

FEAST OF SAINT LUKE THE EVANGELIST

Father, You chose Luke the evangelist to reveal by preaching and writing the mystery of your love for the poor. Unite in one heart and spirit all who glory in your name, and let all nations come to see your salvation. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

LIFE OF SAINT LUKE THE EVANGELIST

Patron Saint of Painters and Physicians

Luke was born in Antioch, Syria, of Greek parents and became a physician. Among the first to become a disciple after the Resurrection of Jesus, Luke was Paul's missionary companion during part of his second and third missionary journeys and looked after Paul while he was in custody in Caesarea and Rome. From Paul we know Luke was a serious physician and hard working companion. He sailed with Paul from Troas to Macedonia and stayed in Philippi for seven years. Then he shared with Paul dangers and shipwreck on their way to Rome. Paul writes of him in his letters as a faithful companion. Luke wrote the third Gospel compiled before 63 A.D. and is also the author of the Acts of the Apostles. He is represented by a bull, the animal of sacrifice which would have been offered by Zechariah, who opens Luke's Gospel, a priest called by God to become the father of John the Baptist. Luke tells of the priesthood of Christ and relates with detail the deeds of wonder and miracles which accompanied the birth of Jesus and later of his Church. Through Luke, witness par excellence, we know much of the work of Paul.

PRAYER TO SAINT LUKE

Beloved Saint Luke, Patron of our Parish and witness with Saint Paul to the Lord Jesus as Saviour of the world, you were among the first to follow Jesus and walk in his way. You put Jesus first in your life, giving Him your time, effort, and resources for his glory, laboring to spread the Good News of Jesus and his Church.

Unconcerned about your own comfort or advancement, you were a faithful and generous companion to Saint Paul, the great Apostle to the Nations. He considered himself least of the Apostles for having persecuted Jesus in his followers; yet you took careful note of all that Paul said and did in the Name of the Lord, recording your observations for our benefit and the continuation of Jesus' work for all time.

Pray for us here in your Parish that we may all respond to God's advances and invitations: that like you, we may faithfully, generously, and boldly do God's will wherever his call finds us. Pray that we may respond to the Holy Spirit's call and assemble on the Lord's Day to welcome his Word, receive his Body and Blood, and celebrate our oneness in the Lord. Strengthened by Jesus, may we ever more joyfully spread the Good News to all we meet, proposing Jesus Christ to them as God's way to abundant life in freedom and responsibility, and may we remain ever attentive and responsive to the needs of others, believers and those who have yet to know God.

Saint Luke, pray that we may ever thrive through openness to those who are different from us and accept to be enriched by them. Rich in Jesus, pray that we may gladly transmit our faith in God through our witness and example, that others may be "caught" by the Holy Spirit, the Advocate promised by Jesus, and come to know and love God given to us in Jesus. Whether we are strong in numbers or at times alone, pray that we may each do all we can to practice and promote social justice and solidarity with those who suffer injustice. As we respond to those who seek to experience the goodness of the Lord in the various Sacraments, pray that we may be equally generous to people of all ages, conditions, and backgrounds, with special attention to the poorest of the poor like Jesus, in collaboration with Christians of every denomination, for the glory of God. May we develop a faith community that supports married couples, parents, families, and individuals and helps them grow in faith and holiness, and makes room for everyone to participate in the mission Christ entrusts to his Bride, the Church. Amen.