

Church of Saint Luke



HOLIDAY MASS SCHEDULE - CHRISTMAS 2021

December 24, 2021-Christmas Eve Mass 4:00 p.m. & 10:00 p.m., 12:00 Midnight (Polish)
December 25, 2021-Christmas Day - 10:00 a.m. (No 4:00 p.m. Vigil Mass on Christmas Day)
December 26, 2021-Sunday Mass 8:00 a.m., 9:30 a.m., 11:00 a.m. & 2:00 p.m. (Polish)
December 31, 2021-New Year's Eve Mass, 4:00 p.m.
January 1, 2022-New Year's Day, 10 :00 a.m., 4:00 p.m. (Vigil for Sunday)
January 2, 2022-Sunday Mass Schedule 8:00 a.m., 9:30 a.m., 11:00 a.m. & 2:00 p.m. (Polish)

DAILY MASS SCHEDULE

Monday 6:30 p.m.
Tuesday-Friday 7:30 a.m.

WEEKEND MASS SCHEDULE

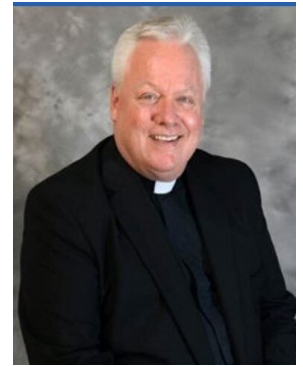
Saturday Vigil Mass - 4:00 p.m.
Sunday - 8:00 a.m., 9:30 a.m., 11:00 a.m.
2:00 p.m. Polish Mass

For Catholics, the greatest form of worship is the Mass. Mass is celebrated daily at the Church of Saint Luke. While we encourage all of our parishioners to attend Mass in person, for those who are ill, we will livestream our services on our Facebook page and will broadcast our Sunday morning 9:30 a.m. Mass on Blue Ridge Cable Channel 13.



A Note from the Pastor

I have been here now for less than five months. In that time, I have met with the Finance Council several times. They are a fully involved group of people who care deeply for the financial picture of our parish. I am very grateful for their concern and help. I learned that prior to my coming, they helped Fr. Perry raise a significant amount of money for upgrades to the Church building. Similarly, the group conducted a successful increased offertory campaign, and we continue to see it is benefits today. We are moving forward with upgrades to the Church facilities and to a revitalization of Parish life. We do have a debt of \$385,000 in unpaid school assessments. We have been paying on this debt regularly since 2015, but it will take us many years to pay it off. I hate debt of this kind because we have nothing to show for it! It is not like a loan where we have benefitted from loaned money that helped us purchase or revitalize something. No, this debt is the result of not paying bills in the past. That is not something that I ever want to do. If we cannot afford something now, we will adjust our budget and chop some things that we are presently doing to avoid unpaid bills. Thankfully, we are not in that position right now. So, with that in mind, we do have some challenges!



The four buildings and two stand-alone garages owned by the parish need significant attention. While the Church, Barrett Center, and Rectory are in pretty good shape, they need some significant upgrades. The Church's interior will be painted next year, and the front steps will be replaced. We also need new carpeting in the Church. These upgrades were included in the money raised by Fr. Perry and the Finance Council last year. Things not included in these monies are the new flooring and electrical repairs needed in the Barrett Center. Further, we need to address the water infiltration problem in the Barrett Center. That cannot continue. The Rectory needs attention too. It has not been upgraded for many years and has a costly electric heating system. The Driebe Center is underutilized and needs attention. We had a study done of these structures by an outside source and we are now studying those recommendations so that we can plan effectively for our future. You will hear about this plan as it unfolds.

Besides these physical challenges, we do have some promising initiatives. The Pastoral Council has been reformed and is meeting regularly to plan for our parish's mission. And, we have a Faith Formation Committee that is forming to help plan for reconnecting families with the parish. These are promising groups because our facilities are of no use if we do not cultivate a renewed parish that is filled with actively engaged parishioners. It is my hope that we renew our parish life, fill our pews with engaged missionary disciples, and create a culture of evangelization that stomps robustly into the future while following the command of our Lord: *Go, make, baptize, teach*. May God be with us or better, may he be in front of us, leading us in this mission!



An Update From Pastoral Council

The Council was installed on Sunday, November 7 at the 9:30 Mass. The first meeting of the Council occurred Monday, November 8. At the meeting the council members shared more about themselves to get to know each other better and then planned next steps to start going through the 11-week

Alpha Course which is an ecumenical presentation of the Kerygma (the basic Gospel message of the Good News of Jesus). The Pastoral Council has a three-fold task: First, to study some aspect of pastoral life; Second, to reflect upon it especially as it relates to our parish; and Third, to recommend a conclusion or a path forward, a plan. To assist us in this planning, each Council member received two books: *Divine Renovation* by Fr. James Mallon and *Divine Renovation Guidebook* by the same author. These books along with the Alpha Course will help with the council with the three-fold process of planning. Please pray for the Council and its members.



An Update From The Finance Committee

The Parish Finance Council acts in an advisory capacity to the Pastor on Financial, Facilities and Fundraising items to ensure fiscal responsibility including input/review of the annual budget and financial statements; review of internal controls and procedures; and planning for the needs of the parish. Over the past six months we have

submitted our Year End Financials for '20-21 to the Diocese and published our Year End numbers in the bulletin. We also started publishing our collection amounts weekly in our bulletin. Our '21-22 Budget and the Diocese Financial Self Assessment were both completed and turned into the Diocese. We completed a Revenue Audit which started with auditing our collections counting team and deposit procedures. The major finding was that there was a lack of procedural documentation, which is being documented and training to be completed by 3/31/2022.

We would like to thank you for your increased giving commitment or one-time donations with the Our Sunday Visitor (OSV) campaign that took place last spring. We are working on a facilities plan and planning on associated expenses. We are developing a new fundraising committee which is essential for this year to meet our revenue budget. We are working on documenting and training on our policies and procedures. We are also preparing for a Diocesan Audit in January. These audits take place when a new pastor is assigned to a new parish.



An Update on Facilities

There are four buildings with two garages on the Saint Luke's Campus (Church, Barrett, Driebe, and Rectory). This year, a new roof was installed on the Church and plumbing in the Church was upgraded. Both upgrades were possible thanks to generous parishioners. We completed and returned a building by building self-assessment to the Diocese. We conducted a walk-through to understand the facility needs for budget purposes. The Risk Management Director from the Diocese attended the walk-through so that he is familiar with our needs as we request repairs. We engaged a third party to assess each building and provide options for repair/upgrades. In the near future, the front stairs of the church will be

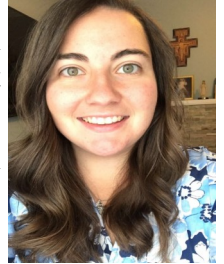
addressed. Drawings are being done for Borough approval. The wallpaper removal and painting of the church was approved by the Diocese and work is scheduled to start in late 2022. Barrett Center flooding has been cleaned up, remediation is in progress and prevention measures are being included in the overall facilities plan. Estimation of required repairs by building will be published in the bulletin. Look for much needed renovations starting in 2022.

New Staff Welcome



Geraldine Patire, our new Music Director brings many years of music talent to our church. We look forward to hearing the choir fill the church with their singing once again. We hope to provide a diverse music program in the future adding some contemporary aspects to our current program. If you are interested in joining our choir or play an instrument that might compliment our music program, please contact Geraldine at musicdirector@churchofsaintluke.org.

Meghan Donohue our new Youth Minister is working on plans to get our youth ignited about their faith! Some things to look forward to for our youth this next year are weekly gathering meetings, events in collaboration with our neighboring parishes, youth rallies, and special parish projects. Any seventh to twelfth graders who would like to join the Church of Saint Luke Youth Group please contact Meghan at youthminister@churchofsaintluke.org.



Please welcome Geraldine and Meghan to the Church of Saint Luke family, we are so happy to have them here and look forward with what the future holds for these two ministries.



Volunteers Needed

There are so many volunteer opportunities at the Church of Saint Luke. Currently we are in need of an Events Team that helps plan, set-up, serve, and clean-up for our parish gatherings in the Jacques Center. If this is something you would enjoy, please contact the parish office at (570) 421-9097 or email office@churchofsaintluke.org for information.

A Special Way To Honor Someone...

The Church of Saint Luke has ordered the Gather Hymnal with Readings for our church. We have chosen the hard cover Gather (Fourth Edition) which was recommended by the Diocese as one of the most complete hymnal/missal available. We purchased 500 hymnals to fill our pews. Each hymnal is valued at approximately \$25.00, and you can donate as many hymnals as you like. You can dedicate each hymnal you donate to the memory of a loved one or in honor of your family or friends. Each donated hymnal will be labeled inside with the donor's name and intention. These hymnals will last well over ten years, a nice way to remember your loved one.



Your generosity and commitment to The Church of Saint Luke is vital to our success, and any thing you can give toward the purchase of our new hymnals will be greatly appreciated. Thank you for considering a donation toward the purchase of our new hymnals. If you have any questions or need further information, please feel free to contact the parish office at (570) 421-9097 or email office@churchofsaintluke.org.

The Importance of Going to Mass

We go to Mass not simply because it's an obligation. Rather, we attend Mass because it's our loving response to God. At Mass we receive God in two primary ways: through his Word and through the Eucharist. The most important reason for participating in the Eucharist is that God has invited us to share in the experience of the death and resurrection of the Lord every time we celebrate. We grow in faith each time we receive the Eucharist. When we come to Mass on Sunday, we are acknowledging the importance to the Lord's Day in our lives. This is a day of hope for all people. It is a day to thank God for our many blessings, while at the same time asking God for help in all the things that are about to happen in our lives. It is also a day to be challenged, through Word and Sacrament, to open our eyes and see the world around us as God would have us see it. The celebration of Mass on Sunday serves to connect us to the truth of the living God who is the center of our lives, the God who through the raising of His Son Jesus from the dead has made all things new.



As the Parish Nursing Ministry of The Church of Saint Luke, we look back what we've accomplished and where we're headed. Over these last six months our focus has changed as our parish and world return to "normal." We have now resumed our monthly Health Ministry meetings and are using parishioner reported needs to guide our planning. We have also reached out to our surrounding parishes to join us as desired in our programs. Thus far we have resumed the monthly blood pressure clinics, held a seminar on depression, and held a 4-week bereavement program. We identified a need to replace the three church AED's and collected donations to purchase and install the needed equipment. Working closely with the local mental health organization, we reopened our mental health drop-in. However, after several weeks of minimal attendance due to covid we have again postponed the restart. Throughout this time, we have continued to provide home visits/communion, phone calls, assist with medical transportation, and general support to our parish. Of the 132 contacts since June, 50% have been to parishioners over 80, demonstrating the need for support in this age group. As we look toward to the next few months, we hope to have a program on caregiver needs and provide community CPR training as well as training on our new AED's. Earlier this year we were honored to be highlighted on the annual Bishop's appeal video. We are very grateful for the funding this program provides to us as we continue to address the health needs of our community

The Church of Saint Luke Community Meals

The Church of Saint Luke is once again providing Community meals to people in our area. Our recent meeting on November 9th with Coordinator Diego Pelaez, brought volunteers together to discuss forming teams, menus, preparation and how best to serve our Community Meals. Our first Community Meal will be served on December 5th, 2021 and will continue every Sunday from 12:30 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. It is never too late to get involved and become a team member, even create a team of your own with a group of friends. Please call the Parish Office at (570) 421-9097 or email office@churchofsaintluke.org if you would like to get involved. If you are not able to be on a Community Meals Team, there is also the opportunity to sponsor one of our Community Meal weekends. The amount to sponsor a weekend is \$250.00 which can be done by check (on memo please put Community Meals) and placed in the collection basket, or by going to myEoffering and make your donation electronically.





Knights of Columbus®

The Knights of Columbus stand for unity, charity, fraternity, and patriotism. They are a group of men who follow the teachings of the church and support our bishops and priests. Any practicing male of the

Catholic faith, 18 years of age and older is welcome to join this fraternal order. The Knights of Columbus #4084 are very supportive of the Church of Saint Luke and every year donate their time and resources to take care of some need that we have in our parish. Over the past six months, they Knights painted our kitchen and plan to replace the ceiling tiles in the spring of '22. They held a spaghetti and meatball dinner to raise funds to complete the work in the kitchen. During the week of Thanksgiving, the Knights put together and distributed 40 Thanksgiving Dinner baskets including turkeys to families in need in our community. Thanks to the generosity of our parishioners who donated nonperishable food during the Knights Food Drive, they were able to fill those dinner baskets and still have plenty of nonperishable food left over to distribute to families that come into the office in need of help for food. The Knights also generously purchased books for Advent titled *The True Meaning of Christmas*, by Dr. Michael Barber as a gift to all of our parishioners. We are so grateful for the time and resources that the Knights #4084 give to the Church of Saint Luke and our local community and look forward to what they have in store in 2022!

PASTORAL COUNCIL MEMBERS

Fernando Alves	Rick Mutchler
Tony Stevens-Arroyo	Tony O'Reilly
Martin Diorio	Diego Pelaez
Dan Foti	Ana Rivera
Debbie Herbert	Janet Smith

FINANCE COUNCIL MEMBERS

Marianne Chester - Chairperson	
Chuck Hoffman	Jim Murphy
Donna Houser	Patty Murphy
Tony Konn	Rick Mutchler

What Can We Do In 2022?

The close of 2021 has allowed us to reflect what we have done over the past year. The beginning of a new year, 2022 allows us to consider how we can grow and be better than the year before. Our goal for the next year is to engage our parish families to come back to Mass, to fulfill the spiritual needs of our young adults, our parents, and our seniors. We have put together a team to work with the Diocese to provide events at our church for families to come and be together, to learn, to eat, and to share. Look for details to follow in the coming months. Another goal for the next year is to gather our people together, to get to know one another better, to seek out the gifts each of us has been given to offer those gifts in helping the church thrive. What we can do together is immeasurable! As we all march into the new year, the promise of 2022 will depend on what we make of it. Please be present in your parish, please listen for the call if there is some way you can help. Please remember the blessings bestowed on each and everyone of us, was given for the benefit of all as we are all one in the Lord.