

SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

January 17, 2021

Rev. Bert S. Kozen, V.F., Pastor

Dear Parishioners,

We have completed our Christmas Season and the holiday celebrations are over. Now we enter the long, dark and cold weeks of winter. In our Liturgical Year the next four weeks comprise of what are referred to as Winter Ordinary Time. It is easy for us to experience a little bit of a letdown during these weeks especially as we continue to cope with the COVID pandemic. Many counselors even refer to a disorder that can result from a lack of sunshine and warmth that is prevalent during this time of year.

In our journey of faith, it is important for us to remember that God is always with us. Regardless of what the weather might be or the lack of major liturgical feasts or the ongoing challenges of the pandemic, we are invited to offer him our worship and our praise. The scriptures and liturgy of these weeks continue to inspire us to live the Gospel message.

The Gospel for today shows John the Baptist pointing to Jesus as the Messiah, the one who was to come after him. Jesus identified himself most often as the Servant of God, referencing to the passage we have today from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah. Jesus called disciples to follow him and to act as servants for others. This is our common call today as members of the Church.

If we accept this call to discipleship, if we strive to follow in the footsteps of Jesus then there is little that is ordinary in our lives. Although, "The weather outside is frightful yet the fire of God's love is delightful," - pardon the pun. We can make the most of these weeks by truly celebrating the exceptional and extraordinary time that God gives us as the Church and His people. God continues to be with us and that can and does make all the difference.

May God Bless You,

Father Bert

COVID PROTOCOLS IN PLACE

As we enter into the new year of 2021, just a reminder that our Covid protocols are still in place. That means masks are required to be worn coming into the church building and also during the entirety of Mass. Also, hand sanitizing and social distancing are both still being followed. Help us to maintain a safe environment for all our parishioners. Remember it is not about **YOU** it is about **US**.

DAY OF PRAYER FOR THE UNBORN

Friday, January 22 is the Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children. This Mass will be held at St. Luke Church at 8:00 am. The Mass Intention for that Mass is "For respect to all human life from conception to natural death." All are encouraged to attend.

DAILY MASS CANCELED

Daily Mass has been canceled for Monday, January 18 at St. Luke Church.

RECORDED WEEKEND MASS

The obligation to attend Sunday Mass remains suspended by the bishop at this time. Some parishioners are uncomfortable or unable to attend Mass so we will continue to record and upload the Sunday Mass to the parish website every Saturday by 7:00pm.

2020 CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS

Parishioner contribution statements for 2020 are now available through the parish office. If you would like a verified copy of your contributions to either IC or SL Churches, please notify the parish office at 570-745-3301. Contribution statements are based upon your donations given by way of your contribution envelopes. Statements will be mailed only to those parishioners who request them.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Jan 17 SL/IC No CCD

Feb 21 Evening Confirmation Class 5:00-6:00pm SL Church

Mar 13 Confirmation Retreat, 7 & 8 Grade 9:00-4:00pm IC Parish Hall

Apr 18 Confirmation, 8 Grade 3:00pm IC Church

FEAST OF THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD/CANDLEMASS

The Church celebrates the Solemn Feast of the Presentation of the Lord on Tuesday, February 2. This feast recalls the day on which Jesus Christ was presented in the temple by Mary and Joseph. This feast is also commemorated as the Fourth Joyful Mystery of the Rosary, it celebrates Jesus as the Light of revelation to all the nations. According to ancient tradition, candles are blessed on this day, both those used in the church and the home. In accordance with the liturgy for the day, special candles will be blessed at Mass for the faithful to take home and use. Families have customarily lit them at the table for Easter and Christmas dinner, for sacramental visits of Holy Communion and Holy Anointing, and for blessed protection in lightening storms and power outages. **The Mass for the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord will be offered at Immaculate Conception Church, Tuesday, February 2 at 8:00 a.m.** A box of 2 blessed candles may be obtained for a donation of \$5 a box at both our churches.

FEAST OF SAINT BLAISE

The Church celebrates the Feast of St. Blaise on **Wednesday, February 3**. He was Bishop of Sebaste in Armenia in the fourth century. Before being martyred, he is said to have healed a boy who was choking. His is venerated today as the patron of those who suffer from diseases of the throat. **The finale blessing at all the weekend Masses January 30 & 31 will be through the intercession of St. Blaise. There will be no individual throat blessings.**

CCD BREAK

There will be no CCD classes on Sunday, January 17 at both our parishes due to the Martin Luther King Holiday. Classes will resume on Sunday, January 24.

PARISH OFFICE CLOSED

The Parish Office will be closed on Monday, January 18. It will reopen on Tuesday, January 19 at 9:00am.

CONFIRMATION CANDIDATES

There are some very important upcoming events planned for both 7 & 8 Grade Confirmation Candidates. The Confirmation Retreat for **both the seventh and eighth grade candidates** is scheduled for Saturday, March 13, with a snow date of Saturday, March 20. The retreat will begin at 9:00a.m. and will be conducted in the Immaculate Conception Parish Hall. Lunch will be provided as well as an opportunity for the Sacrament of Reconciliation and conclude with the 4:00p.m. Mass. The Confirmation retreat is mandatory for candidates preparing for the sacrament. We have also scheduled times for the interviews for the **eighth-grade candidates only**. These dates and times are:

Sunday, February 21, 2:00p.m.-4:30p.m. in SL Rectory (please note the Evening Confirmation meeting for the month is that same day).

Sunday, February 28, Noon- 2:00p.m. in IC Rectory

Sunday, March 7, Noon-2:00p.m. in IC Rectory

It is the responsibility of the candidate to contact the parish office at 570-745-3301 and set up the interview time and date. The interviews are scheduled in 15 minutes blocks; a parent, sponsor or another adult must accompany the candidate for the interview.

PA HUMAN LIFE MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

There will be a member of the PA for Human Life in the vestibule of IC & SL at all Masses on January 23 & 24 conducting a membership drive. Membership forms are also available in the vestibules and can be completed and put in the collection basket or mailed to address found on the form. Please prayerfully consider joining our fight for life.

CANDLE REQUESTS

The sanctuary candle will burn during the month of January at **St. Luke** for: *Lee Kilpatrick as requested by his family.* **Immaculate Conception** for: *For the survival of our Country as requested by Frank & Vivian Eck and the deceased members of the Moore Family as requested by Dennis & Jan Moore.* **Sanctuary candles are still available to sponsor at both our churches for 2021.**

JS LOVE CENTER FOOD PANTRY

Boxes are located in the vestibule of both our churches for donations for the Jersey Shore Love Center Food Pantry: *For the month of January the pantry is in need of: Apple sauce (canned or plastic-please no glass jars).*

SERVERS SCHEDULE

Saturday, January 23

	IC 4:00 p.m.	SL 6:00 p.m.
<i>Altar Servers</i>	Emily Stetts Hannah Sweet	Lily Reid Sophie Reid
<i>Cantor</i>	Alex Lazorka	Ann Dawson
<i>Lector</i>	Kyleigh Hager	Diane Johnson
<i>Communion Ministers</i>	Veronica Sander	Evelyn Rall

Sunday, January 24

	IC 8:30 a.m.	SL 10:30 a.m.
<i>Altar Servers</i>	Alayna McGovern	Cailyn Schall Kylie Schall
<i>Cantor</i>	Maggie Sander	Jarod Engel
<i>Lector</i>	Sue Sander	Paul Ryan
<i>Communion Ministers</i>	Adrienne Miller	Sue Scanlan

SL WEEKLY SANCTUARY CLEANER

The following SL parishioner is scheduled to clean the sanctuary **January 22**: Barb Kozlowski.

IC CHURCH CLEANERS

The following IC parishioners are scheduled to clean the church on **January 23**: D. Bush & R. Keller.

Mass Intentions

Monday (January 18) Weekday

NO MASS

Tuesday (January 19) Weekday

8:00am (IC) Travis Stetts
by Frank & Joy Stetts

Wednesday (January 20) Weekday

8:00am (IC) Frank Winter
by Dale & Carmie Winter

Thursday (January 21) St. Agnes, Virgin and Martyr

7:00pm (IC) Irene Stopper Olszewski
by M/M Joseph Yokitis

Friday (January 22) Weekday/Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children

8:00am (SL) For the respect of all human life from conception to natural death

Saturday (January 23) Vigil: Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

4:00pm (IC) Jason Bartges
by Mom, Dad, Ryan and Jordan

6:00pm (SL) Mary E. Corson
by Scott & Mary Jane Bennett

Sunday (January 24) Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:30am (IC) For the people of our parishes

10:30am (SL) Valentine Cavage
by Fr. Bert

A link is available on our parish website to view the weekend Mass celebrated by Fr. Kozen: icslchurch.net

ST. LUKE FINANCIAL REPORT

The information below is St. Luke's financial running total according to the Monthly Financial Reports. Actual money in and actual money out.

July	- 4,704.46
August	+ 675.74
September	- 2,980.76
October	+ 749.69

Year-to-date Total: -6,259.79

WEEKLY OFFERING

	SL	IC
Weekly	\$3,342.00	\$2,136.00
Loose	110.00	46.00
Monthly	911.00	815.00
Solemnity of Mary	122.00	87.00
Christmas	20.00	170.00
Votive Candles	24.00	0
Utilities	0	235.00
Total Collection:	\$ 4,529.00	\$ 3,489.00

Additional Collections

Building Fund	0	460.00
Care & Edu Priest	81.00	137.00
Diocese Appeal (2021)	136.00	47.00

May the Lord reward your generosity

