



MASSES

Saturday [anticipated] 4:30 pm

Sunday 8 am, 9:30 am, 11 am

Mass Tuesday-Friday in the chapel at 9 am

CONFESSIONS

Tuesday 7-7:30 pm

Saturday 3-4 pm

in the chapel

ST IGNATIUS & ST LUKE'S

18 October 2020

WHO WANTS TO BE AN OX?

By Fr. Bonaventure Chapman, OP

Doctors are prominent in my family's lineage: my great-grandfather was a doctor, my grandfather was a doctor, my uncle is a doctor, and my brother is carrying on the tradition in the youngest generation. So naturally St. Luke, the "beloved physician," has always attracted me. Except for his symbol, that is. An ox? Really? As compared with Mark's lion, Matthew's angel, or John's eagle, Luke's ox seems a consolation prize, as if he showed up late when the Holy Spirit was doling out emblems. Who would want to be associated with an ox?

These symbols of the evangelists are rooted in the Scriptures. Just to take two examples, in Ezekiel 1:1–14 they show up as the different faces of four living creatures sent to the prophet. And in Revelation 4:5–11 they are the four living creatures singing the *Trisagion* ("Holy, Holy, Holy"). The first ascription to the four evangelists seems to come from St. Ireneaus (ca. 120–202) in *Against Heresies*. There he gives the reason for St. Luke's ox:

[The Gospel] according to Luke, taking up [Christ's] priestly character, commenced with Zacharias the priest offering sacrifice to God. For now was made ready the fatted calf, about to be immolated for the finding again of the younger son. (3.11.8)

St. Augustine follows this identification saying that "Luke is intended under the figure of the calf, in reference to the pre-eminent sacrifice made by the priest." The ox (or calf) signifies the priestly and sacrificial character of Christ in St. Luke's account. This has never quite satisfied me. Surely St. John's account emphasizes the sacrificial aspect of Christ with his title of "Lamb of God." And St. Mark's account is one long Passion narrative. Not to mention the temple scenes in St. Matthew. Is there any other reason that the ox might be fitting for St. Luke?

Well, what do you think of when you hear "ox"? After "big, dirty animal," I think of a yoke. Oxen don't just sit in the field; they are yoked together and put to work. An ox without a yoke is like an angel without wings—it just doesn't seem right. And a yoke isn't for one; like the disciples sent two by two, oxen work together. An eagle, lion, or angel can be by himself, but oxen are meant to be together.

And what is this yoke? St. Thomas, another saint associated with the ox, comments on Matthew 11:29: "Take, therefore, my yoke, namely, the gospel lessons. And he says *yoke* because just as a yoke fastens

and joins the necks of oxen, so the doctrine of the Gospel fastens the people to its yoke." The yoke of sin has been replaced, through the sacrifice of Christ, with the yoke of forgiveness and new life. And while this yoke of Christ will bring suffering in this life, it is still light and easy because, according to St. Thomas, it is a yoke of love:

"All who desire to lead a godly life in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution" (2 Tim 3:12). But [these persecutions] are not burdensome, because they are seasoned with the condiment of love; for when a person loves someone, it is not a burden to suffer anything for him. Hence love makes easy all difficult and impossible things. Therefore, if one loves Christ properly, nothing is difficult for him; consequently, the New Law does not impose a burden. (Commentary on St. Matthew's Gospel II.3)

There is something utterly fitting about this ox-yoke symbolism for St. Luke, who was St. Paul's traveling companion and "beloved physician." Being yoked to St. Paul must not have been easy, with all the ship-wrecks and persecutions and whatnot, but St. Luke's love of his dear friend is found in the careful account we have of St. Paul in the Acts of the Apostles. The ox might not be as noble as an eagle, as regal as a lion, or as splendid as an angel; but an ox is a symbol of love and a shared mission, St. Paul and St. Luke sowing and plowing the field of the Lord's harvest.

This article first appeared on October 18, 2013, on the dominicanajournal.org website.



Fr. Bonaventure Chapman was born and raised in Buffalo, New York. After attending St. Joseph's Collegiate Institute in Buffalo, he went on to Grove City College, Pennsylvania, where he completed a B.S. in Applied Physics and a B.A. in Christian Thought. Following a year of teaching high school in Orlando, Florida, he went off to Wycliffe

Hall, Oxford University, where he studied for the Episcopal priesthood, completing the M.Th in Applied Theology. In his third year at Oxford he converted to Roman Catholicism. Upon graduating he returned to America to teach at Catholic schools in the DC area for two years before entering the Dominican novitiate. He now resides at the Dominican House of Studies across the street from the Catholic University of America.

Many of you will recognize Fr. Bonaventure as one of the two Dominicans who lend a hand here with our Mass and confession schedule.

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.; D.K.C., 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

FR. VIDAL WILL BE OUT OF TOWN at the Ordinariate Clergy Conference from Monday October 19th to Friday October 23rd. Emails and phone messages during this time will be received at the office Monday through Thursday during business hours [and forwarded to Fr. Vidal if necessary]. The office will be closed Friday October 23rd. Weekday 9 am Masses will still be held that week.

BISHOP'S VISITATION

The Most Reverend Steven Lopes, Bishop of the Personal Ordinariate of the Chair of Saint Peter, will be with us on Sunday, November 8th, at the 11 am Mass, to confirm our children. As they enter these last weeks leading up to this sacrament, please keep our candidates for Confirmation in your prayers.

REQUIEM BOOK

If you would like to have your deceased friends and relations remembered at masses during the month of November, please email the office so that we can enter the names in our **Requiem Book**. Or fill out one of the Requiem Book slips in the back of the church or the entrance of the auditorium, and place it in the collection basket. *And mark your calendars for November 14th at 10:30 am to assist in the offering of the Mass of the Five Wounds.*

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, 17 October

Ignatius of Antioch, Bishop and Martyr
Anticipated Mass for Sunday
4:30 pm Deirdre McQuade

Sunday, 18 October

THE FEAST OF ST. LUKE, SOLEMNITY OF TITLE
The Nineteenth Sunday after Trinity
8 am Pro populo
9:30 am Lorraine LaValley + [Don and Diana Gritz]
11 am visible unity among all Christians

Monday, 19 October

Jean de Brébeuf and Isaac Jogues, Priests, and Companions, Martyrs
9 am no public mass

Tuesday, 20 October

Paul of the Cross, Priest
9 am Albert Bantug + [Teresita Bantug]

Wednesday, 21 October

Feria
9 am Helen Tierney [Jane Slattery]

Thursday, 22 October

John Paul II, Pope
9 am Lilian Madan

Friday, 23 October

John of Capistrano, Priest
9 am Ernest LaValley + [Lorraine LaValley]

Saturday, 24 October

Anticipated Mass for Sunday
4:30 pm David Roberts + [Chad and Maggen Dixon]

Sunday, 25 October

The Twentieth Sunday after Trinity
8 am Pro populo
9:30 am Helen Donovan [Jane Slattery]
11 am all our candidates for Confirmation

St. Ignatius Finance Council

Florian Hocke - *Co-Chair*
Jackie Chancio
Deacon Clark Glenn
Joseph Somerville
Clifford Woods

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Rev. John Vidal

Administrator, St. Ignatius
Pastor, St. Luke's

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Fran Doyle • James Guinivan
Ada Okafor • Elizabeth Shivone
Connie Somerville
Patrick Delaney - *ex officio*
Susan White - *ex officio*

St. Luke's Finance Council

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David Lewis • Franco Madan
Susan White - *ex officio*
Karen King - *ex officio*

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Saint **Luke's at**
IGNATIUS CHURCH