

The Feast of Saints Philip and James  
May 3, 2017

My Dear Flock,

By the time you receive this letter, you may have already heard about the announcement I made at Mass on Sunday, May 7th. Our Bishop, The Most Rev. Steven J. Lopes, has asked me to be the next pastor of Our Lady of the Atonement, in San Antonio, Texas. My last Sunday with you as pastor of St. Luke's will be June 18th.

I assure you, I was shocked by the Bishop's decision. I am humbled that the Bishop has asked me to take on such a tremendous responsibility, but I believe the Bishop's decision to move me says more about you, the people of St. Luke's, than it does about me. Bishop Lopes was keenly aware that moving an existing pastor away from his flock would be disruptive; it was his intention to cause as little disruption as possible. In moving me, the Bishop is showing a great deal of confidence in your ability to overcome the loss of your pastor, and to proceed forward in the strength of the Holy Spirit. As I mentioned in the May edition of the Epistle, "I am certain there is nothing this parish cannot accomplish with the Grace of God."

The new pastor of St. Luke's will be Fr. John Anthony Vidal. As Fr. Vidal is currently under contract in his present position, he will arrive here in October. Until then, Fr. Rick Kramer will provide Sunday Masses for St. Luke's.

I want to thank all of you for allowing Vickey and me to be a part of your family. Please be assured of our continued prayers for you. We will forever cherish our time here and we will always consider ourselves part of St. Luke's family. God has accomplished a great deal at St. Luke's over our years together, the most significant being that of bringing us home to Holy Mother Church. It is my hope and prayer that we continue to grow in our knowledge of the faith, and most importantly, in our love for our Savior Jesus Christ. May all that we do be to His glory.

Vickey and I hope to see all of you at the Knights of Columbus picnic scheduled at the rectory on May 13th, and at my final Mass at St. Luke's on June 18th.

With all my love, prayers and blessings "Avanti!"

The Very Rev. Mark W. Lewis  
Pastor, St. Luke's

A parish of



THE PERSONAL ORDINARIATE OF  
THE CHAIR OF SAINT PETER  
*That we all may be one*