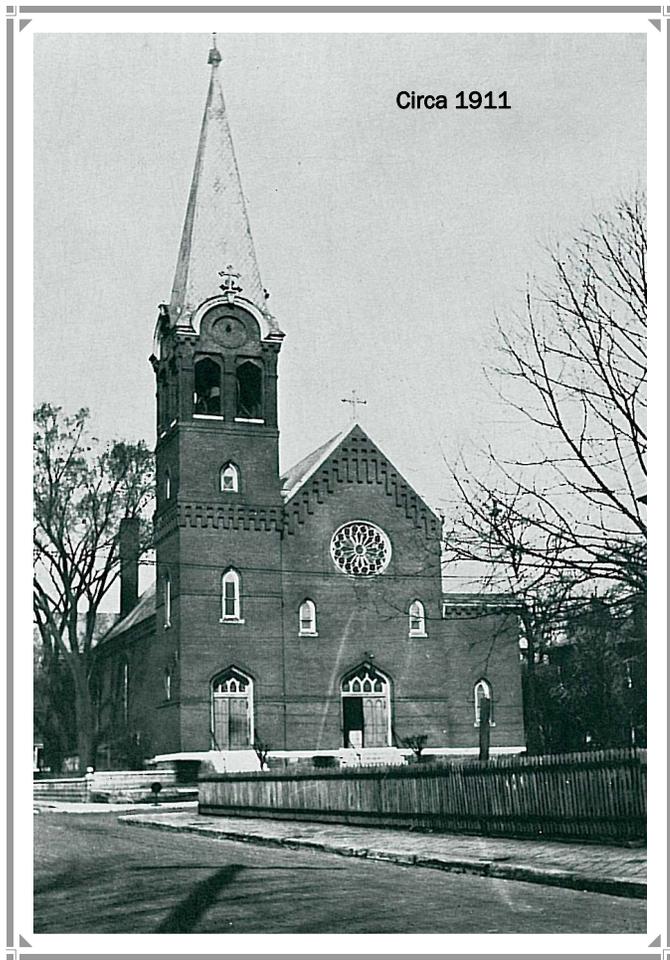


# St. Luke's Catholic Church

301 North Church Street

Belleville, Illinois

Founded: January 21, 1883



### *Our Mission:*

The St. Luke's parish family, encompassing all, is a Eucharistic community called by God to serve others. Formed by the Word of God, we continue the Mission of Jesus allowing each person to use their God-given gifts and talents. As people of hospitality, we joyfully and lovingly open our minds and our hearts ministering to the world and to each other.



1883 • 125 Years of Celebration • 2008



## THE FOUNDING

When the City of Belleville was incorporated in 1850, it lay in the Diocese of Alton, Illinois. It had only one Catholic Church and was populated mostly by German-speaking people. About 1866, a few English speaking Catholics took steps to establish a Catholic congregation where the gospel would be spoken in their own tongue. So began the history of St. Luke's parish. The interested parties amassed \$7,000 in subscriptions and it was proposed to buy a church which was then for sale in Belleville.

Bishop Juenker of Alton and Rev. Peter Baltes of St. Peter's church in Belleville, favored the idea and secured a charter for the congregation under the title of St. Luke RC Church. However, the English speaking Catholics could not agree on whether to buy the *old* church, or where to locate a *new* building site...and the project was dropped. Though it seemed doomed, the idea would not die.

According to Henry Heap, a lifetime member of the parish and graduate of St. Luke's school in the 1920s, the project was revitalized in 1881 on the first Sunday of Advent when Rev. Louis Hinssen, rector of St. Peter's, called a meeting of concerned men at St. Agnes's Orphan Asylum. The same difficulties arose to confront them. Everyone wanted an English speaking congregation. No one agreed on the site. The Daubach property in south Belleville was favored by some; sites near the present church by others.

Meanwhile, Father Hinssen established a school for English speaking children in the basement of the convent of the Immaculate Conception, in charge of the Sisters of Notre Dame. The nucleus of the future congregation was thus formed. In 1882, Father Hinssen was directed to buy lots 1,2,3 and 4 of the Rentschler property on the corner of Walnut and B Streets. Subscriptions for \$4,000 were garnered: \$1,300 in cash; the balance to be collected when the church was an established fact. Father James Gough was assigned as the first Pastor on January 18, 1883. The act of separating from St. Peter's German congregation was read on January 21, 1883 in St. Peter's church and the first Mass was offered by the young rector on January 28, 1883. During Father Gouff's tenure the congregation grew from a few families to more than 600. With few exceptions, the families were Americans of German descent.

Until property and buildings were acquired, St. Luke's used a large hall at St. Agnes Orphan's Home for a church. The Pastor lived at Belleville Sister's hospital. To satisfy all parties, a new site for the church was secured. On May 4, 1883 the A. T. Primm property on the corner of Church and C Streets was purchased and the Rentschler property was sold to pay for it. St. Luke's cornerstone was laid July 4, 1883 by Rt. Rev. Peter Joseph Baltes. **An interesting aside:** records dated July 1882 use the name *St. Eustace*. However, from the time the first pastor arrived, all records use the name St. Luke's Church.

Plans for a Gothic red brick church were sent by the Bishop himself to the committee and a contract was awarded to Peter Stauder and Erhlinger Brothers. The new church was occupied February 17, 1884. It had a seating capacity of 400.

On October 12, 1884 two fine bells were hung in the tower of St. Luke's. One bell weighed a ton; the other a half-ton. They were cast at the McShane Bell Foundry in Baltimore, Maryland—the only bell foundry still in existence in the United States at the 100th anniversary of the parish. The bells were blessed by Rev. P. J. O'Halloran in memory of Mother Jerome and school girls who perished in a convent fire at Belleville on January 5, 1884. Mother Jerome's name is in raised letters on the bells.



In 1884 a parochial residence was built and occupied by the rector before Christmas. It is built of brick and including furnishings cost about \$3,000. The residence was enlarged in 1904 to accommodate an assistant priest at a cost of \$1,000.

In the spring of 1884 the congregation transferred its school into a transformed stable on the church property. Here, until 1889, two School Sisters of Notre Dame, Sister Eleutheria and Sister Jane de Chantel, taught the parish children. In time, larger accommodations were needed. The congregation purchased property from Joseph Leopold on Church and Anderson Streets at a cost of \$1,200 to erect a new school. The work was completed July 1, 1889 at a cost of over \$7,000.



The parish continued to grow. In 1895, property in the neighborhood of the school owned by Weber and Heinemann was purchased by the Trustees for \$4,500. This property became a playground for the children and a site for the Sisters' residence. The residence was built by the charitable Mr. Charles Thomas and other friends.

In 1905, due to the increasing number of children, the school was enlarged and a hall with a seating capacity of 600 was added for a cost of the new addition and furnishings was about \$30,000. The



Class of 1925 & Sister M. Pierre SSND

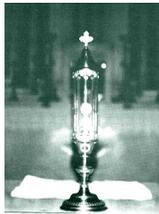
school now had seven teachers and two music teachers and an enrollment of about 400 pupils. A ninth grade and a "commercial class" was later added to the curriculum. **Of note:** *St. Luke's* was awarded first class diplomas and medals by the Committee for Awards at the Chicago World's Fair in 1933.

A Boundary Line Decree issued on December 10, 1925 stated, "St. Luke's Parish shall have as members all Catholics living on the East side of North Illinois Street and Smelting Works Road and in territory East, and all Catholics living on the North side of East Main Street and the Carlyle Road and in the territory North, with the exception of that territory lying North and East of the Louisville and Nashville Railroad Tracks to the Carlyle Road, which territory I hereby reserve for the new parish. However, until such time when this new parish is organized, the people living beyond the Louisville and Nashville Railroad Track, North of the Carlyle Road, shall be considered members of St. Luke's parish.

The decree became effective on January 1, 1926.

### PASTORS WHO SERVED ST. LUKE'S

Father James Gough died unexpectedly after a two day illness on Sunday, January 7, 1912. Rev. Patrick Byrne, the young parish assistant, was appointed his successor. During his pastorate the soil under the large three-story school was excavated. Walls were under-pinned and the foundation partition walls were replaced by iron beams to provide basement space for club rooms and bowling alleys. Mr. Dominic Bauer directed the work which was done gratuitously by the men of the Holy Name Society during free days and in the evening. The double alleys installed were freely patronized by the members of the parish. Also, the church was frescoed by Mr. William Weiss at an outlay of \$1,500. Father Byrne resigned three years later and was succeeded in January 1915 by Rev. Vincent Hartung.



Father Hartung, a native of Breese, Illinois, labored in St. Luke's vineyard until October 1927. All who knew him were aware of his efficient, business-like ability. He was succeeded by Monsignor Francis Kaiser, who served the parish from October 26, 1927 until October 21, 1968. Like Father Hartung before him, he felt the original red brick church was in need of replacement. It is said a piece of masonry falling from the old structure precipitated the decision to build a new church.

### THE NEW CHURCH

Ground was broken on April 26, 1928. A cornerstone was laid on June 17, 1928 and the dedication by Bishop Henry Althoff took place on December 23, 1928. The design of the new building was greatly influenced by classic examples of Tudor Gothic architecture Monsignor Kaiser had seen in such places as Lambeth Palace and Hampton Court in England. The basic structure was erected for less than \$30,000. Furnishing, windows and other accoutrements, some of which were donated, raised the final price. The marble altars and accessories are priceless today. It should be noted that after Vatican II, the altar rail and placement of the main altar were reconfigured to conform with papal guidelines. Also, when the new church was built in 1928 a third bell cast in a St. Louis foundry was purchased. The smallest bell, it weighs only 500 pounds.

The Wall Street crash of 1929 and the resulting economic depression saw a drop in membership to 221 families who assumed and cleared the debt of the new church building. On April 4, 1934 Monsignor Kaiser was named Diocesan Director of the Society for the Propagation of the Faith and was appointed Chaplain at Scott Field (now Air Force Base), which became a mission of St. Luke's on this date. Monsignor Kaiser held this position until 1941.

*During Monsignor Kaiser's tenure, the following priests served as Assistant Pastors:*

- ◆ Rev. Edwin Arentsen September 1945—August 1949
- ◆ Rev. Robert Dollar, June 1960—October 1961
- ◆ Rev. Vincent Haselhorst, October 1961—August 1962
- ◆ Rev. Henry Engelhart, August 1968—unknown

The new edifice had many interesting features. It is the only church in the diocese with a *rood beam*, a crucifixion group on a heavy beam over the chancel. Its bells, mentioned earlier, were among the favorite things of Father Theodore Siekmann who became pastor after Monsignor Kaiser retired due to age and declining health in October of 1968.

St. Luke's built a modern convent in 1965 to replace the old one. A new parish hall was constructed in 1975 and during Father Seikmann's tenure the church was air-conditioned. Father Seikman struggled valiantly against failing health, hoping to serve through his 40<sup>th</sup> jubilee. Prior to that goal, however, he thought it best to retire in March 1982. Father Dean Braun was named temporary Administrator.

Father Eugene Neff was appointed Pastor on April 18, 1982. During that same year, the soup kitchen—the brain-child of Mr. Earl Hasenstab—was started. It continues to this day. The parish hall was enlarged in 1986 and remains the center of many parish activities.

To assist Father Neff with his duties as head of the Ministry for the Sick and Aged and pastor at St. Luke, Father Fred Jones was assigned as part time Associate Pastor on July 6, 1982. Father Neff left the parish on August 1, 1994. Father James Margason arrived at St. Luke's the following month. He was elevated to Monsignor in 2000 and served as Vicar General of the Diocese. In July 2004, Monsignor Margason transferred to a Shiloh parish.

Sister Grace Marie Mueller, SSND became Pastoral Associate in August 1991. Sister Grace became Parish Life Coordinator in July 2004 and assumed total administration of the Parish. About the same time, St. Luke and St. Teresa parishes began the clustering process.

### PERMANENT DEACONS WHO SERVED ST. LUKE'S

On March 7, 1976 Mr. Otto Faulbaum became St. Luke's first Deacon. He died December 20, 1987. Mr. Pete Cerneka became Deacon in Fall 1990 and served until 1999. Deacon Mr. Bob Lanter has served the parish since April 1997.

## INSTALLATION OF SISTER GRACE MARIE MUELLER, SSND

Sister Grace Marie Mueller was installed by Bishop Wilton Gregory as Parish Life Coordinator of St. Luke's Church on July 25, 2004 with these words, "In the name of the Diocese of Belleville and the people of God, I call you forth...to be pastoral leader of this faith community."

Sister Grace promised to live the faith life called for by the Gospel, to fulfill her responsibilities as Parish Life Coordinator and to work to promote a spirit of collaboration and respect for one another with the Bishop and priests of the cluster, Rev. John Venegoni and Rev. Trevor Murry, to the best of her ability. Deacon Bob Lanter called forth parishioners Doris Lyke and Adelaide Sauthoff to present Sister Grace with the Lectionary. Parish Trustees Vince Harter and Jean Duffy presented her with the keys of the parish. Pastoral Council President Sandy Baechle presented her with the Parish Mission Statement. The Lodes family, representing the parish faith community, presented her with the parish directory.

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## THE HISTORIC CHURCH ORGAN



St. Luke's organ was originally built by the Kimball Organ Company and was taken in trade by the Kilgen Organ Company of St. Louis when Reverend F. A. Kaiser was looking for an organ for the new St. Luke Church in 1928. The Kilgen Organ Company offered to totally rebuild the organ and have a new console. The wood

of the console and the cases surrounding the pipes would be wood, in a design to match the other wood in the church balcony. The price was \$3,750 plus the old Pfeffer organ from the old church. The contract was signed on October 24, 1928 and the organ was rebuilt and installed in 1929.

In 1985 the Wicks Organ Company contracted to renovate and update the organ by changing the electro-pneumatic action to solid state, putting in new key contacts, new combination action with existing chests for Swell and Pedal, new rectifier, new main cable and junction board, new swell motor, new swimmer for Swell and new pedal bellows. Other work done included a new 4' flute and a 2' octave stop on the Great; changing the violin diapason on the Swell from an 8' to a 4' stop and having the decorative pipes around the outside of the two chambers repainted and smoothed. The work was completed in June 1986 at a price of \$26,514. The organ has a bright, clear sound well suited to the church building and well serves the liturgical needs of the parish.

The organ was re-dedicated by pastor Gene Neff on October 12, 1986 "to the honor and glory of God by the Many Parishioners and Friends of St. Luke Parish" during a ceremony with Robert Hachmeister as guest organist.

## PARISH MINISTRIES AND ORGANIZATIONS

St. Luke's parish has a reputation for its hospitality, an effort all parishioners foster with great care. We welcome with joy all newcomers and invite them to join with us as we strive to fulfill our Mission as stated on the cover of this booklet. Various organizations exist at St. Luke's to educate our youth (kindergarten through eighth grade) in the Catholic faith; to reach out to those less fortunate than us through the St. Vincent DePaul Society; to invite others to learn more about our faith and to learn more about it ourselves through RCIA and scripture classes; to feed the hungry through the Food Pantry and Soup Kitchen and to educate about health issues.



Each ministry or organization is grouped under one of six Pastoral Council Commissions. Time commitments vary. We welcome newcomers to join with us in our mission to *be* church to one another. Commissions and chairpersons are listed below:

### Parish Commissions

Faith Formation - Mary Regan

Finance/Administration - Sandy Baechle and Jean Duffy

Liturgy - Deacon Bob Lanter

Parish Life - Vince Harter

Social Justice - Susan Evers; Interfaith Food Pantry—Tom Kolb

Youth - Coordinated by Pastoral Council

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## OLD AND NEW SOUNDS AROUND ST. LUKE'S

The bells are ringing! After a long absence and with the dedicated work of bell ringing organizer Duane Dennis, we again can hear the sound of our historic church bells. As parishioner Jeannine Meinen wrote: "Other than the sound of children there is no better sound than church bells ringing. I pray they will ring every day, all day, to remind us all where our answers are."



### NEW PIANO!

The sound system has been updated and the new piano arrived and was heard Sunday, September 28, 2008 for the first time. The beautiful music and sounds from the congregation's voices echo in every corner of the church.



How blessed we are to have a wonderful home in which to praise God and family with which to celebrate. The anniversary year will be one of the most exciting in St. Luke's parish history. We thank all parishioners who made it possible through the piano project..

## PARISHIONERS REMEMBER WHEN...

Dorothy Harbaugh has the honor of being the oldest living member of St. Luke's parish, joining in February 1938. Dorothy and her husband moved to her Lebanon Avenue home of 49 years after a short stint in Waterloo. Originally from St. Louis, Missouri, Dorothy and her husband were married at Nativity of our Lord parish in St. Louis but raised their two children, Bill and Rosalee, in Belleville. Both children attended St. Luke's school. Dorothy helped her husband raise bees for honey for many years before he died in 1980.

Before her marriage, Dorothy worked at Famous Barr for six years and was a homemaker during the children's school years. She later worked at Notre Dame High School in the cafeteria for 11 years, then used her cooking talent at St. Elizabeth's Hospital where she was the chief dessert cook until her retirement in 1982.

Dorothy was a member of the Perpetual Help Sodality and Mothers Club at St. Luke's where meetings were held in the music room. She arrived late to one meeting and brought some of her husband's honey. As she entered, Father Kaiser said, "Here is one honey bringing the other honey."

One of her memories of St. Luke's occurred during a tour of New Orleans. Dorothy and her friend were touring Our Lady of Prompt Succor Church when the guide mentioned that only one other church in the USA had a rood beam in the sanctuary: St. Luke's in Belleville! Dorothy was proud to tell everyone that she belonged to St. Luke's parish.

While at Notre Dame High School Dorothy managed the cafeteria and "took care of her girls" while the nuns were in the classroom. She especially remembers "her girls" who visit her at the Meredith Home where she resides today.

Dorothy says the biggest change at St. Luke's in the past 71 years is the way we receive Communion today — from the back to the front. One of her other memories is her card club with St. Luke's parishioners Mil Miller and Mary Cerneka.



St. Luke's Kitchen Committee 2003. Seated: Florence Craig, Alice Himstedt (deceased; chairman from 2/86-5/03), Sister Grace Marie Mueller, SSND. Standing: Madge Schutzenhofer, Georgette Scheibel, Agnes Gebhart, Dorothy Hasenstab, Mary Louise Schmidt, Mildred Gerling, Dorothy Mayes, Katherine Klinkhamer.

Florence Craig has the honor of being the second oldest living member of St. Luke's Church. She joined the parish in 1928 at the age of eight when she moved from Cathedral parish to live with her grandmother and aunts after the death of her grandfather. Two years later she moved into a new home on Church Street where she lived for 65 years. She currently lives on Weatherstone street with her daughter, Pat.

Florence and her husband, Jerry, were married at St. Luke's. Sadly Jerry passed away in 1979. Their three children Rita, Jack and Pat all attended St. Luke's School. Florence has seven grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

During the children's school years Florence was a homemaker. Monsignor Schwaegel asked her to work for the Diocese of Belleville after Jerry died "because she needed to do something with her time." She remained at the diocese offices for 25 years and retired in 2004. Florence was a member of the Perpetual Help Sodality where she was President for two terms. She also served on the Stewardship Committee, was a member of the choir, Kitchen committee and quilting committee.

Her oldest daughter, Rita, was married at St. Luke's. Her son Jack was married in Maryville, Illinois. After Jack's rehearsal dinner, the night before his wedding, the priest suddenly died. Monsignor Kaiser had to get a special dispensation from the Bishop to perform the ceremony in the Springfield diocese.

Florence says the biggest change at St. Luke's during her years was the Mass being said in English from Latin. She remembers Sister August Marie, the music teacher at the grade school and continued to correspond with her until Sister's death a few years ago.

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Katherine Klinkhamer joined St. Luke's in 1930, moving from St. Teresa's parish. Katherine's father, William Blaes, was the custodian at St. Luke's for twenty years. She remembers him ringing the bells by hand and attending to the coal furnace three times a day to maintain heat in the building.

Katherine and her husband, Robert, who worked at Kroger were married at St. Luke's in 1943. Their children, Mary Katherine and Mike, both attended St. Luke's grade school. Katherine has five grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. Sadly, Robert died in 1985 and the couple's daughter died in 1996.

Katherine was a homemaker during the children's school years and later worked in the catalog department at Sears Farm Store for 17 years. She was a member of the Perpetual Help Sodality where she served a term as secretary. Katherine also served on the liturgy committee, quilting committee and as a consultant. The two biggest changes she recalls are removal of the Communion rail and the priest facing the congregation. Her special memories include celebrating her 25th wedding anniversary where Monsignor Kaiser told her it is not often a priest can perform a wedding and celebrate a couple's silver anniversary. She fondly recalls the penny carnival at the old school and the picnics.

## DOWN MEMORY LANE—

**Neil and Georgette Scheibel:** Neil is a life-long member of St. Luke's. He was baptized at the "old church" and has continued his faith journey here with us. He recalls when St. Luke's encompassed the entire east side of town as well as the surrounding country. He said when St. Teresa's was established the boundary was "the tracks." He laughingly says, "They came from the wrong side of the tracks."

Neil remembers being in the school plays at St. Luke's and relates to his first musical solo on the harmonica. In grade school under the care of the Notre Dame nuns, he started out as a "lefty," but in first grade his teacher persuaded him to be a right-handed student because he recalls the ruler came down on the knuckles of lefties in front of the class. By the time Sister reached the rear of the class he stuck his hand in his pocket and placed the pencil in his right hand.

Neil was a server at Mass and also drove with the assistant priest at St. Luke's out to Scott Air Force Base to assist at Mass. He attended Cathedral High School and paid his \$5 tuition by setting up the pins at the bowling alley in the basement of the grade school where he earned 5-cents a game. He was drafted into the Armed Services in 1943 and returned home after the war and joined the CYO for older teens and young adults. During his CYO years while attending Mass, his eyes were attracted to the tall thin woman who would later become his wife. Georgette and Neil were married in May 1949 at St. Luke's. They raised four children in the parish: Tom, Ann, Jane and John.

Georgette was born in Wiener, Arkansas and came with her sister to Belleville in 1945 to live with a widowed aunt. Her home was the old Friese estate which was razed and is now the site of St. George's Church. She went to a Catholic grade school in Wiener. Due to the sudden death of her father, and with a special dispensation from the bishop, she was allowed to go to the public high school.

Neil and Georgette were very active in St. Luke's parish. Neil was a former trustee, member of the Men's Club, Soup Kitchen, founder of the Tuesday Work Crew, parish picnic, server, pin setter and assistant leader of the boy scouts. He was picnic chairman of the joint Catholic School picnic for one year. Georgette was a quilter, a member of the kitchen committee, parish picnic, Altar Society, Meals on Wheels (1974-end) and was the parish secretary for seven years.

Neil retired from AT&T in 1983. Father Gene Neff put him to work assisting on the building and grounds. He was given so much work he started the Tuesday work crew which he ran until the ripe young age of 80. After Georgette's secretary duties were finished she continued to work, spending 10 years at the Belleville East book store.

Neil and Georgette say the biggest change at St. Luke's is the parish without a resident priest and the return of a nun, Sister Grace Marie Mueller, SSND.

Georgette and Neil now reside at St. Paul Apartments. They fondly remember seeing all fifty states and the Panama Canal.

## DID YOU KNOW?

The imported stained-glass windows in the clerestory of St. Luke's Church depict the 15 mysteries of the Rosary plus the scene of the giving of the Rosary by the Blessed Virgin Mary to St. Dominic.

The Rosary as a prayer of meditation on the life of Christ evolved over a long period of time and had its origin in the old practice of counting prayers by moving pebbles or keeping count of prayers on a string of beads.

There is a tradition that says Mary herself gave the Rosary to St. Dominic. This scene has often been depicted in art—as it is in the 16th window in St. Luke's Church.



## A BEEHIVE OF ACTIVITY



On Sunday September 10, 2004 a plague of bees forced St. Luke's to hold Mass in the church hall. Brian Huelskamp, a member of the St. Clair Beekeepers Association, said the infestation caused the scene to resemble a horror movie with bees literally covering the church's stained glass windows. The insects had used multiple entrances to the church including a hole in the wall that gave them access to the organ. He said, "The church hummed like a beehive."

Gene Robinson, an entomologist at the University of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana said solving the problem could be a long process as the bees needed to be either captured or killed. Then honeycombs must be scraped off the wall where the bees established hives and the material removed.

Rev. James Margason, vicar general of the Belleville Diocese and then pastor of the church, was left to decide on how to handle the problem without putting anyone at risk.





Confirmation Class 2006

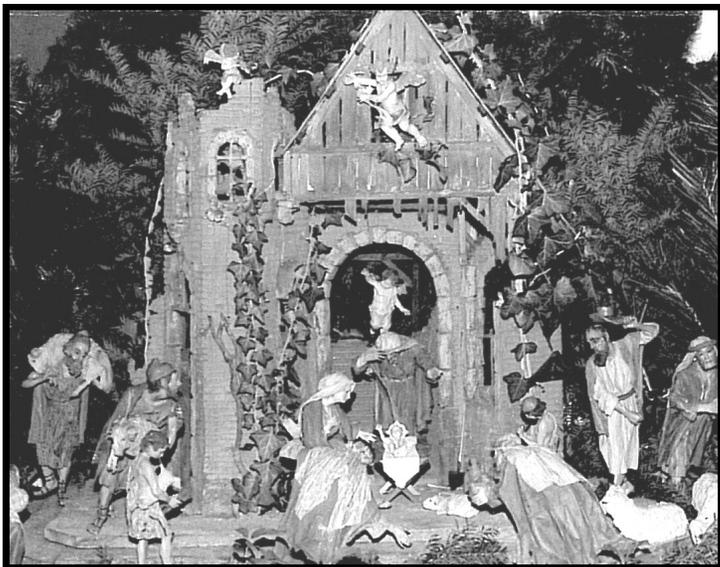
**THE CRECHE**

The central focus of St. Luke's Christmas celebration each year is the historic crèche which dates to Monsignor Kaiser's pastorate. The exact date it was acquired and the artist's name are unknown. However, we know it was created in Germany and believe the year to be in the 1930s. An evaluation by the St. Louis Art Museum revealed the costumed figurines are made of linen paper Mache. Each of the pieces is numbered.

The crèche is unique in that the set contains two Madonna figures and two infant Jesus figures...one set portrays the Christ Child as a newborn babe; His Blessed Mother hovers beside Him in this setting, presenting Him to the shepherds who have come to adore Him. The second shows the very young child Jesus standing in the arms of his seated Mother as they welcome the newly arrived Magi.

Though handled with care, the figurines have shown wear over the years. In 2006 parishioner Julia Cole asked her artist sister, Christine Huelsmann, to repair the reclining Infant Jesus's broken foot and the camel's fractured leg. The treasured pieces, now restored, are ready to delight young and old visitors to the Crèche during future Christmas seasons.

*Of note: when Father Siekman was at St. Luke's, he refused to use the crèche, saying it was "too old and too big."*



**HOW WILL "CHURCH" LOOK IN THE FUTURE?**

In a 2005 article in the Belleville Diocesan newspaper, *The Messenger*, writer Liz Quirin asked what would happen if you arrived for a weekend liturgy and found the pastor was unable to be present for the celebration? Citing changes due to the priest shortage, she noted "some would find a way to share prayer and community" and pointed to St. Luke's Parish as an example of good things that *could* happen if change is anticipated and preparation made.

Ms. Quirin noted future parish life depends on creativity and the willingness of *people* to step up to the challenge. The watch word for our time of transition, she says, is "prepare." We might add "and pray unceasingly." St. Luke's parish is committed to meet future challenges with openness of spirit and a willingness to accept new roles of leadership by taking on the roles given each of us in baptism. Rather than bemoan loss, we renew our pledge to BE CHURCH to one another, to take to heart the words said as we are sent forth from each liturgy. We will *Go forth to love and serve the Lord and one another.*



St. Luke's Catholic Church First Communion Class of 2008

**PARISH STAFF—2008**

- Parish Life Coordinator.....Sister Grace Marie Mueller, SSND
- Canonical Pastor.....Reverend David Darin
- Sacramental Minister .....Reverend David Darin
- Sacramental Minister .....Reverend Nicholas Junker
- Deacon ..... Bob Lanter
- Music Director.....Brian Kapp
- Parish Secretaries .....Jackie Smith and Mary El Roche
- CRE ..... Mary Ann Swope
- Pastoral Council President .....Susan Evers
- St. Vincent DePaul Society ..... Tom Kolb
- Sodality..... Helen Cook
- Men's Club .....Vince Harter
- Finance Council President .....Mary Lugge

## PARISH CLUSTERING MINISTERS

The advent of parish clustering process began the service of Fathers John Venegoni and Trevor Murry to St. Luke's Parish as Sacramental Ministers. In 2005 Father Venegoni was diagnosed with cancer. His schedule was reduced greatly during medical treatments. Father Murry transferred to his own parish. Father Von Deeke was assigned to St. Teresa-St. Luke parishes. St. Luke's also called on Oblates of Mary, retired diocesan and other priests to help with Masses.

Sadly, in 2007 Father Venegoni lost his battle with cancer and was replaced by Father David Darin as canonical pastor and sacramental minister at St. Luke's. Father Deeke was reassigned to duties at St. Clare Parish in O'Fallon. Newly ordained Father Nick Junker arrived to assist Father Darin in Spring 2008.

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### Our Parish Patron **SAINT LUKE, Evangelist**

St. Luke was the author of one of the four gospels as well as the Acts of the Apostles. From references in the letters of St. Paul, it is supposed he was a gentle Christian accompanying Paul on many journeys and attending him during his final days of imprisonment. Paul calls Luke "the beloved physician," a phrase prompting depictions of Luke as a doctor. Support for this tradition is found in clinical details in Luke's writings. Luke's greater concern, however, is with Jesus as the "healer of a broken world."



Luke's Gospel is marked with concern for the poor, the marginalized, women and social outcasts. His account of the Nativity stresses the faith of Mary, emphasizes Jesus' humble birth and its significance in fulfilling the hopes of the poor. He has Jesus announce his mission in Nazareth with the text from Isaiah: "*The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor,...to proclaim release to captives...*" In Luke's version of the Beatitudes, Jesus proclaims "*Blessed are the poor, for yours is the kingdom of God.*" In Luke's gospel we also find the parable of the rich man and the poor beggar, Lazarus, offering a striking relationship between mercy and justice in this life and the life to come.

Luke's Gospel holds special meaning for Christian movements inspired by the poverty of Jesus and his ministry among the poor. Significantly, Luke never met Jesus. His knowledge came only from his encounter with the Risen Lord present in the Christian communities he described in the Acts of the Apostles. Of all the Evangelists, Luke had the most vital sense of God's presence in ongoing history. That is why his story does not end with the resurrection, but continues through Pentecost and Christ's presence in the Church's life in the world. That story, Luke's legacy, continues still. We celebrate St. Luke's feast day on October 18.

(Source of information undetermined)

## THE SCHOOL SISTERS OF NOTRE DAME

The School Sisters of Notre Dame (SSND) will celebrate the 175th anniversary of their founding on October 24, 2008. They trace their roots to 1833 when the order was founded by Blessed Mary Theresa of Jesus Gerhardinger in Bavaria. Much of their history coincides with that of St. Luke's Church. The Sisters played a vital role in the education of area Catholic children. As noted earlier, St. Luke's School for English-speaking children actually pre-dated the parish itself, opening in 1882. They taught under trying circumstances: in the basement of Immaculate Conception Academy, in a renovated stable and finally in a modern school built for the parish in 1905.



Over the years, one hundred twenty five Sisters have served St. Luke's parish, beginning with Sister Celestia Wright in 1886 up to and including the present day with our beloved Parish Life Coordinator, Sister Grace Marie Mueller.

The School Sisters of Notre Dame staffed St. Luke's school for 88 years and left the Parish on July 25, 1971. The school re-opened with a lay faculty in August of the same year. Because of shrinking school enrollment and the physical condition of the nearly 100 year old school building, the school was merged with St. John School in Shiloh on May 27, 1982. In 1984 St. John school closed. The old St. Luke's school building was demolished in 1985—but the minds formed by the Sisters' direction live on in their former students. Thank you!

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## Looking Ahead . . .

Due to that fighting Christian spirit, the future of St. Luke's holds much promise, I believe that Spiritual, Educational and Social growth as a Catholic community will continue because of the intense faith of the people.

Our future must also see a greater effort in evangelization, a concerted effort to welcome the unchurched and those who have wandered away from God. The challenge of being primarily an older parish in the inner part of the city provides an opportunity to be creative in our ministry. Youth, Middle-aged and Aged working together can call upon experience, resources and ingenuity to create a revitalized Catholic community that connects what we do in church on Sunday with the rest of our lives.

The future of St. Luke's depends primarily on its people. We can walk away from our Church or we can stay and pray, learn, work and play together. We are caring people with a fighting spirit and a strong faith in God. Through our efforts the Church of St. Luke can (and will) face a certain, dynamic future.

(excerpted from Fr. Eugene Neff in Centennial booklet 1983)