



**SATURDAY VIGIL, January 2, 2016**  
**4:00 PM** Healing Mass for  
 Susan Spellacy  
 r/b The Social Committee

**SUNDAY, January 3, 2016**  
**7:30 AM** For the Hungry  
  
**10:30 AM** For all children  
  
**6:00 PM** For The Social Committee

**MONDAY, January 4, 2016**  
**8:00 AM** In Honor of St. Jude  
 r/b A Parishioner

**TUESDAY, January 5, 2016**  
**8:00 AM** +Richard Paul  
 r/b Vincent, Anita and  
 Family

**WEDNESDAY, January 6, 2016**  
**8:00 AM** +Alice Aube  
 50th Anniversary Mass  
 r/b Art & Nancy

**THURSDAY, January 7, 2016**  
  
**8:00 AM** Healing Mass for  
 Father Bill Olesik  
 r/b St. Luke's  
 Parishioners

**FRIDAY January 8, 2016**  
**8:00 AM** In Honor of St. Jude  
 r/b A Parishioner

**SATURDAY, January 9, 2016**  
**4:00 PM** +Vincent Malatesta  
 r/b The Family

**SUNDAY, January 10, 2016**  
**7:30 AM** +Father Tom  
 4<sup>th</sup> Anniversary  
 r/b His Parishioners

**10:30AM** +Father Tom  
 r/b Sr. Guytina and  
 Brothers

**6:00 PM** +Chester Zych  
 r/b The Miemiec Family

<b>PARISH SUPPORT</b>	
<b>December 8</b>	<b>\$1,261</b>
<b>December 20 Regular Coll.</b>	<b>\$6,386</b>



“...The Gentiles are co-heirs, members of the same body, and co-partners in the promise in Christ Jesus through the Gospel.” EPHESIANS 3:6

Today we celebrate that Christ came to all of us, not just the Hebrews. He made us all one body with Him. We were all given different gifts; we all have different yet equally valuable roles to play in the Body of Christ. Ask God how He wants you to use your gifts so that we may all “be one” in this Year of Mercy.

**READINGS AND WHAT DO THEY MEAN?**

**First Reading: Isaiah 60:1-6**  
 Isaiah rejoices over the light and glory that will shine upon Jerusalem. He

describes how the wealth of nations will be brought to Jerusalem, and travelers will arrive bearing gifts and praising God.

**Second Reading: Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6**

Paul explains to the Ephesians that the Gentiles are now co-heirs with the Jews. Through Jesus, they became members of the same body. Therefore, they would receive everything God had promised the Jewish converts if they followed Christ's teachings.

**Gospel: Matthew 2:1-12**

Astrologers from the east came looking for the newborn king of the Jews, which greatly disturbed King Herod. Herod wanted to kill Jesus, and asked the astrologers to return and tell him where Jesus was. The astrologers found Jesus and brought him gifts, but received a message in a dream telling them not to return to Herod.

**Defending Our Religious Liberty**

We must remember that when the Supreme Court rendered its decision about the federal health care mandate, it upheld it as a tax, and did not rule on the First Amendment aspect of the mandate. This is why the Supreme Court has agreed to hear seven cases challenging the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' mandate. Let us pray that when they hear these cases they preserve our right to religious freedom. If you haven't done so already, please voice your opposition to the federal health care mandate by calling U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services Sylvia Mathews Burwell at 202-205-5445, and your elected representatives. Let them know

that the mandate is in violation of our First Amendment right to religious freedom.

**FAITH FORMATION**

**Religious Ed – (860) 875-4951 or [stlukere@gmail.com](mailto:stlukere@gmail.com)**

**Office Hours:**

Sunday 8-10:30 am, Monday 2-8:30 pm, Tuesday 2-8:30 pm and Thursday 10-3 pm or by appointment. Hours are subject to change so please call ahead.

**Religious Education 2015 – 2016**

**We are looking forward to a Faith filled year with our students.** We encourage you to ask your child what they learned each week.

**Class Schedule for 2015-2016**

Sunday, January 3, 10, 24 from 9-10:15 am; Grades Kindergarten through 5<sup>th</sup> Grade.

Monday, January 4, 11 & 25 from 6:45 – 8 pm; Grades 6-9.

Tuesday, January 5, 12 & 26 from 4:30 -5:45 pm, Grades 3-4-5.

Tuesday, January 5, 12 & 26 from 7-8:15 pm, Grades 6-9.

**Grade 2 – Important Dates**

**There will be one First Communion Mass – please mark your calendars for Saturday, May 7 at 11 a.m.**

**Grade 9 Confirmation – Important Dates**

**Confirmation Interview** January - Contact the Faith Formation Office to schedule your interview.

**Mandatory Confirmation Retreat – Saturday, January 30 – 10 am – 1pm**

**Confirmation Reconciliation** – During last class on March 28 and 29<sup>th</sup>

**Confirmation Rehearsal** – Thursday, March 31 at 6:30 pm for Candidate and Sponsor (or parent stand-in)

**Confirmation 2016 Mass** – Sunday April 3<sup>rd</sup> at 1 pm – Candidates and Sponsors arrive at 12:30 pm.

**Children’s Liturgy of the Word** – All children age 4 through the 5<sup>th</sup> Grade are invited to attend the Children’s Liturgy of the Word on Sunday mornings during the 10:30 Mass. CLW is held Sunday January 3, 10 & 24.

***Remember in Prayer Those Who Are Sick***

Lord, our God, you sent your Son into the world to bear our infirmities and to endure our sufferings. For your servants who are sick, especially from our Parish family, we ask that your blessing will give them strength to overcome their weakness through the power of patience and the comfort of hope and that with your aid they will soon be restored to health. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen Please pray for Father Bill, Laura Behrendt, Eugene Caramante, Judy Cardoni, Julie Chartier, Fern Chmielecki, Connor Dabate,

Deacon Rod Gayner, Harry Grospitch, Ronald Guay, Raymond Hanson, Raymond Hayes, Rita Kane, Kathy Larew, Rocco Montano, Ted Okolo, Beth Ann Phillips, Ann Pienkowski, Troy Russell, Brian Scavone, Jim Smith, Susan Spellacy, Rowan Mae Sullivan, Wendy Tarbox, Dan Tarbox, Joseph Teixeira, James Walton, Morris Webber, Jean Wood, Richard Wood and Kathy White.

++PRAY FOR OUR DECEASED++  
God of loving kindness and mercy we pray for those who have been called from this life, and for the consolation of their loved ones especially: Robert Gibbs and Wanda Parent.

**World Message of the Blessed Virgin Mary**  
**Message of December 25, 2015**  
“Dear Children! Also today I am carrying my Son Jesus to you and from this embrace I am giving you His peace and a longing for Heaven. I am praying with you for peace and am calling you to be peace. I am blessing all of you with my motherly blessing of peace. Thank you for having responded to my call.”

**YOUTH ADULT GROUP FORMING!**  
St. Luke’s is starting up a “Young Adult” group for ages 20-40. If interested please join us for an informational meeting on Thursday, January 14, 2016 at 6:30 in the Parish Center.

**East Catholic Make-up entrance exam** – Saturday, January 9 at 8 a.m. \$25 non-refundable fee is required. Pre-registration is recommended but not required. 860-649-5336 ext 6238.

### **2015 TAX LETTERS**

**We do not automatically mail tax letters to all parishioners. If you would like a letter please contact Jane at the rectory 860-875-8552 or email [StLuke\\_Ellington@comcast.net](mailto:StLuke_Ellington@comcast.net)**

### **YOUTH GROUP**

Sometimes the best presents already come unwrapped. It's simply that time of year to be grateful for the everyday presents. I'd like to share with all of you my 14 favorite presents this year. They are Daniel Bocchino, Adam and Renae Giard, Olivia Gionet, Blanche Gorham, Logan McDonald, Brigid & Kate McGrath, Dan Meaney, April Phelps, Tim Ross, Janet Settle and Caitlin & Phil Wing. The entire Youth Leadership Team is a blessing to the parish as they share their talents and love for Jesus with our Youth Group throughout the year. Have A Healthy 2016! Miss Joan

### **THE HOLY DOORS**

Pope Francis has declared a Jubilee Year of Mercy; twelve months for us to focus on and deepen our gratitude for the loving mercy of God. As with all jubilee years, the Year of Mercy will include the use of a Holy Door, a specially designated entrance that has spiritual and symbolic meaning for Catholics. In this Jubilee Year of Mercy, passing through a Holy Door is part of the pilgrimage that all Catholics are encouraged to make, whether during a trip to Rome or a trip to the cathedrals or specially designated churches in their own dioceses. These pilgrimages come with special graces, and they allow each of us to share in the many blessings of the Holy Year.

**"I AM THE DOOR"** Jesus said bringing to fruition the words of the psalmist, who said, "This is the door of the Lord where the just may enter. Passing through the Holy Door "evokes the passage from sin to grace which every Christian is called to accomplish."

The tradition of the Holy Door most likely originated during the time when sinners were given public penances that had to be performed before they could receive absolution. On completion of the penance, the penitent was then allowed through the "holy door" of the Church to confess and be reunited with the Church. Today pilgrims still enter through the Holy Door as a sign of repentance and the desire to renew and recommit to their faith.

### **WHAT IS A HOLY DOOR?**

Each of the four papal basilicas in Rome (St. Peter, St. Mary Major, St. John Lateran, and St. Paul Outside the Walls) has a Holy Door. These doors are sealed from the inside so that they cannot be opened except during holy years. Pilgrims fulfilling certain penances and then going through the newly opened doors can gain the plenary indulgence (removal of the temporal punishment due to sin) associated with the special year.