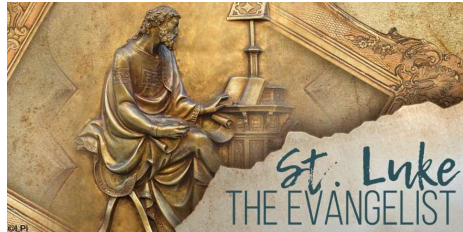


St. Luke the Evangelist Parish  
13 North St., Geneseo, NY



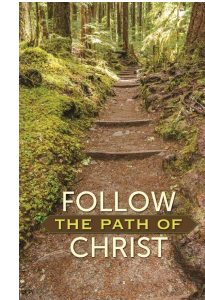
***Our Saints and Intercessors, Part III***

Fr. Jeffrey S. Tunncliff  
November 6, 2019



***Our Saints and Intercessors, Part III***

Opening Prayer



***Our Saints and Intercessors, Part III***

Review Part I & II

- The saints are real people who lived lives just like us and are examples of holy life as well as intercessors
- We worship God. We venerate the saints.
- The Virgin Mary – “Do whatever he tells you.” John 2:5 – good things happen when we follow Jesus
- Holy Angels – We are never alone. Jesus is with us and sends angels to watch over and guide us.
- St. Lucy – As a martyr, example of perseverance in faith
- St. Patrick – Every saint has a past and every sinner has a future

Videos of Parts I & II of this series are available online at  
[www.renewaloffaith.org/saints](http://www.renewaloffaith.org/saints)



***Our Saints and Intercessors, Part III***

St. Thomas  
Aquinas

Memorial:  
January 28<sup>th</sup>





## Our Saints and Intercessors, Part III

### St. Thomas Aquinas

- "He was a philosopher, scientist, mystic, theologian, scriptural commentator, and, in all things, a saint." (Barron, 11)
- "**For many, Thomas Aquinas, whose writings are dry, recondite, often impenetrable, seems an unlikely candidate for the title of spiritual guide.**" (Barron, 12)
- Patron Saint of students and universities



## Our Saints and Intercessors, Part III

### St. Thomas Aquinas

"Aquinas was a saint **deeply in love with Jesus Christ.**" (Barron, 11)



## Our Saints and Intercessors, Part III

### St. Thomas Aquinas - Biography

- "Thomas was born in either 1225-1226 in the family castle at Roccasecca near the town of Aquino, situated between Rome and Naples." (Barron, 14)
- Dad - Landulf, minor nobleman (Barron, 14)
- Mom - Theodora (descended from Morna and Neapolitan gentry) (Barron, 14)
- Family involved in politics of day (Barron, 14)



## Our Saints and Intercessors, Part III

### St. Thomas Aquinas – Biography (cont'd)

- Sent by family to Benedictine Abbey of Monte Cassino with **hope to become abbot** (Barron, 14)
  - There he learned **contemplative life** and **fell in love with Scripture** before leaving after nine years (Barron, 14)
- Studied philosophy in Naples (Barron, 15) and learned Aristotle
- Took to Dominican (**mendicant**) life (Barron, 16)
- "In becoming a Dominican, Thomas allowed himself to be swept up in the elan of this exciting movement, this back-to-basics evangelicalism." (Barron, 16)
- Family did not approve of him becoming Dominican, kidnapped him (Barron, 17)



## Our Saints and Intercessors, Part III

### St. Thomas Aquinas – Biography (cont'd)

- Sent by Dominicans to study in Paris and studied under St. Albert the Great (Barron, 18)
- "As a *magister* of theology, his purpose is never simply to satisfy the curiosity of the mind; rather, **it is to change the lives of his readers, to transform their hearts, in a word, to move them to salvation.**" (Barron, 19)
- "The third and final responsibility of the *magister* was to raise and resolve those thorny questions that emerged from biblical commentary." (Barron, 20)  
--> form of Aquinas' *Summa Theologiae*



## Our Saints and Intercessors, Part III

### St. Thomas Aquinas – Worldly Influences

"One of the most significant blocks to appreciating Thomas as a spiritual master is simply the fact that we do not share some of his basic assumptions about **the role and purpose of theology.** Many commentators - including the Protestant Paul Tillich and the Catholic Hans Urs von Balthasar - have remarked that a great and problematic shift occurred around **the year 1300. At that time, theology came to be seen as a formal university discipline and was distinguished from what we might today call spirituality.**" (Barron, 12).



## Our Saints and Intercessors, Part III

### St. Thomas Aquinas – Worldly Influences

**"Their theology was not abstract speculation for its own sake;** on the contrary, it was a sort of spiritual direction, an attempt to draw people into the imitation of Jesus Christ...Instead, they were writing, first and foremost, as pastors, **passionately interested in the salvation of souls.**" (Barron, 13).



## Our Saints and Intercessors, Part III

### St. Thomas Aquinas – Writings

"Though he differs with Augustine and the other Fathers on certain issues, Thomas Aquinas stands firmly in the patristic tradition that I have just described. **As he says in the very first article of the Summa Theologiae, the entire purpose of theology is to raise believers outside of and beyond themselves to a union with the God who cannot fully be grasped.**" (Barron, 13)



## Our Saints and Intercessors, Part III

### St. Thomas Aquinas - Writings

- "Aquinas is fond of quoting the patristic adage that God became human that humans might become God." (Barron, 27)
- There is a prayer spoken silently by the priest when water is poured into the wine at the offertory:  
  
"By the mystery of this water and wine may we come to share in the divinity of Christ who humbled himself to share in our humanity."



## Our Saints and Intercessors, Part III



### St. Thomas Aquinas

So how is an academic like St. Thomas Aquinas fit as a saint to name a church after?



## Our Saints and Intercessors, Part III

### St. Luke the Evangelist

Feast :  
October 18<sup>th</sup>



## Our Saints and Intercessors, Part III

### St. Luke the Evangelist - Biography

- "We" language in Acts 16:11-16, 20:5-16, 21:1-17, 27:1-28:16 suggests Luke accompanied Paul on some of his journeys (Harrington, 3)
- Paul's Letters (Harrington, 3)
  - Identify a man named "Luke"
    - "Fellow worker" - Philemon 24
    - "beloved physician" - Colossians 4:14
      - Patron saint of physicians
    - "Luke is the only one with me" - 2 Timothy 4:11



## Our Saints and Intercessors, Part III

### St. Luke the Evangelist - Biography

"The Evangelist whom we call Luke **knew the Greek language** very well and was capable of writing in various literary styles. While **probably a non-Jew** (a Gentile) by birth, the **author of Luke-Acts** certainly knew a great deal about the Jewish Scriptures, may have been a "God fearer" (a Gentile associate member of a Jewish synagogue), became a Christian perhaps under Paul's influence, and believe that the Jewish Scriptures were being fulfilled in Jesus and the early Christian Movement." (Harrington, 5)



## Our Saints and Intercessors, Part III

### St. Luke the Evangelist – Worldly Influences

- Relationship of Romans and Jews
- Conflict between Jews and "Christians"
  - Name "Christian" not used until Acts 11:26



## Our Saints and Intercessors, Part III

### St. Luke the Evangelist - How Little We Know

- Remember from Part I, "CCC 487 "What the Catholic faith believes about Mary is based on what it believes about Christ, and what it teaches about Mary illumines in turn its faith in Christ."
- In reflecting on how little we know about Luke, I offer that it's okay not to know much about a particular saint's biography. The point is to know Jesus.



## Our Saints and Intercessors, Part III

### St. Luke the Evangelist - Writings

- The author of Luke's Gospel never identifies himself by name (Harrington, 3). Tradition identifies Luke as the writer of the gospel and Acts of the Apostles



## Our Saints and Intercessors, Part III

### St. Luke the Evangelist – Writings

- What is Luke's purpose?
  - Luke 1:1-4 - "Since many have undertaken to compile a narrative of the events that have been fulfilled among us, just as those who were eyewitnesses from the beginning and ministers of the word have handed them down to us, I too have decided, after investigating everything accurately anew, to write it down in an orderly sequence for you, most excellent Theophilus, so that you may realize the certainty of the teachings you have received."



## Our Saints and Intercessors, Part III

### St. Luke the Evangelist – Writings

- Luke wrote to share the gospel
  - Hence he is called the Evangelist
  - We are called to share the gospel, we are called to be evangelists in our own way.
  - How calling our parish, "St. Luke the Evangelist," should relate to our parish identity



## Our Saints and Intercessors, Part III

### St. Luke the Evangelist - Writings

- Luke writes from perspective of 3 phases of Salvation History (Harrington, 9)
  - From Adam to John the Baptist
  - Jesus (portrays him in world history and genealogy of Jesus Luke 3:23-28)
  - Post-Ascension (age of the Holy Spirit/Church)



## Our Saints and Intercessors, Part III

### St. Luke the Evangelist - Writings

Ten themes Harrington pulls from Luke's Gospel (91-101)

1. Salvation History
2. Jesus the Prophet
3. The Twelve Apostles
4. Women
5. Prayer
6. Rich and Poor
7. Banquet
8. Eschatology
9. Jerusalem
10. Holy Spirit



## Our Saints and Intercessors, Part III

### Other Saints that are part of St. Luke's history

- St. Raphael, Piffard- "God heals"
- St. Maria de Mercede, Cuylerville - mercy
- Assumption, Mt. Morris
- Holy Name, Groveland Station – Philippians 2:5-11
- Chapel of Divine Compassion, Sonyea – love thy neighbor (Craig Development Center)



## Our Saints and Intercessors, Part III

### And Then There is ....

- Societies
  - St. Anne's Society
- Statues and stained glass windows



## Our Saints and Intercessors, Part III

### Questions from Part II evaluation

- How does one personally connect or pray to a saint?
- Do we have to pray to the saint for their specific patronage or gift?
  - No. Example – St. Francis of Assisi is patron saint of environment and animals. I think of him for
    - Simplicity of life (poverty)
    - What God said to him, "rebuild my church."



## Our Saints and Intercessors, Part III

### Parish Identity

- How does what we have learned about the saints shape our parish identity
- How does it form our own lives?



## Our Saints and Intercessors, Part III

### Summary

- The saints are real people who lived lives just like us and are examples of holy life as well as intercessors
- We worship God. We venerate the saints.
- The Virgin Mary – “Do whatever he tells you.” John 2:5 – good things happen when we follow Jesus
- Holy Angels – We are never alone. Jesus is with us and sends angels to watch over and guide us.
- St. Lucy – As a martyr, example of perseverance in faith
- St. Patrick – Every saint has a past and every sinner has a future
- St. Thomas Aquinas – learning more about our faith is not simply a quest for knowledge but for the love of Jesus.
- St. Luke the Evangelist – we are all called to share the gospel



## Our Saints and Intercessors, Part III

### Conclusion

- St. Francis of Assisi – “Rebuild my church”
- How understanding the saints can help us rebuild our Church
- What does it mean to be Church?
  - Article - <http://www.renewaloffaith.org/what-sort-of-church-should-we-be-.html>
  - Video - <http://www.renewaloffaith.org/video---what-it-means-to-be-a-church.html>



## Our Saints and Intercessors, Part III

### “Homework”

Research one or more of the family saints:

- St. Therese of Lisieux and her parents, Louis and Zélie
- St. Isidore the Farmer & St. Maria Torribia, husband and wife
- St. John Paul II's parents – Poland just starting their case for canonization in October, father Karol Wojtyła and mother Emilia nee Kaczorowska.

Suggested resources

- <https://www.catholic.org/saints/>
- <https://www.franciscanmedia.org/source/saint-of-the-day/>
- Parish office resources



## Our Saints and Intercessors, Part III

### Future Schedule

- Advent Holy Hour – Sunday, December 8<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 p.m. at St. Mary's Church
  - St. Padre Pio considered a patron saint of Eucharistic Adoration because he spent a lot of time in adoration
- Series on the Sacraments
  - Begins on Wednesday, January 8<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm
  - Second Session on Wednesday, February 5<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm



## Our Saints and Intercessors, Part III

Prayer to the Saints of Our Parish Churches  
 We come together in prayer to seek the intercession of our saints:  
 St. Lucy, heal our spiritual vision  
 that we may see the world as God sees it.  
 St. Thomas Aquinas, help us to seek spiritual knowledge, wisdom,  
 and understanding that we may more fully know  
 the love of God.  
 St. Patrick, help us to love those who try us  
 and witness the love of Jesus to them.  
 St. Mary, help us to live a chaste life, one of purity and prayer and to  
 do whatever He tells us.  
 Holy Angels, watch over and guide us.  
 St. Luke, help us to evangelize,  
 to share our faith with those we encounter in our daily lives.  
 Putting God first, we pray the Lord's Prayer, Our Father....



## Our Saints and Intercessors, Part III

### Resources

Barron, Robert, Rev., *Thomas Aquinas: Spiritual Master*.  
 Crossroad Publishing: New York. 2008.

*Catechism of the Catholic Church. Second Edition.* Libreria  
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*Compendium: Catechism of the Catholic Church.* Libreria Editrice  
 Vaticana. USCCB, 2006.

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 Press: New York. 2014.



## Our Saints and Intercessors, Part III

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Harrington, Daniel J. SJ, *Meeting St. Luke Today: Understanding  
 the Man, His Mission, and His Message*. Loyola Press: Chicago.  
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Wyatt North, *The Life and Prayers of Saint Lucy of Syracuse*.  
 Wyatt North Publishing. 2013.

Sri, Edward, *Walking with Mary: A Biblical Journey from Nazareth  
 to the Cross*. Image: New York. 2017.

Sri, Edward, *Love Unveiled: The Catholic Faith Explained*. Ignatius  
 Press: San Francisco. 2015.



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 New Jersey, Catholic Book Publishing Corp. 2010.

*USCCB, United States Catholic Catechism for Adults*. Washington,  
 DC: USCCB, 2006.