Isaiah paints the scene:
a land of leopards, lambs and children
no human eyes have ever seen
then Paul, no poet, spells it out:
think in harmony with one another
glorify God with one voice
and John weighs in with his refrain:
repent!
(a word not meant to comfort
yet giving Advent hint
of Spirit-driven possibility)
many words with common theme:
the sense of urgency
and even threat
both grace and shocking expectation:
make straight the path
produce good fruit
for even now the axe lies at the root
the One to come will judge aright

So friends, take heed
for it is Christ
not Christmas
we await!

E.M. Jeep
**This Week’s Gatherings**

**Mass Intentions**

**Monday, December 6, 2010**
- 6:30 am † Frank & Jack Arnone
- 8:00 am † The Williams, Karasis, Kurr Families & Roy

**Tuesday, December 7, 2010**
- 6:30 am The Blessed Sacrament Ministries
- 8:00 am † Mary Margaret Dahlstrom

**Wednesday, December 8, 2010**

Feast of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary
- 6:30 am † Liz Kennedy
- 8:00 am † Jim Butler
- 9:15 am
- 7:00 pm The People of St. Luke Parish

**Thursday, December 9, 2010**
- 6:30 am † Thomas E. McCahill
- 8:00 am Special Intention

**Friday, December 10, 2010**
- 6:30 am
- 8:00 am † Robert Ignas

**Saturday, December 11, 2010**
- 8:00 am Special Intention of the Eder Family

**Altar Servers & Holy Day Ministers**

**Monday - Friday, December 6-10, 2010**
- 8:00 am Mon-Fri: L Tonino, L Sloan

**Wednesday, December 8, 2010, 7:00 pm Mass**
- Servers C Josephs, G Buelvas; Cross Bearer: E Ponce
- Readers Gene Lawrence, Julia Mannix
- Euch Min F Darley, B Darley, W Piper

**Weekend Liturgies**

**Saturday, December 11, 2010**
- 5:30 - Mass Intention: † Frank Sepanski
- Servers C Riggis, A Trucco; Cross Bearer: C Hopkinson
- Readers Joe Bobak, Michael Mrkvicka
- Euch Min Y Bobak, D Hopkinson, B Peterson, H Peterson, K Roche, A Roche, M Shalloo

**Sunday, December 12, 2010**
- 7:30 - Mass Intention: † Dr. Robert Lee Muldoon
- Servers P Flanagan, C Flynn; Cross Bearer: T Skapek
- Readers Nan Brouilette, John Lynch
- Euch Min S Kruisinski, L Neal, S Scelfo

**9:00 - Mass Intention: † Paul Busse**
- Servers J Flatley, J Harrington; Cross Bearer: L Irvin
- Readers Marcce Gavula, Caitlin Lutz
- Euch Min L Froelich, T Graefe, A Ramirez, G Rara, R Romano, P Romano, K Smith

**10:30 - Mass Intention: The People of St. Luke Parish**
- Servers A Brennan, J Kurtenbach; Cross Bearer: A Brennan
- Readers Noreen O’Malley, Bob Miller
- Euch Min S Brennan, D Kurtenbach, J O’Hara, E Ramos, D Ross, L Winikates, J Winikates

(continued in next column)

**Readings**

Readings for the Week of December 5, 2010

**Sunday:** 11:1-10/Rom 15:4-9/Mt 3:1-12
**Monday:** Is 35:1-10/Lk 5:17-26
**Tuesday:** Is 40:1-11/Mt 18:12-14
**Wednesday:** Gn 3:9-15, 20/Eph 1:3-6, 11-12/Lk 1:26-38
**Thursday:** Is 41:13-20/Mt 11:11-15
**Friday:** Is 48:17-19/Mt 11:16-19
**Saturday:** Sir 48:1-4, 9-11/Mt 17:9a, 10-13

Next Sunday: Is 35:1-6a, 10/Jas 5:7-10/Mt 11:2-11

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**Please Pray for Our Sick:**
- Michael Brady, Joseph Dahlstrom, Frank Kurr, Bob Meek, Jeanne O’Connor, Dennis Rakowski and Richard Sullivan

**And for Our Deceased.**

**Stewardship of Treasure**

Therefore, every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.

—Matthew 3:10

Do you bear good fruit for Christ? Or do you spend your time, talent and treasure constantly acquiring more toys, clutter and junk. As we are immersed in the Holiday shopping season, now might be a good time to evaluate what gifts do we give to God.

From the weekend of November 28, 2010
- Weekly Giving Goal .................. $17,100.00
- Actual Weekly Giving .................. 14,596.00

**2010-2011 Fiscal Year to Date**
- Weekly Giving Goal .................. 376,200.00
- Actual Weekly Giving .................. 301,836.00
- Unmet Needs for Year .................. ($74,364.00)

We are always very grateful for the sacrifices you make to support the mission, goals, and ministry of St. Luke Church. Thank you for your generosity!
Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Soon your parish will be presenting the annual collection for the Retirement Fund for Religious, which provides for the care of elderly Catholic sisters, brothers and religious order priests.

As I reflect on the role that religious have played in our Church, I am reminded of the many ways in which these dedicated women and men serve as bridges of faith. Through their service in Catholic schools and parishes, they offer a bridge to both academic knowledge and faith formation. Through their corporal works of mercy, they are bridges of hope, serving as models of God’s love to the poor, the sick, the lonely and the oppressed. In a special way during their retirement years, they serve as bridges of grace, embracing the opportunity to focus more fully on praying for our Church and our world.

I realize there are numerous worthy causes in need of assistance and that many individuals and families continue to struggle financially. I ask you simply to offer what you can for the care of women and men who have made such enormous contributions to our Church.

Thank you for your support of this appeal. During this Advent Season, you and those you love will be in my prayers in a special way; please keep me in yours.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Francis Cardinal George, O.M.I.
Archbishop of Chicago
St. Luke held its annual “Turkey Sunday” event on November 21, collecting food for over 255 families in the North Lawndale community. The event, now in its 24th year, is part of the larger, year-long effort to support the Tuition Assistance Program, The Learning Center, Blessed Sacrament Youth Center, and Social Services Outreach and Senior Citizens Group of St. Agatha Parish.

Volunteers from Youth Ministry, Scouts, and the parish school collected food donations outside the church from the early morning until early afternoon. A convoy of volunteers stacked vanloads of turkeys, potatoes, onions and carrots outside Caputo’s Foods in Elmwood Park – made possible from parish cash contributions toward the effort. Parishioners and additional Youth Ministry volunteers worked with teens from the Blessed Sacrament Youth Center to pack the bags full of healthy, nutritious food for area families.

St. Luke power shopper Marcee Gavula, who commandeered the convoy at Caputo’s, said, “St. Luke is a wonderfully-generous parish. We grow this program a little every year. The parishioners that offer to drive this food into the city are so giving of their time (and muscles for loading and unloading). This year, for the first time, we worked with Caputo’s. What a nice experience; they were both generous and helpful. I look forward to this day every year.”

Tony Graefe, who organized the event, said, “This was a great parish-wide effort to do what we are called to do as Catholic Christians, to love our neighbors.”
GATHERINGS FROM THE PARISH AND THE COMMUNITY

STOCK AND MUTUAL FUND DONATIONS

Now is the time to start thinking about making a Stock and/or Mutual Fund donation to St. Luke Parish. As we approach the end of tax year 2010, staff members at Parish Operations – Archdiocesan Banks are ready to assist you. Please visit their website at www.archchicago.org or call 312-534-5399 for a packet of information that makes the process simple. You may also contact our parish Business Manager, Glenn Wagner at 708-435-8921.

Thank you for including St. Luke Parish in your holiday and year-end giving.

YOUR CHRISTMAS CHECKLIST

Do you have St. Luke Parish on your Christmas gift list? Christmas is traditionally a time for making a significant donation to the parish. Our goal this year is $115,000. This generosity is needed if we are going to continue to support all of our ministries. With everyone’s help we hope to exceed our goal.

Thank you for making St. Luke’s a priority in your gift giving.

ADVENT RECONCILIATION SERVICE

One important way to prepare spiritually for Christmas is to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation. We will have a Communal Reconciliation Service, with the opportunity for private confessions, on Saturday, December 18, at 1:00 pm.

As always, confessions are heard at St. Luke immediately after every morning Mass, Monday through Saturday. Let us avail ourselves of the special graces of this sacrament as we prepare for Christmas.

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CHRISTMAS CARDS FOR DWIGHT

At all Masses next weekend there will be an opportunity to send a Christmas card to a woman incarcerated at Dwight Correctional Center in Dwight, IL.

Last year many of the women at Dwight responded to the parish community to say how our cards and messages had lifted their spirits, reminding them that the child we celebrate at Christmas came to bring joy to our hearts and redeem us from our sins.

Cards and addressed envelopes will be provided. The return address is St. Luke Parish.

We are asked to write a brief note and sign our first name. The St. Luke Peace and Justice Committee and the St. Luke Respect Life Committee will mail the cards.

Please take a moment next weekend to send a card and remember that Jesus told us that when we visit those in prison, we visit Him.

—Lauretta Froelich and Clare Faherty

—for the Respect Life and Peace and Justice Committees

LITURGICAL ENVIRONMENT

As St. Luke Church prepares for the Holiday Season, we invite those with an eye for design or just a desire to help create a beautiful worship environment to join us. Preparation or set-up usually occurs on the eve of a feast or on a weekday before a liturgical season begins.

To help us in setting up the Church environment this Advent and Christmas, please contact Denise Murray at 708-488-9941.

Save the date to join us and ask your friends and family to join in. Please let us know of your availability!

December 21, Tuesday, 9:00 am – Noon
Prepare Decorations for Christmas

December 24, Friday, 8:30 am – 11:30 am
Decorate for Christmas

We thank you for considering being a part of this ministry and know that the entire St. Luke community so values the gift of your time and talent.

Thank you.
**Prime Timers**

The Prime Timers had a wonderful day visiting two historical churches. First we went to St. Mary of the Angels, an Opus Dei parish. It has been restored to its original beauty with a beautiful dome. Right now they are working on the statues of angels which adorn the outer dome on the church. Several Prime Timers had questions about Opus Dei and the discussion was very informative. We had a fun lunch at Club Lucky in Logan Square where we were joined by Fr. Paul our former pastor. He then escorted us to his retirement church, St. John Berchmans, for a tour and history of the church.

**Prayers for Our Military Personnel**

As the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq continue, let us pray that all our military personnel may be kept safe from harm and return safely home to their loved ones. We pray especially for those who have died recently, including L/Cpl ArdenJoseph A. Buenagua, SSG Sean M. Flannery, Sgt David J. Luff Jr., Sgt David S. Robinson, and Sgt Jason T. Smith. May they rest in peace.

And let us pray that the leaders of our nation and of all nations may work uniringly to end all war and violence and to build a true and lasting peace among all peoples.

**Thanks for Being Life-Savers!**

All of us at Aid for Women are most sincerely grateful for the support of Fr. Fischer and the Parishioners of St. Luke Parish for your participation in our Baby Bottle Fundraiser. Because of your generous contribution of $2,401.31, Aid for Women is able to continue our assistance to women with unplanned pregnancies. Thank you for your support and may God grant you every grace and blessing!

If you would like to continue to support our clients throughout the year, we always welcome material items such as new baby outfits, Babies R Us gift cards, and other new baby items.

**Religious Education News**

**First Reconciliation**

The Second Graders of the parish with last names beginning with the letters M-Z will participate in the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time on Saturday, December 11. Please keep the children and their families in your prayers.

**Advent Evening of Reflection**

“If Jack Shea is on to something when he suggests that ‘God can’t do anything here without our cooperation’, then we might come to think about Advent as a time of “Lamaze Classes for Believers”! . . . So let's get ready to conceive and breath and push a little bit of desperately needed Divine Presence into this world of ours.”

Thursday, December 9
7:00 – 9:00 pm
St. Giles’ McDonough Hall (upstairs)
1101 Columbian Avenue, Oak Park
Questions? Call: Mary Ellen Sullivan
708-383-4185 ext. 103

**Terry Nelson-Johnson**

As the facilitator of the Kairos retreats at Loyola Academy and creator of the Beloved retreats now popular in many parishes, and as Director of Faith Formation at Old St. Pat’s in the Loop, Terry has transformed lives, illuminated the everyday with the fire of God and helped ordinary Catholics live out the sacraments with new clarity and energy.

Although he has a special rapport with teenagers, Terry has a gift of communicating with persons of all ages. His tools are reverence for the religious dimension of everyday experience, a fabulous sense of humor, the ability to describe our deepest feelings and to tell stories you will never forget.

Cover art: Peaceable Kingdom (1820) by Edward Hicks (1780-1849) oil on canvas
On Wednesday, November 6, St. Luke’s 6th, 7th and 8th graders spent two hours at Concordia University providing assistance to college students who organized the Feed My Starving Children service project. Feed My Starving Children is a non-profit Christian organization committed to feeding God’s starving children hungry in body and spirit. The approach is simple: children and adults hand-pack meals formulated specially for starving children, and the meals are shipped to nearly 70 countries around the world. The day began with the movie When Did I See You Hungry chronicling hunger in America, Mexico, Haiti, India and the Dominican Republic. Prior to walking to Concordia, the students had a small lunch of “chicken, rice, soy and veggies”, a small taste of the meals they would be packing. Our efforts were targeted at feeding the poor and starving people of Haiti. In just under two hours the students assembled, packed, boxed and crated food for shipment of enough food to feed 49,768 people one meal.

Whatsoever you did for the least of these, you did for me.

ST. LUKE SCHOOL NEWS

FEED MY STARVING CHILDREN

On Wednesday, November 6, St. Luke’s 6th, 7th and 8th graders spent two hours at Concordia University providing assistance to college students who organized the Feed My Starving Children service project. Feed My Starving Children is a non-profit Christian organization committed to feeding God’s starving children hungry in body and spirit. The approach is simple: children and adults hand-pack meals formulated specially for starving children, and the meals are shipped to nearly 70 countries around the world. The day began with the movie When Did I See You Hungry chronicling hunger in America, Mexico, Haiti, India and the Dominican Republic. Prior to walking to Concordia, the students had a small lunch of “chicken, rice, soy and veggies”, a small taste of the meals they would be packing.

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YOUTH MINISTRY

Pray For Us

Please pray for all the freshmen and sophomores of St. Luke who participated in the FR-SO Retreat this weekend that they may continue to recognize the light of Christ in their lives as they go forth to be a light to the world.

Serve With Us

This summer, the teens of St Luke and their adult leaders will serve God’s children at volunteer sites all over the country. From building homes with Habitat for Humanity in Kentucky to volunteering at the Winnebago Reservation in Nebraska to working at food pantries right here in Chicago, you can also be part of this great work:

• First, we need to raise enough money to make these trips happen, and you can contribute to these efforts by donating money at our Stock Sale on December 18th and 19th.
• Second, you can still sign-up to be a part of these excellent trips as a teen participant or adult leader. Contact Amanda in the Youth Office to obtain a registration packet and more information.
• Third, please include in your prayers the teens of St Luke, their adult leaders, and the people with whom we will be working.

Thank you for your continued support!

Join Us

Join us for the high school faith sharing group for teens tonight at 6:30pm in the Convent.

Peace,
Amanda Collins, Coordinator of Youth Ministry
708-435-8922 • acollins@stlukeparish.org
Check-out the YM page at www.stlukeparish.org.
Catholics Come Home

Once again this year the Archdiocese of Chicago will partner with the Dioceses of Joliet and Rockford on an evangelization initiative called Catholics Come Home. This effort will use TV commercials that will air December 17 to January 17 on ten major networks in English, Spanish and Polish. We encourage our parishioners to pray for those who have left the Church and invite them to join us at St. Luke. We lovingly invite all those who have drifted away, to come home, to find healing, answers and support.

More details will be given in next week’s bulletin.

500 Club

The St. Luke Athletic Committee would like to congratulate the following winner of the 500 Club drawing:

November 28, 2010  Ellen Beckman

Thank you to all who have purchased memberships in the Club, the proceeds of which go directly to fund the school’s athletic programs.

Submission Deadlines for Upcoming Bulletins

Please note that the deadline for submission of articles for upcoming bulletins is as follows:

December 12 bulletin: 9 am Monday, December 6
(covers events from December 12-18)

December 19 bulletin: 9 am Friday, December 10
(covers events from December 19-24)

December 25-January 2 (2-week) bulletin:
  9 am Wednesday, December 15
  (covers events from December 25-January 8)

January 9 bulletin: 9 am Monday, January 3
(covers events from January 9-15)

Articles may be dropped off at the parish office, faxed to 708-771-8809, or e-mailed to stlukeparish@stlukeparish.org.
For more information, call 708-771-8250.

Please Join Us . . .

our students and faculty will be celebrating
an Advent Prayer Service
Monday, December 6,
at 2:15 pm in the Church.

The Feast of the Immaculate Conception
Wednesday, December 8,
at the 9:15 am Mass in the Church.
Everyone is welcome to attend!

Pastoral Staff

Rev. Kenneth J. Fischer, Pastor
Rev. Robert P. Marchwiany, Associate Pastor
Rev. Leroy A. Wickowski, Retired

Parish Info

Rectory
Phone: 708-771-8250
528 Lathrop Avenue, River Forest 60305-1835
Sue Gamache, Office Manager: 708-435-8912

School
Barbara Rasinski, Principal
Phone: 708-366-8587
519 Ashland Avenue, River Forest 60305-1824

Religious Education
Debi DeMario: 708-771-5959
519 Ashland Avenue, River Forest 60305-1824

Music Director
Arlene Michna: 708-435-8926

Assistant Music Director
Sr. Maureen Sauer: 708-435-8914

Coordinator of Youth Ministry
Amanda Collins: 708-435-8922

Parish Business Manager
Glenn Wagner: 708-435-8921

Director of Stewardship & Development
Sheila Price: 708-435-8927

Masses
Saturday - 5:30 pm
Sunday - 7:30, 9:00, 10:30 am & 12:00 noon
Weekdays
Monday-Friday 6:30 and 8:00 am
Saturday 8:00 am

Reconciliation
Monday-Friday - After 6:30 & 8:00 am Masses
Saturday - After 8:00 am Mass, and by appointment