

From the
Pastor's Desk



Dear Parish
Family...



PARISH NEWS

**DO WE HAVE YOUR
E-MAIL ADDRESS?**

Please let us know
at stluke@optonline.net

The International Dinner

...this year will feature tasting menus from many places around the globe: The Caribbean, France, Hungary, Italy, The Philippines, Poland, Wales plus a "Taste of New England."

We're doing the dinner one week EARLY – February 11– to avoid the schools' winter break. Tickets are on sale after weekend Masses as well as on our website. Be sure to bring your friends!

Tickets are on sale after Mass and on line at \$25 each. **NO TICKETS ARE SOLD AT THE DOOR OR AFTER TUESDAY OF THIS WEEK!!**

Burning of the Palms

Since the International Dinner is earlier than usual, we will have our "Burning of the Palms" at Masses on the weekend of February 18-19 in preparation for Ash Wednesday. More details to come...

You GO Babe!...



Blessings,

Monsignor Andy

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK

Tim Avenia, Ed Bagnulo, Jane Blake, Irene Breeden, Mimi Burn, Mary Callie, Marguerite Camerite, Hans Dannegger, Todd DeRolf, Lorraine Foley, Halley Golden, Marie Greco, Mary Jane Grenier, Christie Griffin, Blanche Haid, Bridget Hurley, Terry Kramer, Ita Lynch, Kim Massiano, Evelyn Mundt, Martha Neumann, Bob O'Keefe, Catherine O'Reilly, Craig Riddle, Camille Sarno, Carol Sexton, Marie Stapkowski, Kay vander Steen, Alex Weeks, Helenanne Willmott, Mary Witkowsky

ETERNAL REST GRANT UNTO THEM, O LORD

AMELIA GREGUS

BAPTISM CONGRATULATIONS

NICHOLAS JOHN PETTI

Son of John & Courtney Petti

FAMILY HOSPITALITY NOTES

- ✘ **Child Care** is provided in our Nursery each Sunday during the 9:00 and 11:00 am Masses. *Parents of young children are invited to help provide this service.*
- ✘ A television monitor is available in the hallway for families whose child might be having a restless day that would disturb other worshipers.
- ✘ A **baby-changing table** is located in the handicapped lavatory.



*New to the area?
Just moved in?*

Get life in your new home off to a good start! The priests of the parish would be happy to visit and bless your home and family. Just call the parish office (227-7245) to arrange a convenient time.



RELIGIOUS FORMATION

Class cancellations are seen on WFSB Channel 3 and News 12 Connecticut. If local public schools dismiss early, we will cancel.

The 2012 Parents' Calendar, January through May, is available on our parish website at www.stlukewestport.com.

The Children's Liturgy is looking for child readers and liturgy catechists. The more of us there are, the fewer the commitments. We are also in need of families to read at the Family Masses. Anyone interested may call Judy Torska at 227-7245.



FOOD CLOSET NEEDS – PLEASE HELP!

As the winter seasons draws closer and closer, we find ourselves very much in need of donations for our Parish Food Closet for the needy. Please bring a donation to Church with you next Sunday. Items needed: *canned veggies, canned salmon, canned hams, Parmalat milk, tuna fish, pasta sauce, canned fruit, cereal*. Gift certificates are helpful as well so we can add some fresh items to meals.

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN UPDATE...

Almost there!!

THANK YOU to all who have responded. **At this point, we have received 73 gifts and pledges totaling \$102,090 – representing 77.93% of our Goal of \$131,000.** These funds are designated to retire the bridge loan on our Gathering Space. This includes monies that were “borrowed” from other segments of our parish assets in order to build the Gathering Space. Please consider a special 2011 End-of-Year gift to our parish. Many memorial opportunities are still available. Please contact the rectory for more information.

GOOGLE US!! – We have started using Google.com to post our entire calendar of parish events and activities. There's even separate color coding for the calendars shown: general parish calendar and the Religious Education calendar! Just go to our parish website at www.stlukewestport.com for an easy link!

Be sure to join us at the Super Bowl Pizza Fritta breakfast TODAY (Sunday, February 5) following the 9:00 am Mass. Wear your favorite team's color!



THINK ABOUT IT...

It was a year ago that I was in the hospital for the first time in my life. The minor surgery meant that I had to stay overnight. When it came time for the dressing change the next day, I thought that I was going to die from the intense pain. Of course my brief experience of pain was nothing compared to the chronic conditions or acute illnesses that so many people suffer each and every day. When you think of all the people in hospitals or nursing homes, and the countless others around the world who endure without any medical care, the enormity of suffering seems overwhelming.

It is no wonder then that in Jesus' time once the crowds had heard that he cured Simon's mother-in-law, they raced to bring to him all who were ill or possessed by demons. If someone could alleviate the pain, cure the sick, and cast out demons this was definitely an opportunity of which to take advantage.

While modern medicine may help us with our physical illness and psychological pain, there is still a spiritual dimension to sickness that we should not ignore. Sickness separates us. It makes us question our faith. Illness strikes at our heart as well as our body. That is why the church offers the sacrament of the anointing of the sick for any who are ill. When we are sick, we are also alone. We need the support of the community of faith. And we need their prayers.

When a loved one is ill-or if you are sick yourself-don't hesitate to request the sacrament of anointing. If your illness confines you for a longer time, ask to receive Communion regularly to nurture you spiritually even as you seek to be strengthened physically. People sought out Jesus in this weekend's Gospel. When we or a loved one is ill, we can seek him out today.

ADULT FORMATION

Interested in the Catholic Faith?

Do you have questions about what Catholics believe and how Catholics practice their faith? Do you or a relative, neighbor or friend have an interest in the Catholic Church? Saint Luke Parish provides an ongoing process for those interested in finding out more about the Catholic Church. Please know that you or they can contact Sister Maureen Fleming at 222-0478, for more information. We are happy to welcome Inquirers at any time of the year.

Q Lots of attention was focused on living wills during the Terry Schiavo case in Florida. Does the church approve them?

A The Terry Schiavo case was a heart-wrenching situation and many of the issues were either misrepresented by inaccurate reporting or by those who confuse emotional reaction with decision-making. The church took a stance on this case, in effect calling the removal of food and water an act of euthanasia by omission. Nutrition and hydration are never seen as extraordinary when they help a person. They are not life support; they are life essential!

The church does indeed approve living wills and some dioceses offer a form you can download online. Living wills must not contradict church teaching. They need to be given to the people who would be responsible for our health care if we are unable to speak for ourselves: family, doctor, lawyer – even clergy. Living wills are not absolute documents and at times they may need to be interpreted. Your wishes should be discussed with the people to whom you will give a copy. Finally, living wills, as well as our legal wills, are not omens of death, nor a disrespect for the gift of life. They are one of the ways in which we can help those we love take care of us in our final days.

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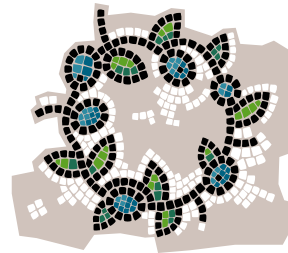
Diocesan Adult Confirmation Program

On **Pentecost Sunday, May 27th** at 3:30 pm, the Diocesan celebration of Confirmation for adults will take place at Saint Augustine Cathedral, Bridgeport. Diocesan refresher classes to prepare adults 18 years of age and older for the Sacrament of Confirmation are offered on eight dates from **April 10 to May 22**, from 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm at **Saint Luke Parish in Westport**. A retreat will also be held. The cost for the entire program is \$50.

To register, go to...

www.officeforpastoralservices.org/index.php/adultformation/ac-form.

For further information, please contact Gina Donnarummo at the Diocesan Office for Pastoral Services at (203) 416-1446 or email gdonnarummo@diobpt.org. These classes are also offered as refresher courses to anyone in the diocese as well.



Mosaics

Women's Spirituality
Thursdays,
10:00 – 11:00 am

We will read and discuss the Acts of the Apostles

5th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



YOUTH GROUP



February is our "Have a Heart" program that focuses on the sick and elderly/shut-ins on the parish prayer list. A team of teens will be in the kitchen with "Chef Mons" slicing and dicing to make a hearty chicken noodle soup which is then paired with some homemade goodies and delivered to those on the list just in time for Valentine's Day.

Also, in February, on Sunday, February 12th, our group will assist with a Caroline House Valentine's Cabaret Fundraiser. Caroline House is an educational center in Bridgeport for women and children. The event will be hosted at the School Sister's of Notre Dame facility at 345 Belden Hill Road facility in Wilton. The fun fundraiser will feature singing, music, dancing, raffles and a wonderful dinner. All are welcome to come support the event. Flyers are available at the youth group board and you can R.S.V.P. to Jean Fredricks at (203) 334-0640 or westportlady@aol.com.

Upcoming Calendar Events:

- February 5th Make Valentine's for "Have A Heart" Project
10:00-11:30am
- February 10th Soup making for shut-ins
- February 12th Valentine Cabaret in Wilton to benefit
Caroline House Children's Program
- February 13th Valentine Bag Delivery
- February 26th Teen Mass/Dinner and Talent Show Skit
Rehearsal



Prom Dress Collection

Our diocese is running a collaborative effort to provide prom dresses to those in neighboring towns. Many of you know how special it feels to get dressed up to attend the special events like Counties, Prom or Red and Whites. We will be setting up a rack and display in the hallway so please consider donating a formal dress or accessory. Please, only clean dresses that are ready to wear. More information to follow.

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Caroline House Children's Program
- February 13th Valentine Bag Delivery
- February 26th Teen Mass/Dinner and Talent Show
Skit Rehearsal

Weekly Calendar of Events February 5-12

Sunday, February 5		5th Sunday of the Church Year
9:00 am	FAMILY MASS.....	Church
10:00 am	Free Blood Pressure Screenings	
10:00 am	Coffee Hour	
11:00 am	Children's Liturgy of the Word	Church
12:00 Nn	Free Blood Pressure Screenings	
12:00 Nn	SuperBowl Breakfast	
Tuesday, February 7		
10:30 am	Faith Forum	Saint Cecelia Room
Wednesday, February 8		
9:00 am	Community Bible Study.....	Parish Center
7:30 pm	Parish Finance Council.....	Rectory
Thursday, February 9		
10:00 am	Mosaic.....	Community Room
8:00 pm	Choir Rehearsal	Church
Saturday, February 11		
6:30 pm	International Dinner.....	Parish Center
Sunday, February 12		6th Sunday of the Church Year
9:00 am	Children's Liturgy of the Word.....	Church
11:00 am	Children's Liturgy of the Word	Church



LOOKING AHEAD

A l-o-n-g view of what's coming
at Saint Luke...

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!! JOIN US!!

- SA FEB 18 BURNING OF THE PALMS
- SU FEB 19 BURNING OF THE PALMS
- WE FEB 22 ASH WEDNESDAY

Parish Budget Report

Report for January 26 February 1

Weekend of January 2.....	\$7,363
Allowance for Credit Card Contributions *	2,627
Received by mail during the week	2,150
TOTAL	\$12,140
WEEKLY NEED.....	\$12,025

Thank you for your support!

– Please remember Saint Luke Parish in your will –

*FISCAL TRANSPARENCY: Parish Financial Reports are always available at www.stlukewestport.com
Questions? Please e-mail Monsignor Andy:
msgrvarga@diobpt.org*

* Please note that the amount designated for credit card contributions has DECREASED for the 2012 tax year.





News from around the Diocese...
The Bishop's Corner

Saturday, February 4

5:30 pm Carol Bradshaw

Sunday, February 5 5th Sunday of the Church Year

7:30 am For All our Parishioners

9:00 am Joe Coppola

11:00 am Frances Polizzi, Margaret & Patrick Scully, Isabele Alvarez, Lester Brooks, Vincent Stavola, Charles Griffith, Alice Ahmuty, Thomas & Kathleen Morgan, Fr. Kieran Ahearn, For the Intentions of Mary Witkowsky and for Autistic Children

5:30 pm Millie Amoroso

Monday, February 6 St. Paul Miki & Companions, Martyrs

8:00 am Janet Toole

Tuesday, February 7

8:00 am Dr. Richard Pelligrino

Wednesday, February 8

8:00 am Arlene Sabia

Thursday, February 9

8:00 am Rose Frey

Friday, February 10 Saint Scholastica

8:00 am Fausto Siconolfi

Saturday, February 11 Our Lady of Lourdes

8:00 am All Souls

5:30 pm Janice McGaughey

Sunday, February 12 6th Sunday of the Church Year

7:30 am Frank LaMorte

9:00 am For All our Parishioners

11:00 am J. Harold & Kathleen Byrne

5:30 pm Domenica Romeo

Readings for the Week of February 5, 2012

Sunday: Jb 7:1-4, 6-7/1 Cor 9:16-19, 22-23/Mk 1:29-39
 Monday: 1 Kgs 8:1-7, 9-13/Mk 6:53-56
 Tuesday: 1 Kgs 8:22-23, 27-30/Mk 7:1-13
 Wednesday: 1 Kgs 10:1-10/Mk 7:14-23
 Thursday: 1 Kgs 11:4-13/Mk 7:24-30
 Friday: 1 Kgs 11:29-32; 12:19/Mk 7:31-37
 Saturday: 1 Kgs 12:26-32; 13:33-34/Mk 8:1-10
 Next Sunday: Lv 13:1-2, 44-46/1 Cor 10:31-11:1/Mk 1:40-45

Dear Parishioners,

Education in our faith is the most important gift we can share with our children. It is my hope that your children are attending one of our excellent religious education programs or are students in one of our outstanding Catholic schools. Since we have just completed the national celebration of Catholic Schools Week, let me focus on some of the accomplishments of the 38 Catholic schools in the Diocese of Bridgeport:

- Catholic schools are places where children learn the teachings of Christ and His Church, and grow in their relationship with God through prayer and generous service to others.
- They are safe environments where every child receives individual attention and works cooperatively to live the Gospel values and to succeed academically.
- Forty percent of our Diocesan elementary schools have received the Blue Ribbon of Academic Excellence from the U.S. Department of Education. This means that their students perform on a nationally standardized test in the top 10% of all students in the nation.
- 98 to 100 % of all Catholic high school students not only graduate but continue their studies in post-secondary schools.
- Our Catholic schools provide their students with twenty-first century skills, where STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) as well as world languages are becoming the norm.
- Our Catholic schools had a 5% increase in enrollment this year, and some schools have had to create waiting lists for new students.

The National Leadership Roundtable on Church Management, in its latest publication, FROM ASPIRATION TO ACTION: SOLUTIONS FOR AMERICAN CATHOLIC SCHOOLS, wrote: "Schools are thriving in [the Diocese of] Bridgeport. At least 12 of them have been designated U.S. Blue Ribbon Schools. Test scores have improved dramatically, and almost all of the grade 8 inner-city cluster students met or exceeded state goals for reading. Compare that to only 36% of their public counterparts and you have grasped the stunning accomplishment that has unfolded in Bridgeport Catholic schools."

Finally, let me sincerely thank you, the parishioners, for your support of our Catholic schools, and also the members of the School Advisory Boards, clergy, parents, administrators, teachers, staff and alumni for all they do to create a place where young people learn to be future leaders in the world and in the Church. Indeed, our Catholic schools exemplify the words of Pope Benedict XVI: "A good school provides a rounded education for the whole person. And a good Catholic school, over and above this, should help all its students to become saints."

Faithfully in Christ,
 Most Reverend William E. Lori
 Bishop of Bridgeport

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CHURCH CITY: **Westport, CT**

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