

The History of St. Luke the Evangelist Catholic Church (1972-2020)

In The Beginning

The story of St. Luke the Evangelist Parish began in 1972 when a committee from St. Raphael Parish began searching for land for new parishes in the fast-growing North Raleigh area.

On September 21st, 1981, Father Gerald L. Lewis, pastor of St. Raphael Parish, purchased 22.525 acres on Bayleaf Church Road. This property would become the future site of St. Luke the Evangelist Catholic Church. This parcel was located in the woodland close to Falls Lake within the watershed of Barton Creek known as northern Raleigh. The purchase price was \$242,862.

The Early Years - Raleigh Fireman's Club (1984-1988)

On Palm Sunday, April 15th, 1984, Father Terrence Collins, Associate Pastor of St. Raphael Parish celebrated the first Mass at the Raleigh Fireman's Club located 0.6 miles west of the current property on Bayleaf Church Road. The Fireman's Club served as site of all parish liturgies from 1984 until 1988. The original agreement to rent the Fireman's Club was arranged by Father Lewis for \$50/day.

There were about 75 people present at the first Mass. From Father Collins' account, it was raining so hard that Sunday that some people were joking about St. Luke being under the Neuse River. The Gospel that day also happened to be taken from St. Luke the Evangelist. The story goes that from those two events our parish name of Saint Luke the Evangelist was born.

Father Robert Shea - Founding Pastor (1985 - 1994)

On June 3rd, 1985, Most Reverend Bishop F. Joseph Gossman of the Diocese of Raleigh wrote a letter of confirmation to Father Robert F. Shea of St. Mary Parish in Wilmington, NC announcing him as the founding pastor of St. Luke Parish.

On July 9th, 1985, Bishop Gossman officially established the parish. The territorial boundaries of St. Luke Parish were defined as follows: West - Creedmoor Road and the Durham County Line; North - The Neuse River; East - Falls of Neuse Road; South - Strickland Road.

Father Michael Shugrue, Dean of the Raleigh Deanery officially installed Father Shea as pastor on July 14th, 1985. Father Shea took up residence at Litchford Park Apartments on Litchford Road. He later relocated to a house at 508 Woodwind Court in Coachman's Trail which served as the parish rectory until 1992. Various parish-related meetings were held in both locations until completion of the Multipurpose Building on the property in 1988.

Father Shea celebrated his first Masses as pastor at 8:30 AM and 10:30 AM at the Raleigh Fireman's Club on July 21st, 1985. By August 1985 the new parish had 59 families and 209 people registered. On June 7th, 1986, Father Shea, was stricken with a heart attack. Sunday masses were celebrated by visiting priests while he was recuperating.

The Parish Community (1985- 1987)

In September of 1985, the Liturgy Committee and the Religious Education Department were formed. Blanche Ellison was the first staff member hired to head the Religious Education Department. On September 29th, 1985, the Building and Real Estate and the Finance committees were established. The committees were chaired by Mike Benigno and Joe Sander respectively.

On October 20, 1985, Matt and Lorry Petrovick organized the First Annual Parish Picnic ("Get Acquainted Fair") on the grounds of the Raleigh Fireman's Club, with about 310 people in attendance.

Some Parish Firsts

- The First Child Baptized at St. Luke was Jane Frances Maceda, on September 15th, 1985.
- The First Sunday bulletin was published on October 13, 1985. The lector listed for 10:30 Mass is Elaine Ewbank.
- The First meeting of the Parish Council took place on January 27th, 1986 with Jim White serving as president.
- The First Bishop Mass to celebrate Mass as St. Luke was The Most Reverend Joseph Lawson Howze, Bishop of Biloxi, Mississippi on February 9th, 1986. He later confirms the first group of five confirmation candidates from the parish at St. Raphael Church.
- Our First Adult received into the Church was Jane Kelly on February 15th, 1986.
- The First funeral Mass was held for parishioner, Michael Rynne on February 20th, 1986.
- On May 4th, 1986, Father Shea celebrates our First Community Liturgy for twelve children of Saint Luke.
- Our First Baccalaureate Mass was celebrated by Father Shea on June 1st, 1986.
- On March 2nd, 1987, Bishop Gossman confirms the first group of 11 St. Luke candidates at the Raleigh Fireman's Hall.
- On March 7th, 1987, Fr Father Shea celebrates our first parishioner marriage of Paul Heilig and Catherine Valeri.

Construction of Multipurpose Building (1986-1988)

On August 24th, 1986, the Building and Real Estate Committee hired John Stec, PA, of John Stec and Company to design a master plan for construction on the 22.525-acre site on Bayleaf Church Road. Stec presented the sketch of the first phase of the building to the parish community on September 14, 1987. The Committee hired Jedco General Contractors to build the first phase Multipurpose Building.

Grading permits were issued on December 4, 1987 and official groundbreaking ceremonies took place on January 17th, 1988. The building permit came on February 22nd, 1988. Unfavorable weather did not deter the builders from finishing the church ahead of schedule. The certificate of occupancy was finally handed over to Father Shea on Friday July 1st, 1988. Scrambling to get the church ready, with a few parishioners, Father Shea celebrated the first Saturday Mass at 5:30 p.m. on July 2nd, 1988, with 79 people.

On Saturday, September 16, 1988, Bishop F. Joseph Gossman presided at the evening liturgy with Father Robert Shea and Father Gerald Lewis (pastor of St. Raphael's) and other concelebrating clergy as the congregation gathered to dedicate the 7,000 square foot Multipurpose Building. However, the dedication activities extended beyond the September 16th Mass. The Sunday Liturgy featured the commissioning of religious education teachers, followed by an ecumenical service and open house with ministers and members from nearby Protestant church communities.

With the completion of the Multipurpose Building, Father Shea hired Laura Sancineto as the first full time Parish Secretary. St. Luke's continued to grow at a steady pace. In July 1988 there were 196 families.

Construction of Rectory and Grotto (1992-1993)

Construction of an on-site rectory, (a two-story, three-bedroom colonial home, located in the wooded area adjacent to the church) was begun in the spring of 1992. Parishioner Tom Colopy was chosen as the contractor. Numerous parishioners also lent their talents in completing the entire dwelling. An Open House was held in February 1993.

When the grounds were being cleared for the parish rectory, parishioners James Terracina and Larry Adams approached Father Shea about turning the natural area to the northwest of the church into a Grotto with Stations of the Cross among the pine trees. Many hours of love and heavy labor transformed the area into a beautiful, peaceful Grotto for prayer, reflection and celebration of Masses in October and May of each year. The statue of Our Blessed Mother, donated by a parishioner, welcomes all who come for peaceful meditation.

Father David D. Brockman (1994 - 2002)

In July of 1994, Father Shea was reassigned to St. John the Baptist Parish in Roanoke Rapids, NC. Parochial Vicar Father David D. Brockman, of Our Lady of Lourdes in Raleigh, was named the new Pastor of St. Luke.

The Community celebrated its tenth anniversary as a parish in the Raleigh Deanery on July 1st, 1994. Father Brockman and Father Shea joined together for the celebration and anniversary festivities.

In 1994 Deacon Phil Newton joined the staff part time and began assisting with weekend liturgies and high school CCD. Deacon Newton served the Parish until 2000.

At the Easter Vigil in 1998, in a moving ceremony fondly remembered by parishioners, Father Brockman welcomed his father into the full communion of the Roman Catholic Church.

Under the shepherding of Father David Brockman, the parish continued to grow to more than 400 registered families totaling 1200 members by 1997.

Construction of the Pastoral Life Center & Renovated Worship Space (2000-2001)

After many years of prayerful discernment by the parish concerning a second building phase, a Long-range Planning Committee was formed. This Committee took just over a year to discern the priorities of St. Luke's as the parish approached the second millennium. The Committee recommended the construction of a new 17,000 sq. ft. Pastoral Life Center. The parish selected WKWW Architects of Charlotte, North Carolina to design the building and Riggs-Harrod Builders Incorporated of Durham as the general contractor.

On Sunday, August 13th, 2000, with "golden" shovels in hand, a formal ground-breaking celebration for the St. Luke's Pastoral Life Center was held with Bishop F. Joseph Gossman presiding and Father David Brockman assisting. Father Robert Shea, our Founding Pastor, also attended.

The entire building project, consisting of the Pastoral Life Center, the renovated worship space and the enclosure of the Gathering Space, was completed in just one year. The Pastoral Life Center consists of administrative space, a parish hall, a full commercial kitchen, and eleven classrooms for faith formation including a room for youth and an adult formation room. While the formal worship space was being renovated, Father Brockman celebrated Masses temporarily in the parish hall of the Pastoral Life Center. The first Mass was celebrated in the new worship space on Saturday August 11th, 2001. The parish had grown to 500 registered families consisting of 1500 members in the St. Luke community.

Father Brockman and the St. Luke Liturgy Committee worked with Conrad Schmitt Studios to design four stained glass windows to enhance the worship environment of St. Luke's. The subjects for the windows are four liturgical themes from the Gospel of Luke: The Annunciation, The Good Samaritan, The Prodigal Son, and The Road to Emmaus. They speak of the need to practice service, acceptance, love, tolerance and prayer, while recognizing and welcoming Christ in our lives. Working together with Father Brockman and the church, the Studio created designs that tell these essential Christian stories. The Romanesque windows have been filled with stained glass pictures that incorporate rather traditional figures and a border in a simplified style that coordinates with the contemporary architecture of St. Luke's. The themes, designs and colorful palette of stained glass use natural light to beautifully illuminate the mysteries of God and humanity.

Father Brockman and the St. Luke Liturgy Committee also commissioned wood sculptors Norbert and Victoria Koehn to design statues of the Blessed Mother and St. Luke for the worship space.

Father Joseph G. Mulroney (2002-2010)

In July of 2002, Father Brockman accepted an appointment from Bishop Gossman to study Canon Law at the Gregorian University in Rome, Italy. Bishop Gossman named the Reverend Joseph G. Mulroney, pastor of St. Ann Parish in Clayton NC, as the new pastor of St. Luke.

In 2002 Deacon Frank Barnes joined the staff part time and began assisting with weekend liturgies. Deacon Barnes served the parish until 2004. In November of 2004, Ralph Poyo and Michael Sanchez were ordained as permanent deacons and installed at the parish.

In 2004 Father Mulroney instituted a new religious education paradigm known as Total Lifelong Catechesis (TLC). Under TLC, entire households, children, teens, and adults are instructed together on the teachings of the Roman Catholic Church and on how to connect those teachings to their everyday family life so that all members of the family can actively participate in the Life of God and His Church.

In 2005 Father Mulroney hired Jeff Rice as the parish's first full time Director of Music and Liturgy.

On June 8, 2006, Pope Benedict XVI appointed the Most Reverend Michael F. Burbidge as 5th bishop of the Diocese of Raleigh succeeding Bishop F. Joseph Gossman who retired. On June 7, 2008, Bishop Burbidge ordained Michael Spurr to the Priesthood. Father Spurr attended St. Luke's as a parishioner before entering the seminary. He celebrated his first Mass with St. Luke parishioners at the 11:00 AM liturgy the next day.

In late 2008 a committee was formed, consisting of Joann Cox, Bill Dougherty, and Terry Haag, to explore parishioner support and possible construction of a columbarium. In January of 2009 they conducted a survey which revealed support by over 85% of our parishioners. The columbarium project was later placed on hold with the departure of Fr Mulroney in 2010.

On Christmas Eve, 2008, Bishop Burbidge joined Father Mulroney in celebrating the Children's Christmas liturgy with the children of the parish.

In 2009 the parish purchased and installed a new Rodgers Allegiant digital organ for the worship space.

On May 22, 2010, Bishop Burbidge ordained John Victor Gournas to the Priesthood. St. Luke's was Father Gournas' "home" parish during his time as a seminarian. Father Gournas celebrated his first Mass with parishioners at the 11:00 AM liturgy on May 23rd, 2010.

On June 30th, 2010, Bishop Burbidge granted Father Mulroney, a temporary leave of absence for spiritual renewal. During Father Mulroney's three-month absence, Father John Forbes Pastor of Our Lady of Lourdes Church and Dean of the Raleigh Deanery, served as acting Parish Administrator. Msgr. Desmond R. Keenan, Msgr. David Brockman, Father Forbes, and other visiting clergy celebrated weekend and daily liturgies during this time.

St. Luke the Evangelist Catholic Church in Raleigh celebrated its 25th anniversary October 15-17th, 2010. The 25th Anniversary weekend began on Friday night with a concert presented by the Parish Choir and Orchestra. Music was selected to represent characteristics of the St. Luke community.

On Saturday evening, Father Shea, Father Mulrone, Deacon Michael Sanchez, the pastoral staff and 80 parishioners attended the anniversary dinner. Former pastors, founding families and staff were recognized through a slide show. Jeff Rice, Music Director, created a documentary video for the event, "Celebrating 25 Years of St. Luke History."

Our celebration culminated with the Most Reverend Michael F. Burbidge, Bishop of Raleigh, presiding at the 11:00 am Mass on Sunday. Concelebrants were Reverend Robert F. Shea, Founding Pastor, 1985-1994, now retired; Reverend Monsignor David D. Brockman, Vicar General and former Pastor, 1994-2002; and Very Reverend Joseph G. Mulrone, Pastor, 2002-2010. Father Mulrone was Homilist. "We must never forget the hard work of people who evangelized us in our lives. We are standing on the shoulders of so many people who made this parish the faith community that it is," said Father Mulrone in his homily. "We need to evangelize, because the next generation who stands here in 25 years as we celebrate the 50th anniversary will want to know the same truth, the same faith and celebrate the same Sacraments and be fed in the same way that we are with the Body and Blood of Christ."

The 25th anniversary Mass was followed by a Festival Picnic featuring the Dixieland Band, food and games.

Monsignor John F (Tim) O'Connor (2011-2013)

In March of 2011, Most Reverend Bishop Michael Burbidge named Monsignor Tim O'Connor, pastor at Saint Michael the Archangel in Cary, as the new pastor of St. Luke. Msgr O'Connor. The Mass of Installation was held at the Mass of the Annunciation of the Lord on Thursday, March 24th, 2011, Bishop Burbidge presiding.

Known as a gifted homilist and a collector of religious artifacts and art, Monsignor quickly brought his touch to St. Luke with beautiful artwork and furniture lighting up our parish. A special fund was set up for donations from our parishioners that was used to purchase a new tabernacle, an altar Missal holder, and gold colored altar candle holders that further enhanced the beauty of our sanctuary. During this time our parish had grown to a thriving community of about 580 families.

In 2012, the columbarium exploratory committee was restarted. It hosted a parishioner event on February 25, 2012 to confirm continued interest in, and support for a columbarium on our parish grounds. The meeting was well attended and featured guest presenters that included Joe Smolinsky of Renaissance Funeral Home, Chris Pappas of POLYCON Construction, and Donna Kregor of St. Luke's Bereavement Committee. Other key contributors were Jane Turro, the Pastoral Council, the Finance Committee, and much assistance was provided by Art Wensche of the Diocese of Raleigh. Monsignor Tim O'Connor gave the opening prayer and confirmed Bishop Burbidge's approval for this project based on meeting funding requirements.

The Columbarium Committee was Chaired by Joann Cox, who was instrumental in moving this project forward. Other members of the CBC were John Bihlmeyer, Bill Dougherty, Dave Dubis, Jorge Esguerra, Terri Haag, Joe Huray, Joe Jacobs, and Richard Mueller. The project would continue until completion in November of 2013.

In February of 2013, Msgr O'Connor lead a group of parishioners on a trip to the Holy Land. Those that were able to travel tell of an amazing spiritual journey and time of special fellowship. Shortly after their return Monsignor's health began to suffer and in the next several months he would limit his activity in an effort to recover.

Sadly, Msgr O'Connor passed away on Sunday, June 9th, 2013. He was 66 years old. A visitation was held at St. Luke on Thursday, June 13th, with a vigil of the deceased with Rev Monsignor David D. Brockman presiding. A funeral mass was celebrated on June 14th at Saint Michael the Archangel Catholic Church in Cary, NC, with Most Reverend Michael F. Burbidge, principal celebrant, Reverend Joseph G Vetter, homilist, and Diocesan and Religious priests as Concelebrants for the Mass.

Msgr O'Connor's family organized an estate sale at the parish rectory, where family and friends, as well as collectors, had the opportunity to obtain a piece of Msgr O'Connor's religious artifacts collection as a remembrance of his love and service to St. Luke.

Father Robert Staley (2013 to 2020)

In August of 2013, Most Reverend Bishop Michael F Burbidge named Father Robert Staley, Parochial Vicar at Saint Bernadette Catholic Church in Fuquay Varina, as new pastor of St. Luke. The Mass of Installation was held on Wednesday, September 4th, 2013, Bishop Burbidge presiding.

Joining us at the heels of Msgr O'Connor's passing, Fr Rob, as he prefers to be known, quickly engaged with the community of St. Luke, the parish staff and committees, our ministries, and individual families and parishioners, to help the parish move forward. His homilies often included a story that captured the imaginations of parishioners and enabled them, including our youth, to relate the Word of God to their everyday lives.

The long path of the Columbarium was finally completed in November of 2013, providing a total of 240 niches - 120 of these with granite face and 120 with rough stone face. The dedication, blessing, and inurnment service was conducted by Msgr David Brickman, Fr. Rob Staley, and Deacon Mike Sanchez on Saturday, November 16th.

During Fr Rob's tenure, St. Luke has adopted a number of special observances and traditions: In 2014 we began a St. Luke Lenten Mission, where a guest priest or missionary hosts a series of reflections. Speakers included

- Feb 2015 - Fr Mark Betti, The Passion Narratives in the Four Gospels
- Feb 2016 - Msgr Shugrue, Forgiveness
- March 2017 - Fr Oji, Reconciliation
- March 2018 - Msgr Wall, Prayers, Alms, and Fasting

- In 2017 we began Saint of the Year dedication
 - Saint John Paul the Great, 2017
 - Saint Therese of Lisieux, 2018
 - Saint Luke, 2019

Father Rob often expressed gratitude to his altar servers. In addition to periodic lunch outings with the servers, he started the tradition of an appreciation gift for all altar servers who served through their senior year in high school. They receive a hoodie sweatshirt of the college they will be attending. In 2018, the first recipients were Madeleine Jones for North Carolina State University and Justin Conzola for the University of Alabama.

Other activities that have flourished under Fr Rob are evening holy hours, the Parish Book Reading, access to Formed (on-line Catholic materials) for all parishioners, parish dinners and other social events, and our Rejoice events, in which our youth help lead the parish in worship through song. Father Rob also added Tuesday confessions, First Friday Devotion, and First Saturday Mass.

Outreach Ministries

During this time in our parish history, the outreach activities of our parish increased. We started the Support Circle Ministry at our parish. This involves a group of parishioners helping a family transition from homelessness to having a home. Saint Luke also got involved during this time with the Oak City Outreach Center, which aims to end homelessness and hunger in Raleigh. Some parishioners volunteered at the center and our parish started the tradition of an annual drive called “keep them warm this winter.”

Thrice Hymnals

Father Rob wanted to do something to further enhance the already great singing at our Masses and encourage the participation of young people. With the assistance of Laura Cochran, he created a new and supplemental hymnal for our parish called “Thrice.” This hymnal contains contemporary praise songs as well as some old favorites. The Thrice Hymnals are Saint Luke originals and can be found nowhere else in the world.

Discipleship and Catholic Spirituality

Father Rob brought a strong emphasis on discipleship to Jesus Christ to the parish. Many of his homilies, as well as the books he passed out, focused on this theme. Part of the promotion of discipleship was a course father Rob taught beginning in 2019. The course focused and on different traditions of spirituality (e.g. Ignatian, Franciscan, and Dominican) within the Catholic Church. The parish hall was packed for these classes, and they did much to encourage discipleship. Some participants (who read extra books, wrote papers, etc.) even earned a certificate in Catholic spirituality.

The Church Fire (January 2014)

In the early morning of January 11th, 2014, St. Luke’s Sanctuary was destroyed by an act of arson that also resulted in the death of the perpetrator, a 20-year-old man. We later learned that

his family's house was also destroyed by the troubled man. In the midst of this tragic event, the parishioners of St. Luke gathered as a community on Sunday the 12th, to celebrate Mass at St Francis of Assisi Church in Raleigh. In his homily Fr Rob thanked the St Francis community for letting us come together as a church in their sanctuary and reminded us that "In the midst of our tragedy, Jesus is our peace".

For the next 2 weeks Mass was celebrated at the Carlyle Club House across the street from St. Luke. We then moved to celebrate Mass at the Chapel of Renaissance Funeral Home, graciously offered to us by Joe Smolenski, until we could restore our parish social hall for use as our temporary sanctuary space. St. Luke resumed Masses at our parish hall on March 1st, 2014, the Saturday Vigil. The parish hall remained as our sanctuary until completion of our new church in October of 2017.

Church Construction (2015-2018)

After the fire, Father Rob preached about mercy and forgiveness. Parishioners were able to place their hurt in the hands of Christ, the Divine Healer. Many parishioners commented that because the emphasis at Saint Luke was on forgiveness, our community was able to be free to do great things for God. After several months of evaluation and consultation with restoration experts and the insurance company the decision to build a new sanctuary space was announced to the parish in December of 2014. The Steier Group was hired in January of 2015 to assist with fundraising and planning. Our Capital Campaign began in March with support from over 50 parish volunteers, and by June our campaign was completed exceeding our goals with over \$2.8M in pledges. Parishioner Catherine Buscemi served as the chairperson of the Fundraising Committee. Clancy and Theys (C&T) was selected as our main contractor in July with Jim O'Brien as the architect.

On August 11, 2016, a Farewell Prayer Service was held prior to the demolition of our old worship space. This provided an opportunity for our parishioners to reflect on our past and look forward to our future with hope.

On August 28th, 2016, following a special Mass, Bishop Michael F. Burbidge, Father Robert Staley, Deacon Mike Sanchez, architect James O'Brien, project manager Amy Luciani and members of the team performed the ceremony of groundbreaking for the construction of our new church. Construction would continue for the next 13 months.

On October 21st, 2017, the Most Reverend Bishop Luis Rafael Zarama dedicated the new Saint Luke the Evangelist Catholic Church. From the fire in January 2014 a very special sacred item had remained - the Tabernacle. The restored Tabernacle created a sense of continuity through our three years in the parish hall, and now sits at the head of the new sanctuary. The dedication of our church not only coincided with the celebration of our parish anniversary, but also with the anniversary of Ordination of Father Rob. As Bishop Zarama noted in his homily - "You'd never imagine in your entire life that this church would be possible after the fire, how God, in that mysterious way, was able to do that and awake not our frustration, but change it to hope."

Some of the beautiful aspects of the new sanctuary are the following:

- Marble altar with engraved Last Supper Image
- Marble baptismal font as one enters the church
- Magnificent crucifix hand-carved in Germany.
- Statues from Italy. Mary and Joseph at the front of church and Luke greeting you as you enter the vestibule.
- Life-like sculptures for the Stations of the Cross
- Cast stone rose window
- Stunning stained-glass windows
- Top-of-the-line beautiful pews
- Divine Mercy Image hand-painted by parishioner Annette Jacobs
- Holy Family Icon painted by parishioner Bob Higgins
- Beautifully designed floors and ceilings. Blue back wall with stars. Holy Spirit dove on ceiling above altar.
- The new church has two confessionals. This is noteworthy because it is the first time in the parish's history that it had an actual confessional.

Core Team and Construction Committee

The Core Team helped design our new Church building. We owe them deep gratitude for creating something that would give great glory to God. The members of the Core team were the following:

Carrie Antonello
Laura Cochran
Keith Kosinski (chair)
Father Rob Staley
Doreen Struble
Jane Turro

The Construction Committee handled the many issues that come up during the construction process. We thank them for their tireless effort:

Bob Higgins
Dave Knudson (chair)
Keith Kosinski
Father Rob Staley
Jane Turro

The Year 2020 was an Unforgettable Year at St. Luke

Here are some of the highlights of 2020:

- Like parishes everywhere, we dealt with the COVID-19 pandemic, streamed Masses, etc.
- We installed a magnificent statue of Our Lady of Grace, made with Carrara marble in Italy. The statue is a beautiful reminder of the great devotion to Mary in our community. We hope the statue inspires even more devotion to Our Blessed Mother. Pray the Rosary!
- We completed installing all the stained-glass windows. They help make our church a beautiful testament to the Glory of God.
- Our beloved pastor, Father Rob, was transferred to St. Matthew Parish in Durham in June 2020. He will be remembered for his homilies, his stories, the way he celebrated Mass with reverence and joy, his emphasis on discipleship to Christ, and his friendships with parishioners.
- We enthusiastically welcomed our new pastor, Monsignor Jeffrey A. Ingham, VF on June 30th.

Monsignor Jeffrey A. Ingham, VF (2020-Present)

Monsignor Jeffrey Ingham was born in Cleveland, Ohio. He attended Borromeo Seminary College in Cleveland, earning his B.A. in Scholastic Philosophy in 1969. He then attended St. Mary Seminary and Graduate School of Theology in Cleveland from 1969 to 1972. He finished his studies at Holy Trinity Seminary in Dallas, Texas in 1975. Monsignor Ingham was ordained in 1975. He has since served as pastor for several churches in the Diocese of Raleigh, including his current home parish, St. Luke the Evangelist.

Saint Luke Seminarians

Our parish has a long and blessed relationship with the seminarians in the Diocese of Raleigh. We are very blessed to have two seminarians of our own: Steven DiMassimo joined the seminary in 2014, and Drew Navarro started seminary in 2019. We pray for Steve's ordination to diaconate in 2020 and priesthood in 2021.

From 2014 through 2019 St. Luke hosted seminarians at our parish during their summer assignments. This "internship" allows St. Luke to support these seminarians in their vocation and thank them for their service. The seminarians in turn get to experience their life of service within a parish, participating in our worship, supporting our priest and our ministries, and being an integral part of the community. We fondly remember all the seminarians who have served with St. Luke:

- Noe Ramirez de Paz, summer of 2014
- Jairo Maldonado, summer of 2015
- Carlos Juan Garcia, summer of 2016
- Anthony Ibakua, summer of 2017
- Erk Reyes, summer of 2019

St. Luke's Staff

Pastors

- Father Robert F. Shea (1985 -1994)
- Father David D. Brockman (1994 - 2002)
- Father Joseph G. Mulroney (2002 - 2010)
- Monsignor John F (Tim) O'Connor (2011 - 2013)
- Father Robert Staley (2013 - 2020)
- Monsignor Jeffrey A. Ingham, VF (2020-Present)

Deacons

- Phil Newton (1994-2000)
- Frank Barnes (2002-2004)
- Ralph Poyo (2004 - 2007)
- Mike Sanchez (2004 - Present)

Parish Secretaries

- Laura Sancineto (1988-1998)
- Rose Pisconski (1999-2005)
- Peg Brizendine (2006 - Present)

Accounting and Facilities

- Jane Turro (2002 - present)

Music Ministers

- Paul Krebs
- Gretchen Robens
- Phil Kregor
- Nina Pollack
- Mike Ritchey
- Kevin Kinnaird
- Jeff Rice (2002 - 2011)
- James Gardner (2011 - 2014)
- Laura Cochran (2014 - 2017)
- Marilyn Struckmeyer (2017 - present)

Faith Formation/Religious Education Staff

- Blanche Ellison (1985-1990, 1993-1997, 2012-2013)
- Barbara Krebs (1991-1992)
- Marion Danforth (1991-1992)
- Gayle Hillada (1996)
- Margie Burton (1997 - 1999)
- Sherry Maloney (1999 - 2012)
- Ralph Poyo (2004 - 2007)
- Michelle Fober (2007 - 2011)
- Tim Hetzel (2012 - 2017)
- Stephanie Jones (2017 - 2019)
- Tracy Knudson (2018 - 2020)
- Rebecca Dobner (2019 - present)

Youth Ministers

- Michael Ellison
- Jim Morris, Sr.
- Ralph Poyo
- Tony Melton
- Russell Hoyt

Volunteer and Ministry Coordinator

Tammy Huffman

Website and Bulletin

Camille McCabe (2011 - 2020)
Pat Cuda (2020 - Present)

St. Luke the Evangelist Catholic Church Founding Members 1985

Andrews, Don & Mary

Auen, Bill & Bing

Bailey, Jim & Rita

Bartodus, Robert

Baudreau, James & Roberta

Benigno, Mike & Grace

Berg, Eric & Marcela

Brown, Harry & Nancy

Byrne, Mike & Ginny

Campion, James & Phyllis

Conroy, Ray & Mary

Couchois, Jack & Susan

Crumlich, Don & JoAnn

Ellison, Carl & Blanche

Ewbank, Rodger & Elaine

Farrell, John & Tracey

Gannon, Larry & Jean

Georgi, William & Lee Ann

Gerdes, Carl & Norma

Heatherington, Ray & Donna

Holden, John & Sandy

Jensen, Richard & Rose

Kallus, Tom & Royce

Kauer, Alex & Cathy

Kearney, Mark & Margaret

Kregor, Phil & Donna

Liberatore, Hank & Nora

Manning, Charles & Dena

Manning, Bernie & Pat

McClure, Roc & Dana

McCord, Ron & Diane

McCreery, Howdy & Rose

McHugh, John & Jane

Moore, Lloyd & Jane

Moore, Robert & Marilyn

Morris, John & Edna

Orlando, Frank & Jeanette

Odenwelder, John & Missy

Palumbo, Ken & Jane

Parajon, Robert & Margaret

Parzygnat, Kenneth & Marsha

Petrovick, Matt & Lorry

Pirotte, John & Deborah

Pollock, Michael & Nina

Rinn, Robert & Cathy

Rutherford, Richard & Marge

Sander, Joe & Marie

Sands, Evelyn

Scharenbrock, Jim & Joan

Schmidt, Stephen & Sheryl

Sicotte, Conrad & Mary Frances

Szeker, John & Kathleen

Tomczak, Dan & Denise

Vinitsky, Carl & Judy

Weigold, James & Laura

Wenhoff, William & Kathy

White, Jim & Charleen

Whyte, Richard & Alice

Will, Ray & Helen

Zikos, Bernie & Jean