

Bishop Steven Lopes leads
Fr. Christopher Phillips
and his flock in prayer
at a meeting March 21st.



ST. LUKE'S ORDINARIATE PARISH ✠ WASHINGTON DC

The Epistle

OUR LADY OF THE ATONEMENT JOINS THE ORDINARIATE

As of March 21, Our Lady of the Atonement in San Antonio, Texas, a church with special meaning for former Episcopalians who have come into full communion with Rome, and its school, Atonement Academy, are part of the Personal Ordinariate of the Chair of St. Peter. Our Lady of the Atonement was transferred from the Archdiocese of San Antonio to the Ordinariate under the direction of the Holy See. Its inclusion in the Ordinariate represents significant growth almost overnight. It was by no means certain that Our Lady of the Atonement would be able to become part of the Ordinariate. But it did, and Father Mark believes that “the message here is that God is in control.”

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Our Lady of the Atonement was the first church established under Pope St. John

Paul II's "Pastoral Provision," which allowed former Anglicans to form Catholic churches within existing U.S. dioceses. With the 2012 establishment of the Personal Ordinariate of the Chair of St. Peter in North America under Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI and the ordination of our first bishop in 2016, the Holy See now

AN INSPIRATION FOR ST. LUKE'S

We at St. Luke's can learn a great deal from and be mightily inspired by the story of Our Lady of Atonement. Our Lady of the Atonement, as noted, boasted only eighteen souls in its beginning, and it grew to become a large parish of stable households, a successful school, and a liturgy remarked upon by everyone who has experienced it. (You owe it to yourself to go to Youtube to see a Mass in the sanctuary of the Ordinariate's newest member—you will be blown away by the reverence and beauty and may even find your eyes burning.)

Here is the takeaway for St. Luke's: We can do this, too. When Houston looks at St. Luke's, it sees a viable parish that is generous and dedicated to good works. But it also sees a parish that, while fortunate to be able to worship in the splendor of Immaculate Conception, is not able to fully function as we might wish. For example, if you plan to attend a Maundy Thursday Mass (and we urge you to do so), you will not be able to experience it according to our Divine Worship missal. We are unable to schedule the Masses and other routine parish activities as we would like. In short, we need a building of our own if we are to fully function as a parish.

We do not know whether we will build a church or acquire an older church, but we know that we need to work, pray, and give towards this end. The bishop would like us to have our own home before the decade ends. Our Lady of the Atonement should be our inspiration. To the end of having our own church, we ask parishioners to make use to the mite boxes we have handed out—put your spare change in the box and turn what is collected in on the second Sunday of every month. This may look small, but remember: Our Lady of the Atonement started small, too.

Like the early parishioners of Our Lady of the Atonement, we at St. Luke's have an enormous opportunity. "We may not be around to see it," says Father Mark, "but, by golly, we have to lay the foundation." St. Luke's stepped out in faith to enter the Catholic Church in 2011 and this is another challenge we will meet with faith—and the example of Our Lady of the Atonement before us.

expects Pastoral Provision parishes in the U.S. to be integrated into the Ordinariate.

After celebrating the first Mass in the Academy after becoming part of the Ordinariate, Father Christopher Phillips, pastor when the parish was established in 1983, commented in his blog: "I asked some of the students afterwards if they noticed anything different. Several of them exclaimed, 'We prayed for Steven our bishop!'" Bishop Steven J. Lopes also received half-dozen standing ovations when he met with his new flock in the Academy gym.

Although Our Lady of the Atonement today is widely known for the beauty of its liturgies, an award-winning school, a stunning sanctuary, and more than 630 families, its beginnings were meager: the parish started with eighteen souls. Father Phillips was an Episcopal clergyman in Rhode Island, who realized that he wanted to respond to the Pope's Pastoral Provision. He was informed that an Anglican Use parish would not be possible in Rhode Island because of an agreement between the Catholic and Episcopal bishops of the state. (The term Anglican Use has been supplanted by Ordinariate Use or Divine Worship.) Not too long afterwards, a group of former Episcopalians in Texas approached Father Phillips about moving to Texas and starting a Catholic parish under the Pastoral Provision parish. They said they could cobble together \$1,000 a month for the endeavor. Father Phillips and his family, which included small children, moved to San Antonio in 1982. He was ordained a Catholic priest the next year, and Our Lady of the Atonement was erected the

same year. As with all Catholic churches, the name was not chosen randomly. As a parish profile notes, the church was placed under the protection of Our Lady of the Atonement, a title the Graymoor Friars and Sisters of the Atonement, a formerly

Episcopalian order which came into the Catholic Church in 1909, had popularized. When the Vatican accepted the Graymoor friars and sisters corporately, it was an unprecedented move on the part of the Holy See. In retrospect, perhaps we could

regard it as foreshadowing of the Ordinariate.

Father Randy Sly recalled the history of Our Lady of the Atonement in an online article, describing a situation that might have resonance for St. Luke's parishioners: "The parish began meeting in a rented space from a Catholic church in downtown San Antonio," Father Sly wrote. "Since most of the group was from the north side of the city, they were always amused to wave at each other on the interstate as they drove down from Mass."



Fr. Phillips rejoices with his people at the news of their entry into the Ordinariate.

Our Lady of the Atonement was able to purchase six acres (which has since expanded to 25 acres) to build the current church. Atonement Academy, started in 1994, emphasizes a classical education in the Catholic tradition. It ranked number one on a list of "2017 Best Catholic Schools in San Antonio Metro." In addition, Our Lady of the Atonement is known for the high quality of its music program, both in the church and academy (all children learn the rudiments of chant), a reflection of Father Phillips, who is author of a number of hymns, including one that was sung at Bishop Lopes' consecration as bishop.

The story of Our Lady of the Atonement should inspire other Ordinariate parishes. "When you look at a parish like ours you get a snapshot of what an Ordinariate parish will look like in 30 years because we have had a full generation growing up in this church," Father Phillips told Father Sly. "I'm now beginning to baptize the babies of babies I baptized earlier in my ministry, so we have a whole generation that has now been raised in this."

It should be noted that the Cathedral of Our Lady of Walsingham in Houston, the principal church of the U.S. Ordinariate, started out as a Pastoral Provision parish. Like Our Lady of the Atonement, the cathedral had humble beginnings. Its nucleus was a group of people who met under the protection of the Mother of God, under the title of Our Lady of Walsingham. (Our Lady of Walsingham is the title of an apparition of the Blessed Virgin Mary in apparitions to Richeldis de Faverches, a pious noblewoman, in 1061 in the village of Walsingham; the U.K. Ordinariate takes its name from this apparition of the Blessed Virgin.) St. Mary the Virgin in Arlington, Texas and St. Thomas More Catholic Parish in Scranton, Pennsylvania, were also Pastoral Provision parishes.

APRIL CORPORAL WORK OF MERCY: SANITARY PRODUCTS

One of the daily challenges for homeless women is maintaining personal hygiene, which is vitally important for human dignity and comfort. With this in mind, our corporal work of mercy for April is collecting feminine hygiene products for the Harriet Tubman Emergency Women's Shelter and Day Program. The Tubman



shelter is “a low-barrier emergency shelter,” which provides a place to stay off the streets, a hot meal, a shower, and access to a case manager and a work program. A spokesman for the shelter says that sanitary products (pads are preferred to tampons) are very welcome. It is important all products be unopened.

As small as this might seem, these items can make a big difference to women who need them. All contributions will be collected in the vestibule or at coffee hour after Mass on Sundays throughout the month of April and delivered to the shelter at the end of the month.

And many thanks to all who participated in the Lenten Food Drive—we collected more than 35 bags of groceries to restock the food pantry here at Immaculate Conception.

EVENING PRAYER AT THE ABBEY: APRIL 1ST

Our monthly service of Evening Prayer, in the chapel of St. Anselm's Abbey [4501 South Dakota Avenue NE] , will take Saturday, April 1st, at 4 pm. Come chant with us some psalms and canticles. And then join us for an hour of fellowship in the Abbey's Fort Augustus Room.

This beautiful service of reflection and thanksgiving is held the first Saturday of each month of the school year. After this, the only remaining date for this school term is May 6th.

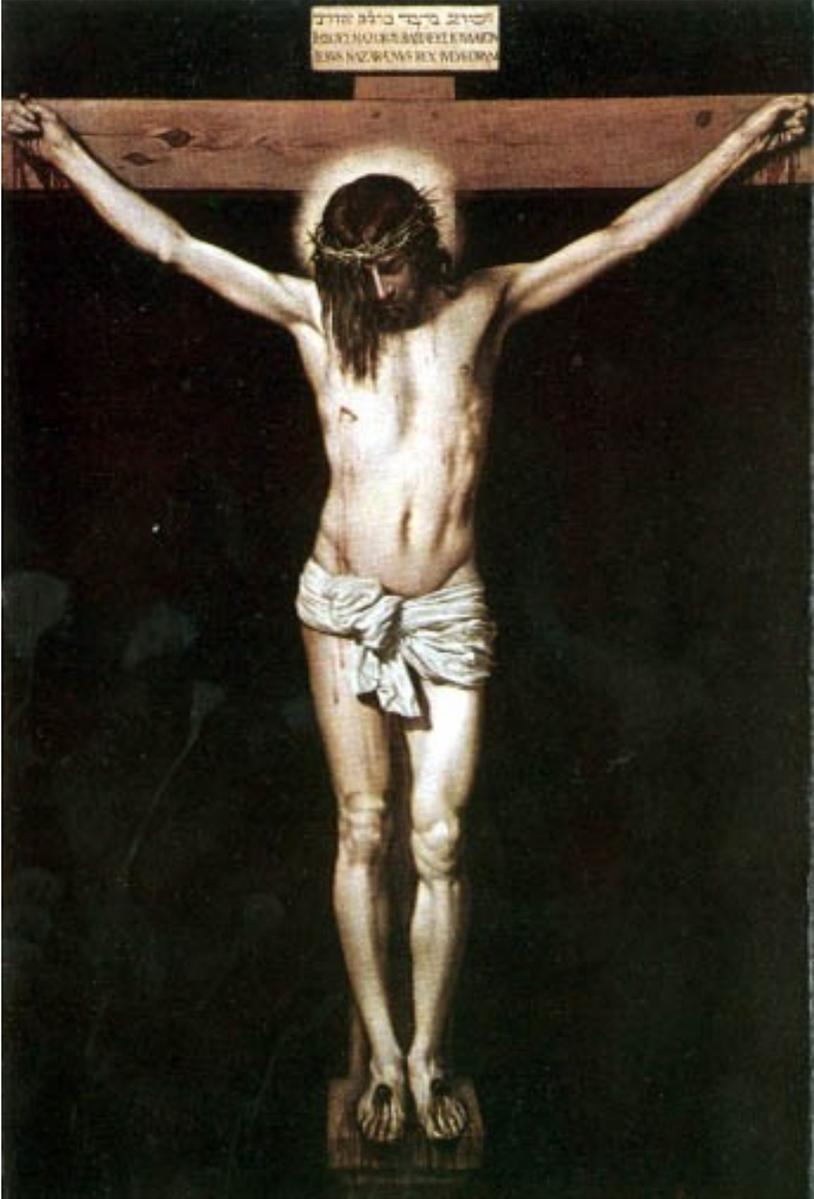


PLEASE NOTE

The Liturgy of the Palms on Palm Sunday [April 9th] will begin at **8:15 am**. That is 15 minutes earlier than our normal Sunday Mass time of 8:30 am. Please arrive promptly to participate in the full liturgy.

GOOD FRIDAY: VENERATION OF THE CROSS

St. Luke's observance of Good Friday (April 14) will take place in the church at Immaculate Conception at noon, the hour that Christ was lifted onto the Cross. We hope that parishioners and friends of St. Luke's, especially those working downtown, will make an effort to be present with us on Good Friday.



As in all Catholic churches, St. Luke's observes Good Friday with starkness and drama befitting the most solemn day of the Christian year. The liturgy for this day begins with the priest going to the altar in silence and prostrating himself in reverence. The act of prostration signifies "both the abasement of 'earthly man,' and also the grief and sorrow of the Church," according to a document from the Congregation for Divine Worship. Another striking feature of the liturgy is the Veneration of the Cross, a practice that originated in the fourth century in Jerusalem, where a fragment believed to be of the True Cross was venerated. The practice was adopted in Rome in the seventh century.

A crucifix is progressively unveiled with the words "Behold the Wood of the Cross" sung by the priest each time a portion of the cross is revealed. Then the priest and people kneel and kiss the feet of the corpus. Good Friday is the one day of the year when the Church does not celebrate the Mass (Anointing of the Sick and Penance are the only sacraments celebrated this day), but Holy

Communion, which has been pre-sanctified, is distributed to the faithful. Christ was on the cross from noon until three in the afternoon and all Catholics should do something on Good Friday to recall his sacrifice for us.

We especially urge families with young children to come and bring their children—it is these solemn words and liturgical actions that, heard and seen early in life, remain with us always and remind us throughout life that the Church is our home, and a beautiful one at that.



SAVE THE DATE

The Knights of Columbus will host a parish picnic on Sunday, May 7th at noon at Rock Creek Park off 16th Street. Mark your calendars now and join us on the day! Details to come after Easter.

BUILDING OUR FUTURE: PLEDGE YOUR SUPPORT

By David Lewis, Director of Stewardship Programs

Where is our Annual Giving Stewardship Campaign today? Where were we last year?

We are now at 21 pledges totaling \$106,260. Last year, we had a total of 26 pledges for \$102,430. [These numbers do not include some regular non-pledge givers who we hope will solidify their giving by making pledges.]

What does our future require?

As we ran a \$30,000 deficit last year, our Finance Council has correctly concluded that we need to bring in more people and increase our financial giving. We are implementing various evangelization initiatives, one of which is the importance of each of us in recruiting new members. Although we have many exemplary commitments of “first fruits” giving by parishioners, there is always room for growth. We need to move beyond deficit spending so that we can move ahead.

Is stewardship one of the gifts that the Anglican Patrimony brings into the Catholic Church through the Ordinariates?

Most definitely. Our culture (patrimony) is well known for exemplary time, talent, and treasure, evidence of the best features of our often-cited “liturgical, spiritual, and pastoral” reputation. The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops and others familiar with Catholic giving have cited good Anglican giving, now being brought into the Catholic Church. Just imagine the Godly strength of a Church that already includes a majority of all Christians, empowered by the apostolic faith and enhanced by our style of stewardship, in loving God and our neighbor!

Why are commitments (pledges) important?

There are two reasons. First, our commitments enable our parish to plan its expenditures and thus its program with a high degree of prediction. Second, making a commitment sends both the parish and the pledger a clear signal that something important is being set into motion.

Is it too late to make a financial pledge for 2017?

It is never too late! Just fill in a commitment form and turn it in through the offertory collection or to the parish office or give it to our Pastor. Every commitment, prayerfully made, will be pleasing in the sight of God. And for that matter, it is never too late to also offer one’s specific time and talent to our parish. Need a form? Check out the information table at coffee hour or email the parish office at StLukesDCOrdinariate@gmail.com.

Saint Luke's at IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

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St. Luke's at Immaculate Conception is a parish of the Personal Ordinariate of the Chair of Saint Peter, which was established on January 1, 2012 by Pope Benedict XVI in response to repeated requests by Anglicans seeking to become Catholic. Ordinariate parishes are fully Catholic while retaining elements of their Anglican heritage and traditions, including liturgical traditions.

**THE PERSONAL ORDINARIATE
OF THE CHAIR OF SAINT PETER**

That we all may be one

NOW IS THE TIME TO DRAW NEAR TO JESUS

As we turn the calendar to April, it is time for us to once again turn our eyes to the Passion, Death, and Resurrection of our Lord Jesus. The events of these sacred days, above all, speak of God's tremendous redemptive love for His creation. How can we possibly comprehend the depths of such love? I am not sure we can fully understand God's love for us in this life, but we can accept His love for us in and through His Son Jesus Christ. Perhaps, a greater question is: How are we to properly respond to such love? Certainly, any response one may offer will not be totally sufficient, but offering our heart, mind, and life to Him is most acceptable.

My brothers and sisters, now is the acceptable time for all of us to draw near to Jesus and His Church. Through the events of Holy Week, Jesus invites us to share in His life, and if we so choose to follow where He hath led, we too can rise to new life in Him.

It is my hope and prayer that all reading this message will recommit themselves to Christ Our Lord. Here are several ways in which we can positively respond to God's love; I offer them for your consideration.

> Mass Attendance-Every Sunday and Holy Day of Obligation. Attend Mass as often as you can.

> Financial Giving-Support the Ministry of St. Luke's and works of mercy.

> Forgive Others-May we grow to show others the same love, grace, and mercy that God so freely and generously bestows upon us. Sometimes we need to forgive ourselves. We would do well to remember no matter what we have done, or have failed to do, we can be forgiven; we need only to repent and turn into the arms of our Lord to know His forgiveness and love.

Above all, may we choose to love God, and His Son our Lord Jesus Christ above all, for this is the true and proper response to His great love for us; it is meet and right so to do.

I will see you at Mass.

Easter Blessings to all.

Fr. Mark Lewis



Saturday, April 1st, 4 pm: Evening Prayer at the Abbey

Sunday, April 9th, 8:15 am: Liturgy of the Palms [Palm Sunday Mass to follow]

Friday, April 14th, 12 noon: Good Friday Service

Sunday, April 16th, 8:30 am: Easter Sunday Mass

Sunday, May 7th, 12 noon: Parish Picnic, hosted by the Knights of Columbus