

ST IGNATIUS  
& ST LUKE'S  
10 May 2020



## THE SEVEN DEACONS

The selection of the “seven reputable men” in today’s first reading [*Acts of the Apostles 6:1-6*] has always been interpreted by the Church as marking the origin of the diaconate as a distinct ministry of Christian service; although the seven men are not called ‘deacons’ in the New Testament, their role is described as ‘diaconal’ (διακονειν τραπεζαις in Greek), and they are therefore often regarded as the forerunners of the Christian order of deacons. The Apostles appointed these men to attend to the needs of the Greek-speaking widows of the early Church at Jerusalem when the demands of daily service to the needy among the Christian community became too much for them to manage alone. Through prayer and the laying on of hands, they entrusted to those chosen men the ministry of serving at table [which has been understood to be the administration of food or funds to the indigent widows]. St. Paul describes the particular qualifications needed for a man to be appointed to the office of deacon (*1 Tim 3:8-13*).\* We know from other passages of the Acts that deacons in the early Church preached (St. Stephen, *Acts 6-7*), baptized (St. Philip, *Acts 8*), and served the early Church community.

The Seven Deacons were:

- Saint Stephen (Proto-martyr)
- Saint Philip the Evangelist
- Prochorus
- Nicanor
- Timon
- Parmenas
- Nicholas

According to the narrative in Acts, they were identified and selected by the community of believers on the basis of their reputation and wisdom, being ‘full of the Holy Spirit’, and their appointment was confirmed by the Apostles.

Only Stephen and Philip are discussed in much detail in *Acts*; tradition provides nothing further about Nicanor or Parmenas. Stephen became the first martyr of the church when he was killed by a mob [his death was agreed to by Saul of Tarsus, the future Apostle Paul (*Acts 8:1*)]. Philip evangelized in Samaria, where he converted Simon Magus and an Ethiopian eunuch, traditionally beginning the Ethiopian Orthodox Church.

Tradition calls Prochorus the nephew of Stephen and a companion of John the Evangelist, who consecrated him bishop of Nicomedia in Bithynia (modern-day Turkey). He was traditionally ascribed the authorship

of the apocryphal Acts of John, and was said to have ended his life as a martyr in Antioch in the 1st century.

Very early in the history of the Church, deacons were understood to hold a special place in relation to the bishops. In Rome, the deacons became the bishop’s “right hand men.” During the first Christian millennium deacons undertook, as the bishops’ assistants, the functions that are today those of the vicar general, the judicial vicar, the vicar capitular, the cathedral chapter, and the *oeconome* (or finance officer). In current canon law these are almost exclusively priests’ functions. The bishop’s principal assistant became known as the “archdeacon” and was often charged with heavy responsibilities, especially in the financial administration of the local church, above all in distribution of funds and goods to the poor. One measure of the importance of the deacon in the early Church is the number of deacons elected pope in the early Middle Ages. Of the 37 men elected pope between 432 and 684 A.D., only three are known to have been ordained to the priesthood before their election to the Chair of Peter.



*\*“Deacons are to be worthy of respect, sincere, not indulging in much wine, and not pursuing dishonest gain.<sup>9</sup> They must keep hold of the deep truths of the faith with a clear conscience.<sup>10</sup> They must first be tested; and then if there is nothing against them, let them serve as deacons...*

*<sup>12</sup>A deacon must be faithful to his wife and must manage his children and his household well.”*



## REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

All who are suffering or sick and all caregivers who minister to the sick: Joseph 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, Jacqueline Chancio, Beverly A. Woods, Kerianna Prather, Victoria P.; 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 [or 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.

## MASS READINGS THIS WEEK

### **10 May** *Fifth Sunday of Easter*

Acts 6: 1-7; Psalm 33: 1-2, 4-5, 18-19

1 Peter 2: 4-9; John 14: 1-12

### **11 May** *Eastertide Feria*

Acts 14: 5-18; Psalm 115: 1-4, 15-16; John 14: 21-26

### **12 May** *Nereus and Achilleus, Martyrs*

*Pancras, Martyr*

Acts 14: 19-28; Psalm 145: 10-13b, 21; John 14: 27-31a

### **13 May** *Our Lady of Fatima*

Acts 15: 1-6; Psalm 122: 1-5; John 15: 1-8

### **14 May** *Matthias, Apostle*

Acts 1: 15-17, 20-26; Psalm 113: 1-8; John 15: 9-17

### **15 May** *Isidore*

Acts 15: 22-31; Psalm 57: 8-12; John 15: 12-17

### **16 May** *Eastertide Feria*

Acts 16: 1-10; Psalm 100: 1b-3, 5; John 15: 18-21

### **17 May** *Sixth Sunday of Easter*

Acts 8: 5-8, 14-17; Psalm 66: 1-7, 16, 20;

1 Peter 3: 15-18; John 14: 15-21

## MASS INTENTIONS

### **Saturday, 9 May**

*Eastertide Feria*

George F. Hickey, Sr. + [George F. Hickey, Jr.]

### **Sunday, 10 May**

*Fifth Sunday of Easter*

Pro populo

### **Monday, 11 May**

*Eastertide Feria*

Edward Guinivan and companions

### **Tuesday, 12 May**

*Nereus and Achilleus, Martyrs*

*Pancras, Martyr*

Rev. Charles C. Green +

### **Wednesday, 13 May**

*Our Lady of Fatima*

Alice Kruse + [Lorraine LaValley]

### **Thursday, 14 May**

*Matthias, Apostle*

the Poor Souls in Purgatory +

### **Friday, 15 May**

*Isidore*

Alfred Bockry +

### **Saturday, 16 May**

*Eastertide Feria*

Rev. Michael J. Curley +

### **Sunday, 17 May**

*Sixth Sunday of Easter, called Rogation Sunday*

Pro populo

Fr. Vidal will be saying private masses daily until the coronavirus protocols permit public celebration once more.

Mass intentions will therefore be covered.

### 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**

Administrator, St. Ignatius

Pastor, St. Luke's

### Joint Pastoral Council

Randy King - *Co-chair*

Joseph Chancio ♦ Rosemary Collier

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 ♦ Mario Enzler

David Lewis ♦ Franco Madan

Susan White - *ex officio*

Karen King - *ex officio*

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