

Mary visits Elizabeth

Readings: Eph 1:1-14 and Lk 1:39-45

Why does Mary's greeting prompt the as-yet unborn Baptist to "leap" in Elizabeth's womb? What is the significance of Elizabeth's response?

Because Luke has made his readers privy to the Annunciation of both John and Jesus' births, we tend to forget that the characters themselves don't know all that we know. For example, the angel Gabriel says nothing to Zechariah concerning the birth of a messiah whom his son is destined to precede. Mary too has no knowledge of the prophetic role Elizabeth's child will play. Nor do they figure this out on their own. Luke makes a point of bringing these things to light by divine initiative. Of course, we have already been informed that John would be "filled with the holy Spirit even from his mother's womb" (1:15); but Luke intensifies this biblical motif to have the future Baptist actually perform a kind of prenatal prophetic action. Even more striking is that this "filling" affects Elizabeth as well. Not only does the Spirit reveal to Elizabeth the significance of Mary's unborn child; it also makes her a prophetess in her own right, confirming the blessedness of Mary's faith in the Lord's word (1:45; cf. 1:38).

The prophetic role of the Spirit is central to Luke's history of the Church. Giving content to the enigmatic statement that Jesus would baptize "with the holy Spirit and with fire" (Lk 3:16), the Pentecost event empowers the disciples to proclaim the gospel (Acts 2:1-4; cf. 9:17). As they traverse the world, it is the Spirit that guides their itinerary (Acts 16:6-10). Similarly, the coming of the Spirit upon Cornelius testifies to God's acceptance of the Gentiles (Acts 10:44-48). Since Elizabeth is first character to be filled by the Spirit in Luke's gospel, her experience has paradigmatic significance.

No mere receptacle for a prophetic fetus, the mother of John proclaims the good news with her own voice, just like Anna, who gives thanks for the redemption of Jerusalem when Jesus is presented in the Temple (Lk 2:36-38), or Priscilla, who instructs Apollos in the Way of God (Acts 18:26).

The profiling of women in prophetic and teaching roles shows Luke's universalism. That it also reflected the contemporary reality of the early Church is seen from Paul's correspondence with the Corinthians (1 Cor 11:5). Elizabeth, like other characters in Luke's gospel, is presented as an exemplar. Though a unique individual with a special role to play in the drama of salvation history, the same Spirit that fills her fills all members of the Church, choosing whomever it will—whenever it will—to speak the prophetic word.

Christmas Poinsettias in Memory of:

A bouquet of yellow roses will decorate the altar of the Blessed Mother in Memory of Helen Fielding by her husband Donald Fielding, Florida.

These Poinsettias were donated in Memory of:

- ☼ *Louis N. & Louis H. Khourey, Sr. & Gladys Howard by Lou and Charlotte Khourey and Family*
- ☼ *In honor of Tom & Denise Ferris and in Memory of Mary K. Ferris*
- ☼ *LaVerne Thomas and Evelyn Hall by Dr Adel, Diane, Andreah & Justin Frenn*
- ☼ *Elias & Siham Frenn by Dr Adel, Diane, Andreah & Justin Frenn*
- ☼ *The Rohana and Rahi Families by Alicia Peklinsky*
- ☼ *Don & Emily Vince and Patricia Gompers by Matt & Vicki Gompers*
- ☼ *Bob Sengewalt by the Sengewalt Family*
- ☼ *For a "Special Intention" by A Friend*
- ☼ *Bill and Mary Daniel by Rebecca & Michael DiFabrizio*
- ☼ *Suzanne Linton by husband Mike*
- ☼ *Frances & Joseph Linton by sons Steve & Mike*
- ☼ *The deceased of our parish by Steve & Mike Linton*
- ☼ *Mmgr. Bakhos' parents Adib & Sadie, his sister Mona & his brother Nadim by Steve & Mike Linton*
- ☼ *Rick Frazier by his wife Luane*
- ☼ *The Saseen and Schlog Families by M.F.Saseen and sons*
- ☼ *The Habdo and Dougherty Families by Carol & Bill Dougherty*
- ☼ *Ralph and Mary J. Shipley and Robby Hunter by Thomasina Geimer*

- ☼ *In honor of Dr. Alkhouri and his Family*
- ☼ *Shirley Elias Nickerson and Nicholas & Amelia Elias, aunts: Mary, Jean, Helen, Margaret, Rosie & Madeline by their Family Tammy, Robbie, Don, Lori, Emma & Elijah*
- ☼ *Danny & Milly Manners by their daughter Nini Miller*
- ☼ *Nimon and Miriam Joseph Family by the Weisner and Joseph Families*
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Divine Liturgy Schedule

This Weekend, Dec. 1-2: Mary visits Elizabeth

Saturday December 1:

at 3:30 p.m.: Christmas Novena

at 4:00 p.m.: Mass

- ✠ Jean Bentz and Billy Bentz (Birthday) by Millet and Susie Fadoul
- ✠ Cathy Sharp Howard (Birthday) by Dave & Debbie Sengewalt
- ✠ Special Intention

Sunday, December 2:

at 10:00 a.m.: Christmas Novena

at 10:30 a.m.: Mass

- ✠ Living & Deceased members of the Nicholas & Nimnoom Ghaphery Family & the David Abraham Ghaphery Family
- ✠ Siham Frenn (Anniversary) by Dr. Adel, Diane, Andreah and Justin Frenn
- ✠ Isabel Ferris Wolfe (Anniversary) by Mary Zaid Stees and Libby G. Magnone

Weekdays Masses

Monday December 3: No Mass. Pastor's Day off

Tuesday December 4 at 12:05 p.m.:

- ✠ Bob Sengewalt by Dave & Debbie Sengewalt
- ✠ Special Intentions and good health of Lucille Gibbons and her children by Steve & Mike Linton

Wednesday December 5: No Mass. Pastor's day of vacation

Thursday November 6 at 12:05 p.m.:

- ✠ Sylvia Long, her husband Arthur, & her son Mark by her last will
- ✠ Rosella Saseen, parents Nancepe & Helen, grandparents Shikrey & Helen Saseen by her Will
- ✠ Special Intentions and good health of Lucille Gibbons and her children by Steve & Mike Linton

Friday, December 7: No Mass. Pastor's Day off

Next Weekend, Dec. 8-9: The Immaculate Conception Birth of St. John the Baptist

Saturday December 8: Immaculate Conception

at 3:30 p.m.: Christmas Novena

at 4:00 p.m.: Mass

- ✠ Living & Deceased members of the Nicholas & Nimnoom Ghaphery Family & the David Abraham Ghaphery Family
- ✠ Sharlet Purpura by Millet & Susie Fadoul
- ✠ Special Intention

Sunday, December 9: Birth of St. John the Baptist

at 10:00 a.m.: Christmas Novena

at 10:30 a.m.: Mass

† Dale Seidler Sr. by his wife Nettie and Family

† Bob Sengewalt by his wife Sally

Calendar of Parish Events

<p>Christmas Party <i>Sunday, Dec. 9th</i></p>	<p>--December 9: Those who attend the Christmas Party will receive 2 beverage coupons which can be used to select wine, beer or pop. We wish to thank Rex & Rita Strawn for the donation of wine for our Christmas Party. Each person can choose to use 1 or 2 of their complimentary beverage tickets to enjoy a glass of wine.</p> <p>--If anyone else would like to donate some pop or beer, please contact Carol Dougherty so she can let you know the quantity needed.</p> <p>All Women's Society members are asked to bring a donated item for the Christmas Basket as soon as possible. Drawing will take place during the Party. We appreciate your consideration and look forward to seeing you all at the party.</p>
<p>Christmas Party Program <i>Sunday, Dec. 9th</i></p>	<p>4:00 p.m.: Doors open 5:00 p.m.: Buffet Dinner catered by Ye Olde Alpha Restaurant, Wheeling Menu : Grilled sirloin of beef and lemon chicken, mixed greens salad and cranberry salad, roasted red potatoes, grilled mixed vegetables, bread and Honey Butter, and brownies and cookies for dessert. Two free beverages. Live Entertainment by DJ Jim Laurine after Dinner. Cost: \$20.00</p>
<p>Children Santa Party <i>Sunday, Dec. 16th</i></p>	<p>The Women's Society welcomes the children of OLOL Church to visit with Santa in the Cedar Hall immediately following Mass. Santa will give each child a treat and a light snack. Please plan to come and bring all the children of our parish. (All Women's Society members are asked to bring a bag of candy to be divided for the children November 25.)</p>
<p>Hall Rental</p>	<p><i>Saturday, December 22nd (5-9 p.m.)</i></p>
<p>Msgr Bakhos 27th Anniversary <i>Sunday, Dec 23rd</i></p>	<p>On Sunday December 23, the Women's Society invites you to join them following Mass to celebrate Msgr. Bakhos 27th Anniversary to the Priesthood. Cake will be served to celebrate the occasion.</p>

Birthdays' Wishes in the Coming Month:

December 3: Joey John

December 7: Christina Committee Zdilla

December 12: Lou Khourey

December 19: Chris Wakim

December 22: Millet C. Fadoul

December 24: Paula Moses Neavin

December 25: Shelly Hancher

December 27: Luke Lenz, Jay Murad

December 29: Jeff Bentz

January 1: Nancy Joseph

January 3: Rosemary Coury

Please Pray for Those on Our Prayer List

(Note: Please call Msgr. Bakhos if you need your name added to our Prayer List. HIPPA regulations)

Joe Simon, Jim McGlumphy, Patty Fahey, Phil Geimer, Bill Dougherty, John Frazier (son of Luane Frazier), Austin Strawn (grandson of Rex Strawn), Debbie Crumpler (sister of Nini Miller), Shirley & Jim George, Justin Frenn, Sandra Dusick, John Shiben, Diane Palotay, Jim Thomas (father of Diane Frenn), Mike O'Kane (brother-in-law of Nikki Popovich)

<i>Your Church Support Last Week</i>	
\$1,308.00	Sunday Collection
2.00	Bake sale
120.00	Bulletin ads
17.00	Coffee Hour
240.00	Christmas Dinner Dance
1,600.00	Donation to church
75.00	Christmas Poinsettias
567.00	Utilities
30.00	Donation to the poor
\$3,959.00	Total Deposits: <i>May God reward you abundantly for supporting your spiritual home!</i> The Finance Committee: Lou Khourey, Mary Stees, Linda Duffy & Mike Linton

What's New?

Christmas Novena (All Saturdays and Sundays before Christmas ½ hour before Mass)

Christmas Novena will replace the Rosary and Litany on all Saturdays and Sundays during December until Christmas. It is a good way to prepare ourselves spiritually to the coming of our Lord. Please come early half hour early and attend the beautiful prayers and Benediction of the Novena.

Holiday Food Barrell (Now thru December 18th, 2018)

Please bring items for the needy of our Parish and put them in the Holiday Barrell placed at the entrance of the church. As soon as we can fill few boxes of food, it will be distributed to needy people on your behalf. Please be the Santa Clause this year and instill a Christmas Joy in the hearts of the less fortunate among us.

Pita Bread and other items for Sale at the Church:

There are 8 frozen packages of large pita bread available. Also Burghol #1 and #2 are available. Please see Mike Linton or one of the Ladies of our church to purchase some.



Christmas Story

1st story:

'T'was the night before Christmas, and all through the town
 Not a sign of Baby Jesus, was anywhere to be found.
 The people were all busy, with Christmas time chores
 Like decorating, and baking, and shopping in stores.
 No one sang "Away in a manger, no crib for a bed".
 Instead, they sang of Santa, dressed-up in bright red.
 Mama watched Martha Stewart, Papa drank beer from a tap.
 As hour upon hour, the presents they'd wrap
 When what from the T.V., did they suddenly hear?
 'Cept an ad ... which told, of a big sale at Sears.
 So away to the mall, they all flew like a flash...
 Buying things on credit... and others with cash!
 And, as they made their way home, from their trip to the mall,
 Did they think about Jesus? Oh, no... not at all.

Their lives were so busy, with their Christmas time things
 No time to remember, Christ Jesus, the King.
 There were presents to wrap, and cookies to bake.
 How could they stop and remember, who died for their sake?
 To pray to the Savior... they had no time to stop.
 Because they needed more time, to "Shop til they dropped!"
 On Wal-Mart! On K-Mart! On Target! On Penney's!
 On Hallmark! On Zales! A quick lunch at Denny's
 From the big stores downtown, to the stores at the mall
 They would dash away, dash away, and visit them all!
 And up on the roof, there arose such a clatter
 As grandpa hung icicle lights, up on his brand new step ladder.
 He hung lights that would flash. He hung lights that would twirl.
 Yet, he never once prayed to Jesus... Light of the World.
 Christ's eyes... how they twinkle! Christ's Spirit... how merry!
 Christ's love... how enormous! All our burdens... He'll carry!
 So instead of being busy, overworked, and uptight
 Let's put Christ back in, Christmas and enjoy some good nights!

2nd story:

My dad told me this story, "Once upon a time there was a real man who traveled the world and gave away presents to deserving children everywhere he went. You will find him in many lands with different names, but what he had in his heart was the same in every language. In America we call him Santa Claus. He is the spirit of unconditional love and the desire to share that love by giving presents from the heart. When you get to a certain age, you come to realize that the real Santa Claus is not the guy who comes down your chimney on Christmas Eve. The real life and spirit of this magical elf lives forever in your heart, my heart, Mom's heart and in the hearts and minds of all people who believe in the joy that giving to others brings. The real spirit of Santa becomes what you can give rather than what you get. Once you understand this and it becomes a part of you, Christmas becomes even more exciting and more magical because you come to realize the magic comes from you when Santa lives in your heart. Do you understand what I am trying to tell you?"

I was gazing out the front window with all my concentration at a tree in front of us. I was afraid to look at my dad -the person who had told me all of my life that Santa was a real being. I wanted to believe like I believed last year -that Santa was a big fat elf in a red suit. I did not want to swallow the grow-up pill and see anything different.

"Patty, look at me." My dad waited. I turned my head and looked at him. Dad had tears in his eyes, too - tears of joy. His face shone with the light of a thousand galaxies and I saw in his eyes the eyes of Santa Claus.

The real Santa Claus. The one who spent time choosing special things I had wanted for all the Christmases past since the time I had come to live on this planet. The Santa who ate my carefully decorated cookies and drank the warm milk. The Santa who probably ate the carrot I left for Rudolf. The Santa who - despite his utter lack of mechanical skills- put together bicycles, wagons and other miscellaneous items during the wee hours of Christmas mornings.

I got it. I got the joy, the sharing, and the love. My dad pulled me to him in a warm embrace and just held me for what seemed like the longest time. We both cried.

"Now you belong to a special group of people," Dad continued. "You will share in the joy of Christmas from now on, every day of the year, not only on a special day. For now, Santa Claus lives in your heart just like he lives in mine. It is your responsibility to fulfill the spirit of giving as your part of Santa living inside of you. This is one of the most important things that can happen to you in your whole life, because now you know that Santa Claus cannot exist without people like you and me to keep him alive. Do you think you can handle it?"

My heart swelled with pride and I'm sure my eyes were shining with excitement. "Of course, Dad. I want him to be in my heart, just like he's in yours. I love you, Daddy. You're the best Santa there ever was in the whole world."

When it comes time in my life to explain the reality of Santa Claus to my children, I pray to the spirit of Christmas that I will be as eloquent and loving as my dad was the day I learned that the spirit of Santa Claus doesn't wear a red suit. And I hope they will be as receptive as I was that day. I trust them totally and I think they will.

A Time to Laugh (387)

Excuses! Excuses! Excuse! Excuses! Excuses!

[Do you know someone who always has an excuse for not coming to Church? Give him/her this paper.]

A preacher wrote in a magazine his answer for people's excuses for not coming to church. He had quite few members in his church, but they just weren't coming to church faithfully. He knew they weren't dead or moved away, because he would see them around town or at the shopping malls. So he publicized on billboards around town and handed out pamphlets saying:

"Next Sunday will be no excuse Sunday. Some mattresses will be placed in the church for those who say that Sunday is my only day to sleep in. Visine will be made available for those with tired eyes from watching television too late on Saturday night. We will have steel helmets available for those who say the roof could fall down if I came to church. Blankets will be furnished for persons who think the church is too cold and fans for those who think the church is too hot.

We will have hearing aids for persons who say the pastor speaks too softly and cotton for those who think the music is too loud. One hundred TV dinners shall be made available to those who simply can't go to church and cook dinner too. There will be trees and grass in a sand table for those who like to see God in nature. A small putting green will be placed near the Altar for those who say Sunday is my only day to play golf. Fifty sets of cellular phones will be available for those who spend Sunday morning talking on the phone. A large aquarium will be filled with fish for those who prefer to be at the lake and think about the Church, than to be in church and think about the lake. A variety of slot machines will be at the end of each pew for diehard gamblers. Finally, the church will be decorated with both Christmas poinsettias and Easter lilies for those who have never seen the church, except during Christmas and Easter."

I think the Lord is tired of people's excuses for not coming to church. The sad thing about the above publication is that if it were truly done to accommodate people's comfort in coming to church, some would still find an excuse for not coming to church.

11 people on a rope

Eleven people were hanging on a rope under a helicopter--ten men and one woman. The rope was not strong enough to carry them all, so they decided that one had to leave, because otherwise they were all going to fall. They weren't able to name that person, until the woman gave a very touching speech. She said that she would voluntarily let go of the rope, because, as a woman, she was used to giving up everything for her husband and kids, or for men in general, and was used to always making sacrifices with little in return. As soon as she finished her speech, all the men started clapping their hands....