We prayerfully believe that we have a spiritual need to share our time, talent, and treasure with one another. It is our mission to ensure the opportunity for all ministries and parishioners to receive and respond to the calling of stewardship as a way of life. We share in the belief that Christ is in each of us, and that we must seek to recognize Him in our sisters and brothers by sharing our gifts with them. It is our calling to implement this mission based on God’s Word.

Coni Perez,  
Stewardship Director  281.481.9651  
Judy Castro  281.412.6376  
Keenan Coleman  281.481.6816  
Marcie Devine  281.485.0939  
Marilynn Kiel  281.481.4251  
Veronica McCalla  281.922.1481  
Larry Mercado  281.481.6816  
Robert Mendoza  281.481.4246  
Vicky Rodriguez  281.481.6702  
Rev. James Burkart  281.481.6816

"World peace will never be stable until enough of us find inner peace to stabilize it."

Peace Pilgrim, activist
Our annual renewal and recruitment of volunteers’ ministry fair was held, and again this year, it was a success! As usual, our Ministry Leaders prepare months ahead of time to showcase their ministries in hopes of sharing opportunities with every single parishioner, to encourage them to participate in serving the parish and community through our parish home.

Our 2008 theme, *Commitment As God’s Family*, was very appropriate this year as there was something for all age levels. I am blessed that I get to meet and talk to many people while preparing for the fair and to be in the courtyard on fair day. This year I was very impressed when children came to me before the fair and asked if they could help like they did last year or ask if they could help make snow cones or blow balloons, etc. The children had waited for this weekend and were excited to sign up to be altar servers, to sing in the children’s choir, and to be involved in other ministries! This is wonderful! This is the message we want our children to learn: serving others makes us God’s stewards. These children will be our church leaders of tomorrow, and we as adults have the tremendous challenge of supporting them and continuing to teach them about the sharing of themselves with others in gratitude to the Lord.

While our Faith Formation programs do a great job of teaching age-appropriate material about stewardship — it is the example of parents, parish leaders, clergy, and all parishioners that is the real-life lesson and example that we show these children, and this is what will take us to the future for our parish home.

I would like to say thank you to EVERYONE who participated in any way at the ministry fair! This annual coming together of God’s stewards is a continuing example to others of how we fulfill the responsibilities God has entrusted to our parish home here at St. Luke.

"Our parish accepts the principle that each parishioner be allowed to make a personal commitment to St. Luke’s community. This commitment of time, talent, and treasure made after prayerful deliberation, will fulfill each person’s response in Christ to the Catholic Community of St. Luke’s and to all its activities.”

St. Luke Concept of Giving

Peace,
Coni Perez
Director of Stewardship

"Giving opens the way for receiving."
*Florence Scovel Shinn*
Stewardship Sunday 2008
As we approach the middle of the month of November, for us in Houston, Fall is very present to us. And, even though many continue to deal with recovery efforts after Hurricane Ike, the hope of “normal” routines slowly becomes more and more real. I would like to say thank you to so many people for their efforts at being Church to your neighbors and friends, particularly in the weeks right after the hurricane. I have heard so many stories of people caring for one another in various ways. It is truly a testament to this community’s understanding of what it is and means to be a good Christian.

The month of November has traditionally been celebrated as a month to remember all of our dear loved ones who have gone before us. Throughout the month of November we will be remembering our departed loved ones by having an altar of the dead. You are invited to bring a picture of your loved one(s) and to spend some time walking around, looking at the pictures of others and praying for all of the deceased. November 1 is the feast of All Saints and November 2 is the feast of All Souls. Of course, Halloween is October 31. Important to remember is that Halloween really comes from the old festival of “all hallows eve” or the evening before the feast of All Saints. The saints are a wonderful tradition for us Roman Catholics and have been a source of inspiration for countless generations before us. The internet and use of the worldwide-web can certainly help us know more about some of these Christian heroes.

November 3 is the feast of St. Martin de Porres (a great saint of the Dominican Order who fed the hungry out of the door of his monastery and cared for the sick), November 13 is the feast of our mother parish, St. Frances Xavier Cabrini, the 22nd is the feast of St. Cecilia, the patroness of music, and Sunday, November 23 is the feast of Christ the King, the end of Ordinary Time. As you can see, fall is full of opportunities to learn more about our Christian heroes as well as grow in our faith lives.

The First Friday in November is November 7th. Just a reminder that we are having another covered dish supper in the parish social hall – it is “First Friday with Father.” This month we will be talking about the The Rite of Christian Funerals and all of the other rites that are associated with the death of Christians.

Fall is such a busy time of the year, but I want to honestly invite everyone to be just as excited about our beautiful Catholic Faith and all that it has to offer every day. As a reminder, please take a Sunday Bulletin home with you on the weekend (or look it up on the internet – <www.stlukescatholic.com>) so that you and your family can read the daily scriptures together and prepare yourselves for Sunday Mass. If you are looking for other catholic web sites to go to you may try <www.archgh.org>; and <www.usccb.org>.

St Luke the Evangelist, pray for us.

Fr. James Burkart

“There are people in the world so hungry that God cannot appear to them except in the form of bread.”

Mahatma Ghandhi
Sacrament of Marriage

We have celebrated the Sacrament of Marriage at our parish many times these past months. We would like to wish the couples, who shared this special time with our parish family, many blessings. May God watch over them, may our community support them, and may they grow in love of each other and of God.

Giselle Marie Garza and Carlos Montez
Liliana Alcorta nd John Ramos
Laura Eaves and Orrin Battle
Alexandra Rivera and Ignacio Avila
Carina Sermeno and Americo Acosta, Jr.
Jessica Garcia and Armando Reyes, Jr.
Raquel Cantu and Richard Garcia
Diana Garcia and Ricardo Berrum

"Happiness is a matter of one's most ordinary, everyday mode of consciousness being busy and lively and unconcerned with self. To be damned is for one's ordinary, everyday mode of consciousness to be unremitting, agonizing, preoccupation with self."

Iris Murdoch, novelist and philosopher
OCTOBER 18

Not much is known about Luke’s life. As the author of the third Gospel and Acts of the Apostles, scholars know that he lived in the first century A.D. It is also widely accepted that he is the Luke whom Paul refers to in his Epistles and, therefore, that Luke traveled with Paul on some of his missionary journeys.

Based upon these assumptions scholars have created a further biographical sketch of this early church leader. Luke was a physician by profession and a well educated man. He could read and write Greek, and was well versed in the Greek Old Testament.

Early Christian tradition further identifies Luke as a Syrian from Antioch, a Gentile, an artist and an unmarried member of the Christian community in Antioch. He is our patron saint, the patron saint of physicians and artists.

Luke wrote his Gospel intending to write “an ordered account” of things already recorded by others. Thorough in his research, he drew from firsthand accounts of Jesus’ life and death; thus, he is credited by many to be a historian as well as a theologian. Some sources even believe that Luke must have known Mary, mother of Jesus, and that she dictated the Magnificat to him.

Luke’s Gospel is different from the other three Gospels. He included six miracles and 18 parables not found elsewhere. A talented storyteller, Luke not only expanded many of the events found in the other Gospels, but he also provided rich details in his unique accounts. Luke paid special attention to Christ’s mercy for sinners: his concern for women; his compassion for the outcasts, the poor and the afflicted, the importance of prayer, and the role of the Holy Spirit in Christian life.

Prayer

Father, You chose Luke the evangelist to reveal by preaching and writing the mystery of Your love for the poor and the downtrodden.

Unite in one heart and spirit all who glory in Your name, and let all nations come to see Your salvation.

Grant this through our Lord Jesus Christ, Your Son, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever.

Amen.

Above: Original artwork by Mary Ellen Rouen.
Honoring our patron saint, St. Luke the Evangelist, was indeed a wonderful celebration. A deeply profound liturgy with the entire choir present was followed by a gigantic feast in the courtyard.

Twenty five ministries participated in giving us the experience of tasting wonderful food from all over the world and of course our “good ole” American traditional goodies. We were served food from Nigeria, the British Isles, the former Czech Republic, Germany, India, Mexico, Italy, Ethiopia, Cuba, Belize, Puerto Rico, the Philippines, Colombia, Vietnam, and of course, Cajun food, Texas barbeque, nachos, hot dogs, etc., all while the youth ministry was busy entertaining the children.

We are especially grateful to the 20 or more “worker bees” who organized, set up, cleaned up, and took care of us, all led by Herlinda Estrada. Thanks to all of you for a wonderfully exciting Feast Day Celebration in honor of our patron saint, St. Luke the Evangelist.
The Annual Check-up

A nurse asked Beau how old he was. Beau replied, "Three-and-a-half. How old are you?"

His mother informed Beau that it was impolite to ask a lady her age. Beau protested, "She asked meeee!"
We Celebrate Faith Formation
It’s for Everyone!

ELEMENTARY
We have 152 students just in preschool through kindergarten. We have 499 students in the elementary grades, first through fourth grades. Total enrollment for fifth and sixth grades is up to 192 students.

JUNIOR AND SENIOR HIGH
Our Junior High programs for seventh and eighth grades has 177 students attending. We have 214 Senior High Students with 58 of them preparing for the Sacrament of Confirmation. WOW! And we are still growing! Since September 1, we have had 83 new parish registrations with 75 of those having children who are now registered in faith formation.

And that is just the beginning! We offer many opportunities to adults and young adults.

ADULTS AND YOUNG ADULTS
The Great Adventure Bible Timeline Study
Understand the major people, places, events, and theme of God’s plan of salvation history. Mondays, 7:30 PM. in the Social Hall.

Lectio Divina
Lectio Divina is a way of reading Sacred Scripture to grasp the divine truth it contains about God and His dealing with humanity. First an third Fridays, 10:00 am, Room 5, in the Education Building.

Growing Faith Project
Each week begins with prayer followed by the presentation of faith on Sunday mornings in Room 5, at 9:25 am.

First Friday’s with Father
November 7, and December 5. Come to an old-fashioned potluck dinner in our Social Hall at 6:00 PM. Our special guest and speaker is our own Pastor, Fr. James Burkart.

Continued on page 10.
Faith Formation continued.

The Adult Faith Formation table on Stewardship Sunday.

Cell Phone Etiquette

At the local worship center on the north side of Houston, the congregation had gathered for its weekly service. An elderly lady sitting in the back, a new user of cell phone technology, answers her cell phone when it rings during the service—while the pastor is preaching. Other members around her were none too happy and refrained from direct comment, but not hushed laughter.

After five minutes on the phone, the elderly lady was heard to say, “Yes, she’s here. Would you like to talk to her?”

At that, having had enough of the disruption, one of the ushers spoke up rather loudly, “If she ain’t talkin’ to Jesus, she needs to hang up!”

The laughter was so loud, the group apologized to the pastor when the service was over.

Natural Family Planning
An approach to fertility according to God’s plan. For information on this program, e-mail connie@littlewaydesign.com or call 832.265.6702.


Adult Confirmation
Classes to prepare for this sacrament will begin in January of 2009.

Coming in the Spring
Parenting workshops, tips on getting rid of the clutter in your life, a marriage seminar, a financial seminar, and Theology of the Body (God’s plan for a joy-filled marriage).

We have much to celebrate in our parish. Come join us in some of the many opportunities we have to offer. Growing in our faith is our call and we look forward to seeing you. For further information you may email: adultministry@stlukescatholic.com or call the parish office at 281.481.6816.
"Gratitude unlocks the fullness of life. It turns what we have into enough, and more. It turns denial into acceptance, chaos to order, confusion to clarity. It can turn a meal into a feast, a house into a home, a stranger into a friend. Gratitude makes sense of our past, brings peace for today, and creates a vision for tomorrow."

*Melody Beattie, author*