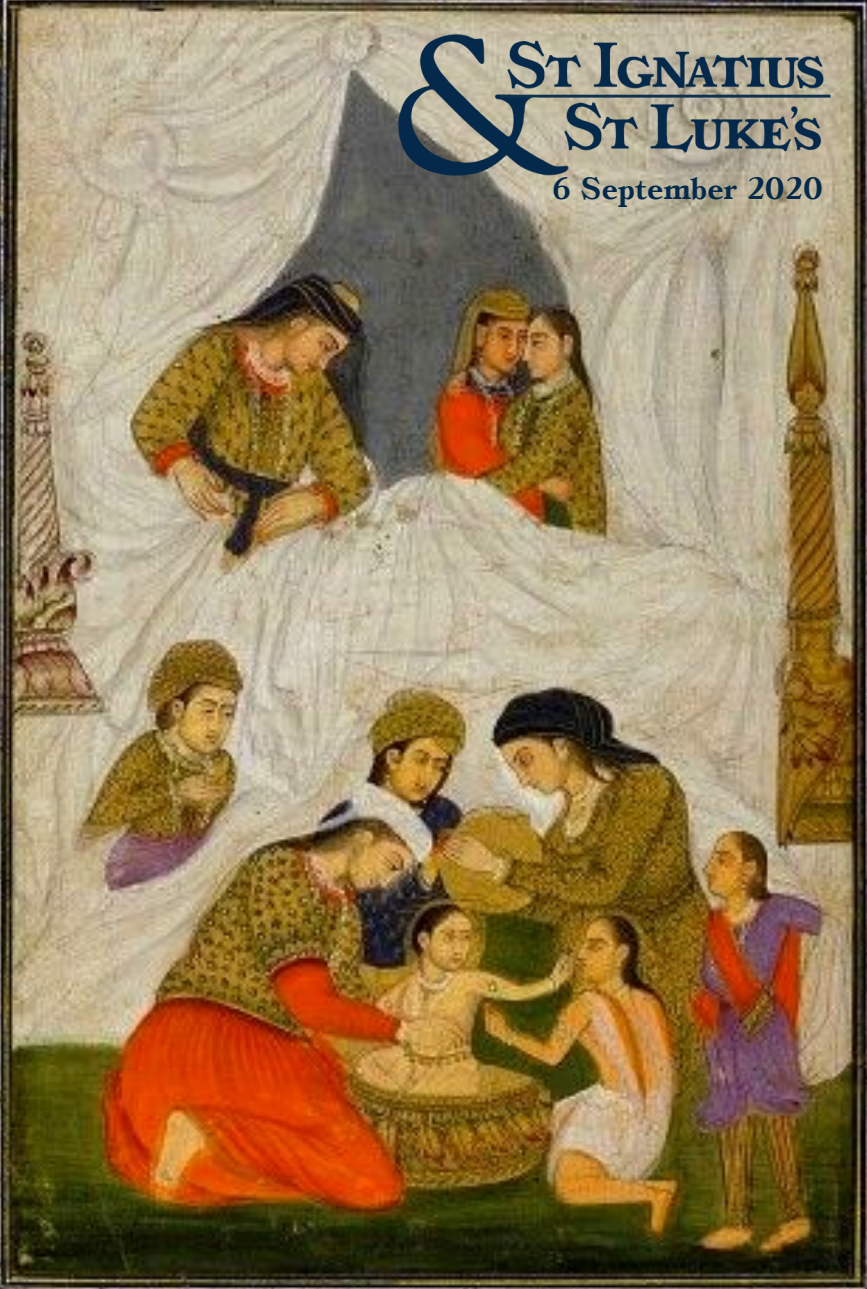


ST IGNATIUS  
& ST LUKE'S  
6 September 2020



*The Birth of Virgin Mary*

## THE NATIVITY OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY AND THE EIGHT DAY LENT

When it comes to the saints, the Church commemorates their date of death, with Saint John the Baptist and the Virgin Mary as the few whose birth dates are celebrated. The reason for this is found in the singular mission each had in salvation history, but traditionally also because these alone were holy in their very birth (for Mary, think of the Immaculate Conception; John was sanctified in Saint Elizabeth's womb according to the traditional interpretation of Luke 1:15). The Church began celebrating Our Lady's birthday in the East during the 5th century; it was adopted in the Latin Church during the 7th century.

There are various traditions associated with this feast throughout the universal Church. The winegrowers in France called this feast "Our Lady of the Grape Harvest." The best grapes are brought to the local church to be blessed and then some bunches are attached to the hands of the statue of Mary. A festive meal that includes the new grapes is part of this day.

In Goa, the feast of Mary's Nativity, called the "Monti Fest," is a major family celebration, serving as a thanksgiving festival blessing the harvest of new crops, and observed with a festive lunch centered on the blessed grain of the harvest.

But some of the largest celebrations of the feast arise from the St. Thomas Christians.\* In Mangalore the feast of Mary's Nativity is called the "Monthi Fest". On this day every Mangalorean eats pulses [beans] and vegetables. The priest blesses a branch of grain which is added to food. Before the feast on 8 September there are nine days of novena followed by the throwing of flowers on baby Mary's statue.

In the Oriental Orthodox and Eastern Catholic (Syro-Malabar and Malankara Catholic) churches in Kerala, believers participate in fasting and praying for the eight days preceding Mary's birthday. The *Ettu Noyambu* or Eight Day Lent is rigorously observed from the 1st day to 8th day of September with charitable activities, evangelical conventions, and special prayers to honor St. Mary. Praying the rosary in groups is an important custom during these days.

This form of celebration is seen throughout the Syriac Rites, both in India and in Arabian countries. It is believed to have originated in connection with the 7th century Islamic invasion and the subsequent fall

of Kodungallur, a Christian town in Kerala. Our Lady as a protector from the cruelties of invasion is tied to the Persian Syriac tradition concerning the Caliph of Baghdad who captured a Christian town called Heera near Basra. The caliph was known to be cruel and had a weakness for beautiful women. He was enamored by the beauty and charm of the women of Heera and decided to reach there in three days. Their chastity and modesty at stake, the women of the town sought refuge in the church of St. Mary. The priest declared an uncompromising lent for three days invoking the intercession of Our Lady. On the 3rd day, in the middle of the Eucharist, a golden beam of light flashed down from above, then illuminated the whole church. It is said that the priest had a vision of Mother Mary and also heard her saying, "Do not be afraid; peace be to you – Rejoice. The Caliph is no more. Tribulations are over." The priest then turned to the people and they could see an aura around the priest's face as he relayed the message. The whole congregation thanked Mary for her intercessory prayers. The women then decided to observe a lent for eight days (i.e. from the 1st to the 8th of September in commemoration of this event). They believed that Mother Mary helped safeguard them, and their gratitude is captured in the Kerala celebration.

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\*The Saint Thomas Christians [also called Syrian Christians of India, Nasrani or Malabar Nasrani or Malankara Nasrani or Nasrani Mappila] are an ethno-religious community of Indian Christians from the state of Kerala on the southwestern coast of India. They use the East Syriac and West Syriac liturgical rites of Syriac Christianity [besides the Syro-Malabar, there are Persian, Assyrian, Maronite, Antiochan, and other rites]. Nasrani is an Arabic term for "Christian" that emerges from the Greek word *Nazōraioi* translated in English to *Nazarene*. The Saint Thomas Christians are now divided into several different Eastern Catholic, Oriental Orthodox, Protestant, and independent bodies, each with their own liturgies and traditions. They are Malayali people and speak the Malayalam language.

The St. Thomas Christians trace their origins to the evangelistic activity of Thomas the Apostle in the 1st century. St. Thomas is believed to have come to the Malabar region of India on a mission to the Cochin Jews. This Jewish community in India claimed their roots in sailors from King Solomon's time who were later joined by more Jewish exiles after the destruction of the First Temple in the Siege of Jerusalem of 587 BC. Certainly, records attest to numerous Jewish settlers arriving at Cranganore, an ancient port near Cochin, after the destruction of the Second Temple in 70AD.

## REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

All who are suffering or sick and all caregivers who minister to the sick: 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, 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.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### **PEW PROJECT**

The refinished sample pew is now back in place. And we are starting to take pledges and contributions for the refinishing of all the pews. As of September 1st, we have 19 of the 47 pews pledged. Donation forms are available in the back of the church and in the auditorium entrance.

We have finished stripping the beadboard in the east wall of the church, and are now working our way up the west wall. If you are interested in assisting in this work, usually on Monday each week, send an email to the office, and we will let you know when our workdays are scheduled.

We will not be working on Labor Day; the next workday will be Monday, September 14th.

### **PARISH PHOTO DIRECTORY**

We are sorry to announce that Lifetouch has cancelled our October photo sessions for the photo directory. The pandemic has affected them very badly. We hope to hear from them in 2021 for their re-opening. It is still important to us that we create a photo directory for our joint parishes.

**THE PARISH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 7TH FOR THE LABOR DAY HOLIDAY.**

## MASS INTENTIONS

### **Saturday, 5 September**

Anticipated Mass for Sunday

4:30 pm Emily Roszak + [month's mind]

### **Sunday, 6 September**

*The Thirteenth Sunday after Trinity*

8 am Pro populo

9:30 am John Donovan [Jane Slattery]

11 am special intention [Rosemary Collier]

### **Monday, 7 September [Labor Day]**

*Feria*

9 am *no public mass*

### **Tuesday, 8 September**

*Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary*

9 am Russell White

### **Wednesday, 9 September**

*Peter Claver, Priest*

9 am Quentin Paredes + [Susie Martinez]

### **Thursday, 10 September**

*Feria*

9 am Richard P. McLaughlin + [Fran Doyle]

### **Friday, 11 September**

*Feria*

9 am Msgr. William J. O'Donnell +

### **Saturday, 12 September**

*Most Holy Name of Mary*

Anticipated Mass for Sunday

4:30 pm Paul Michalco + [Rebecca Michalco]

### **Sunday, 13 September**

*The Fourteenth Sunday after Trinity*

8 am Pro populo

9:30 am Norah Donovan [Jane Slattery]

11 am Helen Michalco + [Rebecca Michalco]

#### 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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