



MASSES

Saturday [anticipated] 4:30 pm
Sunday 8 am, 9:30 am, 11 am
*Mass in the chapel Monday-Friday at 9 am
Saturday at 10 am*

CONFESSIONS

Tuesday 7-7:30 pm
Saturday 9-9:45 am & 3-4 pm
in the chapel

ST IGNATIUS & ST LUKE'S

25 July 2021

FIRST FRUITS

This Sunday's first reading from the 2nd Book of Kings, speaking of the miraculous multiplication of loaves by the Old Testament prophet Elisha, references the "first fruits" brought to him to feed the people. This excerpt from a 2020 blog post on Tithely explains the significance of the first fruits offering.

What is first fruits in the Bible?

"When you come into the land which I give you and reap its harvest, then you shall bring a sheaf of the first fruits of your harvest to the priest."—Leviticus 23:10

The concept of first fruits is rooted in biblical times when people lived in an agrarian society. Harvest time was significant because that was when the hard work the farmers had poured into their crops all year began to pay off. They were literally reaping what they sowed.

God called his people to bring the first yield—the first fruits—from their harvest to him as an offering. This was to demonstrate the Israelites' obedience and reverence for God. It also showed that they trusted God to provide enough crops to feed their family.

Back then, there were plenty of rules associated with making first fruit sacrifices. They had to be brought to the temple priests. No other crops could be harvested until after the first fruits were presented. It was a complex process.

The Hebrew word for first fruit is *bikkurim*—literally translated to "promise to come." The Israelites saw these first fruits as an investment into their future. God told them that if they brought their first fruits to him, he would bless all that came afterward....

First fruits in the Bible

"Honor the Lord with your wealth, with the firstfruits of all your crops."—Proverbs 3:9

We see the term first fruits initially mentioned in the book of Exodus when Moses is leading God's people out of captivity in Egypt. God instructed the Israelites to give up the first of their crops so that they could understand the value of God's blessings...

In the New Testament, the term first fruits takes on a symbolic meaning. In 1 Corinthians 15:20, Paul mentions Christ as the "first fruits of those who have fallen asleep." Jesus was God's first fruits—his one and only son, and the best that humanity had to offer. God gave Jesus, who was raised from the dead, up for us, in the same way that we sacrifice the best we have for him.

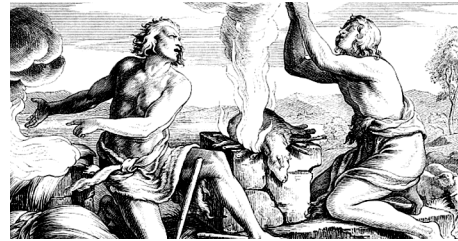
What started as a specific instruction for bringing crops

to the temple priest was expanded on later in Scripture. It no longer refers to literal fruit—firstfruits means any income, wealth, or blessings that a Christian has received over the course of the year....

Why giving first fruits is important

"In the course of time Cain brought some of the fruits of the soil as an offering to the Lord. And Abel also brought an offering—fat portions from some of the firstborn of his flock. The Lord looked with favor on Abel and his offering, but on Cain and his offering he did not look with favor. So Cain was very angry, and his face was downcast."—Genesis 4:3-5

The famous Bible story of Cain and Abel begins when the two brothers make an offering to God. Cain brings some of his crops before the Lord, and Abel brings an offering of slaughtered animals. But there is a distinct difference between these two gifts.



Cain brings some fruit and vegetables—probably something he had left over after he had fed himself and his family. But Abel brought the best of what he had to God—the firstborn of the flock, the healthiest of his animals. God noticed this difference in these sacrifices, and he had a clear preference between the two.

Disregarding what famously happens in the rest of the story, the sacrifices of Cain and Abel teach us a valuable lesson. Giving our firstfruits means giving our best to God. It means sacrificing something that costs us a little. It means putting God first, even before ourselves, or our family.

Making a first fruit offering opens us up to allow God to work in our life. When we approach God with open hands—rather than clenched fists—it makes it easier for him to give us more to work with.

Giving of our first fruits reminds us that God is our ultimate priority. It shows God that we are obedient to him and we can be trusted with more. Perhaps most importantly, being generous in this way shows that we are grateful for all God has given to us....

"The first of all first fruits of every kind and every contribution of every kind, from all your contributions, shall be for the priests: you shall also give to the priest the first of your dough to cause a blessing to rest on your house."—Ezekiel 44:30

REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

All who are suffering or sick and all caregivers who minister to the sick: Brian Smith, Fredrick Taggart, Gary Schenk, Joanne Newsom, Jackie Chancio, Anne Marie Whittaker, Greg and Felicia Yohe, 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, Domingo G., Adrian and Barbara.; C.A., E.D., E.G., W.B., J.M., and H.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

THE FEAST OF ST. IGNATIUS

On our patronal feast of St. Ignatius this Saturday there will be a celebratory Evensong [Sung Vespers] starting at 4 pm, immediately preceding the 4:30 pm Mass.

PHOTO DIRECTORY

Parishioner photos will be taken September 9-11. Every family photographed will receive a complimentary directory and a complimentary 8 x 10 portrait, with the option of purchasing additional portraits.

1. Go to <https://ucdir.com/> and click on the box Photography Appointment Scheduling Login on the right side of the screen.
2. You will be prompted to give the Church Code, which is MD181, and the Church Password, which is photos. Pick your day and time and you're done! So sign up today--it's easy.

PARISH FAMILY LOOKING FOR A PART-TIME NANNY to look after their 20 month old baby girl during the day. Roughly 25 hours a week (typically, Mon-Thurs, 10-5/6). September through the end of November (~3 months). Ideal for a student or stay-at-home mom who wouldn't mind another little one. Schedule can be flexible around class times, etc. If interested, please email chansen100@gmail.com.

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, 24 July

Anticipated Mass for the Eighth Sunday after Trinity
4:30 pm Lina Privitera + [John and Marija Privitera]

Sunday, 25 July

The Eighth Sunday after Trinity [OT 17]

8 am Pro populo

9:30 am Corazon Bilgera + [Susie Martinez]

11 am Maria Lopez +

Monday, 26 July

Joachim and Anne, Parents of the Blessed Virgin Mary

9 am Marion Slattery [Jane Slattery]

Tuesday, 27 July

Feria

9 am ancestors of Rafael F. & Lilian C. Madan +

Wednesday, 28 July

Feria

9 am special intention [Rosemary Coller]

Thursday, 29 July

Martha

9 am Victoria Paredes + [Susie Martinez]

Friday, 30 July

Peter Chrysologus, Bishop and Doctor of the Church

9 am Sr. Guy-Marie +

Saturday, 31 July

Ignatius of Loyola, Priest

10 am all buried in our churchyard +

4 pm *Evensong for the Feast of St. Ignatius*

Anticipated Mass for the Ninth Sunday after Trinity

4:30 pm pro populo

Sunday, 1 August

The Ninth Sunday after Trinity [OT 18]

8 am Florence Gregory + [Jane and Steve Lawrence]

9:30 am Jennie Lind Ussery +

11 am Rev. Arthur Woolley + [Jane and Steve 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, *pastor*
Rev. Jason Catania, *parochial vicar*

Joint Pastoral Council

Michael Taylor

Joseph Chancio ♦ Rosemary Coller

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 ♦ Dave Hoppe

David Lewis ♦ Franco Madan

Susan White - *ex officio*

Karen King - *ex officio*

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Saint Luke's at
IGNATIUS CHURCH