



MASSES

Saturday [anticipated] 4:30 pm

Sunday 8 am, 9:30 am, 11 am

*Mass in the chapel Monday-Friday at 9 am
Saturday at 10 am*

CONFESSIONS

Tuesday 7-7:30 pm

Saturday 9-9:45 am & 3-4 pm

in the chapel

ST IGNATIUS
& ST LUKE'S

11 April 2021

THE FAITHLESSNESS OF THOMAS

When you read the newspaper of some momentous decision taken, which, for a moment fills the headlines...; the question often suggests itself, What will be the verdict of history? The verdict of history—that was the important thing on Easter Day all those centuries ago, when Easter Day first earned its title. A Man had died, with the formalities of a legal execution after a trial in which the evidence had broken down, and the judge had disclaimed responsibility for the sentence...What jury was now to sit on the case, and give the verdict of history? The dead Man had appointed them himself, a jury of twelve,...common folk, such as have the right to sit on juries...Had the dead Man risen again? Only one of [*the eleven surviving disciples*] claims to have seen him; the rest have nothing to go upon except the empty tomb, and some rather confusing hearsay evidence. Their deliberations are cut short when, suddenly, behind locked doors, they see the dead Man standing in their midst.

No difficulty remains now; there can be only one verdict. He who was dead, is alive; he is our Lord and our God—that is the message they will publish to the world. And then—perhaps only after he is gone, a sudden thought occurs to them. They were not, after all, in full session when he came; one of them had been absent; Thomas, for what reason we don't know, had been absent. Well, it is a pity; but after all it won't make much difference. Thomas can hardly refuse to go by the vote of the majority, when he has the evidence of all his colleagues, without exception, to sway his judgment. They crowd round Thomas when he returns, with the confident cry, "We have seen the Lord!"

They had reckoned without their man. Thomas, as we know from his record, was loyal to a fault; had been the first to suggest that they should all go and die with their Master. But he was one of those people who will always ask the inconvenient question. One of those hard-headed, you might almost say bullet-headed, people who give so much trouble on juries and on committees of every sort by refusing to take the majority view until they, personally, are satisfied. He has been chosen to be an eye-witness, vouching personally for every event in the life of Jesus of Nazareth. And he was not an eye-witness of this appearance in the upper room; it will not do. How can they be certain that it was really their Master that they saw? What tests did they make? "Until I have seen the mark of the nails on his hands, until I

have put my finger into the mark of the nails, and put my hand into his side, you will never make me believe."

That it was all providentially ordained, one apostle being absent, and that one Thomas, with his bulldog way of looking at things, is beyond question. "Our Faith," says St. Gregory, "owes more to the faithlessness of Thomas than to the faithfulness of all the other apostles put together." Because Thomas doubted, our Lord appeared a second time in the upper room; because Thomas doubted, they were privileged to see, and to touch if they would, the indelible scars of Calvary. "What our own eyes have seen of him, what it was that met our gaze, and the touch of our hands" [*John 1:1*]*]*—so John wrote, long afterwards, with that unforgettable scene for his inspiration. In a moment the verdict of the jury became unanimous; Thomas could cry out "My Lord and my God!" with the rest. Only there is a postscript. "Thou hast learned to believe, Thomas, because thou hast seen me. Blessed are those who have not seen, and believe all the same." For our sakes, it was a good thing that Thomas doubted. But for himself he had come short of the ideal, he had missed an opportunity; surely we are meant to see that. In however insignificant a degree, he was at fault. He had all the record of our Lord's life and teaching in front of him; he had the unanimous testimony of those others, his tried companions in arms, and yet...some pride, some wilful obstinacy, some chagrin, perhaps, at having been left out when this experience was granted to the rest, made him withhold his assent. "I *will not* believe"; mysteriously, it is possible to withhold your assent by an act of the will. He *ought* to have capitulated.

Our Lord doesn't complain. Our Lord wasn't like us; he didn't go about after his Resurrection finding fault and saying "I told you so"; he looked forward to the future. He looked down the centuries at people like you and me, who had no chance of seeing him in his incarnate state, and yet do manage to cry out, "My Lord and my God"; and he said "What lucky people you are!" When he just started out on his ministry, you remember, he gave us eight Beatitudes...And now, when he is just going to leave us for heaven, he pronounces a last beatitude, "Blessed are those who haven't seen, and believe all the same." ...We are lucky people: luckier, it would seem, than St. Thomas, because he saw.

Excerpted from *Belief*, a sermon by Msgr. Ronald Knox [1888-1957]

REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

All who are suffering or sick and all caregivers who minister to the sick: Gary Schenk, Joanne Newsom, Jackie Chancio, Anne Marie Whittaker, Greg and Felicia Yohe, Joe Coleman, John Hogan, Deirdre McQuade, Danny Hart, Amy Howard, Mary Morehead and family, Curtis Bailey, Leondre Massey, Sister Constance Ward, George Cochran, Mark Anthony Turner, Rachel Fisher, Patricia Ransom, Beverly A. Woods, Kerianna Prather, Domingo G., Adrian and Barbara.; D.K.C., M.M., R.M., K.M., C.M., C.A., E.D., E.G., W.B., J.M., H.G., and J.G.

Please call or email the office to add a name to the prayer list.

Before calling, please be sure you have spoken to the person [for a member of his family] about adding the name—we do not want to inadvertently disregard someone's desire for privacy.

Names of those who are sick or suffering will be kept on the list for one month; to keep a name on the list for longer, you must email the parish office.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

NEW MASS SCHEDULE

effective Monday, April 5th

Masses: Monday-Friday 9 am; Saturday 10 am & 4:30 pm
Sunday 8 am, 9:30 am, 11 am

Confessions: Tuesday 7-7:30 pm,
Saturday 9-9:45 am & 3-4 pm

HELP BEAUTIFY OUR CHURCH

Join us in praying that the work on repairing and beautifying the church will go quickly and smoothly, with no Covid or other delays in permitting or contracts.

O heavenly Father, who hast filled the world with loveliness; Grant, we beseech Thee, a swift consent to our bid to beautify thine house, giving the spirit of governance and of a sound mind to all in authority in this matter. Vouchsafe to hear our prayer, O merciful and gracious Father, for the love of thy dear Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, 10 April

Anticipated Mass for LOW SUNDAY

4:30 pm Millie Simpson [Edwin Smith]

Sunday, 11 April

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

8 am Pro populo

9:30 am the Newswanger family

11 am Helen Macko Michalco +

Monday, 12 April

Eastertide Feria

9 am Lewis Norman

Tuesday, 13 April

Martin I, Pope and Martyr

9 am Lilian C. Madan

Wednesday, 14 April

Eastertide Feria

9 am the needs and concerns of visitors to our parish

Thursday, 15 April

Eastertide Feria

9 am Bill and Norma Hayes +

Friday, 16 April

Eastertide Feria

9 am Carolina Manlapaz + [Susie Martinez]

Saturday, 17 April

Eastertide Feria

10 am Deirdre McQuade

Anticipated Mass for the Third Sunday of Easter

4:30 pm Steven Frantz +

Sunday, 18 April

The Third Sunday of Easter

8 am Pro populo

9:30 am Gary Schenk

11 am Stella Brisson +

St. Ignatius Finance Council

Florian Hocke - *Co-Chair*

Jackie Chancio

Deacon Clark Glenn

Joseph Somerville

Clifford Woods

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historic
ST IGNATIUS
CATHOLIC CHURCH

Rev. John Vidal, *pastor* **Rev. Jason Catania, *parochial vicar***

Joint Pastoral Council

Randy King - *Co-chair*

Joseph Chancio ♦ Rosemary Coller

Fran Doyle ♦ James Guinivan

Ada Okafor ♦ Elizabeth Shivone

Connie Somerville

Patrick Delaney - *ex officio*

Susan White - *ex officio*

St. Luke's Finance Council

Patrick Delaney - *Co-chair*

Nicole Crawford ♦ Dave Hoppe

David Lewis ♦ Franco Madan

Susan White - *ex officio*

Karen King - *ex officio*

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Saint Luke's at
IGNATIUS CHURCH