowitz Higgins,
John McLachlan, Ruth Chery, Margaret Topkin,
Roseann Flocco, Patricia Eftigoy, Jose Soledad



GENERATIONS

The three generations of the Holy Family — Jesus, his parents, Mary & Joseph, and his grandparents, Ann & Joachim — are the subject of this sculpture now displayed at the new outdoor shrine at St. Ann's Church in Nyack.



We're less than \$15,000 short of our goal of \$50,000. So far, generous donors have given **\$35,705** toward this project. Please support this effort to commemorate the **150th Anniversary of St. Ann's Church**. Please send your donation, marked "statue," to St. Paul & St. Ann's Parish, 82 Lake Rd. West, Congers, NY 10920.

EMAIL FOR THE PASTOR

PastorSpasa@gmail.com

BULLETIN DEADLINES

Friday — the week before the bulletin is distributed at church
Please send submissions to bulletinSpasa@yahoo.com

SPaSA Parish

SUBSCRIBE ON  YouTube
AND HELP OUR PARISH REACH 1,000 SUBSCRIBERS.

MASS IS AVAILABLE ON YOUTUBE 7 DAYS A WEEK
AT 8:30 am MONDAY thru SATURDAY
12:00 pm on SUNDAY (all from St. Paul's Church)

SPaSA Parish.org

MASS IS ALSO AVAILABLE ON OUR WEBSITE 7 DAYS A WEEK
AT 7:30 am MONDAY thru SATURDAY
8:45 am on SUNDAY (all from St. Ann's Church)



Happy Father's Day!

IN THE YEAR OF ST. JOSEPH A PRAYER FOR FATHERS

St. Joseph, guardian of Jesus and chaste husband of Mary, you passed your life in loving fulfillment of duty. You supported the Holy Family of Nazareth with the work of your hands. Kindly protect those fathers who trustingly come to you. You know their aspirations, their hardships, their hopes. They look to you because they know you will understand and protect them. You too knew trial, labor, and weariness. But amid the worries of material life your soul was full of deep peace and sang out in true joy through intimacy with God's Son entrusted to you and with Mary, His tender Mother. Assure those you protect that they do not labor alone. Teach them to find Jesus near them and to watch over him faithfully as you have done.

Pope John XXIII



Parish Religious Education Program (PREP) Registration for 2021-2022

Registration will begin on Monday, June 14th, for Existing Families:

Parish Giving will email each existing family in our PREP program a link for online registration. It will include your username and password.

If you do not receive this, please check your spam and junk email folder. If you ultimately cannot locate the email, have difficulty registering, or need further assistance, please contact Parish Giving directly at 866-307-7140.

Registration fees will remain the same as last year:

\$195 individual	\$295 two children	\$345 three+ children
Sacrament fees:	First Communion \$ 55	Confirmation \$ 125

Class schedule remains the same and we will be returning in-person to St. Ann School on Sunday, Sept. 12, 2021

Sunday	Tuesday	Wednesday
Grades 1 - 8	Grades 1 - 8	Grades 1 - 8
9:00 - 10:00 am	6:00 - 7:15 pm	6:00-7:15 pm

***Please note class size is limited and will fill up quickly. If you would like a particular day, it is recommended that you register immediately.**

New Registrations:

Please call our office at 845-268-5442 to make an appointment to register your child.

At the time of registration their Baptism certificate is required.

For those transferring into St. Paul & St. Ann in grades 3 & above: In addition to their Baptism certificate, their Communion Certificate and prior records of religious education are required.





The Cardinal's Annual Stewardship Campaign 2021

\$131,000
Our Parish Goal



\$111,857
Pledged so far

86,107
Paid so far

Join your fellow parishioners at
**ST. PAUL
& ST. ANN'S**
in supporting the
work of the Church
in New York

To date we have pledged 85% of our goal.
260 parishioners/families have pledged.



Outdoor Mass Returns to Marydell

We are again celebrating outdoor Mass at Marydell Faith and Life Center in Upper Nyack on the **last Sunday of each month** this summer!

Our widely popular Mass will be celebrated on **June 27, July 25, Aug. 29 & Sept. 26 — all at 10 am.** All are welcome!!! Bring a chair.

See you at our first Mass on June 27 at 10 am.

*Celebration of
25th & 50th*

Wedding

Anniversaries

*Sunday July 11
St. Paul's Church
Noon*



If you were married in 1971 or 1996, we would like to celebrate your golden or silver milestone anniversary at a special mass on July 11.

Please call the rectory office.

Rockland County Department of Health COVID-19 Vaccine 1st Dose Appointments/Walk-in Clinics Immigration Status is Not Important.

Moderna (for 18+) or Pfizer (for 12+) Vaccine Will Be Given, Depending on Clinic Date.

Wednesday, June 9 th <u>Pfizer</u> 12+	Thursday, June 10 th <u>Moderna</u> 18+	Monday, June 14 th <u>Moderna</u> 18+
3:00PM-7:00PM 50 Sanatorium Road, Bldg. A Pomona, NY	1:00PM-4:00PM 50 Sanatorium Road, Bldg. A Pomona, NY	9:00AM-12:00PM 50 Sanatorium Road, Bldg. A Pomona, NY
Thursday, June 24 th <u>Moderna</u> 18+	Wednesday, June 30 th <u>Pfizer</u> 12+	
1:00PM-4:00PM 50 Sanatorium Road, Bldg. A Pomona, NY	3:00PM-7:00PM 50 Sanatorium Road, Bldg. A Pomona, NY	

To make your COVID-19 Vaccine appointment, scan QR code or visit our COVID-19 webpage at <http://rockind.us/covid19>.

If you do not have access to a computer and need assistance, call the Rockland County COVID Call Center at 845-238-1956 from 8:00am – 5:00pm Monday – Friday (except holidays).
Email: COVIDCallCenter@co.rockland.ny.us

Walk-ins are welcome and will be registered onsite.



Scan QR code to make an appointment for **Moderna** Clinics



Rockland County
HEALTH



Scan QR code to make an appointment for **Pfizer** Clinics

Help needed at Marydell!!

The sisters tell us that the statue of St. Joseph by the pool is in desperate need of repair. The problems include a major crack in the base (left).



If you have skills and could help, please contact Ed at 914-447-6527. This would be a great project for the Year of St. Joseph. The Marydell Faith & Life Center is located at the north end of North Midland Ave. in Upper Nyack.



Thank You, Deacon Luke, and Congratulations on Your 20th Anniversary

Whenever we see that Deacon Luke is giving the homily we feel so happy, knowing that this is going to be great. Deacon, your spiritual journey and closeness to God are a gift to all of us. Thank you for speaking from experience and for all the inspiration!

Peter & Bernadette Masiello

Deacon Luke's honesty and his approach to religion and to Jesus were a great influence on us. His depth of knowledge and warm common sense everyman philosophy made RCIA a pleasure and opened our hearts and minds to the Bible. He's a very gifted teacher who always keeps it interesting because he speaks from the heart. St. Ann's wouldn't be the same without him, and neither would we!

Peter & Heidi

It would be difficult to imagine St. Ann's Church without Deacon Luke being here, like a steady source of comfort when needed, a kind of feeling of being home when you see him.

My fondest memory of Luke bringing comfort was, of course, when my beloved George passed away, and Luke's presence, before and after, was such a great source of peace for me.

But my particular most grateful memory was when he came during his lunch hour from work and conducted a beautiful service, graveside, for one of our dear homeless men. I was so touched by his compassion and caring.

Of course, that was just a fraction of the many ways Luke has touched us all, especially with his beautiful homilies. I will forever be grateful to Our Father for sending Luke and his sweet, gentle wife, Nancy, to our parish. We love you both!

Phyllis Chalsen

My experience with my mentor and friend, **Deacon Luke, is one of a man who leads by example but also shows empathy and humility** in that he shows us his reflective past mirror and how his struggles led him to Christ and to being a still work-in-progress deacon. He is a good man, husband, and father with a child's heart. He is easy to talk to and I enjoy assisting and learning from him at baptisms, weddings, and daily masses.

Paul Aberion

Deacon Luke is the most patient, calm, and devout parishioner I have ever been blessed to altar-serve with. I grew up in St. Ann's Parish, and when I think of my childhood, I automatically think of Deacon Luke, his unending kindness, patience, and dedication. I was very nervous when I began altar-serving while I was in grammar school, but Deacon Luke was always there to help me through the nerves. Other children and I used to say that when we thought of Jesus, we pictured Deacon Luke, and still — after 23 years — I hold that to be true.

Kathryn O'Connor

Congrats, Deacon Luke, on 20 years of service as a deacon in the Church! I am so glad I have been able to be a part of this journey as an altar server. You have been a great mentor throughout my life of being in the Church. You have always given great and inspiring homilies that help us understand the Church even better. You are truly a gift to have in our ministry, and we are so blessed to have you. Thank you for your 20 years of service, and I can't wait for the many more years to come!

James Dangler

Deacon Luke gives the most outstanding sermons. Uplifting to hear and make you proud to be a Catholic. And, most importantly, he is everything a Deacon should be. **Dennis Lynch, Esq.**

I've always been drawn in by Luke's humility, sincerity, and spirituality, whether from the altar, pulpit, or as he goes about the village.

Janet Fenton

When Deacon Luke offers a homily, I often wish my adult kids were in the pews. His personal testimonies coupled with his insights into the biblical readings of the day draw us in and awaken a fresh appreciation of the Word. Whether baptizing new souls into the Church or extending his compassionate concern to its eldest members, Luke embodies the Christian message of love. Our parish community is so blessed to have him as our deacon.

Jane Barch

Dedicated, committed, kind, zealous. These words simply describe and reveal who Deacon Luke is — very humble and always ready to help. Not only has he consecrated his time to be in the service of the parish, he always gives words of encouragement to the parishioners so they can feel welcome in the house of the Lord.

As you celebrate your 20 years of ordination, may the Lord continue to pour His blessings on you and strengthen your ministry to serve Him and his Church.

Rose Marc

I've had the pleasure of experiencing Deacon Luke's ministry from its beginning at St. Ann's Church and when he worked at the office of Oakhill Cemetery in Nyack.

During that time, I have found he has always been so approachable about any subject, either personal or spiritual. I have always felt God has given us "two for the price of one," a Deacon as well as a counselor, along with his beautiful, dedicated wife, Nancy, to support his services so graciously.

I am so grateful that we have been blessed with such hard-working deacons as Deacon Luke and Deacon Jerry, who carry the load of the priest shortage that we experience.

Marie Emilienne Olivier

Deacon Luke has shared his deepest thoughts and reflections as he reads the Word, and we find a new understanding of the Gospels. Many Blessings on your 20th Anniversary. **Ann & Stan Cracovia**

FILLED WITH PASSION BUT NEVER A KOOK

GIVING HOPE AND RARELY REBUKE

HE'LL CONSOLE AND BESEECH

HECK, CAN THAT FELLOW PREACH!

GIVE THANKS FOR OUR FINE DEACON LUKE

Sullivan-Doyle Family

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

I could write a book on the wonderful experience that RCIA was, but I will succinctly say that Deacon Luke and Nancy Conroy, thru their example and inspiration, raised my Christian growth to so high a level that I had to look down to see heaven.

They are truly "living saints" to me. I doubt that I will ever be what they already are, but they inspire us "mere mortals" to at least try to do some good in this life.

Ed Cankosyan

Dear Deacon Luke,

I'd like to give special thanks to you today. You are such a gift to our parish and to everyone who has the honor of knowing you. Today we celebrate you and the past 20 years you have been hard at work! Your heart beams with your love of Christ, and at the same time the Holy Spirit radiates all around you! We notice!

I appreciate you and I thank you for being our deacon, and for being my friend.

Blessings to you always,

Heidi Dangler

Dear Deacon Luke,

Congratulations on your 20-year anniversary of being an ordained deacon. "A man of God," you have been an inspiration and guiding light to all who know you, especially to our family. It is important for you to know that you make a difference in our lives. It is clear how much time and effort and care you are putting into making the Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament so special. In thanksgiving, we pray that you can continue to be "Our Deacon" for years to come.

Love, hope, and peace,

Marie Harrow

Almost every Friday evening during Lent for the past number of years, Deacon Luke has faithfully led parishioners through the Stations of the Cross. The evening would start with a very sincere, heartfelt welcome and a brief lesson. On First Fridays during this time there was a Holy Hour with Benediction. For those attending, this weekly gathering was a solemn way to end the week and reflect on repentance for sin and the joyous resurrection that was to come. Deacon Luke's dedication not only when leading this Lenten tradition but during all his duties in our parish is an inspiration to us, and we are very grateful that he shares his gifts with us all.

Jay Conklin

I have talked to Deacon Luke quite a few times over the years about things I've been struggling with or experienced. Sometimes it is just a friendly, relaxed chat. Other times it is when I've reached an unexpected understanding.

He is so approachable and always available. Often he is working when our paths cross. I worry that I'll get him into trouble with his employer!

But thank you so much Deacon Luke, for your approachability and patience when I interrupt you as you go about your day. May God continue to bless and guide you in your valuable ministry! **Kathleen Aitken**

**"Do all the good you can, by all the means you can,
in all the ways you can, in all the places you can,
at all the times you can, to all the people you can,
as long as you ever can."**

-- John Wesley

It gives me a deep sense of joy and gratitude to God for the gift of Deacon Luke Conroy to the village, the community of Nyack, and the parish of St. Paul & St Ann.



Deacon Luke & Nancy Conroy

On June 23, Deacon Luke will be celebrating his 20th anniversary as a deacon serving at our parish. This is a great moment of joy and gratitude for him and his family. I invite

you to join me in thanking God for such a tender, compassionate, and kind person to be a visible witness to His love and mercy.

The first time I met Deacon Luke was in 2016 when the Oratorian Fathers began to offer pastoral services to the St. Paul & St. Ann merged parish in Congers and Nyack. He was wearing his uniform, and he told me that he worked for the Nyack water department.

I got to know Deacon Luke and his wife Nancy well over the years and greatly admire both for their spirituality and ministry. Deacon Luke told me about his vocation story, God leading him from the Oak Hill Cemetery to St. Ann's altar. He explained to me that he was working as a caretaker at Oak Hill Cemetery in Nyack for many years. During his years there, he offered comfort to the grieving families, and he found great joy in helping, listening, and consoling a grieving mother, a father who just lost his son, or a widow who just lost her husband. It was very refreshing and meaningful to me. It is this gift of helping and service that defines Deacon Luke.

I want to invite you today to thank God for Deacon Luke's gift and service. Let's say a prayer for him and, if you see him, thank him for his powerful witness to God's love and ministry of Word and Eucharist.

Fr. Ravikiran

Fr. Ravi Dasari is a priest of the New York Oratory of St. Philip Neri and the chaplain at Montefiore Nyack Hospital.

Photo by Marie Olivier

**THE DEACON LUKE ANNIVERSARY COVERAGE
CONTINUES FOR THREE MORE PAGES HERE
THAT DO NOT APPEAR IN THE PRINT BULLETIN.**

My husband and I had such a wonderful experience getting to know Deacon Luke through RCIA a couple of years ago. We both came from Catholic families and decided in 2019 that it was time to deepen our faith and complete our sacraments. Before meeting with Deacon Luke, we were both, admittedly, a little intimidated by the process of RCIA in all its entirety. Once we met with Deacon Luke, however, we were immediately put at ease as we discovered how personable, kind, forthright, humble, and even funny he was. As we met with him each week and even on Zoom through the quarantine, as we studied scripture, the sacraments, books written by some of the great saints, the Catholic Catechism, Magnificat, and so much more, we got to know him and his amazing wife, Nancy. We gained so much from not only learning of the faith, but by acquiring true friendship in Deacon Luke and Nancy. Our marriage, faith, and life in general have been greatly enriched and forever touched by the experience we had and friendship we will continue to share with them. We will always be grateful and blessed by it. **Anna & Matt Dizzine**

Deacon Luke,

The Dillon family is so grateful to have you and Nancy in our lives. You are an example of the Catholic faith and devotion. We have never been in your presence when you were not in a cheerful, positive mood and didn't make us feel better for having been in your company.

Thank you for your devotion to St. Paul and St. Ann's, and thank you for teaching us through your words and actions how to understand our role in the world as Catholics.

Brian & Julia Dillon

I take great pleasure to express my gratitude for the lifelong experience I received from the RCIA program at St. Ann's Church. This was made possible by Deacon Luke's spiritual guidance, commitment, and love for his parish community. He has not only been a beacon of light during the darkest and most difficult times of my life, he has also been a friend and confidante. I can't express enough how thankful I am for having such an amazing spiritual leader in my life. The blessing of having Deacon Luke as an ongoing mentor has inspired me to stay on the path to have an unwavering relationship with God and my church community. He is a true asset to all he encounters, and we are all blessed to have him as a spiritual leader at St. Ann's Church today and future tomorrows.

Reggie Smith

Deacon Luke makes our religion come alive. He shows us how our religion is not something we just read about but how to live it in our daily lives. Whenever I am around Deacon Luke, be it bible study, Stations of the Cross on Friday nights during Lent, or when he taught Confirmation classes at St. Ann's Religious Education Program, I feel that I am in the presence of a holy man.

LuAnn LePore Kelley

Deacon Luke, the Lord called you, and you and Nancy answered Yes. Thank you both for living that Yes every day for these past 20 years. Thank you for your sermons that always teach us something we did not know or knew but partly. Thank you for your long, unseen hours of service. Thank you for your ever-present humility, as you recognize your talents are God's gifts which you use in His service. Thank you for being our deacon.

Joe O'Brien

Deacon Luke, You have enriched our lives by proclaiming the good news of salvation through your homilies, guidance, and friendship. Thank you for your faithful service! May the Holy Spirit continue to guide you as you serve our community here in Rockland. We hope you will continue to inspire and lead more of our brothers and sisters back to the Catholic Church. We are so blessed and thankful to have you in our lives!

The Saters

When Deacon Luke does the Stations of the Cross it is always a vivid event for me. Very moving & much appreciated.

Heidi B.

Over the years, I have seen Deacon Luke in so many different roles. He was an important part of St. Ann's Religious Education Program. Deacon Luke was responsible for preparing the ninth graders to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation. The session would span 12 weeks, and Deacon Luke gave those Confirmation candidates the benefit of his life experiences and knowledge of his faith. Those classes would always run long. There was no clock watching in those classes.

Deacon Luke along with Father Doughty established and led the Family Formation Program at Saint Ann's. This was a pilot program for the Archdiocese and the only one in the county. Deacon Luke and Father Doherty would hold a monthly meeting with the parents on different aspects of our Faith, and then the parents would lead family activities based on that topic that month. The following month Deacon Luke would review and comment on the family activities. This portion of the two-hour session was always the highlight of the evening.

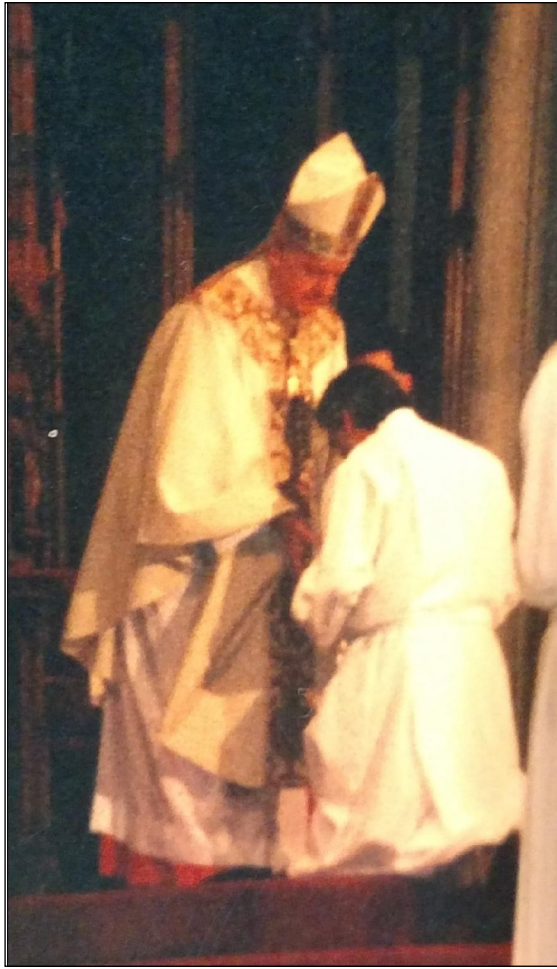
The timing of Deacon Luke's last Bible Study class could not have come at a better time in my life with all that was going on in the world, the country, and in our parish. We needed the lessons of the Scriptures to remind us of the Love and the Strength of our Lord. Deacon Luke was able to bring the Gospels to life and make them relevant to our daily lives.

The Parish of St. Paul & St. Ann is responsible for ministering to the Catholic residents of Tolstoy Nursing Center. After a whole year of our residents seeing very few outsiders, Deacon Luke was given permission to do an Ash Wednesday prayer service and distribute ashes. Deacon Luke's homily on the personal relationship Christ has with each of us resounded with this group. It was inspiring to me to watch the emotions on their faces. So many of them afterwards had the need to talk to Deacon Luke. Again, no watching of the clock.

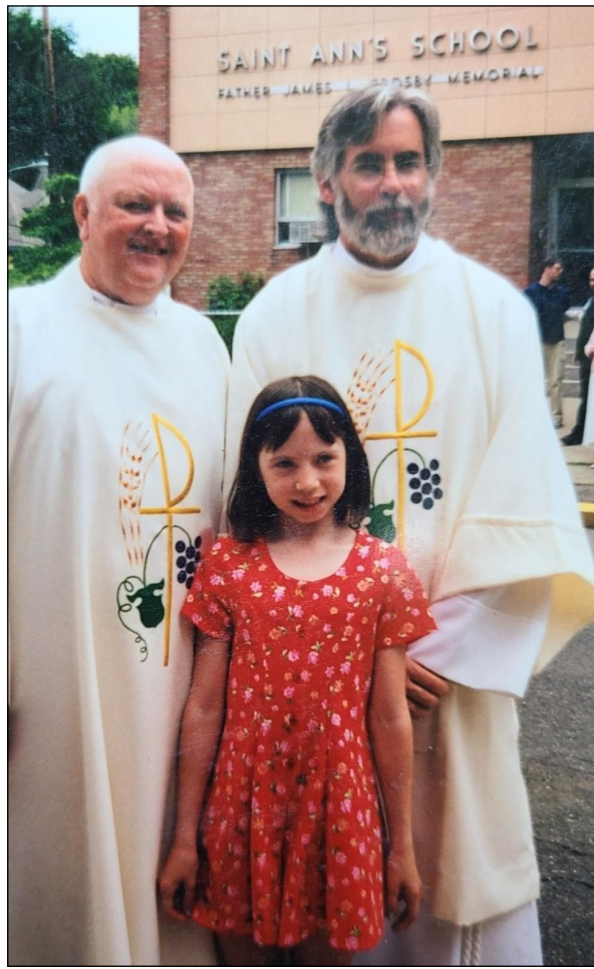
Julie LePore

MAY THE HOLY SPIRIT GUIDE YOU IN THE NEXT 20 YEARS OF DIACONATE SERVICE.

Fr. George



(Left) Deacon Luke is ordained by Cardinal Edward Eagan in 2001.



Right) Outside St. Ann's with daughter Anya and Fr. Robert Henry, pastor of St. Ann's from 1997 to 2008, who sponsored Luke for the diaconate.

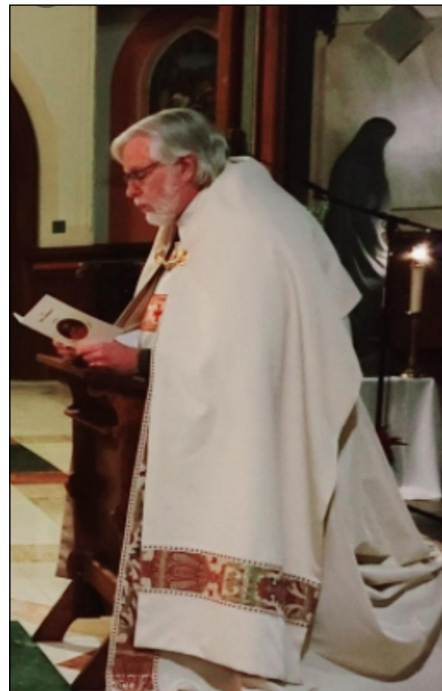
(Bottom left) Assisting at mass with Fr. Rees Doughty (on the right) pastor of St. Ann's from 2008 to 2015. The photo was taken at Nazareth during a trip to Israel.

(Bottom right) Deacon Luke blessing the puppy of a passerby, who happened to be walking her dog while he was conducting the annual blessing of the animals at the Feast of St. Francis at St. Ann's.



"Theologians talk about a prevenient grace that precedes grace itself and allows us to accept it. I think there must also be a prevenient **COURAGE** that allows us to be brave — that is, to acknowledge that there is more beauty than our eyes can bear, that precious things have been put in our hands and to do nothing to honor them is to do great harm. And, therefore, this courage allows us, as the old men said, to make ourselves **USEFUL**. It allows us to be **GENEROUS**, which is another way of saying the same thing."

— Marilynne Robinson, *Gilead*



(Top left) Playing the role of St. Nicholas at the PREP Christmas party, Deacon Luke gives a chocolate "golden coin" to a little guest.

(Top center) Assisting at the Adoration of the Cross during the Good Friday service.

(Top right) At the annual New Year's Eve Adoration and Holy Hour, which Deacon Luke organizes to see in the new year with prayer.

(Center left) On the parish pilgrimage to Israel. Deacon Luke at the "Wailing Wall," the Western Wall of the Second Temple in Jerusalem. (Center right) Worship at Jesus' birthplace at the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem.

(Bottom left) Assisting at this year's Confirmation ceremony with Bishop Gerald Walsh.

Photos courtesy of Nancy Conroy, Marie Olivier, and Nada Sater.