

St. Luke Parish Newsletter

September, 2017

Dates to Remember.....

FROM THE DESK OF FR. JOHN

My Dear Family of Faith,

October 8 - Mass time change

8:30am Mass at St. Luke's
10:00am Mass at St. John's followed by
St. John's Fall Dinner

October 13

St. Luke's Grandparents Day
10:30am Mass

October 15

All-School Alumni Mass at 10:00am
followed by Fellowship

October 31

Vigil of the Feast of All Saints
5:15pm Mass at St. Luke's

November 1

Holy Day - Feast of All Saints
8:30am Mass at St. Luke's
7:00pm Mass at St. John's

November 15

St. John's School Silent Auction
St. John's Parish Center

November 18/19

Fellowship after Masses

November 22

Thanksgiving Ecumenical Prayer
Service at 7:00pm.
Location to be determined

November 23 - Thanksgiving Day

9:00am Mass at St. Luke's

November 29

Sacrament of Confirmation
7:00pm Mass at St. Luke's

December 7

Vigil for Immaculate Conception
6:30pm Mass at St. Luke's

December 8

Holy Day - The Immaculate Conception
8:30am Mass at St. John's
6:30pm Mass at St. John's

December 14

St. Luke School Christmas Program
1:30pm and 7:00pm

December 24 - Christmas Eve

4:00pm Mass at St. Luke's
6:00pm Mass at St. John's
9:00pm Mass at St. Luke's

December 25 - Christmas Day

9:00am Mass at St. John's

When we have good news to share, such as a job promotion or the birth of a new baby, we can't wait to share this news with others. It fills us with happiness to see the look of excitement and joy on their faces. However, the excitement of our good news eventually tends to fade, and life goes on as normal. Well, what about the Good News that has eternal value - the Good News of all that God has done for us through His Son - our Savior, Jesus Christ? Did you know the word Gospel is from the Greek, and means to share the good news (evangelize)? There are practical strategies for evangelization.

First, deepen your knowledge of the Catholic tradition. We have an extremely smart, rich, and profound tradition, including the incomparable Scriptures, treasures of theology, spirituality, art, architecture, literature, and the inspiring witness of the saints. To know this tradition is to enter an illuminating world of meaning. Most Catholics stopped their formal religious education in eighth grade, or perhaps in senior year of high school.

A great website to kick start our education in the Catholic faith is the great website catholiccomehome.org. Also, start out by reading the four gospels of the Bible (St. John and St. Luke being two of them) and carve out a portion of your day in prayer. In a word, learn the tradition of Catholic Christianity, so to be a better bearer of it to others.

Second, invite someone you know to come back to church. Evangelization can focus on the re-activating of inactive Catholics. Everyone reading these words knows someone - a friend, a co-worker, a family member, perhaps even a godson or goddaughter - who has stopped attending Mass or availing himself of the sacraments. Resolve in the next year to send that person a note, give him or her a phone call, sit down for a good conversation - and urge him or her to come home to church. This overture might cost you; it might prove a bit uncomfortable or embarrassing. Evangelization is always a risk. For the sake of that person's spiritual health, take it.

Third, let the language of the faith be naturally on your lips. Many of us Catholics - consciously or unconsciously - censor our own speech against anything smacking of our religious convictions. We learn early on the etiquette of a pluralist society: it is not polite to talk in public settings about politics or especially religion. To be sure, we should never be aggressive or overbearing about our faith, but we should never go along with social conventions that require a privatization of our religion.

Our faith must be all-pervasive, both public and private, both personal and professional. Thus, at your place of work, at social gatherings, among friends, allow your Catholic convictions to come alive through your words and actions. And the non-verbal can be just as important: put a crucifix or a picture of a favorite saint up in your office; arrange to have a Biblical quote as the screen-saver on your computer. If this prompts a reaction or a question, so much the better for evangelical purposes. How many people in your circle of acquaintances or in your place of business even know that you are a Catholic? I would submit that if the answer to that question is few to none, then you have been too reticent in your everyday evangelizing.

Fourth, don't be afraid to pray in public. How many times have you sat down with your family or with Catholic friends at a restaurant and have simply dug into your food without offering a word of thanks? Again, a simple, unaffected prayer, publicly offered, can be a powerful witness to those around you. What are always loved are the looks of bewildered admiration on the faces of the regular denizens of the place. Don't underestimate the evangelical power of demonstrating your faith in public.

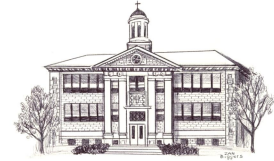
Jesus told his disciples to proclaim the Gospel to all nations. This call went out, not simply to the leaders of the church then and now, but to all of us, to all the baptized, to every one of the people of God.

In Christ,

Father John



School News



St. Luke School Mission Statement

Our mission at St. Luke's School is to provide an environment that will nurture each individual, unique child spiritually, academically and socially!



There are 102 students enrolled in St. Luke School for the 2016-17 school year. We added a few more iPads to accommodate a few extra middle school kids. Students in grades 5th - 8th have 1:1 iPads to use here at school and to take home to assist them in their homework and studies at home. Students in younger grades have iPads to share in class. We also purchased laptops for several teachers who needed replacements, we installed some new and better security, and we updated memory and capacity of all the desktops in our computer lab. All of our technology over the years has been purchased through donations and fundraising and continues to be funded by these donations and the Golf Outing fundraiser. We owe so much to the generosity of alumni, parish members and those who help participate in our many fundraising events. We are very blessed and very grateful!

We have two new teachers on staff this year. Our new third grade teacher is Ms. Emily Heller.

"I grew up in a suburb of Philadelphia, and later moved to Baltimore to attend Loyola University Maryland. At Loyola, I received a BA in Elementary Education and a minor in Special Education. After college, I joined the Jesuit Volunteer Corps for two years, and taught first grade at a small, Catholic school on an Indian Reservation in Montana. From there, I moved to Washington, DC, and worked in Early Childhood Education for two years at Beauvoir, the National Cathedral Elementary School."

"I recently moved to Madison to pursue a Master's degree in Edgewood College's Reading Specialist Program. It is truly exciting to be able to use new ideas and knowledge gained from

graduate school in the classroom each day!"

Emily recently taught third grade part-time at St. John's in Spring Green and is looking forward to be teaching third grade again this year, full-time at St. Luke's. Welcome Ms. Heller!

Our new music teacher is Mrs. Kris Herbrand. You may know Kris from playing at weekend Masses at St. Luke's, and accompanying Sisters in Song and the Adult Choir. Kris will be teaching music at St. Luke's School, part-time, for grades 4K- 8th. She will also accompanying school masses.

She is originally from Arena and a River Valley High School graduate, attended UW Eau Claire for her BM, and received her Masters Degree from Viterbo. She taught Elementary General Music, and Middle School and High School Choral Music for the past 42 years. Kris recently retired from teaching music at Hawthorne Elementary in Madison.

Kris is "excited to be able to continue to do what I love doing, and would like to expand the instrument inventory to enrich the students musical experience." Welcome Mrs. Herbrand!

We have implemented a couple new things this year. For our weekly student Masses, and some other events, our students will be wearing Spirit Wear/ Mass Attire. It will be a Lands End, navy blue polo shirt with a St. Luke's logo and khaki or black pants. Fr. John, the Education Commission and I think this will help students understand what acceptable Mass attire is, and I think our students will look very nice!

We have also begun to use a student management system (TADs) for enrollment, student information, tuition and hot lunch. Once this system is in place, parents are able to make payments for tuition, hot lunch, field trips, and other miscellaneous fees, online with their credit card, directly from their bank account, or mail to TADs. Also, at registration a child's information will be entered into the system and there won't be the need for parents to repeat information on several forms. They will only need to make

updates from year to year. This will also give us a variety of ways to retrieve information about our students without filing through paper or electronic files to find what we need.

We had some flooding on the bottom floor just before school started. We have temporarily relocated the 3PK and 4K from the bottom floor to the top floor in the building and are working on getting the damages cleared up so they can go back downstairs. We had some wonderful community and school families as well as local businesses drop everything to come and help us out. We are keeping the health and well-being of our students first and foremost as we are making repairs to the classrooms. Please keep us in your prayers.

We are looking forward to several events this fall. Among them are Grandparents' Day on October 13th, First Reconciliation Retreat on November 4th, and our Christmas Program on December 14th.

Also, be sure to mark your calendars for **St. Luke's First Annual Gala** on



Saturday, February 17th. It will be held at the Wisconsin Riverside Resort. We have booked Dueling Pianos, and there will be lots of fun auction items and raffles and games. If you would like to help, have an idea or something you would like to donate, we are looking for items. Perhaps you have football tickets, a time-share, or a service that someone would like to bid on. Be creative, and call the school office to let us know!

Good things are happening at St. Luke's School! For more information, a tour or to register a child in 3-year old preschool through eighth grade, please call 546-2963.



Faith Formation/Pastoral Ministry



Baptism Preparation

Class: First time parents or (parents-to-be) are required to attend one Baptism Prep Class prior to their child's baptism. One or both parents should be registered in the parish to have their child baptized here.

One reminder: Church law requires that a godparent be a practicing Catholic, has reached the age of 16, has received the Sacrament of Confirmation in the Catholic Church and participates in the Sacraments, especially attending Mass. Please call Father John at either parish office to schedule a session and/or a

Liturgical Ministries: We are always in need of more volunteers to participate in the various ministries needed for our weekend Masses. A sign-up form is on our parish website. If you are interested in being part of any of these important ministries, please sign up or contact the parish office. Ministries include: Sacristans, Greeters, Ushers, Leaders of Prayer, Lectors and Eucharistic Ministers. Training will be provided.

Those interested in helping as Eucharistic Ministers need to attend a workshop provided by the Diocese. Information is found at www.madisondiocese.org.



The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults is a journey in faith for adults wishing to be baptized, become Catholic, or receive the Sacraments of First Eucharist and/or Confirmation.

Sessions include instruction in the Catholic faith and Scripture sharing. Please pray for those participating in this process as they prepare for full membership in the Catholic Church.

Religious Education/Youth Ministry News

We have our Catechists! This is the first time in all the years of my work, I did not have to beg for catechists. Please thank the following: Lori Pulvermacher, Kristina Laack, Courtney Norton, Debbie Richardson, Doreen Laack, Monica Reeves, Gary & Barb Voss, Steve & Diane Emerson, Chuck & Vicki Fenske, and Dave Mack; Confirmation Class Assistant, Becca Oppert and staff assistant/secretary, Jacqui Cavagnetto. We have a Great Team!

This past year, St. John's had 64 families participating in the RE Program and St. Luke's had 61 families:

St. Luke Students: 1st (2), 2nd (8), 3rd (5), 4th (5), 5th (4), 6th (6), 7th (3), 8th (6), 9th (11), 10th (7), 11th (11), and 12th (16).

St. John Students: 1st (2), 2nd (2), 3rd (4), 4th (3), 5th (1), 6th (13), 7th (8), 8th (14), 9th (14), 10th (7), 11th (5), and 12th (19).

Looking at these numbers and working to give the best we can to our students and families, we have decided to combine all of our Religious Education Classes and have grades 1 - 8 attend classes at St. Luke's, 6:30 - 7:30 p.m. on scheduled Wednesday evenings.

Throughout the year, we will offer *Family Night* on certain Wednesday evenings which

will be held at St. John's Church. The High School students will participate in the Parish Confirmation Program, which will be held on various Sunday evenings; rotating between our churches.

Our Opening RE Night was Wednesday, September 13th at St. John's. Family Nights are part of our curriculum and all students are required to participate.

Father John is asking for more Youth Ministry events. Our first event this fall, was a *Scavenger Hunt*, on Saturday, September 23rd after the 4:30 Mass at St. Luke's. In October, we are preparing for the *Corn Maze* on October 14th. These events are for 6th Graders and up.

Although our numbers were down for our summer programs, students who participated are committed to getting their fellow students involved in future programs. Vacation Bible School was a learning, fun, and bonding experience. Thanks to our many *disciples* (older students helping). *Love Begins Here*, our first attempt with a Diocesan Mission Trip, was accomplished in Portage with some of our Middle School students. A Youth Ministry trip to a Mallard Game in Madison. small group / but a good time was had!



Confirmation for our Juniors and Seniors is set for Wednesday, November 29, at St. Luke's at 7:00 PM. Prayer Partners are still needed for our candidates. Please call the parish office if you have not yet signed up and wish to become a Prayer Partner.

As we begin another school year, we are planning events to help deepen our families faith lives, looking for more participation with the youth ministry activities and asking for parents assistance.

Another great year, experiencing God's Love!!

Angie Pulvermacher



Financial Information

Account Values as of 6/30/17:

- General Checking/Money Market Account- \$150,080
- Cemetery Account- \$275,424
- School Endowment- \$1,046,266
- Alt Estate- \$240,756
- Corporate Donations- \$74,068

As your pastor, I am sharing with you our annual stewardship of treasure report from the 2016-17 budget year, which ended June 30, 2017. I would like to thank the dedicated trustees and members of our Finance Council for helping us with planning and monitoring our budget throughout the year. As we reflect on the past year, I'd like to take a moment to thank Diane Kraemer for her hard work as our parish finance manager.

As you know, the Diocesan campaign, "Priest For Our Future," continues for

the next couple of years. Again, St. Luke Parish was extraordinarily successful due to your devotion and generosity. At this time, we have received rebate checks totally approximately \$22,000.00.

On January 1, 2017, St. Luke began its third year of the Offertory Pledge Program (OPP). In October, we will be implementing a different program to ask for your generosity of time, talent and treasure.

Also in 2017 we conducted the Rock of Faith+ campaign to help refurbish the front of the church. We raised over \$102,000 because of your generosity. The project is complete and looks simply amazing!!! **THANK YOU!!**

St. Luke Catholic Church's main ministry of the parish is Catholic education with our 3K through Grade 8 school. No child will ever be denied entry due to financial hardship. A

Tuition Grant Fund is available to help anyone who would like to send his or her child to Catholic school.

I ask that you prayerfully consider St. Luke as one of your children in your estate planning. Over the years, the parish has been blessed with several bequests from wills and estates. As a rule, these bequests are restricted, not used for general operating expenses, and require prior Finance Council approval before spending.

I am so grateful to all of you for your generosity, prayers and support of this beautiful parish community, built to worship our heavenly Father and to draw close to his Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. Let us continue to practice stewardship as a way of life as we build up the Body of Christ here in Plain.

***Fr. John and
St. Luke Finance Council***




 2017-2018
FISH FRY DATES:

 OCTOBER 6, 2017
 NOVEMBER 3, 2017
 FEBRUARY 2, 2018
 MARCH 2, 2018
 APRIL 6, 2018
 MAY 4, 2018
 JUNE 1, 2018
 CHURCH FESTIVAL WEEKEND:
 SAT. & SUN., JUNE 9 & 10

JOINT PARISH MISSION STATEMENT

We are a Eucharistic Community called together to celebrate our Catholic faith. As a welcoming community of God, our mission is to provide an environment that enriches our spiritual, personal and social growth through prayer, education, outreach and fellowship.

Given: September, 2010
 St. John the Evangelist and
 St. Luke Parishes

PARISH WEBSITES & E-MAIL

School: <http://stlukes-plain.org>
Parish: <http://www.stlukecatholicchurchplain.com>
CHECK OUT THE WEEKLY BULLETIN ONLINE!!
Parish E-mail: stlukesplain@charter.net