



From the Deacon's Desk

The new liturgical year begins this week. The Sunday Gospels will come from Luke. I'd like to introduce him to you.

Luke was a Syrian from Antioch. He received a traditional Greek education and is known to us as a Physician; he was also a historian and researcher. Luke believed that if the Romans could read an accurate account of Jesus' earthly mission, they would extend to Christians the same latitude they extended to Jews. To achieve this goal, he relied on his command of Greek as well as his knowledge of Roman literature. Luke's writing mirrored the contemporary style of Roman authors ensuring wider readership.

Luke completed extensive research before he began writing; his Gospel confirms that research, saying that he wrote: "... after investigating everything accurately ...". His research subjects include the Blessed Mother. How else could he relate her exchange with Gabriel, her visit to Elizabeth [including the Magnificat], or Jesus' birth?

Luke's Gospel has six themes:

Gospel of Great Pardons: Unique to Luke, his examples are the sinful woman who washed Jesus' feet, the stories of the lost sheep, lost coin and the lost {prodigal] son

Gospel of Universal Salvation: Fulfills Isaiah's prophecy; genealogy traced to Adam

Gospel of the Poor: His Beatitudes express support for the poor; the woes warn the rich

Gospel of Absolute Renunciation: The apostles leave everything; we must carry our cross

Gospel of Prayer and the Holy Spirit: Jesus always in prayer before major events but especially in Gethsemane; 13 references to the Holy Spirit.

Gospel of Messianic Joy: The Spirit that Jesus possesses spreads joy and peace; He sends us that same Spirit so we might continue His mission. Joy and peace are natural outcomes to His command to "Love one another."

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