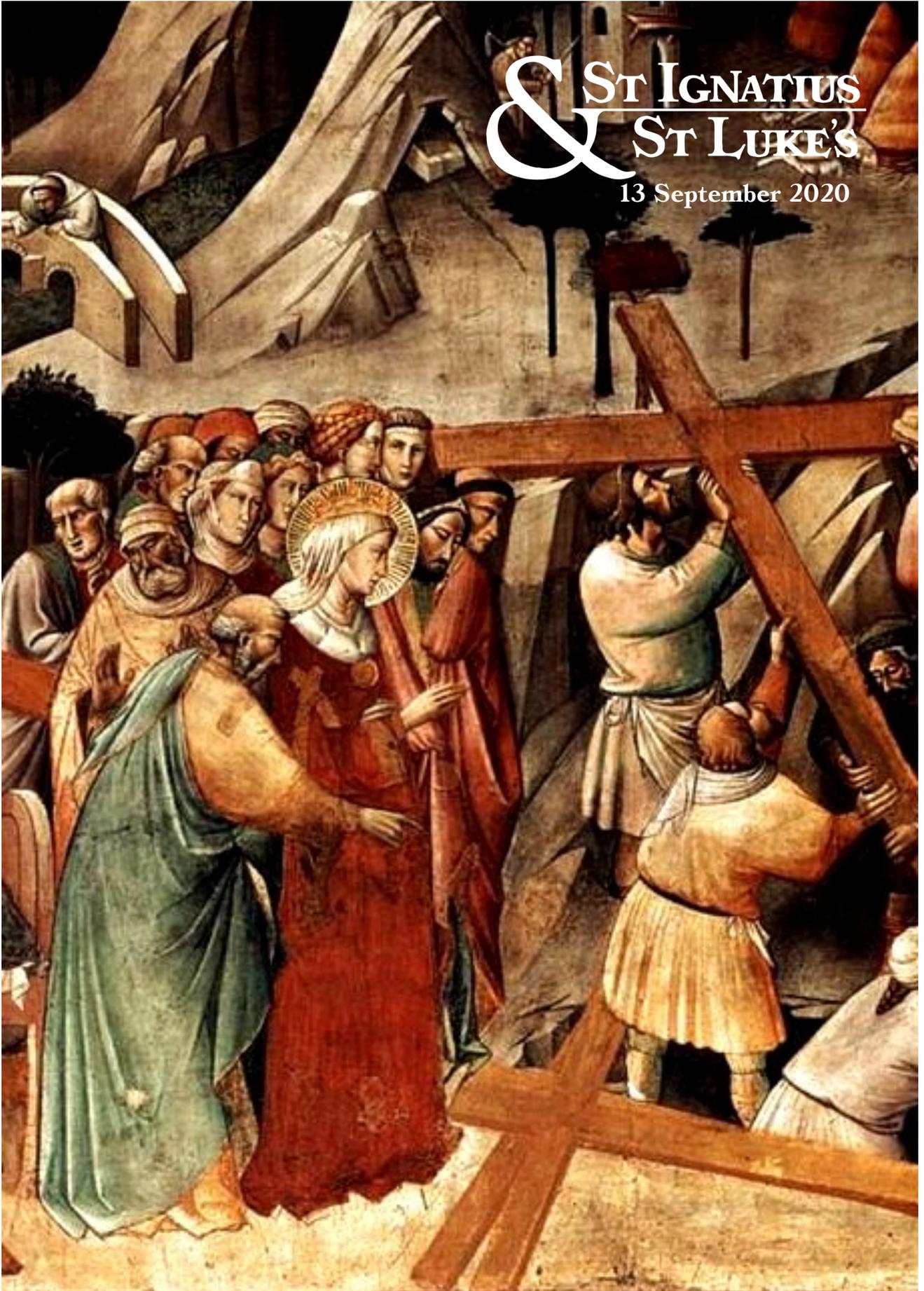


# ST IGNATIUS & ST LUKE'S

13 September 2020



## THE TRUE CROSS

**Roodmas** (from Old English *rood* “rod” or “cross,” and *mas*, Mass; similar to the etymology of Christmas) was the celebration of the Feast of the Cross observed on May 3 in some Christian churches and rites, particularly the historical Gallican Rite of the Catholic Church. It commemorated the finding by Saint Helena of the True Cross in Jerusalem in 355. A separate feast of the Triumph of the Cross was celebrated on September 14, the anniversary of the dedication of the Church of the Holy Sepulchre. After the Gallican and Latin Rites were combined, the western Church observed individually the Finding of the Holy Cross on May 3 and the Triumph of the Cross on September 14. In 1960, Pope John XXIII combined both Latin Rite celebrations into the September 14 feast called the Feast of the Exaltation of the Cross, in line with his revisions to the General Roman Calendar that, among other things, eliminated duplicate feasts.

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In his *Life of Constantine*, Bishop Eusebius of Caesarea (c. 260-341) describes how the site of the Holy Sepulchre, considered sacred ground by the early Christian Church in Jerusalem, had been covered over with earth and a temple of Venus had been built on top. This had been done around AD 130 as part of Hadrian's reconstruction of Jerusalem as a new pagan city, Aelia Capitolina, following the destruction of Jerusalem at the end of the Jewish Revolt in the year 70. After his conversion to Christianity, Emperor Constantine in about AD 325–326 ordered that the site be uncovered, and he instructed Macarius, Bishop of Jerusalem, to build a church on the site.

In his *Ecclesiastical History* (Chapter xvii), Theodoret (died c. 457) gives what would become the standard version of the finding of the True Cross in Jerusalem by Constantine's mother, the empress Helena:

*When the empress beheld the place where the Saviour suffered, she immediately ordered the idolatrous temple, which had been there erected, to be destroyed, and the very earth on which it stood to be removed. When the tomb, which had been so long concealed, was discovered, three crosses were seen buried near the Lord's sepulchre. All held it as certain that one of these crosses was that of our Lord Jesus Christ, and that the other two were those of the thieves who were crucified with Him. Yet they could not discern to which of the three the Body of the Lord had been brought nigh, and which had received the outpouring of His precious Blood. But the wise and holy Macarius, the president of the city, resolved this question*

*in the following manner. He caused a lady of rank, who had been long suffering from disease, to be touched by each of the crosses, with earnest prayer, and thus discerned the virtue residing in that of the Saviour. For the instant this cross was brought near the lady, it expelled the sore disease, and made her whole.*

Helena took a portion of the cross back to Rome, where she had it enshrined in the chapel of her palace (now the Basilica of the “Holy Cross in Jerusalem”). The rest of the True Cross remained in Jerusalem, in a chapel attached to the Church of the Holy Sepulchre. Over the centuries pieces of the Cross were distributed as relics in both the East and the West. Many were captured and lost amidst the wars of possession fought throughout the Holy Land and the Christian world. Yet, as such relics were highly prized, a market for false relics arose, leading the 16th-century Dutch humanist Erasmus, to jest in a satire on pilgrimages, “So they say of the cross of Our Lord, which is shown publicly and privately in so many places, that, if all the fragments were collected together, they would appear to form a fair cargo for a merchant ship.”

Intrigued by this assertion, a French independent scholar named Charles Rohault de Fleury in the late 19th century assigned himself the task of tracking down and measuring every surviving relic of the True Cross. Looking at the available historical data, he estimated the weight of the cross at about 200 lbs.; de Fleury then calculated the size, or more accurately, the volume, of the cross, which came to 10,900 cubic inches. The total volume of all the fragments he had measured came to only 240 cubic inches. The number surprised him, so he made a generous allowance for fragments that were in private hands or otherwise had not come to his attention, as well as fragments that had been lost over the centuries or destroyed in war or during the vandalism of the Reformation. Multiplying his original number by 10, he arrived at a new figure: 2,400 cubic inches, not even a fifth of the estimated size of the cross upon which Christ was crucified.

In 1870, de Fleury published his findings in a book, *Mémoire sur les Instruments de la Passion*. De Fleury concluded that if all the surviving relics of the True Cross were somehow reassembled, there would not be enough lumber to crucify a man, much less fill a ship. The 20th-century English Catholic author Evelyn Waugh, referring to de Fleury's conclusions about the relics of the True Cross, said, “As far as volume goes, therefore, there is no strain on the credulity of the faithful.”

## 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 back in place near the baptismal font. We are now taking pledges and contributions for the refinishing of all the pews. Interested in sponsoring a pew? Donation forms are available in the back of the church and in the auditorium entrance.

We are still stripping the beadboard on the west wall of the church. If you are interested in assisting in this work, send an email to the office. The next workday will be Monday, September 14th. Lunch will be provided.

### 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.

### NOTE TO ST. IGNATIUS PARISHIONERS

Many thanks to parishioners who have donated to the 2020 Annual Appeal. Ten million dollars has been contributed across the archdiocese for the many charitable works supported by the Annual Appeal. Our parish currently stands at 56.3% of our 2020 goal of \$56,000. If you have not yet made your gift to the 2020 Annual Appeal, it is not too late. Visit [appeal.adw.org](http://appeal.adw.org) to make your gift today. On behalf of Archbishop Gregory, we thank you again for your support of the Annual Appeal.

## MASS INTENTIONS

### 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]

### Monday, 14 September

*Exaltation of the Holy Cross*

9 am *no public mass*

### Tuesday, 15 September

*Our Lady of Sorrows*

9 am Eunice Gilbert + [anniversary commemoration]

### Wednesday, 16 September

*Ember Wednesday*

*Cornelius, Pope, and Cyprian, Bishop, Martyrs*

9 am Doris Friend [Jane Slattery]

### Thursday, 17 September

*Robert Bellarmine, Bishop and Doctor of the Church*

9 am Patricia LaValley + [Lorraine LaValley]

### Friday, 18 September

*Ember Friday*

9 am Edward Guinivan and companions

### Saturday, 19 September

*Ember Saturday*

Anticipated Mass for Sunday

4:30 pm Lorraine LaValley + [Don and Diana Gritz]

### Sunday, 20 September

*The Fifteenth Sunday after Trinity*

8 am Pro populo

9:30 am special intention [Rosemary Collier]

11 am Michael McNelly + [Steve and Jane Lawrence]

### 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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