



ST LUKE'S & ST IGNATIUS

Oxon Hill

11 December 2022



CONFESSIONS

Saturday 9-9:45 am

in the chapel

(in the church on 1st Saturdays)

3:30-4:15 pm

in the church

Tuesday 6:30-7:30 pm

in the church

MASSES

Saturday 4:30 pm [anticipated]

Sunday 8 am, 9:30 am, 11 am

Daily Mass in the chapel

Monday-Friday at 9 am

Saturday at 10 am

(First Saturdays in the church)

HOLY HOURS

*confessions &
eucharistic adoration
in the church*

Tuesday 6:30-7:30 pm

First Saturday 9 am

(followed by Mass at 10 am)

2315 Brinkley Road ♦ Fort Washington, MD 20744

The New Elijah

...Elijah has a very important prophetic ministry, running from 1 Kings 17 to 2 Kings 2. He arises in a time of crisis under the rule of Ahab (see 1 Kings 16-22) and performs several miracles, many of which prefigure those of the Savior, Jesus Christ (e.g., he raises a widow's son from the dead, 1 Kings 17:8-24). In fact, while it's commonly thought that miracles are more or less "everywhere" in the Old Testament, the reality is they are very much clustered around the time of Moses and that of Elijah and Elisha (1 Kings 17-2 Kings 13).

As mentioned, Elijah is not said to die. Rather, as he passes his ministry off to his spiritual son Elisha, Elijah is taken away to heaven in a fiery chariot (2 Kings 2:11).

Because of the dynamic importance of Elijah's work and because he did not actually die, an expectation developed among the prophets that Elijah would return as a precursor to the great definitive coming of the Lord. This is most explicit in the last of the writing prophets, the prophet Malachi, whose ministry likely dates around 450 B.C. He writes: "Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the great and awesome day of the Lord" (Malachi 4:5).

Now, Malachi's ministry takes place some 400 years after Elijah's heavenly departure.

Further, Malachi 3:1 is likely drawing from Isaiah 40:3, where Malachi states: "Behold, I send my messenger to prepare the way before me" (Malachi 3:1). The similarity is apparent with the Isaiah passage in the repetition of the words "prepare" and "way." Isaiah writes: "A voice cries in the wilderness, prepare the way of the Lord" (Isaiah 40:3).

John the Baptist as the New Elijah

In fact, Mark's Gospel begins by citing Malachi 3:1, but attributes it to Isaiah. In other words, Mark understands the Malachi passage and that of Isaiah as something of a unit, elaborating a single thread, which allows him to see both against the Isaianic backdrop: "As it is written in Isaiah the prophet, 'Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who shall prepare your way [Malachi 3:1]; the voice of one crying in the wilderness: Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight'" [Isaiah 40:3] (Mark 1:1-3).

The Gospels quote this Isaiah passage (Isaiah 40:3) in order to set the context for the ministry of John the Baptist. For example, speaking of John the Baptist, Matthew writes: "For this is he who was spoken of by the prophet Isaiah, when he said, 'The voice of one crying in the wilderness: Prepare the way of the Lord' (Matthew 3:3). It's also worth noting that John the Baptist hands off his ministry to Jesus at the Jordan River—the very same place where Elijah passed his ministry off to Elisha (see 2 Kings 2).

And Jesus himself is explicit: John the Baptist fulfills the expectation of Elijah's return. Speaking of John the Baptist, Jesus states: "This is he of whom it is written, 'Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who shall prepare your way before you' [see Malachi 3:1]. Truly, I say to you, among those born of women there has arisen no one greater than John the Baptist; yet he who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater

than he. From the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven has suffered violence.... For all the prophets and the law prophesied until John; and if you are willing to accept it, he is Elijah who is to come" (Matthew 11:11-15).

The same teaching comes out in Luke's account of John the Baptist's birth, namely, that John will come "in the spirit and power of Elijah" (Luke 1:17).

When Jesus utters from the Cross his famous words, "Eli, Eli, lama sabachtani" (My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" Matthew 27:46), some in the crowd think he is calling for Elijah—because Elijah's name in Hebrew sounds like the semitic form of "My God, my God" ("Eli, Eli"), showing us an example of the Jewish expectation of Elijah's return. This expectation is also witnessed in the disciples' response to Jesus' question: "Who do men say the Son of man is?" They respond: "Some say John the Baptist, other say Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets" (Matthew 16:13-14).

Thus, the Jewish expectation of Elijah's return—and the expectation that his return would augur the return of the God of Israel to Zion—gives rise to the question of whether or not John the Baptist is Elijah reincarnate. While, for theological reasons, that can't be the case, this whole discussion does imply something profound. It means that the God of Israel—YHWH—has returned to his people in and through Jesus Christ.

Typology as Analogy

From the vantage point of the New Testament, there is no reason to force an overly literal reading of Elijah's return. Rather, John the Baptist is the New Elijah—just as Jesus is the New Moses and the New David. This is a matter of typology whereby figures in the Old point to greater realities to come in the New. The Old Testament is very much a story in search of an ending, giving rise to hopes and expectations that are sometimes fulfilled in surprising and unexpected ways. In hindsight, we see what God was doing; but such matters are not nearly so clear from the other side of the veil before Christ.

Just to give one example, the Church can be understood as the Davidic Kingdom "transfigured." That is, the Church is related to, but transcends the earthly kingdom of David. In a real way David's kingdom foreshadows and points to the Church, as a prophetic expectation; but this fulfillment comes about in a surprising and somewhat unexpected way.

Thus, typology often functions like an analogy, which entails a "like and unlike" in terms of how it's fulfilled in Christ. Reading the Bible from the heart of the Church means attuning ourselves to the rhythms of God's providence and seeking to understand the divine movement of salvation—from the Old to the New, from the earthly to the heavenly, from nature to grace.

from "Was John the Baptist a Reincarnation of Elijah?" by Dr. Andrew Swafford, published at ascensionpress.com on 18 October 2017.

REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS *All who are suffering or sick and all caregivers who minister to the sick:*

Easter Thompson, Finn Prada, Fr. Gus Peters, Cate Mueller, Don Seward, Chelsea Ransom, Lorraine Killion, Marie Norment, Theresa Koshut, Jackie Windsor, Jack Figel, Sonya Estrada, Dave Hoppe, Barbara Manning; Andy, Paula, and Marian Luther; Jackie Chancio, Carolyn Grimm, Mark Mangione, Richard Thompson, Harold Joyce, Levi Harris, Joanne Newsom, Anne Marie Whittaker, Greg and Felicia Yohe, Joe Coleman, John Hogan, Danny Hart, Amy Howard, Mary Morehead and family, Curtis Bailey, Leondre Massey, Sister Constance Ward, Mark Anthony Turner, Rachel Fisher, Patricia Ransom, Beverly A. Woods, Kerianna Prather; C.M., C.A., E.D., E.G., W.B., and 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.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHRISTMAS BASKET RAFFLE The Ladies of Charity will be selling tickets before and after Masses for their annual Christmas Basket Raffle. The basket includes custom made afghan and other custom homemade items, sparkling drinks, Christmas treats & decorations, goodies and \$100 gift card. Proceeds will go to our local nursing homes and other charitable organizations. Tickets are \$5 each or 5 for \$20; the drawing will be next Sunday, December 18, 2022—you need not be present to win!

ADVENT LESSONS AND CAROLS

Our annual service of Advent Lessons & Carols will be tonight [December 11th] at 5 pm in the church. This evening of music and scripture is a beautiful way to prepare your heart to welcome the Lord when he comes again.

A reception will follow in the school auditorium.

ST. COLUMBA SCHOOL *Now enrolling for 2023-2024 school year!*

Applications for the 2023-2024 Archdiocese of Washington Tuition Assistance Program are now being accepted through 12/2/22 for returning families, and through 2/18/23 for new families. Please note that all families requesting any financial aid from St. Columba School must complete an application. The link may be found on their website www.stcatholic.org.

SCHEDULE OF CHRISTMAS MASSES

Christmas Eve Masses

4:30 pm *Roman Missal*

10:30 pm *Divine Worship*

Christmas Day Masses

9 am *Roman Missal*

11 am *Divine Worship*

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, 10 December

Anticipated Mass for the Third Sunday of Advent

4:30 pm Julia Watson

Sunday, 11 December

The Third Sunday of Advent [Gaudete Sunday]

8 am pro populo

9:30 am Enid Gloria Shields +

11 am Maria de las Nieves Lopez +

Monday, 12 December

Our Lady of Guadalupe

9 am Jeannette Arechavaleta +

Tuesday, 13 December

Lucy, Virgin and Martyr

9 am Jackson Davis +

Wednesday, 14 December

John of the Cross, Priest and Doctor of the Church

9 am Rafael A. Madan

Thursday, 15 December

Advent Feria

9 am the needs and intentions of visitors to our parish

Friday, 16 December

Advent Feria

9 am Tousse Olawa

Saturday, 17 December

(O Sapientia)

10 am Ida Hounsou +

Anticipated Mass for the Fourth Sunday of Advent

4:30 pm pro populo

Sunday, 18 December

The Fourth Sunday of Advent

8 am in thanksgiving [R. Coller]

9:30 am Gertrude Woods +

11 am the ancestors of Rafael F. and Lilian C. Madan +

St. Ignatius Finance Council

Jackie Chancio ♦ George Hendrix
Joseph Somerville ♦ Clifford Woods

office@saint-ig.org
SAINT-IG.ORG
301-567-4740

historic
ST IGNATIUS
CATHOLIC CHURCH

Rev. John Vidal, pastor
Rev. Jason Catania, parochial vicar
Rev. David Ousley, assisting priest

Joint Pastoral Council

Joseph Chancio ♦ Rosemary Coller
Michael Taylor ♦ James Guinivan
Ada Okafor ♦ Elizabeth Shivone
Cesar Andaya ♦ Connie Somerville
Patrick Delaney - *ex officio*
Susan White - *ex officio*

St. Luke's Finance Council

Patrick Delaney *Co-chair* ♦ Dave Hoppe
David Lewis ♦ Franco Madan

stlukesdordinariate@gmail.com
STLUKESORDINARIATE.COM
202-999-9934

Saint **Luke's at**
IGNATIUS CHURCH