

"BUT WE HOLD THIS TREASURE IN EARTHEN
VESSELS, THAT THE SURPASSING POWER
MAY BE OF GOD AND NOT FROM US."
—Corinthians 2:4



REACH

REFLECTIONS ♦ ESSAYS ♦ ARTICLES ♦ CHATS ♦ HAPPENINGS

♦ ST. LUKE'S PARISH ♦

FALL 2018
Issue No. 23



St. Luke's Parish Ministries and Apostolates

BY KELLY O'CONNELL AND JOE LOFGREN

Jesus said that He came into the world not to be served, but to serve. Similarly, as disciples of Jesus, we are called to do the very same thing. To the Faithful, that point is clear. What is not always clear, however, are the choices available to us that match needed services with our talents and interests.

St. Luke's Parish has many worthwhile ministries and apostolates just waiting for you to answer the call to service. We have active ministries and apostolates, which are already established and ready for you to join the ranks of the current volunteers. We also have inactive ministries and apostolates. Some of these inactive ones are known to the parish, and are in an inactive status because no one has volunteered to fill the current vacancy. Then there are other inactive ones, currently unknown to the parish, which are known only to the parishioner who has identified the need for a given service, but for whatever reason, has not stepped forward to bring it to life in the parish community.

What's the difference between a ministry and an apostolate? According to the Catechism of the Catholic Church:

Ministry: The service or work of sanctification performed by the preaching of the word and the celebration of the sacraments by those in Holy Orders (893, 1536), or in determined circumstances, by laity (903). The New Testament speaks of a variety of ministries in the Church; Christ himself is the source of ministry in the Church (873-874). Bishops, priests, and deacons are ordained ministers in the Church (1548).

Apostolate: The activity of the Christian which fulfills the apostolic nature of the whole Church by working to extend the reign of Christ to the entire world (863).

St. Luke's Mission Statement

St. Luke's Parish at its core strives to live out the call of stewardship. Simply put, we are aware that all we have is a result of our gift-giving God. God blesses us with time, talent, and treasure. We attempt to respond to this God by using creatively what God has given to us. Working in partnership with God, we advance His kingdom on earth. By so doing we witness to God's presence in our midst.



Ministries continued on page 2

FROM THE PASTOR

A Message from Father Varghese

As we come together to celebrate the great American holiday of THANKSGIVING, I am truly blessed to have so much to be thankful for. Hopefully, you too have much for which to be thankful. And, certainly, as a parish and school community, we all have much to be thankful for.

The theme of this specific issue of the REACH newsletter highlights our many ministries and apostolates. I am so thankful that we have so many dedicated and talented parishioners who volunteer to staff these parish organizations. As your pastor, I attend many committee meetings, and I am constantly amazed at the high level of talent and the unbridled dedication and enthusiasm exhibited by our parishioners. I see it demonstrated on the School Advisory Board, the Parish Council, the parish and school Finance Councils, the Investment Committee, the Property Committee, and many, many more. We all owe them a debt of gratitude. It is inspiring!

Our Religious Education program got off the ground a few weeks ago, under the leadership of our Director of Religious Education, Diane Comerford. The generous response of both experienced catechists and first-time volunteer teachers, coupled with their great organizational skills and background, enables this important program to continue to grow and expand.

I am VERY PROUD of this parish community for stepping up and pulling together to make our efforts to pass on the faith to our children such a great success. This year, I have been spending more time visiting the Religious Education classes on Sunday. I am impressed by both the enrollment numbers (at the time of this writing, 354 students), and by the competence and enthusiasm of our teachers. It is really wonderful!



We have a precious gift—our faith—to hand on to the next generation. Every generation needs faith, of course, but it seems to me the need grows more critical every year. The enthusiasm with which Pope Francis was greeted in his visit to the United States speaks of the hunger we all have for the witness of genuine faith. In this day of hype and constant advertising, authentic witness is both rare and precious.

I am grateful for all those who serve us in our worship as lectors, Eucharistic Ministers, greeters, ushers, and for all the talented people who invest their time and effort in making beautiful and uplifting music for our worship. And, of course, I could go on and on about our outstanding parish staff, who serve our parishioners and the public-at-large tirelessly day in and day out.

We as a parish have a great deal for which to be thankful. So as we celebrate Thanksgiving, please remember to give thanks not only for all the blessings in your own life, but also for the blessings in our life as a parish/school community.

May God bless you all!

Fr. TJ Varghese
Pastor, St. Luke's Parish
Barrington, RI

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Taken in that context, a ministry is inwardly focused on the service or work of Church ministers related to preaching and sacraments, while an apostolate is outwardly focused on the Church's apostolic mission. For the most part, ministries support Church ministers in the performance of their ordained ministries inside the Church building itself, while apostolates are performed and driven by the laity to extend the reign of Christ beyond the doors of the Church.

With that distinction, we present to you, our loyal REACH readers, the initial version of the St. Luke's Parish Guide to Our Ministries and Apostolates. We designed this handy guide of our parish active and inactive ministries and apostolates as an insert to this newsletter. We hope that you will, indeed, pull it out and post it somewhere in your house, somewhere where you go frequently. The refrigerator comes to mind. In that way, it will serve as a constant reminder to you that your services are wholeheartedly wanted and needed in support of your parish.

On the front side of the guide is a listing of active and inactive ministries. Each active ministry includes the name of the lead, along with the lead's contact information. If a ministry is inactive at the moment, you will see the word OPEN capitalized and in bold, an eye-catching word indicating a need for someone to step up and lead that ministry. On the back side of the guide are short descriptions for most of the ministries and apostolates listed on the front side.

We hope you find the new guide informative, and hopefully it also serves as a catalyst for action by you to join up and serve in one of our many ministries and apostolates. These organizations offer you a fantastic way to serve the Lord, while also serving as a vehicle for you to meet and serve with your fellow parishioners.

If you have an idea for a new ministry or apostolate, please contact Joe Lofgren, the editor of REACH, at lofgren4@gmail.com. We will update the guide from time to time, so if you have a suggestion to improve it, you know how to REACH us.

Getting to Know our New Pastor

Fr. TJ Varghese

22 OCTOBER 2018

"I will appoint for you shepherds after my own heart, who will shepherd you wisely and prudently." Jeremiah 3:15

REACH recently sat down with Fr. TJ Varghese, Pastor of St. Luke's Parish in Barrington, RI. Fr. Varghese arrived at St. Luke's on July 1, 2018, and was installed as our pastor by Bishop Thomas Tobin on September 16, 2018. We thank Father Varghese for granting us this interview, and we look forward to worshipping and working with him for many years to come.

Welcome, Father Varghese, to your new home at St. Luke's Parish. Congratulations on your installation as our new pastor. At your installation Mass and ceremony, it was truly heartwarming to see such a tremendous turnout of your family and friends, many of them former parishioners of yours at St. Eugene's Parish in Chepachet. Would you please summarize for our readers your personal journey to the priesthood, and then briefly describe for us the impact your family and friends have had on you before and after you were ordained a priest.

"How do I know if I have a vocation? It is difficult to describe a vocation because, in a sense, a vocation is a mystery. It does not come dramatically like Paul being knocked down on the road to Damascus. God usually works in very ordinary ways. A vocation begins with a sort of nagging desire to be a priest.

"My vocation, like any vocation, began in the heart and mind of God long before I was born (see Jer 1:4). It's a response to

God's love for me. I became aware of it in my early high school years. I have always felt an attraction to the priesthood and a longing to model my life after the example of many holy priests. After years of spiritual maturation and prayerful discernment, my calling became more certain, and so, right after high school, I decided to enter college seminary and commit myself to the priestly formation program.

"As those years of study, prayer, and preparation unfolded, I became more convinced that the priesthood was God's will for me. In November 1995, I was ordained to the priesthood. Though it's only been 23 years since my ordination, the priesthood has been an amazing journey — filled with lots of challenges, but much joy.

"My family helped me to grow in faith. I was fortunate to have faithful parents, and I learned a lot of things directly from them. They are daily communicants, even now. After becoming a priest, I met a lot of good, and faithful priest friends. To this day, I still meet with them usually once a week, and we usually get together for a nice dinner twice a month. We share our difficulties, and our common challenges and joys. It's a big, big strength for me. It keeps me going.

"I want to be a priest because I have a strong desire to serve others. I want to help them encounter the love of God that I have received. It is my desire to be a bridge to those seeking a closer relationship with

Christ; to be a spiritual Father to those seeking the love and mercy of God. I want to be an instrument in the hands of God, but ultimately, I want to share the truth, the joy, and the love that only comes from God through the ministering of the sacraments. I want to lay down my life in love for He who lays down everything for love of you and me."

We are curious about your unusual first name? We understand 'TJ' is your legal first name, but we suspect there is an interesting story behind the name. Would you care to share that story with us?

"My legal name is TJ. My adoptive parents gave me that name when I was adopted as a child. They decided to keep my birth surname, Varghese, but my given first name was a bit too long, so they decided to anglicize it. The name TJ has no significance, no meaning behind it. There are no periods behind the T or the J. It's just TJ. My parents just thought it would be easier in the long run."

When you first learned that you were going to be the new pastor of St. Luke's Parish in Barrington, what were your initial thoughts?

"I was shocked ... and excited. I had no idea that change was coming until I got the phone call from the Bishop. I was shocked because I was doing very well at St. Eugene's; they were a very supportive

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EDITOR'S NOTE

As an adolescent, I volunteered for activities which matched my interests, usually involving playing some team sport. As a young man, I volunteered to serve in the U.S. Army out of sense of patriotism, and also, practically, to kick start my career. As a father, I volunteered to coach my kid's baseball and soccer teams because I'm really a big kid at heart, but I also wished to remain relevant in the lives of my children. And now, as a retiree, I volunteer at St. Luke's Parish to address the needs of several parish ministries and apostolates, but ultimately, I do it to serve God and my Catholic community.

According to Wikipedia, volunteering is generally considered an altruistic activity where an individual or group provides services for no financial or social gain to benefit another person, group or organization. It is often time consuming, and exhausting. During my career, work days of 10 to 12 hours were common. Back then, the last thing I wanted to do was to extend my day by volunteering for some cause after work. But, like any good soldier, I summoned up the energy to push forward and meet the need; whether it was for God, family, or community.

God has truly blessed St. Luke's Parish with many dedicated parishioners who are willing to use their time, talent, and treasure to serve the needs of our ministries and apostolates. These dedicated present-day disciples follow in the footsteps of Our Lord, Jesus Christ, who came into the world not to be served, but to serve.

Like many of you, when I first arrived as a new parishioner to St. Luke's over four years ago, I felt a strong urge to get involved. But for what cause? I just didn't want to jump at the first request for volunteers that appeared in the weekend bulletin. I wanted to do something that addressed a need of the parish, but also aligned with my interests and talents as a person.

To help you along in your own spiritual quest to serve the needs of your parish community, REACH offers you in this issue a one-page pullout which identifies for you, our loyal readers, a definitive listing of our parish's ministries and apostolates. Keep it somewhere handy in your home. Better yet, display it prominently, like

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community. However, I was at St. Eugene's for eleven years, so it was indeed time to move forward; and, of course, I wished to be obedient to the Bishop. On the other hand, I was excited as well because it is an opportunity to take up new charges, new responsibilities. Like I said, it was simply time to move forward."

You have been here now for several months. What's your assessment of the parish so far?

"It's a beautiful parish with a lot of wonderful people. It is wonderful to have an associate priest, which I never had before. I had a deacon at St. Eugene's, but not an associate. Given all the wonderful people I have met so far and having an associate priest to support me in my journey here at St. Luke's, I very much look forward to my pastoral ministry, to live out with you the justice of the Gospel, to love the goodness of God in this community, and together to walk humbly with our God through the joys and sorrows of life.

"I know I am the new kid on the block, and I am willing to sit down and listen, and grow in faith together with everyone. I have listened and will continue to listen to the input of all parishioners, which includes the Parish Council, the Finance Committee, and so on. I do everything for the good of the parish.

"So, having been here just a short while, I will say my assessment of the parish is good, but there is work to be done. I think we will have a great time together as companions on this faith-filled journey, and will learn a great deal from each other. In time, I will reveal much of who I am through the sacred liturgy, the sharing of poems, the singing of songs, and the living of our grace life at St. Luke's."

From your biography, we note that you routinely serve the poor in Providence on Friday evenings? What led you to this particular calling, and do you intend to continue doing so now that you are a busy pastor?

"...I have seen poverty firsthand. Therefore, I have developed a great passion for helping the poor. No matter what I am doing, or how busy I get, I will continue to serve the poor."

"There is great emphasis now on money and possessions but I can honestly say that nothing gives me greater pleasure than helping someone to allow God to come more into their lives. Therefore, an important part of my own ministry is helping the homeless. I have seen poverty. I have traveled many, many places in my studies and in my work, and I have seen poverty firsthand. Therefore, I have developed a great passion for helping the poor. No matter what I am doing, or how busy I get, I will continue to serve the poor.

"I have been going every Friday evening to Providence for years, and will continue to do so. It's a sacred time for me, a passion for me. It's in my blood. I have been working with the homeless, and troubled veterans, many of whom suffer from depression, some are suicidal. The poor, the homeless, the troubled veterans ... they need our help. I was happy to see several of the people I have served over the years come to my installation ceremony as pastor. It was truly heartwarming to me."

Understanding it is still early in your tenure, can you share any initial thoughts you have pertaining to the future direction of the parish?

"The ultimate goal of the priest is to preach the gospel, live the gospel, and witness the gospel to the people by the way I live, by example; and to be a holy priest and do the work of God, what God wants me to do for the parish. It is my hope that together we form a holy community of people to do the

work of God. I'm a community-oriented guy, and I want to share the truth, the joy, and the love that only comes from God through the ministering of the sacraments. I pray that I will be able to continue that great ministry of God and impart that knowledge to the people.

"As for the future of St. Luke's School, it is like a marriage. The parish is married to the school, and the school is married to the parish. It is part and parcel of our Church. The school has a great, great mission; that is, educating the Catholic faith to our children. I'm a big supporter of Catholic education. Catholic education was a big part of my life growing up. It has enabled me."

Many Catholics are very disheartened about the current crisis in the Church, specifically about the much-publicized allegations made against the clergy? As a member of the clergy, what personal message do you wish to pass along to our parishioners reference this topic?

"Priests are called to be holy, to preach the values of the gospel, and witness the values of the gospel. I was really saddened and sickened when I heard about the clergy abuse scandal. That should not happen. People look up to the clergy. The clergy are called to be role models, which the abusers failed. My advice to people is to pray for all priests, that they remain holy and close to the Lord, to include those entering into the vocation who will need your prayers to remain holy always.

"As for the impact of the scandal, please remember that only a small percentage of priests or religious were involved. Don't forget the vast majority of clergy are good priests and religious who get no publicity. I have observed dwindling numbers over the years going back to 2002, but it has seemed to have stabilized, even through this current scandal you see in the news. I believe that if the people who have left the

Church because of the scandal see priests who are truly holy, those people will return."

This issue of the REACH newsletter highlights our parish ministries and lay apostolates. Do you think our current ministries and apostolates adequately cover the need? What words do you offer to our parishioners to encourage them to get involved in their parish.

"We have a lot of ministries at St. Luke's. There is a need within our community to grow as a community and to grow spiritually. Many people have already stepped up and are participating in our ministries. For example, our Religious Education program has had great success in people volunteering for various support roles, like teachers and teachers aids. But there is much more room for more people to volunteer for this and all the other great ministries that we have, or perhaps should have.

"I especially want to encourage younger people, and those with young families to answer the call for service; service to a ministry, service to their parish community. After all, it is their parish as well as yours and mine, and the younger people are the future of the parish. There are a variety of ministries to choose from here at St. Luke's in which to apply their time, talent, and treasure. Hopefully, the younger people, and all parishioners for that matter, will heed this call for service to others, and come forward. There is always room to grow. So, again, please look over the ministries that are available and step forward. We need your help."

Thank you, Father Varghese, for your time. Do you have a take-away message for our readers?

"It is with great joy that I come to this parish community of St. Luke's. I join you as a fellow Christian so that together we may walk the path of discipleship. St. Augustine said that we have deep thirsting for God

in our lives. We need to come forward and embrace the love of God to be able to find peace in our lives. The greatest advice that I can give is that as we worship Him, know that God will take care of us. He will never leave us. He will never abandon us.

"Let me leave you with a quote from Sacred Scripture, one of my favorites, from the Prophet Micah (Micah 6: 6-8):

"With what shall I come before the Lord, and bow before God most high?

Shall I come before him with burnt offerings, with calves a year old?

Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams, with myriad streams of oil?

Shall I give my firstborn for my crime, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?

You have been told, O mortal, what is good, and what the Lord requires of you:

Only to do justice and to love goodness, and to walk humbly with your God."



EDITOR'S NOTE

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attached to your refrigerator door, as your constant reminder of the on-going need for volunteers throughout the parish. We'll update it for you, from time to time, in future issues.

Also featured in this Fall 2018 issue of REACH:

We interview Father TJ Varghese to help you get acquainted with our new pastor. Neil Kiely highlights a few noteworthy student activities at St. Luke's School.

Father Brian writes on the Sacrament of Confession, adroitly tying in the Alfred Hitchcock movie "I Confess" (1953) as a point of reference and reflection.

Bill Sweeney invites us to participate in St. Luke's Fall/Winter Parish Study, Marriage and Love in God's Plan, which is based on FORMED, the parish-funded online platform, which offers us quality Catholic videos, audio talks, eBooks and movies.

Dave Renner of the Respect Life Apostolate reports on two of our parishioners who received awards from the Diocese for their accomplishments in life issues and overall pastoral care. We continue our iCatholic series on popular internet sites, this time on Apologetics to assist you in defending your faith.

Father Brian gets you caught up with the fun-filled activities of the Youth Group.

Ann Marie keeps us current on Baptisms, Marriages, New Friends, In Memorium, and Mark Your Calendar events.

I hope you enjoy the Fall 2018 issue of REACH. Peace, and God bless each and every one of you.

Joe Lofgren
Editor, REACH Newsletter
St. Luke's Parish



Youth Group Update

BY FR. BRIAN MORRIS

This past summer, the St. Luke's Youth Group had a fully packed schedule! As you've probably seen it parked behind the rectory, we now have a parish bus that has been very useful in bringing the kids together to different events. We were also very blessed this summer to have a seminarian with us, Mark Gadoury, who helped to organize many of the events.

We finished the school year with a trip to Pawtucket to watch the PawSox play, followed by fireworks. A number of the middle school kids have been reading the Harry Potter series, so we did a movie night every Tuesday, watching one of the movies based on each of the books. The Harry Potter marathon ended in August with Father Brian attempting to make butterbeer without setting off the fire alarm again.

One event was the result of a suggestion by one of our parents. We went up to Our Lady of Mount Carmel in Seekonk to pay a visit to their perpetual adoration chapel. The kids spent about an hour in prayer with the Eucharist, and then we took the bus up to the Ice Cream Barn for a summer evening snack. Other events this summer included a team of kids going to Cranston to help build the Haunted Labyrinth, a trip to the annual Our Lady of Martyrs Festival in Woonsocket, a team competing in the Insane Inflatables 5k race in Seekonk, and hiking up Mount Monadnock. We capped off the summer with another trip to Pawtucket for the PawSox's last home game, with fireworks.

In mid-July, we teamed up with St. Eugene's and St. Paul's, and took some of our high school youths to the Steubenville Conference in



Lowell, MA. The weekend consisted of much praise and worship, Mass each day, great talks from nationally known speakers and an opportunity to meet kids of faith from across New England. Both the kids and the chaperones who attended came out of it with an increased love for Christ. One of the kids wrote: "... I was able to let myself truly talk to God and tell Him about my life, my struggles and feel His spirit guiding me to answers. This trip truly changed me and my prayer life and it's an experience that I will never forget." Hopefully, this is a trip that will continue to be a part of St. Luke's Youth Group for many years to come.

This fall, as of this writing, many great things have been going on. About 20 kids came for Mass on Columbus Day, and then went over to the Seekonk Grand Prix for some serious go-kart racing. Later in October, about 22 kids went over to the Haunted Labyrinth to volunteer in scaring to help raise money for the diocesan youth ministry. There are plenty of other events planned as well; e.g., apple picking, Tony Melendez concert, hiking trips, movie nights, Providence Bruins. A big success last year was our Christmas cookie decorating event, where the Youth Group kids helped the younger children of our parish to decorate some cookies for Santa!

Please keep our youths in your prayers and encourage those you know to participate.

"... I was able to let myself truly talk to God and tell Him about my life, my struggles and feel His spirit guiding me to answers. This trip truly changed me and my prayer life and it's an experience that I will never forget."



Upcoming Events

DECEMBER

Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception
Friday, December 7th Vigil: 7:00 p.m.
Saturday, December 8th Mass: 9:00 a.m.

Confessions in the Church
Friday, December 21st, 4:30 – 6:00 p.m.

Saturday, December 22nd
Christmas Cookie Decorating

CHRISTMAS EVE MASSES:
4:00 p.m. - Contemporary Choir
6:00 p.m. - Children's Mass/Choir
10:00 p.m. - Adult Choir

CHRISTMAS DAY MASSES:
8:30 a.m.
10:00 a.m.

JANUARY

Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God
Monday, December 31st Vigil: 5:00 p.m.
Tuesday, January 1
Mass: 8:00 a.m., 10:00 a.m.

Saturday, January 12th
First Reconciliation for Grade 2
Religious Education and St. Luke's School

FEBRUARY

Friday, February 1st
Pasta Supper - St. Luke's School, Grade 8

MARCH

Wednesday, March 6th
Ash Wednesday
Masses: 7 a.m., 9 a.m., 12 noon, 7 p.m.

Friday, March 29th
Jamaica Missionary Fish Fry

REMINDER: There will be a 7 a.m. and a 12:05 p.m. Mass, Monday thru Friday during Lent

David Boyd Barrick*son of Thomas and Nicole Barrick***Elena Rose Botelho***daughter of Jeffrey and Victoria Botelho***Finn Patrick Ford Chalmers***son of Paul and Ryan Chalmers***Joshua James Chin***son of Jason and Ly Chin***Logan Ryan DeRienzo***son of James and Colleen DeRienzo***Christine Nancy Geiser***daughter of Joseph and Heidi Geiser***Colin Joseph Gilbert***son of Paul and Margaret Gilbert***Maggie Elizabeth Hadfield***daughter of Kevin and Tricia Hadfield***Jackson Brian Hunt***son of Brian and Meagan Hunt***Riley Elizabeth Hunt***daughter of Brian and Meagan Hunt***Thomas Gabriel Ivanoski***son of Christopher and Anne Ivanoski***Luke Lucien Larochelle***son of John and Eurome Larochelle***Hadley Jane McGovern***daughter of Matthew and Chelsea McGovern***Harrison Robert Mello***son of Christian Mello and Sarah Currier***Madelyn Louise Murphy***daughter of Kyle and Lee Ann Murphy***Jackson Adam Resmini***son of Adam and Erica Resmini***Giuliana Slomka***daughter of Haji and Teresa Slomka***Karleen McKenzie Stiness***daughter of Joshua and Kaitlin Stiness***Adeline Marie Tronti***daughter of Zachary and Mary Tronti***Mary Adelaide Wieland***daughter of Sean and Kathryn Wieland***Emerson Wright***Clifford and Lindsey Wright***Fionn James and Rowan****Gilbane Zierak***sons of Sean and Catherine Zierak*

SLS UPDATE

BY NEIL KIELY

At our end of year awards ceremony, we awarded the *First Annual Drs. William and Mary Oh Academic Excellence Award*. The Oh's, both renowned pediatricians, are long time St. Luke's parishioners. We had several meetings with the Oh's about the creation of this award and what they had for a vision. William grew up in the Philippines, where a benefactor paid his tuition to attend Catholic schools as a child. He credits that gift and opportunity for a Catholic education to have contributed greatly to the person he has become today, and he wanted very much to 'pay it forward'.

The Oh's very much wanted this scholarship award to be competitive, and to reward academic excellence, regardless of need. They continue to fund the scholarship fund, so the amounts awarded should increase going forward. This year, a rising 6th, 7th and 8th grader each received a \$500 award toward their tuition. Strict academic standards were developed which can be easily tracked. The winner in each class will be that student with the highest GPA in his/her core subjects. In addition, they must maintain an average of 90 or better in the 'specials'; i.e., art, music, spanish, physical education, and health.

Just as the Oh's had hoped would be the case, the competition was fierce but especially so in one class. Throughout the last semester, there were two girls who were separated by 2/10th of 1%! When the winner was announced, everyone went wild, but no one more than the young woman who had come in 2nd. She immediately ran to embrace and congratulate the winner. After pictures were taken and people were leaving the church, the winner asked to speak with me. She said; "Mr. Kiely, would

it be possible for me to split the scholarship money with McKaela? She really pushed me to do my best, and we both worked really hard." I was floored (and taken aback frankly) by this selfless offer of generosity. Whenever I share this story, the people hearing it invariably get a lump in their throats, as did I that morning on the altar. The Oh's were delighted with this first year of competition, and touched to hear about this display of Christian leadership by one of our students.

You are all familiar with Loaves and Fishes (formerly Mobile Loaves and Fishes). This important apostolate at St. Luke's Parish shares a catering food truck (like those you see arrive at construction sites). Several times a month, the truck is loaded with bag lunches, hot dogs, hot and cold drinks, gently used clothing, and new underwear and socks. Our deliveries primarily visit areas where the homeless congregate in Providence and Woonsocket. What you may not know is that the bag lunches on the truck are prepared by the *SLS Sandwich Club*. The cost for these bag lunches is approximately \$300 for each truck load. This money

ST. LUKE'S PARISH GUIDE TO OUR MINISTRIES AND APOSTOLATES

NOVEMBER 2018

MINISTRIES

Lay Support to the Pastor and Assistant Pastor

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

OPEN

RCIA

Fr. Brian Morris

rev.brian.morris@gmail.com; 401-246-1212

Baptismal Bibs

Janet Johnson

janetjohnson@gmail.com; 401-246-0506

SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION

RCIA

Fr. Brian Morris

rev.brian.morris@gmail.com; 401-246-1212

Youth

Diane Comerford

diane@stlukesparish.com; 401-246-1363

SACRAMENT OF THE EUCHARIST

Extraordinary Ministers

Fr. Brian Morris

rev.brian.morris@gmail.com; 401-246-1212

First Communication

Diane Comerford

diane@stlukesparish.com; 401-246-1363

SACRAMENT OF PENANCE AND

RECONCILIATION

First Reconciliation

Diane Comerford

diane@stlukesparish.com; 401-246-1363

SACRAMENT OF THE ANOINTING

OF THE SICK

OPEN

SACRAMENT OF HOLY ORDERS

Fr. TJ Varghese, 401-246-1212

SACRAMENT OF MATRIMONY

Fr. TJ Varghese, 401-246-1212

ACOLYTES (ALTAR SERVERS)

Fr. Brian Morris

rev.brian.morris@gmail.com; 401-246-1212

CHURCH ENVIRONMENT (DECORATING)

Rosemary Silva, 401-245-3030

LECTORS

Fr. Brian Morris

rev.brian.morris@gmail.com; 401-246-1212

MUSIC

Adult Choir

Steve Kirby

kev14@aol.com; 401-246-0039

Children's Choir

Worship Group

Contemporary Choir

David Lauria

david.stlukesparish@gmail.com; 401-245-7196

USHERS/GREETERS/COLLECTORS

Gus Morelli

gus_morelli@hotmail.com; 401-465-2488

LAY APOSTOLATES

In alphabetical order

COMMUNICATIONS

REACH Newsletter

Joe Lofgren

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diane@stlukesparish.com; 401-246-1363

RESPECT LIFE

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jernster7@gmail.com; 651-216-7559

SPECIAL RELIGIOUS DEVELOPMENT (SPRED)

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401-246-0910

ST. LUKE'S SCHOOL/BOARD/PTO

Principal, Patricia Bartel

pbartel@stlukesri.org; 401-246-0990

"TIME OUT" FOR CATHOLIC MEN

Joe Palazzolo

jpallazzolo@outlook.com; 415-516-8966

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

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YOUNG AT HEART

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YOUTH GROUP

Fr. Brian Morris

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ST. LUKE'S PARISH GUIDE TO OUR MINISTRIES AND APOSTOLATES

MINISTRIES

Acolytes (Altar Servers) - Lay ministers serve at the altar and assist the Priest and the Deacon. Those who are entering 5th grade and older are invited by the Pastor to participate. Training sessions are scheduled during the year for new and returning acolytes.

Adult Choir - Sings at the 10:30 a.m. Mass every Sunday.

Baptismal Bibs - Hand hems and/or embroiders baptismal bibs for the babies of the parish to be presented on their Christening day. The only skill needed is the ability to hand hem (blind stitch) and/or embroider using outline stitch.

Children's Choir (grades 1-5) - Sings once a month at the 8:30 AM children's liturgy.

Church Environment (Decorating) - Planning and decorating the Church throughout year.

Contemporary Choir (instrumentalists & vocalists, 6th Grade to adult) - Traditional and newer Christian music in an instrumental setting. Music for the 5:15 p.m. Mass each Sunday.

Extraordinary Ministers - Lay people, invited by the Pastor, assigned to distribute Holy Communion. Must be practicing Catholics in good standing with the Roman Catholic Church. Training sessions and further protocol are provided during the year.

Lectors - Lay people, invited by the Pastor, to proclaim the readings from Sacred Scripture. Training sessions will take place during the year for new and returning lectors.

RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) - The process through which adults (18 years or older) are fully initiated into the Catholic Faith community.

Ushers/Greeters/Collectors - Greet parishioners at Mass, collect offerings, and encourage people to bring up the gifts.

Worship Group (Middle & High School) - Modern praise band which plays high-energy Christian music and provides the music for our monthly Youth Mass.

LAY APOSTOLATES

FORMED - Support for Faith, Marriage & Families - St Luke's FORMED Subscription is an online Adult/Family/Youth Catholic Faith Formation resource that is free to all parishioners. Register and log in at stlukesparish.formed.org.

H.O.M.E. Mission (teens and adults) - Outreach to the needy in Orland, Maine.

Intercessory Prayer Group - Presents prayer petitions to God which are listed in the parish prayer book. Conducted online.

Jamaica Mustard Seed Mission (high school juniors and seniors) - Annual trip to Montego Bay, Jamaica to care for children with physical and mental disabilities and complete construction projects on site.

Knights of Columbus - Non-profit Catholic, family, fraternal and service organization for men of all ages.

Loaves and Fishes - Distributes food and clothing to homeless individuals and poor families at several area churches.

Men's Golf League - Friendly, informal group of retired golfers from ages 60-80 plus with handicaps from 20-36. Golf primarily at Pine Valley C.C. in Rehoboth, MA.

Mother's Group - Support and fellowship for mothers; faith-centered discussions, trips to the playground, library, Audubon, and quarterly volunteer opportunities.

Outreach - Reach out to less fortunate by purchasing food for pantries, preparing and delivering brown bag lunches, providing breakfast for children, and collecting and distributing clothing.

Prayer Shawl - Meets weekly to knit or crochet shawls that are blessed and then given to anyone who is ill or grieving.

REACH Newsletter - Parish newsletter published semi-annually.

Religious Education - Faith formation program for children and teens – Grades K-10. Aims to bring alive the Gospel message of faith, hope and love to our students.

Respect Life - Promotes spreading God's love for every human that He creates from conception to natural death. Prayer is the group's most important effort.

Special Religious Development (SPRED) - Fosters spiritual growth for parishioners who are developmentally or intellectually challenged.

St. Luke's School/Board/PTO - St. Luke's School serves students in preschool through grade eight. The School Board is advisory to the church Pastor and School Principal. The PTO plans, supports and conducts various social service and fundraising activities to enrich the curriculum and foster and maintain a sense of Christian community at St. Luke's School.

"Time Out" for Catholic Men - Program for men to meet socially, while strengthening their Catholic Faith.

Website - Supports evangelization and community building through the parish website, StLukesParish.com and St. Luke's Facebook page.

Women's Bible Study - Study the bible with a great group of women. We usually study along with a Catholic Apologetic using a DVD and study guide materials.

Young at Heart - Open to all St. Luke's senior members, ages 55 years and over. Meetings include a lunch presentation and socialization.

Youth Group - Engages St. Luke's young men and women, grades 6-12, to participate in outreaches, conferences, group activities, personal and liturgical prayer, mission trips, and services to the parish.



is usually donated by a person (often in memory of a loved one), an organization (e.g., Student Council), or raised through fundraising efforts.

A couple of weeks ago, Ed and Mary Fitzgerald, two of the parish organizers of Loaves and Fishes, visited the school, and made the rounds to the classrooms. They wanted to say thank you but also answer any questions. The students were in awe, and the questions were heartfelt and sensitive. Mrs. Fitzgerald talked about how she tries to engage the homeless in conversation, since many of them are alone for most of their day. One story she told was about being in a parking lot in Woonsocket one day. She was talking to a gentleman in line and asked where he slept at night. His response; "You're standing on it." The children were speechless upon hearing this story and realizing that there are people living under those conditions so close to our school.

The plan is to bring the truck to school one day so that the children can get a sense of exactly where their bag lunches end up. The Preschoolers even participate and assemble small bags of candy for distribution, so everyone will participate in this event. Tentative plans call for the truck to arrive and sell hot dogs to the entire school. The proceeds from this event will go towards the cost of one of our Sandwich Club meetings. It is wonderful to share this important apostolate with St. Luke's Parish.

Last year, several thoughtful students in Grade 4 had an idea regarding the Loaves and Fishes truck. They knew that only new socks and underwear were given to the homeless from the truck. These were treasured by them, especially the new socks which keep their feet warm and dry. These enterprising students approached Principal Trish Bartel with their idea. They wanted to rename October to Sock-tober and use the entire month to collect socks to donate to the truck. Mrs. Bartel was thrilled with

this initiative and immediately gave her permission.

The month kicked off with a school-wide Crazy Sock Day (see photograph). Their goal was to collect 250 pairs of socks during the month ... they reached that goal in less than 2 weeks! They had to keep raising their goal to 300, 500, 600 and 700. They eventually collected almost 750 pairs of socks for men, women and children. All of these were distributed to the needy and homeless from the Loaves and Fishes truck. This year the goal is to collect 800 pair of socks in a similar fashion. As I write this during the last week of October it appears that they will once again reach, if not surpass, their goal.

As you can tell, SERVICE to others is a huge part of who we are, and what we do, at St. Luke's School and everyone is involved!

Scott & Kathleen Balasco

Antonia Carpenter

Carlo Cerezo

Hans & Yunkyung Choi-Schattle

Christopher & Megan Coleman

Kyle & Michelle Coleman

Mary Corry

Kristine Dominique-Rhoderick

Jamieson & Heather Dupee

Catherine Fallon

Louis Ferri

Robert & Kathy Flaherty

Thomas & Inge Fulton

Kevin & Tricia Hadfield

Frederick & Neile Hartman

Rolfe Hubley

Mark & Anna Hurley

Christopher & Anne Ivanoski

Sean Jacobs

John & Donna Lombardi

Edward McManus

Joshua & Briann Moniz

Nelson & Kimberly Paz

Eugene & Melissa Fina

David & Kyra Reynolds

Lila Rodrigues

William & Patricia Schneider

Paulo & Beth Silva

Shane & Sarah Soifert

Romeo & Michelle Wasinowicz

Clifford & Lindsey Wright

Sean & Catherine Zierak

St. Luke's Fall/Winter Parish Study

Marriage & Love in God's Plan

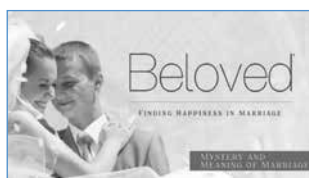
See/hear what experienced married couples have to say!

"Your participation in this study, on our FORMED subscription, is highly recommended." —Father Varghese & Father Morris



MATRIMONY - A Sacrament of Service & Communion

More than merely a contract between two people in love, marriage was created by God as part of His plan for humanity. How we fit within that plan may depend on our view of the Sacrament of Matrimony and its profound meaning for the world. (12 minutes)



MYSTERY AND MEANING OF MARRIAGE

More than a union based on romantic love or mutual fulfillment, marriage goes back to the very essence of what it is to be human – and reflects a design placed in our hearts by God Himself. These six sessions explore the spiritual and eternal reality behind "I Do." They speak to the very heart of every husband and wife, bringing sacramental truth and God infused love into the everyday challenges of marriage.



LIVING MARRIAGE - Expert Advice

These six sessions examine the day-to-day challenges of being united as husband and wife, while maintaining individuality. They show how to put faith at the center your marriage. Learning to effectively communicate, turn conflict into understanding, avoid the pitfalls that wreck relationships, and understand sex in the context of authentic love are among the topics presented for helping relationships to thrive.

FORMED Parish Study Access

Go to stlukesparish.formed.org & REGISTER. LOGIN & click on COMMUNITY.

The above study features are available at this location. Look for Participant Materials - Couple Enrichment Guides, with discussion questions, to the right when opening sessions. You may share free access with family, friends, and neighbors. Financially supported by the St. Luke's Knights of Columbus Council.

Questions/Problems contact Bill Sweeney at wds27j@aol.com.

St. Luke's Parishioners Recognized during Human Life Guild Day

BY DAVE RENNER

The 14th annual Human Life Guild Day took place on Saturday, September 29th, at the Cathedral of Saints Peter and Paul to kickoff the 40 Days for Life Fall Campaign. The daylong event provided a valuable forum for the pro-life community in Rhode Island, which included Mass at the Cathedral of Saints Peter and Paul celebrated by Bishop Thomas J. Tobin and assisted by Father Nicholas Fleming, the Human Life Guild chaplain.

Among the attendees were two St. Luke's parishioners who received awards for their accomplishments in life issues and overall pastoral care. George Neubauer was honored as the male recipient of the Human Life Guild Award. Barbara (Bambi) Simone was similarly honored as the recipient of the Pastoral Care Award.

REACH proudly congratulates George and Bambi for their strong commitment to the pro-life movement and the St. Luke's Respect Life Ministry. Well done!

Here is a brief summary of their many accomplishments for St. Luke's Parish and the Diocese of Providence.

George Neubauer

Education (Create an Awareness):

George stays current on Life issues and is a member of the parish's Respect Life Ministry. He uses what he learns to educate others in his day-to-day conversations and evangelization. George speaks with truth and clarity about the dignity of human life at every stage. He supports and volunteers for the Diocesan Respect Life programs carried out by the parish such as the St. Gabriel's Call Annual Parish Baby Shower, the Mother's Day Rose Sale for St. Gabriel's Call, the 40 Days for Life campaigns and rallies, and Life Chain Sunday.

Pastoral Care (Outreach):

George is active with Special Olympics for youth and young adults with disabilities. He spends one week per year in Maine at the H.O.M.E. Mission, volunteering to



guide the youth of the parish and to serve the vulnerable population of indigent and low-income people who live there. The youth are trained to build and renovate the infrastructure in which these people must live and where they learn life skills.

Public Policy (Advocacy):

George has attended at least eleven National March for Life events in Washington, D.C. He also witnesses and advocates for pro-life legislation.

Prayer:

George is a daily communicant, sits in adoration before the Blessed Sacrament, a lector, and a member of the choir. He participates in the Rosary for Life on the first Saturday's of each month, prays at Planned Parenthood, attends the Annual Diocesan Respect Life Masses, and the 40 Days for Life prayer vigils.

Other:

George is a loving father and role model with his 35 year old daughter, Jill, who was born with Down Syndrome. He supports her athletic goals through the Special Olympics, encourages her in her work outside the home, and includes her praying outside Planned Parenthood.

Bambi Simone

Education (Create an Awareness):

Bambi has taught CCD for many years at the 7th grade level for the parish's religious education program. She has also completed all required and has participated in all meetings leading to membership in the Carmelite OCDS (Secular Order of Carmel).

Pastoral Care (Outreach):

Bambi brings the Blessed Sacrament to at least three or more shut-ins every Sunday. She leads a group for nursing home residents bi-monthly. Bambi also leads a group from St. Vincent de Paul Society to deliver plants and cards made by grammar school students to shut-ins. Bambi is part of the parish outreach to help those in an inner-city parish. She supports St. Gabriel's Call by sharing her time, talent, and treasure each year for the parish baby shower. She coordinates the "Young at Heart Society" reaching out to help senior citizens by offering assistance where needed, friendship and fellowship to members of the parish community.

Public Policy (Advocacy):

Bambi participates in the "right to life" movement and supports pro-life legislation.

Prayer:

Bambi participates in the Liturgy of the Hours, attends daily Mass and frequently participates in reconciliation. She organizes those participating in Eucharistic Adoration every Monday at the parish and monthly at the Carmelite Monastery.

Other:

Bambi is a very holy and spiritual member of the parish and the Carmelite Monastery, which is visible to all whom she encounters. She lives for the Gospel of Life by her good works, support of the elderly, the physically ailing, and all who are in need of compassion and spiritual help.



“Always be ready to give an explanation to anyone who asks you for a reason for your hope, but do it with gentleness and reverence, keeping your conscience clear, so that, when you are maligned, those who defame your good conduct in Christ may themselves be put to shame.”

1 PETER 3:15-16

According to *Catholic Answers*, “Apologetics [is] a theological science which has for its purpose the explanation and defense of the Christian religion. Apologetics means, broadly speaking, a form of apology. ... In defining apologetics as a form of apology, we understand the latter word in its primary sense, as a verbal defense against a verbal attack, a disproving of a false accusation, or a justification of an action or line of conduct wrongly made the object of censure.”

Remaining a faithful Catholic in today's society is hard. It requires a true disciple of Jesus Christ, one who is strengthened by the Holy Spirit with the gifts of wisdom and a secure understanding of the Catholic faith. It takes a lifetime of learning, and a drive to know the truth. Only then will you ever hope to possess the confidence to defend the faith against the seemingly relentless barrage of inaccuracies hurled

at us aggressively by the innocently misinformed and the intentionally hostile.

When Jesus ascended into Heaven, he didn't leave us orphans to fend off a non-believing world. Jesus sent us the Holy Spirit to be our advocate, and He instituted the Catholic Church to guide us through our faith journey here on earth. From those sources sprouted divinely-inspired scripture, and spiritually-rich Catholic doctrine which were painstakingly documented by Church theologians over the past 2000 years.

To help us gain access to this wealth of Catholic information, and to assist us in making sense of it all, the electronic media today offers many quality sources of faith material to enlighten and equip the Catholic apologist in all of us. In this article, we identify three of the more renown.

Catholic Answers is a popular internet site providing an electronic question and answer format for issues of faith. *The Patrick Madrid Show* on Relevant Radio is a live and lively radio talk show which attracts a wide range of callers; from the devout Catholic seeking clarification on a point of faith, to the hostile non-believer seeking to debate, and perhaps trap the show's feisty host on a spiritual and moral issue. Finally, the website of *Dr. Scott Hahn*, a convert from the Lutheran faith, features many reference articles intended to reinforce our Catholic knowledge base, and in so doing so, enable us to become more confident in our ability to defend our faith.

Like anything else in this life, you get out of Catholic apologetics what you put into it. It's easy for us to remain silent and simply shrug our shoulders when someone challenges our faith in private and public settings. When such

a challenge occurs, you must be ready. You have forums in which to discover and learn the truth, that truth being Jesus Christ, including those electronic sources presented in this article. Then, once secure in your knowledge of the truth, you will be ready, with gentleness and reverence, to present an informed defense to that challenge.

Are you up to the challenge?



Catholic Answers
<https://www.catholic.com/encyclopedia/apologetics>

From Wikipedia: *Catholic Answers*, based in El Cajon, California, is the largest lay-run apostolate of Roman Catholic apologetics and evangelization in the United States. It publishes *Catholic Answers Magazine*, a bimonthly magazine focusing on Catholic outreach, religious formation and apologetics, as well as the website *catholic.com*.



The Patrick Madrid Show
on Relevant Radio
Weekdays 9am-noon ET
<https://relevantradio.com/listen/our-shows/the-patrick-madrid-show/>

From the website: *Patrick Madrid* is an acclaimed public speaker and has authored or edited 27 books, which have sold over a million copies worldwide. Patrick grew up in Southern California as a life-long Catholic.

He earned a bachelor's degree in business from the University of Phoenix, as well as B.Phil. in philosophy and an M.A. in theology from the Pontifical College Josephinum in Columbus, Ohio. He serves as an adjunct professor of apologetics at Holy Apostles College and Seminary and has also taught theology at Franciscan University of Steubenville. Patrick and his wife Nancy have been married for nearly 37 years and have been blessed by the Lord with 11 children and 23 grandchildren (so far).



Scott Hahn
<http://www.scotthahn.com/apologetics-topics/>

From the website: Dr. Hahn began his studies with a lot of questions, and he has received countless questions over the years. Having studied almost endless materials about the Catholic faith, and having taught scripture and theology to students in parishes around the country, on campus, and in his home, Dr. Hahn has compiled recommended faith and apologetics resources from trusted authors and sources.

MARRIAGES

Robert Weiss & Meredith Nyser
5/26/2018

Austin Brown & Rebecca Katzanek
7/14/2018

Eric Ross & Julie Dufresne
7/27/2018

Andrew Menneto & Megan Darnowski
8/3/2018

Nathan Morris & Emily Candon
9/8/2018

Scott Candon & Kristen Reber
10/19/2018

IN MEMORIAM

| | |
|---------------------|------------|
| Russell Burley | 8/16/2018 |
| William Cauley | 7/15/2018 |
| Claire Chartier | 10/8/2018 |
| Vincent J. Chisholm | 10/22/2018 |
| Rick Gladney | 9/25/2018 |
| Janice Kane | 7/10/2018 |
| Yvette Lamb | 10/15/2018 |
| Brian Lardner | 8/28/2018 |
| Brandon Marien | 8/10/2018 |
| Martin Moran | 6/28/2018 |
| Agnes Munap | 7/27/2018 |
| Mary V. Nugent | 5/23/2018 |
| Stephen H. Perry | 10/18/2018 |
| Richard Silvia | 9/3/2018 |
| John Stout | 9/20/2018 |
| John M. Thomas | 5/6/2018 |
| Vincent Chisholm | 10/22/2018 |
| Lucille Wooding | 8/21/2018 |

“I Confess” and the Sacrament of Penance

BY FR. BRIAN MORRIS

Over the next several issues of REACH, I hope to discuss the seven sacraments, and in doing so, bring in a popular culture reference for each one of them to broaden our understanding. This first edition, I’m reviewing the film “I Confess” and how it relates to the reality of the Sacrament of Penance.

“I Confess” is an Alfred Hitchcock-directed film that was released in 1953. It stars Montgomery Clift, Anne Baxter, and Karl Malden. The film is only 95-minutes long, and is filmed in black and white. Since it takes place in the 1950s, the movie pre-dates the 2nd Vatican Council, and includes scenes depicting the old Tridentine Mass with fiddleback vestments, high altars, birettas, and priests walking around in cassocks. A cassock, for those who don’t know, is the black robe that you probably are most familiar with seeing our altar servers wear on Sundays. Often you see Father Varghese or myself wearing one when we are helping with communion. Before the council, they were the usual dress for priests as opposed to the black pants, black shirt and white collar that we wear more commonly today.



Clift stars as Fr. Michael Logan, an assistant pastor serving in Quebec. One night, he notices someone sneaking into the church. He investigates to see that it is in fact the parish sexton, a man named Otto. Otto has just committed a terrible crime; he’s killed a man. Unaware of this, Father Logan agrees to hear Otto’s confession. In the confessional, Otto confesses to the murder, and that he wore a cassock in order to avoid suspicion for being out so late at night. Otto also tells his wife what has happened.

Without spoiling the ending, the drama of the film centers around the investigation of the crime by the police inspector played by Karl Malden. All of the evidence points towards Father Logan being the killer, especially when all the witnesses report seeing a tall man in a cassock walking to, and later running from the scene of the crime.

Father Logan is unable to defend himself, even when Otto himself begins to point fingers at him. Why? In reference to the sacramental seal of the confessional, the Code of Canon Law puts it quite clearly: “The sacramental seal is inviolable; therefore it is absolutely forbidden for a confessor to betray in any way a penitent in words or in any manner and for any reason.” (Can 983.1)

This means that under absolutely no circumstances will a priest divulge what a particular person has told him in Confession; even when threatened with imprisonment, torture, even death. It doesn’t matter if the person has confessed to a serious sin like murder or adultery, or just a small sin, like speeding on the highway

or using poor language. The seal is just as valid. The Church takes this so seriously that a priest who directly violates the sacramental seal is automatically excommunicated, and can only have it lifted by the Pope himself. (Can 1388.1)

Yes, priests have died to protect the seal of the confessional. Perhaps the most famous case is St. John Nepomuk who was murdered by the King of Bohemia for refusing to say whether or not the Queen had confessed to an affair. Other saints have been killed by ruthless regimes who wanted the confessions of men who were executed revealed. Those priests also refused. In our country, all 50 states have laws that protect priests from being forced to reveal anything learned in the confessional.

Recently in Australia, they passed a law requiring priests who hear about the abuse of a minor in confession to report it. At first, this seems to be reasonable. After all, isn’t it more important to protect these young children rather than the privacy of a despicable criminal? First of all, the priest has no right to reveal anything he learns. Confession is a conversation between the penitent and God. The priest is only a conduit of God’s forgiving grace. But on a more practical level, if a criminal knew that his confession could be used against him, he’d be less likely to confess.

This works in two ways. First, as a Church, we recognize that the salvation of a soul, even one that has committed such an evil act as child abuse, is still more important than justice in this world. It is a hard truth to swallow, but it is true.

Second, when a person comes to a priest with such a crime, the priest will certainly tell them that they need to turn themselves in, get some help, and hopefully, the grace of the sacrament will give them the courage to do just that. But with laws like the one in Australia, the penitent would most likely be too afraid to approach the sacrament, and possibly even continue their crimes. And in the end, even if the law stays in place, no priest will abide by it. He simply cannot.

Think about what that means for you. If the priest that you bear your soul to won't even report the sins of a murderer or child abuser, how much more will he guard your deepest and darkest secrets; that is, those sins that you just want forgiveness for without anyone ever knowing? Just like Father Logan allowed himself to be arrested, falsely accused, and put to trial for a crime he didn't commit, any priest would do the same for any one of you.

REACH Us

Do you want to reach us with a comment?

Do you have a comment on a current or past article appearing in the St. Luke's Parish REACH newsletter? Do you have a suggestion for improving the content or quality of the newsletter?

REACH wants your feedback — good, bad, or otherwise. There's always room for improvement!

Write to the editor, Joe Lofgren, at lofgren4@gmail.com.

REACH Others

Do you want to reach others with a comment?

Your feedback is great — it helps us to focus on continuous improvement of the REACH product. But better yet—how about joining us? REACH could always use more writers!

Whether you have the talent to compose an epistle, like St. Paul, or you are just looking to exercise your writing skills, REACH can use you. Interested?

Write to the editor, Joe Lofgren, at lofgren4@gmail.com.

COMING IN THE SPRING ISSUE OF REACH

Men's Fellowship and the St. Luke's Men's Golf League

The league tees off once again on Tuesday mornings starting in April 2019

Interested in playing?

Contact Peter Clifford, 401-245-0588, pjclifford@cox.net

See parish website for details

<http://www.stlukesparish.com/st--luke-s-golf-league>





ST. LUKE'S PARISH

♦ ROMAN CATHOLIC COMMUNITY ♦

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PHOTO BY SAL CAPIRCHIO

748 enthusiasts "Trot Off Your Turkey" in 2018 during St. Luke's School's annual 5K/1.5-mile road race

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

| | |
|-----------|---|
| Daily | (M-F) 7:00 a.m. (<i>Federal Holidays 9:00 a.m.</i>) |
| Weekend | Saturday 5:00 p.m. |
| | Sunday 7:30 a.m. 9:00 a.m. 10:30 a.m. 5:15 p.m. |
| Holy Days | No Vigil Mass |
| | September through June - 7:00 & 9:00 a.m. |
| | 12:00 noon, 7:00 p.m. No 9:00 a.m. Mass in August |

Eucharistic Adoration - Monday
7:30 a.m. - Exposition of the Blessed
Sacrament and Rosary (after 7:00
a.m. Mass);
3:00 p.m. - Chaplet of Divine Mercy;
3:30 p.m. - Memorare, Litany of
Loreto, Evening Prayer (Breviary);
and
3:45 p.m. - Benediction, Reposition
of the Blessed Sacrament

PARISH STAFF & DIRECTORY

| | |
|-------------------------|------------------------|
| Pastor | Rev. TJ Varghese |
| Associate Pastor | Rev. Brian Morris |
| Pastor Emeritus | Rev. Robert F. Hawkins |
| Parish Administrator | Ann Marie Beccue |
| Bookkeeper | Catherine Carbone |
| REACH Editor | Joe Lofgren |
| REACH Managing Editor | Neil Kiely |
| REACH Prod. Coordinator | Ann Molak |
| REACH Photographers | Sal Capirchio |
| Rectory | 401.246.1212 |
| Religious Edu. | 401.246.1363 |
| St. Luke's School | 401.246.0990 |