

# LAKEWOOD CATHOLIC PARISHES

St. Clement • St. James • St. Luke

DECEMBER 15, 2024 • THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT



Image in the Public Domain

## Parish Contact Information

### **St. Luke Church**

1212 Bunts Rd, Lakewood, Ohio 44107  
216-521-0184 • [www.stlukelakewood.org](http://www.stlukelakewood.org)

### **St. Clement Church**

2022 Lincoln Ave, Lakewood, Ohio 44107  
216-226-5116 • [www.stclementlakewood.com](http://www.stclementlakewood.com)

### **St. James Church**

17400 Northwood Ave, Lakewood, Ohio 44107  
216-712-6755 • [www.stjameslakewood.com](http://www.stjameslakewood.com)

## Parish Devotions

### **Adoration:**

Second Tuesday from 7:00pm-8:00pm at St. Luke  
Daily at St. Clement Parish (Call office for info)

### **Rosary:**

Thursdays at 7:45am at St. Clement Parish  
Thursdays at 7:00pm at St. James Parish  
Saturdays before 4:30pm Mass at St. Luke Parish

## Mass Schedule

### ***Weekday Masses:***

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday • 8:15am at St. Luke  
Thursday • 8:15am at St. Clement  
Friday • 8:15am at St. James  
First Saturday • 8:15am at St. Luke

### ***Weekend Masses:***

Saturday • 4:00pm at St. Clement  
Saturday • 4:30pm at St. Luke

Sunday • 8:30am at St. Clement

Sunday • 9:00am at St. Luke

Sunday • 10:30am at St. James

Sunday • 11:00am at St. Luke

### ***Confessions:***

Saturday • 3:00-4:00pm at St. Luke

Saturday • 3:00-3:30pm at St. Clement

## Readings and Intentions for the Week of December 15, 2024

**Monday, December 16:** Nm 24:2-7, 15-17a/Ps 25:4-9/Mt 21:23-27

Mass Intention 8:15am St. Luke: **Vivian Fox** †

**Tuesday, December 17:** Gn 49:2, 8-10/Ps 72:1-2, 3-4ab, 7-8, 17/Mt 1:1-17

Mass Intention 8:15am St. Luke: **Special Intention of Roman Dumycz**

**Wednesday, December 18:** Jer 23:5-8/Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19/Mt 1:18-25

Mass Intention 8:15am St. Luke: **Edward J. Davis** †

**Thursday, December 19:** Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a/Ps 71:3-4a, 5-6ab, 16-17/Lk 1:5-25

Mass Intention 8:15am St. Clement: **Rita McMaster** †

**Friday, December 20:** Is 7:10-14/Ps 24:1-2, 3-4ab, 5-6/Lk 1:26-38

Mass Intention 8:15am St. James: **Ralph Jones** †

**Saturday, December 21:** Sg 2:8-14 /Ps 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21/Lk 1:39-45

Mass Intention 4:00pm St. Clement: **Sophie Roch** †

Mass Intention 4:30pm St. Luke: **Gerald M. Smith** †

**Sunday, December 22:** Mi 5:1-4a/Ps 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19/Heb 10:5-10/Lk 1:39-45

Mass Intention 8:30am St. Clement: **Fr. Joseph Workman**

Mass Intention 9:00am St. Luke: **For the People**

Mass Intention 10:30am St. James: **Mother's Day Spiritual Bouquet Intentions**

Mass Intention 11:00am St. Luke: **Intentions of Emily Ahlin**

## Parish Staff

*Pastor:*

Fr. Kevin Elbert

*Parochial Vicar:*

Fr. Patrick Schultz

*Parish Deacon:*

Deacon Tom Bizon

*Priest in Residence:*

Fr. Peter Paul Ibeagha

### St. Luke Parish Staff:

Max Hall, *PCL/Pastoral Associate*  
Lawrence Wallace, *Music Ministry*  
Holly Nixon, *Office Manager*  
Tim Conley, *Facilities Manager*  
Barb Price, *Hospitality Coordinator*  
Therese Bendahan, *Secretary*  
Annemarie Hutchinson, *Secretary*

### St. Clement Parish Staff:

Colleen Houk, *Faith Formation*  
Susan Simmons, *Secretary*  
Frank Stasko, *Maintenance*

### St. James Parish Staff:

Colleen Houk, *Faith Formation*  
Andrea Krueger, *Secretary*  
Frank Stasko, *Maintenance*

# Holiday Mass Schedule

## Mass Schedule

### St. Luke Parish

Mass of Christmas Eve:

4pm, 6pm, 10pm

Mass of Christmas Day:

10am

New Year's Day:

(Solemnity of Mary Mother of God)

10am

### St. Clement Parish

Mass of Christmas Eve:

4pm

Mass of Christmas Day:

8:30am



### St. James Parish

Mass of Christmas Eve:

8pm

Mass of Christmas Day:

10:30am

New Year's Eve:

(Solemnity of Mary Mother of God)

4pm

# St. Luke Happenings

Today!!!

"Follow the star to Bethlehem"

## ADVENT FESTIVAL CONCERT

December 15 at 3:00 PM  
St. Luke the Evangelist Church

**Featuring:**  
Lakewood Catholic Parishes Choirs and Orchestras  
St. Mark Children's Choir  
Lakewood Catholic Academy Singing Saints

**After the Concert**

Join us for an after party  
in McBride Hall!

## PARTY & CRAFTS

Appetizers from around the world. Pizza.  
Hot Chocolate Bar. Soft Drinks and beverages.  
Arts and Crafts. Ginger Bread House Making.  
Games. Christmas Karaoke.

### Community Meal - Dec. 18

The St. Luke Community Meal is this Wednesday, December 18. Doors open at 5:30pm. All are welcome to come and enjoy a nice warm meal.

### St. Luke Giving Tree

Thank you to all who donated to our St. Luke Giving Tree. If you have not dropped off your gift, please do to the rectory by end of day Monday, December 16, as we prepare to distribute gifts soon.

### Join the Choir

Do you love to sing? Come share your gift and join the parish choir! Lift your voice in song and help lead our community in worship and praise during Mass. No prior experience is needed just a love for music and a desire to glorify God through song. For more information or to join, contact Lawrence Wallace at [lwallace@stlukelakewood.org](mailto:lwallace@stlukelakewood.org). Let's make a joyful noise together!

### Volunteers Needed for Parish Events

Our parish thrives on the generosity and involvement of its members, and we need your help to continue hosting events that bring our community together. From parish dinners and celebrations to special gatherings and seasonal activities, these events play a vital role in fostering fellowship and faith. We're seeking volunteers to assist with a variety of tasks, such as event setup, organization, hospitality, and cleanup. Whether you can offer your time regularly or just occasionally, your help would be greatly appreciated and make a meaningful impact. If you're interested in volunteering or would like to learn more, please reach out to Lawrence Wallace at [lwallace@stlukelakewood.org](mailto:lwallace@stlukelakewood.org). Thank you for considering this opportunity to serve and strengthen our parish community!

### Beware of Holiday Email Scams

During the holiday season, you may receive emails claiming to be from Fr. Kevin, Fr. Patrick, Deacon Tom, or other parish staff members. These scam emails often use the name of someone from our parish but come from an email address that is not associated with the [@stlukelakewood.org](mailto:@stlukelakewood.org) domain. Please be cautious—these emails are fake. All legitimate parish emails will always come from a (name)[@stlukelakewood.org](mailto:@stlukelakewood.org) email account. If you have any doubts or concerns about the validity of an email, do not reply or click any links. Instead, contact the parish office for confirmation. Stay safe this holiday season, and thank you for your vigilance!

### WeGiveCatholic - We Did It—Thank You!

This Giving Tuesday, through the Diocese of Cleveland's WeGiveCatholic campaign, our St. Luke Parish community came together in an incredible way to support the restoration of our parish's retaining wall near the front steps and the masonry at the side door entrance, and other landscaping needs. Thanks to your overwhelming generosity, we exceeded our goal of \$35,000 and raised **over \$50,000** to bring this vision to life! This effort wasn't just about repairing structures—it was about preserving St. Luke's as a welcoming place where faith, friendship, and family flourish. Your support ensures that our parish will remain a vibrant home for current and future generations. We are deeply grateful to everyone who contributed to this campaign. Together, we have safeguarded the future of St. Luke's and ensured it continues to be a cornerstone of faith and community. Thank you for your incredible generosity and support!

# St. Clement Happenings



## Pot of Gold Winners

\$25 Winners

Jorge Gatica • Tom Mahoney • Sam Keller  
Doug McDermott • Tim Labar • George Birsic  
**Congrats!**

## A Couple Quick Announcements

1. **Oplatky - Christmas Wafers** will be available available at Transfiguration Parish for \$.35 each and can be purchased at the Transfiguration parish office during business hours, Tuesday through Thursday, 9 AM to 1:30 PM. Please call 216-521-7288 to place your order and arrange pick up.
2. **2025 Calendars** - Calendars for 2025 are available at the doors of the church or at the rectory office. We wish to thank the McGorray-Hanna funeral home who has generously donated these beautiful calendars for our parishioners.
3. **Pot of Gold Tickets** - Pot of Gold tickets are still available. To purchase please contact the rectory office.
4. **Mass Intention Book** - The Mass intention book for 2025 is open. There are still dates available if you wish to have a Mass said for a loved one, living or deceased. Contact rectory office to schedule.

## We need your help!

The The Christmas decorating committee is asking for your help on Sunday, December 22, with decorating the church. We will begin after the 8:30 AM Mass. If you're not attending Mass but can volunteer, please be at the church at 10 AM on the 22nd. This is a big job and the more volunteers we have the easier and quicker it will go. Please consider volunteering.



**A big thank you to** the team of the Knights of Columbus for their volunteer hours in putting up the parish nativity scene. It is an inspiration and sign of hope for all those who passed by.

## Christmas Christmas gifts for Jesus - Adoration

What will be your gift to the Christ child this Christmas? Have you ever thought of making a visit to St. Clement adoration chapel? Your present to Jesus would be your presence as you ponder, Our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament. During this season of Advance seek out Jesus in peaceful silence in the adoration chapel. The chapel, located between the rectory and garages, is open between 6 AM to 11 PM each day. Additional gift suggestions to Jesus may be to attend weekday mass, pray the rosary, help the poor, call or visit a friend, or read scripture every day. Make this advent 2020 for a spiritual lift for your soul as you prepare for the arrival of the Christ Child.

Adoration Chapel

Prayer Ministry

Website



# St. James Happenings



Described by a participant as "the MOST fun I've EVER had at church," Caroling by Candlelight returns to St. James on Friday December 20 at 6p! Free Christmas fun for the entire family — join the

herald angels as we sing traditional Christmas carols to our neighbors. Anyone from any parish is cordially invited to join the angel choir! There are many ways to help out, from baking cookies, to leading a caroling group (no special musical talent required), to decorating, or interceding before the Blessed Sacrament. Spread Christmas cheer by singing loud for all to hear! Details, RSVP & Volunteer at: <https://www.stjameslakewood.com/caroling>

YOUR GIFT MADE A DIFFERENCE!

# thanks!

#weGIVECATHOLIC  
with the Catholic Community Foundation December 3, 2014  
Northeast Ohio's Online Day of Catholic Giving

**WeGiveCatholic** - We are amazed by the incredible support for our #weGiveCatholic campaign on Giving Tuesday! We're delighted to announce that, unofficially, a total of **\$70,385** has been raised, thanks to the generosity of 218 donors. Starting with an initial goal of \$32,000, we repeatedly raised our target, finally setting it at \$66,000 —and surpassed that too! When we

receive the official reports from the Catholic Communications Foundation, we will confirm the amounts raised. At the time of today's bulletin deadline, it appears that we will be awarded \$2000 in prize money for reaching 1st place in unique donors for all small parishes. This outcome is all thanks to the extraordinary kindness of our donors and campaign advocates. Special thanks go to Father Kevin; our fundraising families, the McConnell's and Hayden's; our anonymous matching grant benefactor; the Friends of St. James, Inc. and the Simms family for their matching grants; and all of you who prayed for the success of the campaign and worked to spread the word. **Your support was indispensable.** You are truly a blessing to us all. Thank you!

## Monthly Contributions for November

Thank you for your generosity to our parish!

Weekly Contributors Total – \$10,257.00

Monthly Contributors Total – \$4,205.00

Monthly Visitor Envelopes – \$298.00

Online Weekly Contributors Total – \$4,038.00

Online Monthly Contributors Total – \$3,356.00

Total Contributions for the Month of November – \$22,154.00

## Pray for the Deceased

Russell Milan

*May their souls and the souls of the faithful departed rest in peace.*



## Honor a Loved One with a Poinsettia Plant

Forms will be on the front tables of the church if you are interested in donating towards a poinsettia plant for Christmas. Suggested donation is \$20. Please fill out the form and return it with your check in the Sunday collection or the parish office mail slot. All orders must be in by Wednesday, December 18.

# Our Lakewood Community

## Free Rock Salt for Lakewood Residents

The City of Lakewood is offering free rock salt to residents this winter. Salt distribution boxes are available at Kauffman Park, Madison Park, Cove Park, Lakewood Park, and the Lakewood Dog Park. Residents may take up to 5 gallons of salt for personal use on driveways and sidewalks. Please bring your own shovel and bucket to load the salt. After using the salt box, ensure the cover is securely closed to prevent the salt from hardening due to moisture. Stay safe and prepared this winter!

## St. Christopher Parish Grief Support Ministry 7-week grief support Program

- Registration Required -

St. Christopher Parish is offering a seven-session grief support program on Thursdays from 2:00 until 3:00 in the Prayer Room, beginning January 9 and ending February 20. This group is intended for adults who have lost a spouse, significant other, parent, sibling, adult child, adult relative, or friend through death. Individuals meet in a small group to share stories of their loved one(s) and how they have struggled with their grief, pray and reflect on Scripture, and discuss helpful information on the grieving process. Participants appreciate that it helps them feel less alone. We build a sense of community and request a commitment to attend all seven sessions. You will learn coping strategies from a helpful book and from other participants to begin healing and moving forward in your life. There is a registration fee of \$15. To register, please call Melissa DiFini at the parish office at 440-331-4255 x105 or email [mdifini@stchrisparish.com](mailto:mdifini@stchrisparish.com).

## Parish Office Holiday Closures

Please note that the Parish offices will be closed on December 24 & 25, as well as on December 31 & January 1 in observance of the Christmas and New Year Holiday.

## Thank God It's First Friday - West

An inter-parish men's group will meet January 3rd for a First Friday luncheon at St. Clarence Church, 30106 Lorain Road, North Olmsted. Registration begins at 11:15 AM, followed by the luncheon, then an inspirational talk, and concludes with Mass. Please call George Perz at (440) 937-6606 by Tuesday, December 31st to make a reservation. Cost is \$16.00.



Stream Fr. Schultz's podcast on Apple, Spotify, or any major podcasting platform.



## Free Faith Resources from the Knights of Columbus

The Knights of Columbus have, generously, installed the Building the Domestic Church Kiosk in the lobby of St. Clement Parish. This kiosk offers a selection of free booklets on Church teaching, prayer, and ways to strengthen faith within the family. We encourage you to stop by, explore the resources, and take a booklet home to deepen your faith and understanding.

## Men's and Women's Groups in Lakewood

Walking with Purpose (Women) meets Thursdays at 7:30pm -9:00pm at St. James Parish Hall

The King's Men (Men) meets Tuesdays at 7:00pm - 8:30pm at St. Luke Parish in Room 209 of the Old School Building

Catholic Mom's Group We offer a weekly playgroup, monthly Book Club, and social, spiritual, & service-oriented get togethers contact [samgweisman@gmail.com](mailto:samgweisman@gmail.com)

FRIDAY, JANUARY 10TH | 7-9 PM

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# Our Lakewood Community

## Meditation:

### Turn from Sin

*The crowds asked John the Baptist, "What should we do?"*

Luke 3:10

Among those within the crowds who were asking Saint John the Baptist this question were tax collectors, soldiers and ordinary people. John gave an answer to them all, first telling them to turn away from the sins that they struggled with the most. Sin takes on many forms and often is closely associated with our daily duties in life. Some sins are sins of commission, meaning sins we commit by an intentional act. Some sins are those of omission, meaning a lack of certain virtues or a failure to do what we ought to do. After addressing the particular sins that those in the crowds were struggling with, John then turns their attention to Christ. He states to them that "one mightier than I is coming" and that "He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire." In other words, John was giving the people a twofold command. First, work to overcome sin. And second, turn your eyes to Him Who is coming to you. Repenting from sin is not enough. Once we repent, we must then fill the void within our souls with the presence of Christ. Advent, just like Lent, is an important time within our liturgical year to heed these messages. Though it's true that we must work to overcome sin and turn to Christ every day of the year, God knows we need a special time each year when we give concerted effort to these spiritual endeavors. So before Advent passes you by, heed the words of the Baptist and take some time to examine your conscience thoroughly. Perhaps use a detailed list of the Ten Commandments or the Seven Capital Sins. Once you do that, seek out an opportunity to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Doing so is essential to a fruitful Advent season. Once you thoroughly repent of the sins you struggle with the most right now, turn to the Savior of the World with special attentiveness to the miracle of the Incarnation this Advent. Spend time adoring the God Who came to us in the form of a little child. Meditate on this Gift. Gaze at a nativity scene prayerfully. Read the Scripture passages about the birth of Christ. Close your eyes and imagine yourself there at His birth. Reflect, today, upon this twofold exhortation from John and apply it to your Advent preparations. Cleanse your soul in a special way from all sin this Advent. Then prayerfully ponder and meditate upon the reality we are preparing to celebrate. As John says, allow the Christ Child to truly "baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire" through your deepening devotion and prayer this Advent. My dear Jesus, please help me to see my sins as You see them. Help me to be attentive to every sinful action I commit and even those smaller sins of omission. As I ponder my sin, please draw me to Your mercy and grace so that I can then open the eyes of my soul more deeply to see You and to adore You more completely this Advent. Jesus, I trust in You. (Taken from MyCatholicLife)

## THINGS AROUND TOWN

**December 18** • Christmas Praise and Worship at St. Clement at 7pm.

**December 18** • Live Nativity of Jesus Christ at St. Aloysius/St. Agatha Parish (6pm-8pm)

**December 29** • Diocese of Cleveland Jubilee Year 2025. Procession from St. Peter's Downtown to the Cathedral (4:30pm with Mass at Cathedral at 5:30pm) .

**January 10** • CanaNight - Vulnerability: the Scariest & Most Essential Ingredient in Marriage with Fr. Patrick Schultz at Georgetown Vosh (7pm-9pm) Register at [marriagesofgrace.org](http://marriagesofgrace.org).

**January 12** • Baptism class for all new parents at St. Luke Church (12:15pm in the church)

**January 17** • Mass for Life at Cathedral (10am)

**January 25** • Called by the Spirit: Day of Reflection at the Center for Pastoral Leadership (8:30am - 2:30pm) Register at [dioceseofcleveland.org/events](http://dioceseofcleveland.org/events)

**February 22** • Ignite Young Adult Conference at St. Ignatius High School. (9am-9pm) For young adults age 18-40. Register at [dioceseofcleveland.org/events](http://dioceseofcleveland.org/events)



### Christmas Praise and Worship at St. Clement Parish

Join us Wed, Dec 18, 7pm at St Clement for Christmas Praise & Worship. It's a one-hour prayer service with Adoration, Benediction, Scripture, Worship songs, and prayer. The songs will be more "reflective" in nature, rather than "talking to Jesus". For those that would like to join, we'll head to a nearby restaurant for dinner and drinks afterward. Hope to see you there...



**THEOLOGY ON TAP**  
**"I PLACE MY TRUST IN YOU"**

What does it mean to place your life at the service of God's Plan through the lens of Mary? How can we prepare our hearts to receive Jesus this Advent?

**DECEMBER 17TH**  
**Forest City Brewery**  
**7pm**

with Sr. Rita Clare, T.O.R.

*Sr. Rita Clare grew up in Dearborn Heights, earned a full-ride scholarship to play basketball at the University of Detroit-Mercy where she graduated with a degree in sports medicine. In 2009 she entered the Franciscan Sisters T.O.R. and made her final vows in 2018.*

Registration will be available at [dioceseofcleveland.org/totcle](http://dioceseofcleveland.org/totcle). Parking is available on the street or at St. Wendelin



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