



THE BELLRINGER

SAINT LUKE'S CHURCH

FOREST HILLS, NEW YORK

September 2015

Our Year-Round Ministries with Children and Youth— Parish, Friends, Wider Community

Dear Friends,

Each June we celebrate our ministries with children and youth, but year-round we work hard at providing a variety of opportunities and needed supports for them, parish families and friends of Saint Luke's. Now, we are reaching even further into the community-at-large to touch the lives of children and teenagers.

As always, the Sunday Nursery is available for parents who wish to leave their infants and toddlers for all or a portion of the 10:30am liturgy. Age-appropriate toys, play and supervised care are provided each Sunday.

Mid-September through mid-June, our Sunday Church School for all boys and girls K through 8th grade takes place from 10:15am until The Peace, at which time the children join their families in church for Holy Communion. Our dedicated ensemble of teachers provide faith-formation activities that focus on scripture, prayer, worship, the sacraments and caring for others.

The Youth Group is a supportive, integrative blend of junior and senior high students as well as young adult/college-aged students. The older members of the group are models and mentors for the younger. Together they engage in service projects, faith and moral decision-making explorations, and Fun. This fall, as part of our parish Action Plan, Youth Night expands through intentional invitations to community young people to join in the fun of fellowship: board games and a shared supper. This safe space for area young people will be offered in the parish hall each third Friday of the month from 6 until 9:30pm.

Of course, in nearly four decades of community theater, The Gingerbread Players of Saint Luke's Church continues to offer boys and girls a platform upon which to work together with adults in presenting a wonderful offering of musical theater which is a joy for them and all audiences.

About to begin our fifth year of hosting Angels in the Garden Childcare Center in our lower parish hall, Saint Luke's offers families in the Forest Hills area quality full-day Monday-Friday childcare; now year-round, thanks to the installation of air-conditioning.

In keeping with our Action Plan goal of responding to community needs, in this case working parents and primarily the neighborhood school PS 101, this September will begin the inaugural year of an After School Program for elementary school-aged children, run by the respected Thinking Cap, Inc. organization. This program will utilize the upper parish hall on a Monday-Friday afternoon/early evening basis, offering enrichment and homework assistance.

To round out our children and youth ministries, a committee of parishioners will meet this fall to consider the past two years of Saint Luke's Summer Camp pilot programs in order to develop a 2016 summer offering that includes full-day/week-long "Faith and Fun" (aka Vacation Bible School), Children's Chorus, and Theater Arts Workshop.

All in all, our embrace of parish and community children and youth is an exciting, faithful and growing expression of our ministering in Christ's Name!

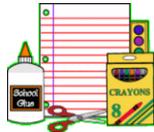
Faithfully yours,

Summer Milestones

On August 2nd we welcomed Logan Birmingham and Sophia Lopez into Christ's Body, the Church, through Holy Baptism. We hold these children and their parents Blake and Heather, Kristen and Andres in our prayers.

Wednesday Healing Service Resumes

On September 2nd at 10am, we resume our mid-weekly practice of gathering in the chapel for *The Holy Eucharist with Special Intention for Healing*. At this liturgy we remember in prayer all those whose names have been given to us for care and healing prayer. In addition, those who gather hear scripture readings that focus on healing, wholeness and extending care and peace to those who are troubled by any dis-ease in their lives.



Youth Group is Collecting School Supplies for Coalition for the Homeless

You may be aware that the start of the new school year is right around the corner. Every child should be prepared to learn and have the necessary school supplies, but not everyone is able to purchase all that is needed for school. Our Youth Group is once again sponsoring a "Backpack Drive" for the Coalition for the Homeless. We will be collecting items such as writing utensils, folders, notebooks, backpacks, binders and anything else that would help a child reach their full potential in school! Thank you for helping our kids help homeless students!

Donations will be gratefully accepted Sunday, September 6th and Sunday, September 13th.

--Erica Ponce

4th Sunday Healing Service Pilot Program

For the benefit of parishioners who are not free to attend the Wednesday morning service but who would like personal prayer and the Laying on of Hands for Healing,

Father Tom will be present in the chapel on the 4th Sunday of September, October and November, following the Postlude and exit of people from the Narthex (approximately 11:45am until 12 Noon). Following this three-month experiment, we will decide how to proceed.



RUMMAGE ROUND THE CLOCK

Rummage-lovers unite! You have nothing to lose but your junk. And you and our beloved St. Luke's have everything to gain from a successful rummaging endeavor. Last year's sale brought in close to \$14,000. Wouldn't it be wonderful to do even better this year?

**Rummage Sale 2015 will be held on
*Saturday, Oct. 10, 10 am to 4 pm, and
Sunday, Oct. 11, noon to 4.***

Our sale is one of our most vital fundraisers, helping to balance the operating budget and nourish our unique parish life and ministry. It's also a great chance for us to bond as a parish and open our arms to the outside world. By offering lightly used items at affordable prices, we are providing an important service to local families who may be struggling to make ends meet. When the excitement is over, our leftover bounty is donated to a worthy charity.

How You Can Help:

The most important element for a successful sale is *lots of volunteers*. Join us in gathering, sorting, arranging, pricing and selling, and restoring order to the parish hall at the end.

***COLLECTING BEGINS SUNDAY,
SEPTEMBER 6 AT NOON!***

Help cover receiving hours on Saturdays from 10 am to noon; Sundays from noon to 1 pm, beginning September 6th and ending October 4. All you have to do is show donors where to leave their contributions onstage, and provide a form for tax

purposes.

Spreading the Word: Please encourage all your friends and neighbors to donate now and come back and shop later. Flyers are available in the parish hall detailing collecting hours and sale time. Please help us distribute them or post them on local bulleting boards or in shop windows!

Set-Up/Clean-Up:

Upstairs Set-Up Day, Sat., Sept. 26 at 10 am: Get a healthy workout hauling tables and racks and distributing the accumulated rummage to the respective departments.

Downstairs Set-Up Day, Thursday and Friday, Oct. 8 and 9: If you're available during the day on Friday, or the Thursday night before, to get the downstairs departments organized, we will need all the help we can get for this rapid transformation.

Clean-Up Day, October 11, starting at 4 pm: Put those muscles to use in packing away the leftovers and getting the downstairs hall ready for day care, and the upstairs in order for our St. Luke's Day celebrations on Oct. 18!

Sorting and Pricing: Daytime and evening sessions to sort through the fabulous treasures are planned for the two weeks before the sale. (Hours will be posted.)

Department Heads/Sales Staff: All departments need volunteers to help with sorting and selling, including Ladies' Separates, Menswear, Boutique, Children's Dept., Jewelry, Appliances, Linens, Outerwear, Books, Snack Bar and White Elephant.

Snack Bar: Jean Tessier needs help in the kitchen before and during the sale, as well as your contributions of cookies, cakes, etc., to keep the shoppers well fed and eager to buy.

To volunteer, just let us know you're available. No experience necessary -- you'll get on-the-job training! Sign up on the sheets in the narthex and parish hall, call me at 212-769-7082, send me an email at ltg@operanews.com, or seek me out at

coffee hour and tell me you'd like to lend a hand.

--Louise Guinther
Rummage Sale Co-chair



**Annual Choir Workshop
and Dinner at Rectory**

In preparation for their return on Sunday, September 13, our wonderful singers, led by organist and choir master Bill Stokes, will participate in the annual Choir Workshop workout on Saturday, September 12 from 2:00 to 5:00pm. Afterwards, to strengthen them for service during the coming months, at 6:00pm Father Tom will give them dinner at the rectory.

New Acolytes Rehearsal

Our new acolytes will continue their training with Father Tom on Saturday, September 12 in the church from 9:30 until 11:00am.



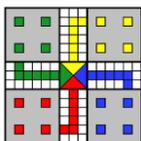
**BISHOP PROVENZANO IS COMING
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13 AT 10:30AM**

*Choral Holy Eucharist
Saint Luke's Choir Returns
Sunday Church School Resumes
Bishop Provenzano Preaches & Celebrates
Youth Group Presents "Game Night" Plan
Back Packs and School Supplies at Offertory*

*Hospitality Hour "Meet and Greet" Bishop;
Bishop meets with Vestry*

Monthly Vestry Meetings

Saint Luke's Vestry meets monthly (except in July and August) and usually on the third Wednesday at 7:30pm. Each month the Vestry gathers to discuss timely aspects of its fiscal and legal responsibilities as well as pertinent elements of parish life and ministry programs. Members of the parish are always welcome to attend and observe proceedings. The next meeting is on Wednesday, September 16 at 7:30pm in the parish hall.



Youth Group "Game Night"

Friday, September 18 is the Youth Group's first Game Night of the season. All youth group members and their friends are invited. In addition to playing board games and sharing dinner, there will be discussion of how best, as a first step, to invite area faith community youth group members as well as a later, second step of how to attract and invite teens in general from the larger community. Parishioners who indicated an interest to serve occasionally as Game Night chaperones will soon be contacted. In addition, a general call for parishioners willing to provide a monthly supper will be coming from the Youth Group.

New Usher Recruitment and Rehearsal Sunday, September 20 During Hospitality Hour

We need new ushers! All adult parishioners interested in serving as ushers for the 10:30am liturgy are asked to attend this informational session. Ushers are the first people that visitors and newcomers meet upon entering Saint Luke's Church. Besides offering a warm hello, the worship leaflet and a parking pass to visitors, ushers gather the congregation's offering, facilitate movement to the altar at Holy Communion and tidy up the pews following worship. If there is any "inconvenience" at all, it's that

ushers need to be in place 20 minutes before worship begins, and that during the liturgy they stay stationed at the rear of the church. Ideally, usher teams would serve no more than once every 6 weeks. If you have any questions between now and the Sept 20 session, please speak with a current usher.

Ongoing Group Meetings Inspired by The Book of Forgiving

The people who met on four evenings in August to discuss Archbishop Desmond Tutu's book on forgiveness and reconciliation have decided to continue meeting. All interested parishioners are invited to the next meeting on *Thursday, September 24 at 7:30pm*. Although the actual path of discussion has not yet been firmly decided, the group agreed it would be best to focus on situations in our society where reconciliation is called for. Come be a part of the meeting that sets the direction and topics for the future.

New York Opera Forum Performs at Saint Luke's Sunday, September 13

New York Opera Forum presents Richard Strauss's searing adaptation of the Greek myth *Elektra* at 3:00pm on September 13 in a concert performance of the entire opera with piano accompaniment. All are cordially invited to meet the artists at a wine and cheese reception after the concert. Suggested donation is \$12.00, \$10.00 for seniors and students.



Vigil of Saint Michael and All Angels (Michaelmas Celebration)

***Tuesday, September 29 at 7:30pm
Holy Eucharist with Hymns***

This year's Michaelmas celebration falls on a Tuesday evening. As is our custom, worshippers are invited to bring fresh-cut flowers to adorn the altar. During the

liturgy, a designated parishioner will tell the story of having encountered an angel in the time since last year's Michaelmas Celebration, and at 8:00pm we will share a dinner ordered in from a local restaurant. Please call the office to make a "reservation" for the dinner – the cost will be shared by all.

***New Dean Appointed for
Forest Park Deanery***

Bishop Provenzano has named Father Tom as the Dean of the Forest Park Deanery. Deanery parishes currently include Resurrection, Kew Gardens; Saint John's, South Ozone Park; All Saints, Woodhaven and Saint Luke's, Forest Hills.

In this capacity, Father Tom is asked to convene the monthly meeting of Forest Park clergy and the quarterly gatherings of deanery parish leadership, as well as to assist the Bishop by facilitating discussions and planning for ways that the deanery parishes can support each other's existing parish life, as well as to envision and implement joint ministry endeavors that can raise the visibility and effectiveness of the Episcopal Church throughout the deanery.

As Dean, Father Tom is now The *Very* Reverend Thomas F. Reese. But as he recently said to the Vestry, continuing to just call him Tom will do just fine! ☺



September Birthdays and Anniversaries

- 2 Gabriel Gentile
- 3 Vera Moron
- 3 Luke Dinan
- 6 Earl Liao
- 6 Julia Kahn and Virginia Yu (A)
- 7 Dolly Guinther
- 7 Angel Mercado
- 8 Anneliese Wang
- 9 Kelsey Reese
- 10 Chandra Singh
- 12 Katie Laatikainen
- 12 Jeanine McPartlin
- 13 Benjamin Lee Callahan
- 19 Joetta Wagner
- 23 Manny and Mickey Zacarias (A)
- 24 Linda and Kenneth Portz (A)
- 25 Brendan Gieseke
- 25 Matthew Bachiochi

