



ST LUKE'S & ST IGNATIUS

Oxon Hill

18 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 Dreams of St. Joseph

While preaching to the crowds on the day of Pentecost, St. Peter quoted the prophet Joel: "I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh: and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams."

There is a striking inversion of expectations in this prophecy because, in human experience, it is old men whose hopes for this world are past and who, according to nature, have the disinterested clarity to see visions and young men, with their lives ahead of them and little understanding of suffering or failure, who dream dreams. Like his namesake of the Old Testament, St. Joseph was a dreamer and he has in devotional tradition overwhelmingly been portrayed as an old man. Certainly, there is no mention made of him as still living in the Gospels after Jesus's discovery in the temple at the age of 12. By the time of Our Lord's public ministry, his life seems to be in the past. On the Cross, the Saviour entrusts his mother to the Beloved Disciple, which he would not have done if Joseph lived.



Not only does St. Joseph share a name and a propensity for prophetic dreams with the great patriarch of Genesis, but he is also compelled by injustice to sojourn in Egypt.

The patriarch, however, seems to have been a silver-tongued man of affairs more prone to speak too much than too little. St. Joseph does not speak once in all the New Testament. His cares must have been enormous. He was the heir to the throne of David living the life of a humble carpenter; betrothed to the very tabernacle of God and deterred by holy fear from contracting his marriage to her; driven by the indifferent bureaucracy of imperial power to a perilous journey with his heavily pregnant wife; able from poverty only to fulfill the minimum of his ritual duty; driven by the bloodthirsty envy of a tyrant to take his family into exile and compelled by a prudent suspicion of the tyrant's heirs to live away from his home for the rest of his life. And yet St. Joseph dreamed dreams. He endured the glory and the burden of guarding the Redeemer in obscurity. For three days, he suffered the trauma of seemingly failing in that greatest of all responsibilities and then he died without seeing the glory of his foster child's miracles and preaching.

Joseph the Patriarch was a young man, the second youngest of his brethren. St. Joseph was an old man, and

yet, he dreamed dreams. They say if you want to make God laugh, tell him your plans. Perhaps, in order for those who have travelled far and who might imagine they have learned much, to hear God's plans it is necessary, before all things, like St. Joseph, to remain silent...As St. Jerome said of the Prophet Obadiah, whose book is shortest in the Old Testament, "his prophecy is shortest of any in number of words but yields to none in the sublimity of its mysteries."

Every event in our lives is willed or permitted by God. Often we complain that God is not answering our prayers, but all that we have known, every moment of our lives, is his answer. Too often we cannot hear him because we are telling him our plans. "Thy father and I have sought thee sorrowing," Mary tells her 12-year-old son in the Temple in Jerusalem. "How is it that you sought me? Did you not know that I must be about my father's business?" he replied. Like the astounded doctors of the law in the Temple, we each must learn that sitting at the feet of Jesus and listening is, as the Lord Himself has told us, the one thing necessary. Like St. Joseph, we must (as Luke tells us three times he did in chapter two of his Gospel) 'wonder' at the words and actions of Christ.

St. Ignatius of Antioch, one of the most ancient of all the fathers of the Church, tells us that God "has revealed himself in his Son Jesus Christ, who is his Word issuing from the silence and who won the complete approval of him who sent him." And in another place that "the virginity of Mary was hidden from the prince of this world, as was also her childbearing, and the death of the Lord; three mysteries of renown, which were wrought in silence by God." St. Joseph was present for all three of those mysteries. The first he acknowledged by his faithful protection of the Virgin Mother, the second he accomplished in the poverty of the stable in Bethlehem and the last he beheld as he greeted his foster son triumphant over sin and death in the shattered gates of Hell.

These are dark times in the land and the sea. Like St. Joseph, the model of artisans and the chaste guardian of the virgin, we must seek the Lord sorrowing, but with wonder and in docile silence. The grace of Christ purifies the visions of the young and enkindles the dreams of the old. "The world grows old, but the Church is ever young. She can, in any time, at her Lord's will, 'inherit the Gentiles, and inhabit the desolate cities.'"

from *Saint Joseph: A Vision in a Dream* by Dr. Alan Fimister [assistant professor at St. John Vianney Theological Seminary], published at denvercatholic.org on 22 February 2021.

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

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*

SUNDAY, THE 1ST OF JANUARY, is the Solemnity of Mary the Mother of God. We will observe the usual Sunday Mass schedule.

**THE ST. IGNATIUS LADIES OF CHARITY
WOULD LIKE TO INVITE**

the generous parishioners of St. Ignatius and St. Luke to an Epiphany Party on Sunday, January 8, 2023, after the 11 am Mass (about 12:30 pm) in the school auditorium. We need to say thank you to all who have funded our many endeavors for the past year. Every time we asked, you responded. Come on January 8 and let us serve you.

THE WEEKLY EMAIL

Are you interested in receiving our weekly email bulletin? It hits your inbox every Thursday morning at 9 am. Email the office at stlukesDCordinariate@gmail.com, and we will put you on the email list. If you thought you had already signed up but you don't see it, drop a line to the office and we will help you figure it out.

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, 17 December

Anticipated Mass for the Fourth Sunday of Advent
4:30 pm pro populo

Sunday, 18 December

The Fourth Sunday of Advent
(*O Adonai*)

8 am in thanksgiving [R. Coller]

9:30 am Gertrude Woods +

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

Monday, 19 December

(*O Radix Jesse*)

9 am Gary Schenk +

Tuesday, 20 December

(*O Clavis David*)

9 am Jeanne d'Arc

Wednesday, 21 December

Peter Canisius, Priest and Doctor of the Church
(*O Oriens*)

9 am David and Sharon Gustafson

Thursday, 22 December

(*O Rex Gentium*)

9 am those who have wronged the Madan-Casas family

Friday, 23 December

John of Kanty, Priest
(*O Emmanuel*)

9 am Ansel Gustafson

Saturday, 24 December

(*O Virgo Virginum*)

10 am deceased religious of the parish +

THE VIGIL OF THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD

4:30 pm in thanksgiving [R. Coller]

10:30 pm pro populo

Sunday, 25 December

THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD

9 am Florian Norbert Hofer + [month's mind]

11 am Andres Gamboa

St. Ignatius Finance Council

Jackie Chancio ♦ George Hendrix
Joseph Somerville ♦ Clifford Woods

office@saint-ig.org
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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

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Saint **Luke's at**
IGNATIUS CHURCH