Welcome!

Our warmest welcome to all who worship with our faith Community here at St. Luke Parish. Whether you are a long time resident or have newly arrived in the parish, we thank God for you. If you are not registered, please email us.

**CHAPEL** is open for visit to our Eucharistic Lord every day, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

**SACRAMENTS**

Eucharistic Celebrations
- Saturday—8:30am and 5:00pm
- Sunday—8:00am and 10:00am
- Weekdays — 8:30am
- Baptism (Infants)
- Saturday—11:00am

Please contact the Parish Office to schedule.

Reconciliation (Confession)
- 4:00—4:30pm in the Church

Please sign up at saintlukefc@gmail.com

Marriage

Please call the Parish Office at least 8 - 12 months before the desired wedding date.

Anointing of the Sick

For Last Rites please call or email us.

**PASTORAL STAFF**

Pastor
- Rev. Jonathan G. Paala

Deacon
- Deacon Mar Tano

Director of Religious Education
- Sr. Maria Ruth Linaac, RVM

Secretaries
- Maria Teresa Alvarez
- Maryvee Estacio

Parish Office Hours
- Monday—Friday 9:00am-12noon; 1:00pm-4:00pm
- Saturday 9:00am-12noon
A RESTART

With Advent we begin a new church year as we renew our preparations for the coming of Christ. The scriptures show a profound movement from despair in the first reading, as we feel the wrath of God’s anger and a sense of being abandoned, to the responsorial psalm, which begs us to turn toward God, and the second reading where we see a glimmer of hope. Brimstone returns in the Gospel. This sense of unease and pain is much like what we have endured throughout 2020 with COVID-19, racial struggles, and political campaigns. Frankly, everyone is ready for a restart, for a do-over, for a better year. We can understand the heartfelt prayer of the prophet Isaiah: “Oh, that you would rend the heavens and come down.” Hide not your face from us, O God, but during these days of Advent may you reveal yourself to each of us once again.

BE WATCHFUL! BE ALERT!

When Jesus does not speak in eloquent sentences, but barks out imperative statements such as in our Gospel reading today, one can understand the urgency. There is no place for flowery language. “Be watchful! Be alert!” One has a sense that these should be written in bold or all caps! He tells the parable of the homeowner leaving his workers at home, with no knowledge of when he would return. Without phones and texts and travel schedules it could have meant the homeowner was returning sometime in the day, or sometime in the coming month or year. So Jesus is not telling us, “You have to behave for a little bit,” but rather, “You must live your life and work like the homeowner is always here. You must always be prepared.”

WATCH!

This author was very aware of the language of “master/servant” in the Gospel today and is reading it and praying it in light of discussions on racism in recent months. Perhaps this goes with the last imperative at the end of the parable to “Watch!” This year has taught us to be alert in our actions such as social distancing, masks, and sanitizing, as well as in our language and even our thoughts. Now how do we apply that to our spirituality, to our faith? For many, due to restrictions on numbers in church, singing, and choirs, this has meant learning to pray in a whole different way. The celebration of liturgy is the same as ever, with its focus always on the Word and the Eucharist, but for those in the pew, or still watching on livestream, the sense of active participation has taken on a very different meaning from how most of us have experienced liturgy in our lifetime. It feels like we have become spectators rather than participants. Perhaps this challenge can move us from complacency in our faith, to rediscover and relate to God in new ways, and call us to be even stronger in our personal faith. We must remain diligent. We must “watch.” We must hope. We must love. We must pray.

TODAY’S READINGS

Isaiah 63:16b–17, 19b, 64:2–7
Psalm 80:2–3, 15–16, 18–19
1 Corinthians 1:3–9
Mark 13:33–37
Watch Out!

In Advent, we celebrate our hope that the Lord might come more fully into our lives. The first reading from Isaiah voices the hope of sinners for a redeemer. As sinners, we too hope for forgiveness. Unlike Isaiah, we know that God has come to bring us back, when the Father sent his Son, Jesus, to save us. And God's power was manifest in the raising of Christ from the dead. Our faith in Jesus leads us to a new way of looking at the world. We can see what God is doing as well as remembering what God has done. The Gospel reminds us to look constantly for signs of God's work. Jesus says simply, "Watch!" Like the gatekeepers in Jesus' short parable, we need to keep our eyes open for him. Just as we expect people driving cars to turn off their cell phones and keep their eyes on the road, so we can stop looking for whatever makes us comfortable and watch for ways to love others as God loves us.

When we only look out for ourselves, we may miss the signs of God's presence around us. Instead of looking at the difficulties of life as obstacles, we can watch for them as opportunities to stretch our faith, to rely on God, or to show God's love to a friend. The recent re-translation of the prayers of the Mass can be an opportunity to stretch our faith and our understanding of the Eucharist.

The Corinthians were also watching for the Lord to come. Paul encourages them (and us) by his reminder that we "are not lacking in any spiritual gift" (1 Corinthians 1:7). The Holy Spirit gives us all we need to help each other prepare for the Lord's coming. They were thinking of Jesus as coming in glory. Though we don't see the full glory of the Lord, part of that glory is his presence in the sacraments. In them we celebrate not just the coming of the Lord, but his working in the world. He shares his life with us in baptism, gives us his Spirit in confirmation and himself in the Eucharist, heals us in reconciliation and the anointing of the sick, and calls us to make him present to others in holy orders and matrimony. You could almost say his second coming is taking place now. Watch for it.

Tom Schmidt, Copyright (c) J. S. Paluch Co.
MARK’S JESUS
Mark’s Gospel is the shortest and tersest of all four. The discourses of Jesus tend to be terser as well. Mark’s portrayal of Jesus has none of the poetry of the Sermon on the Mount or the Sermon on the Plain as in Matthew or Luke, nor the extensive, reflective “I Am” discourses as in John. Mark’s Jesus “cuts to the chase,” we would say today. This is reflected quite well in today’s passage. It is no accident that the dialogue of Jesus at this point in the Gospel according to Mark—the concluding words about the end of the world—immediately before his passion, is riddled with exclamation points and an overall sense of urgency.

We would do well to re-tool our own way of living this Advent, for we live in a world urgently in need of hearing the message of Jesus proclaimed. It’s time for us to “wake up!” and get out into the world to do it.

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TODAY’S READINGS
First Reading — We are the clay and you, O Lord, are the potter: we are the work of your hands (Isaiah 63:16b-17, 19b; 64:2-7).
Psalm — Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved (Psalm 80).
Second Reading — God is faithful; by God you were called to fellowship with the Son (1 Corinthians 1:3-9).
Gospel — Be watchful! Be alert! You do not know when the time will come. (Mark 13:33-37).


SPECIAL OBSERVANCES
Sunday: First Sunday of Advent
Monday: St. Andrew, Apostle
Tuesday: World AIDS Awareness Day
Thursday: St. Francis Xavier
Friday: St. John Damascene
Friday: First Friday of the Sacred Heart of Jesus
Saturday: First Saturday of the Immaculate Heart of Mary

Prayer of Reparation especially during these times when we are witnessing the desecration of the Blessed Eucharist and statues of blessed Saints...
“Most Holy Trinity – Father, Son and Holy Spirit – I adore Thee profoundly. I offer Thee the most precious Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity of Jesus Christ, present in all the tabernacles of the world, in reparation for the outrages, sacrileges, and indifferences whereby He is offended. And through the infinite merits of His Most Sacred Heart and the Immaculate Heart of Mary, I beg of Thee the conversion of poor sinners. Amen.”

Adore our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament
“When we go before Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament, we represent the one in the world who is in most need of God’s Mercies. We stand in behalf of the one in the world who does not know Christ and who is farthest away from God and we bring down upon their soul the Precious Blood of the Lamb.”
—POPE ST. JOHN PAUL II

“For the bread of God is the bread that comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.”
—John 6:33

Although the Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament has been suspended until further notice, the Chapel will remain open, Monday through Sunday, from 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. to allow moments of personal encounter with our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament.

For Online Perpetual Eucharistic Adoration, visit: virtualadoration.home.blog
You expired, Jesus, but the source of life gushed forth for souls, and the ocean of mercy opened up for the whole world. O Fount of Life, unfathomable Divine Mercy, envelop the whole world and empty Yourself out upon us.

O Blood and Water, which gushed forth from the Heart of Jesus as a fount of mercy for us, I trust in You! (3x)

You expired, Jesus, but the source of life gushed forth for souls, and the ocean of mercy opened up for the whole world. O Fount of Life, unfathomable Divine Mercy, envelop the whole world and empty Yourself out upon us.

O Blood and Water, which gushed forth from the Heart of Jesus as a fount of mercy for us, I trust in You! (3x)

Eternal rest grant unto the souls of Your beloved, O Lord.
†Fr. Frank Bagadiong, †Fr. Dennis Steik, †Fr. Raymond Zohlen, †Fr. Tom Timmins, †Norma Gallo, †Letty Rollan, †Virginia Molina, †Franklin V. Hipol, †Maria Pham, †Josephine Law, †Dennis B. Huang, †Rosetta Parisian, †Zenaida Froilan, †Arturo Almeda, †Felisa Mariano, †Teresa Bautista, †Sue Rathjen, † all victims of the coronavirus pandemic

We pray for God’s healing mercies upon the sick:

Juris Arcilla
Minerva Barnhart
Jim Bortak
Mary Ann Bravo
Ruben Calderon, Jr.
Michael Carmody
Elizabeth Fong
Zahra Karimi
Barbara Keefer
Tom Keefer
JoAnn Kozloski
Jackie Kuo
Felise Langi
Badette Ledesma
Celia Leones
Dancy Lim
Christian Liwag
Arturo Martin
Natividad Martin
Fr. Kieran McCormick
Andres Mendez
Angela Mihelec
Bozidar Mihelec
Jon Miller
Virginia Molina
Edgar Navarro
Ed Page
Violet Pastrana
Anna Pham
Tom Pope
Frances Presutto
Angela F. Reyes
Estrella Reyes
Kathy Sampson
Jennifer Shamway
Manny Torres
Joe Touchstone
Priscilla Touchstone
Cathy Yee
Coronavirus patients

“...for by His wounds you were healed.” (1 Peter 2:24)
Let us bring the hope and love of the Infant Savior to those in need! As we approach Christmas, we invite everyone to once again share with our needy brethren the blessings we have received from God, through our annual “GIVING TREE.”

This year, our Giving Tree supports the Catholic Worker House San Bruno and Redwood City charity drive.

Simply take an ornament (or more if you are able) to help grant a needy brethren’s wish. The Giving Tree will be in place throughout the Advent Season.

Please put your UNWRAPPED GIFT ALONG WITH the ORNAMENT TAG under the Giving Tree ON or BEFORE DECEMBER 18th, FRIDAY.

If you have GIFT CERTIFICATES, drop them off at the Office of Religious Education or at the Parish Office, or put them in the Sunday Collection Box ALONG WITH THE ORNAMENT TAG.

God’s generosity can never be outdone... Thank you and GOD be your reward!
November Plenary Indulgences for Souls in Purgatory

The Vatican has announced an extension to the plenary indulgences traditionally obtained during the first week of November. Because of restrictions on cemetery visits due to COVID-19, “the Plenary Indulgence applicable to the deceased by those who visit a cemetery has been extended beyond the normal dates of 1 to 8 November. This year, the indulgence can be obtained by anyone who visits a cemetery, even if only mentally, on any day in November, and devoutly prays for the faithful departed.”

To obtain an indulgence, one must be a Catholic in the state of grace and free from all attachment to sin, even venial sin. In addition to this pious act, it is necessary to fulfill the following three conditions in order to gain the indulgence:

- sacramental confession,
- Eucharistic Communion,
- and prayer for the intention of the Pope (this can be satisfied by reciting one Our Father and one Hail Mary, or any other prayer for the intention of the Roman Pontiff).

Please visit sfarch.org/indulgences for a more complete explanation of indulgences and the conditions for obtaining them.
This Weekend is a “Fifth” Sunday:

Special 2nd Collection for
St. Vincent de Paul

November 29th is a “fifth” Sunday. Whenever a fifth Sunday occurs in a month, the parish of Saint Luke sets aside a second collection to benefit the works of our local St. Vincent de Paul Conference. Its outreach extends to families in Foster City who are in need. The conference asks you to help them to help others. Please be as generous as possible. Choosing to help those who are suffering will fill your heart with the blessing of Jesus, and indeed your reward will be great in heaven. Thank you.

No work of charity is foreign to St. Vincent de Paul. We help to alleviate suffering or deprivation and promote human dignity.

Christ said,
“For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink.”
(Matthew 25:35)

Thanks for Your Donations

In spite of the difficult situation we are facing, I wish to thank you for your continuous support of our parish through your prayers and generous donations. I pray that you and your families will remain safe and well within the shelter of our merciful Savior. — Fr. Jonathan Paala

Go to sfarch.org/lifeline select “St. Luke Parish”. You can also mail or drop your donation in the parish office mail box or Sunday Collection Box. Thanks so much! God bless your generous hearts!

December 8th is the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception
Holy Day of Obligation Masses

December 7, Monday Vigil Mass at 5:00PM
December 8, Tuesday Mass at 8:30AM only

Alleluia, alleluia. Hail, Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with you; blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb, Jesus.
Alleluia, alleluia. (Luke 1:28, 42)

Calling All Eucharistic Ministers

St. Luke’s is looking for Eucharistic Ministers who can assist during our 8AM Sunday Mass. Please contact the parish office if you are willing to serve.

Support Knights of Columbus’ “Keep Christ in Christmas” Greeting Card Drive

Please support the Knights of Columbus in their Annual “Keep Christ in Christmas” Greeting Card Drive. Christmas cards will be on sale in the community center after this weekend’s Masses.

Help Raise Funds:
St. Luke’s Face Mask Sale

Our St. Luke Parish Council is spearheading a Face Mask Sale fundraiser for the parish. They are in the designing phase at this time. Your support is much appreciated. More details to follow.

FEAST OF FAITH: What Is the Mass?

What is the Mass? There is no simple answer to that question. The Church uses many different images and terms to describe our most important prayer. The Mass is the celebration of the Eucharist, a Greek word that means “thanksgiving.” It is the Lord’s Supper. It is the Breaking of the Bread. It is the memorial of the Lord’s passion, death, and resurrection. It is the Holy Sacrifice, in which the sacrifice of Christ on the cross is perpetuated. It is the holy and divine liturgy, the sacred mysteries. It is the source and summit of our Christian lives, the new covenant, the work of the Holy Spirit, the paschal mystery. The many different words and images that we use when we speak of the Mass are not signs of confusion, but of wonder at what the Catechism of the Catholic Church (1328) calls the “inexhaustible richness” of the Eucharist. The Mass, our greatest prayer and our deepest mystery, is celebrated every day, many times a day, the world over. The Eucharist is both “bread from heaven” and “daily bread.” The Mass is our everyday miracle.

—Corinna Laughlin, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.
“Sister Hope” Mental Health Chatbot Launching Soon

The Archdiocesan Mental Health Ministry is offering a new resource, “Sister Hope.” Sister Hope is a “chatbot,” an AI-driven (Artificial Intelligence) response to text messages around issues of mental health. Its secular version is already in use by millions. It responds to text messages from someone with anxiety or depression, and offers suggestions and positive feedback. There is now a “religious” version, which the Archdiocese will pilot for a year. We believe this is particularly timely given the additional stress and isolation imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic.

For more information, contact
Richard Collyer collyerr@sfarch.org
Ed Hopfner hopfnere@sfarch.org
sisterhope.org

Online Advent Scripture Reflections: Hope in Time of Crisis

“Celebrating Advent: Hope in Time of Crisis” is an Advent study group on the Zoom platform, led by Deacon Chuck McNeil, using the scripture readings for the Advent seasons and a Christmas sermon on peace and hope preached by Rev. Martin Luther King on Christmas eve in 1967 at Ebenezer Baptist Church. As Dr. King said, “At times life is hard, as hard as crucible steel." The topics of the four Wednesday (7:00—8:15pm) meetings are:
11/18/20 What time is it?
12/2/20 The prophet Isaiah's message of comfort and liberation
12/9/20 Is joy possible in times of upheaval and crisis?
12/16/20 Our Lady: Model of trust and humility.
There is no charge. For more information and to receive the zoom link, contact Deacon Chuck, 415-567-7824 deaconchuck@stdominics.org

Archdiocese of San Francisco Human Trafficking Talk Series

Coming up: January is National Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month. Join the Office of Human Life and Dignity for a series of Zoom webinars featuring experts on the subject. All Zoom sessions begin at 6:30PM.
January 27, 2021 – Overview of Human Trafficking
February 8, 2021 – Rosary to Invoke the Intercession of St. Bakhita
February 25, 2021 – Child Sex Trafficking
March 9, 2021 – Become a Shepherd in Your Parish
To sign up and for more details visit sfarch.org/seminars

Marriage Weekends Planned for Danville and Sacramento

Want an unforgettable “gift” idea for your marriage? Want an idea for a more long-lasting gift than you’ve ever given or received? Give your marriage the best gift possible by making the unique Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend. The next Marriage Encounter Weekends include February 19-21, 2021, in Danville, California, and April 23-25 in Sacramento, California. For more information and/or to register, visit our website sanjosewwme.org or contact Ken & Claranne, applications@sanjosewwme.org.

Project Rachel Retreat for Hope and Healing After Abortion

Registration is open for a Catholic Women’s Retreat for Healing After Abortion. This one-day retreat will be in person, and at a confidential location in the Archdiocese of San Francisco. All social distancing and public-health protocols will be observed. The retreat is led by Father Vito Perrone, COSJ, with Father George Schultze, S.J. Confessions and counseling in English and Spanish will be available. To register or for more information email projectrachel@sfarch.org or phone 415-614-5567 All inquiries are confidential.
For complete information about Project Rachel, visit the webpage sfarchdiocese.org/rachel, where you can view a powerful video testimony by Georgette Forney, co-founder of the Silent No More awareness campaign.

“Before I formed you in the womb I knew you,
And before you were born I consecrated you;
I have appointed you as a prophet to the nations.”
Jeremiah 1:5

PRAY FOR POPE FRANCIS’ INTENTION
ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE
We pray that the progress of robotics and artificial intelligence may always serve humankind. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.
**LIVE STREAM MASSES**  
For those who cannot celebrate with us in St. Luke’s...

At the heart of the Eucharistic celebration are the bread and wine that, by the words of Christ and the invocation of the Holy Spirit, become Christ’s Body and Blood. Faithful to the Lord’s command the Church continues to do, in his memory and until his glorious return, what he did on the eve of his Passion:

“He took bread. . . .” “He took the cup filled with wine. . . .” (Catechism of the Catholic Church, 1333)

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“One single Mass gives more honor to God than all the penances of the Saints, the labors of the Apostles, the sufferings of the Martyrs and even the burning love of the Blessed Mother of God.”  

—St. Alphonsus Liguori
Collect

Grant your faithful, we pray, almighty God, the resolve to run forth to meet your Christ with righteous deeds at his coming, so that, gathered at his right hand, they may be worthy to possess the heavenly Kingdom. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

Amen.

Month of November
Pray for the Souls in Purgatory

Prayer of St. Gertrude

Eternal Father, I offer Thee the Most Precious Blood of Thy Divine Son, Jesus, in union with the Masses said throughout the world today, for all the Holy Souls in Purgatory, for sinners everywhere, for sinners in the universal Church, for those in my own home, and in my family.

Amen.

Prayer to our Eucharistic Lord Jesus

Act of Spiritual Communion

My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Blessed Sacrament.

I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I desire, my Lord, to receive You with the purity, humility, and devotion with which Your most holy Mother received You, and with the spirit and fervor of Your saints.

I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You.

Amen.
PRAYER TO OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE

Holy Virgin of Guadalupe,
Queen of the Angels and Mother of the Americas.
We fly to you today as your beloved children.
We ask you to intercede for us with your Son,
as you did at the wedding in Cana.
Pray for us, loving Mother,
and gain for our nation and world,
and for all our families and loved ones,
the protection of your holy angels,
that we may be spared the worst of this illness.
For those already afflicted,
we ask you to obtain the grace of healing and deliverance.
Hear the cries of those who are vulnerable and fearful,
wipe away their tears and help them to trust.
In this time of trial and testing,
teach all of us in the Church to love one another and to be patient and kind.
Help us to bring the peace of Jesus to our land and to our hearts.
We come to you with confidence,
knowing that you truly are our compassionate mother,
health of the sick and cause of our joy.
Shelter us under the mantle of your protection,
keep us in the embrace of your arms,
help us always to know the love of your Son, Jesus. Amen.

— Archbishop José Gómez of Los Angeles, President United States Conference of Catholic Bishops

Archbishop Salvatore Cordileone is asking the faithful to unite in prayers with the entire Church and utter the above prayer each day to seek the intercession of our patroness, Our Lady of Guadalupe.

BELLS CALL TO PRAYER

Set your alarm to these times, then pray the indicated prayer at that hour.
9:00 a.m. - Prayer for those infected with the virus and all who are ill
Lord, place your healing hand on those who suffer illness. Bring them to full health and ease their anxious hearts. May our prayer and the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary encourage them that they are not alone.
We ask this in Jesus’ Name. Amen.

12:00 p.m. - Prayer for health care workers and those attending to the sick
Lord, we are ennobled by those who put their lives at risk in caring for the sick. Keep them safe and embolden them when they are weary. We ask this in Jesus’ Name. Amen.

3:00 p.m. - Prayer for first responders and essential workers
Lord, we pray for those who run to danger to keep us safe and those who serve the common good. Embrace them with your mantle of protection and comfort the fears of their families. We ask this in Jesus’ Name. Amen.

6:00 p.m. - Prayer for people of every nation and their leaders
Lord, the pandemic opens our eyes to see each other as brothers and sisters in one human family. We pray for people of every nation and their leaders, asking that they be inspired to seek the good of all and quell the voices of division. We ask this in Jesus’ Name. Amen.

9:00 p.m. - Prayer for those who have died today
Lord, we grieve the passing of our sisters and brothers who have died this day. We commend them to your tender mercy, confident that nothing, not even death, will separate us from your love. We ask this in Jesus’ Name. Amen.

— Cardinal Blase J. Cupich, Archbishop of Chicago
Grow in your faith, find a Mass, and connect with your Catholic Community with OneParish!

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