

# St. Francis Xavier + St. Monica

Market St, Parkersburg, WV  
Weekend Mass Schedule  
Saturday, 5pm - Sunday, 10:30am & 5pm

Harris Highway, Lubeck, WV  
Weekend Mass Schedule  
Sunday 8:30

**MAILING ADDRESS:** 609 Market Street, Parkersburg, WV 26101

**JANUARY 9, 2022**

## **Baptism**

A joyful celebration!  
To schedule class and a date  
please call the office.  
304-422-6786

## **Care of the Sick**

Please notify the pastor when  
someone is seriously ill or in the  
hospital. Sacraments or care of  
the seriously ill are administered  
at anytime, day or night.

## **Devotions**

Miraculous Medal Novena,  
Wednesday – 6:50  
Adoration – One hour before  
Mass: Mon, Wed, and Fri.

## **Marriage**

Congratulations on your  
engagement! Please contact the  
Pastor to discuss arrangements  
before setting any date.  
Preparation ordinarily requires  
at least six months.

## **Thinking of Becoming Catholic?**

The RCIA process is for you!  
Come find out more about the  
Catholic faith! Call the office for  
details.

*May the God who gives  
endurance and encouragement give  
you the same attitude of mind  
toward each other that  
Christ Jesus had.  
Romans 15:5*



## **THE BAPTISM** *of the Lord*

"I am baptizing you with water, but one mightier than I is coming. I am not worthy to loosen the thongs of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire." - Lk 3:16bc

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.



Fr. John Rice, Pastor  
frjohnrice@aol.com Rectory 304-422-6786  
Deacon: Rev. Mr. Doug Deem  
Parish Office 304-422-6786 Fax 304-422-6789  
Email: stxoffice@stx-pburg.org or secretary@stx-pburg.org  
St. Francis Xavier Web Site: www.stx-pburg.org  
St. Monica Web Site: www.stmonicaparish.org  
Catholic Cemeteries Web Site: catholiccemeteriesparkersburgwv.org  
Cemetery Manager: David Ferguson 304-422-6786

## St. Francis Xavier

**Weekend Masses**  
**Saturday, 5:00 pm**  
**Sunday, 10:30 am & 5:00 pm**

**Daily Mass**  
M & F-12:10; T & Th-8am; W-7pm  
**Holy Hour**  
1 hour before Mass, M-W-F

**Confessions**  
Saturday at 4:00-4:45pm and by appointment.

**Prayer Request**  
Wanda Christopher, 304-485-5834  
Sara Daniels, 304-485-5344

**Welcome & Hospitality**  
Shirley Smith 740-516-9411  
shirleys9411@aol.com

**Children's Liturgy**  
Leone Burd 304-482-2613

**Parish School of Religion**  
Gretchen Dowler 304-494-3379

**Eucharistic Ministers to the Sick and Homebound**  
Sally McDonie 304-428-2651  
Barb Fligor 304-428-8648

**Catholics For Life**  
Sunny Murray 304-482-6193  
Katie Walters 304-481-0578

**Rosary Altar Society**  
Mary Beth Steinel 740-896-5003

**Tuesday Evening Bible Study**  
Judy Huddleston 304-488-0720

**Ladies Friday a.m. Bible Study**  
Becky Hines 740-423-5236

**Music Ministry**  
Allan Zipf 304-482-5978

## St. Monica

**Sunday Mass, 8:30 am**

**Confessions**  
Sundays 8:10 am

**Prayer Request**  
Karen Barré 304-482-3199

**Liturgical Ministries**  
Tom Linder 304-863-6834

**Parish School of Religion**  
Kathleen O'Bara 304-483-2221

**Food Pantry, Clothing, Cards**  
Roger & Joyce Zipfel 304-863-6336

**Maintenance/Custodial Care**  
Dave Quattro 304-863-6664  
Natalie Linder 304-863-6834

## **REMEMBER THE SICK AND SHUT-INS IN PRAYER:**

- \*THE ARBORS: Ruth Baker
- \*LOVE & CARE: Mary Showalter
- \*THE WILLOWS:
- \*WYNGATE: Theresa Nedef



### **ST FRANCIS XAVIER**

Jan 2	\$3811.50
Poor Fund	\$810.00
Attendance	226
Dec Online Giving	\$5080.00

### **ST MONICA**

Jan 2	\$
Poor Fund	\$
Attendance	
Dec Online Giving	\$415.00

**Kentucky Disaster Relief** \$1128.00  
**Parish Center Renovation** \$1996.11

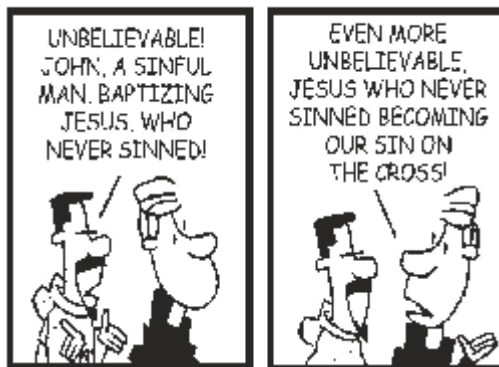
**The second collection Jan 16<sup>th</sup> is for:**  
**Church in the Developing World**

**Please contact the office if you want a year-end 2021 statement**

## **Online Giving**

You can give greener by using our Online Giving Program. Simply go to our parish website at [www.stx-pburg.org](http://www.stx-pburg.org)

### **BAPTISM OF THE LORD**



## **Welcome to our Parish**

If you are a visitor to St. Francis Xavier or St. Monica we want you to know how welcome you are. If you attend St. Francis Xavier or St. Monica on a regular basis, please be sure to register as a member of the parish. This will facilitate pastoral care for you and your family.

Registration forms are available online ([www.stx-pburg.org](http://www.stx-pburg.org)), in the church, and in the parish office.

You may place it in the collection basket or mail it to the parish office. **If you need to update or change your address, phone or email information please call the office (304-422-6786).**

## **Bulletin Announcements**

Please submit items for consideration **2 weeks before** publication. Via email: [secretary@stx-pburg.org](mailto:secretary@stx-pburg.org) or drop a type written announcement at the office.

## **Will or Estate Planning**

Are you thinking of remembering St. Francis Xavier Church in your will or estate plans? A bequest through a Last Will and Testament is the simplest way of creating a lasting legacy of support for St. Francis Xavier Church. Suggested language for making a bequest is:  
"I give and bequest to St. Francis Xavier Church, 532 Market Street, Parkersburg, WV, the sum of \$ \_\_\_ (or) \_\_\_% of the rest, residue and remainder of my estate for it's general purposes."

To report an incidence of suspected child sexual abuse, please contact your local law enforcement agency, or you may confidentially contact WV Child Protective Services at 800.352.6513. In addition to civil authorities, to report suspected cases of sexual abuse by personnel of the Diocese of Wheeling -Charleston to the Diocese, please contact the Diocese at 888.434.6237 or 304.233.0880. Please visit [www.dwc.org](http://www.dwc.org) under "Accountability" for additional information and reporting methods.

Sunday - 9 *The Baptism of the Lord*  
 St. Monica Mass 8:30 †Art & Mary Ann Sweet  
 (Mike & Lita Doyle)  
 St. F X Mass 10:30 †Mary Tomeh (Nedeff Family)  
 St. F X Mass 5pm †People

Is 42:1-4, 6-7/Ps 29:1-2, 3-4, 3, 9-10 [11b]/  
 Acts 10:34-38/Lk 3:15-16, 21-22  
 or, Is 40:1-5, 9-11/Ps 104:1b-2, 3-4, 24-25, 27-28, 29-30 [1]/Ti 2:11-14; 3:4-7/Lk 3:15-16, 21-22

Monday - 10  
 Holy Hour 11am  
 Mass 12:10 †Mary Cecelia Smith  
 (Mike & Leonor Jacobs family)

1 Sm 1:1-8/Ps 116:12-13, 14-17, 18-19/Mk 1:14-20

Tuesday - 11  
 Mass 8am †Rebecca Dodd

1 Sm 1:9-20/1 Sm 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd/Mk 1:21-28

Wednesday - 12  
 Holy Hour 6pm  
 Mass 7pm Stacy Turner (Colleen & Rick Newhart)

1 Sm 3:1-10, 19-20/Ps 40:2 and 5, 7-8a, 8b-9, 10/  
 Mk 1:29-39

Thursday - 13 *St. Hilary*  
 Mass 8am †Mary Ellen Bennett

1 Sm 4:1-11/Ps 44:10-11, 14-15, 24-25/Mk 1:40-45

Friday - 14  
 Holy Hour 11am  
 Mass 12:10 People struggling with Addiction

1 Sm 8:4-7, 10-22a/Ps 89:16-17, 18-19/Mk 2:1-12

Saturday - 15  
 St FX Mass 5pm †People

1 Sm 9:1-4, 17-19; 10:1a/Ps 21:2-3, 4-5, 6-7/Mk 2:13-17

Sunday - 16 *2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time*  
 St. Monica Mass 8:30 †Dick Allen  
 (Kathy & Fred Esker)  
 St. F X Mass 10:30 †Bernadine McCusker  
 (Mike & Lita Doyle)  
 St. F X Mass 5pm †Mary Calcagno  
 (Terry & Bernie Lyons)

Is 62:1-5/Ps 96:1-2, 2-3, 7-8, 9-10 [3]/1 Cor 12:4-11/  
 Jn 2:1-11

**January 9, 2022**  
**The Baptism of the Lord**

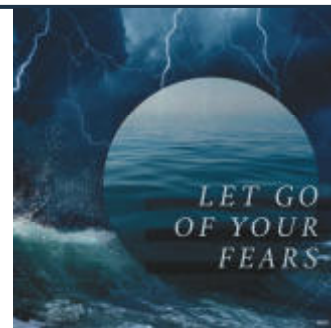
“We are called to live our baptism every day, as new creatures, clothed in Christ.”  
 — Pope Francis

What reference point do you use when making decisions? Many times, impulse takes control and decisions are made based solely on emotion and desire. We all know that these types of decisions can often get us into trouble. When a person has a confident sense of who they are and a real understanding of what is important and of value, the likelihood of kneejerk impulsive choices diminishes. Baptism gives us what we need to make well informed and purposeful decisions. By this simple gesture, God claims us as His own and provides us with the identity and purpose we need to properly live life.

It is tremendously reassuring, when we truly embrace this revelation and realize that we no longer have to wonder about the purpose of our lives or struggle to find our way. The answer of who we are in God has been given to us. We no longer have to fumble around, trip over ourselves or walk aimlessly about. Issues surrounding the sacredness of life, the meaning of death, the protection of those most vulnerable, care for the weak and the poor, offering hospitality to those in search of a home, the purpose and proper place of work, how to create a just social order, caring for creation, and understanding our roles as heralds and stewards are just a few of the wonderful gifts baptism brings. When we make decisions based on things such as these core Gospel truths we really act as Christ himself, revealing to others the new creations that we are. This is how we live our baptism.

It is difficult to walk against the tide. Yet, that is precisely what baptism calls us to do. Although we are sinners, in need of mercy and far from perfection we are called to order our life and make decisions based upon the wisdom and guidance of Almighty God. He alone is the one who can claim us as His sons and daughters. Standing up for our principles will not make us popular. But who ever said Christianity is a popularity contest? Baptism calls us to stand up for that which goes against the grain of secularism. Standing in line with other sinners, we have our anchor to steady us in the tempests of life and God is very pleased. Forge ahead. There is nothing to fear.

©LPi



Thank you to everyone who prayed for me, sent cards, and lit candles. Your kindness gave me strength when I really needed it.

I appreciate the generous spirit of the members of St. Francis Xavier Church. Sincerely, Allan Zipf

+	ALTAR SERVERS	Extraordinary MINISTERS	LECTORS	SCRIP
Jan 15 5:00 pm	A RICE	A STIEFEL	N BOSLEY	PURCHASE IN OFFICE
Jan 16 10:30 am	C ROBERTS	V WILSON	B GLODOWSKI	PURCHASE IN OFFICE
Jan 16 5:00 pm	S LASKO	M EVANS	J HUDDLESTON	PURCHASE IN OFFICE
St Monica Jan 16 8:30 am	ANY	R ZIPFEL	K BARRÉ	GIFTS K & C O'BARA

## BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES



Jan 8 - Millie Mancini; Mary Showalter  
 Jan 9 - Missy Lantz; Joyce Wood; Bob & Mary Ward (A)  
 Jan 10 - Anthony Angerame; Louisa Bogges; Monica Davis  
 Chip Mancini; Maela Stevens; Justin & Bridget Lowers (A)  
 Jan 11 - Dick Kesterson; Barbara Vierheller  
 Jan 12 - John Slattery  
 Jan 13 - Charles Brown; Julie Emrick  
 Jan 14 - Janson Collins; Kylie Erlewine; Gloria Hall;  
 Harold Keller; Carmen Morris; Charlie & Leone Burd (A)  
 Jan 15 - Samuel Allen; George Augenstein  
 Jan 16 - Nick Bosley; Butch Dotson; Rosemary Shrewsbury;  
 Lisa Smith; Cindy Spainhour

**THE BOOK CLUB** will meet at 10am in the Parish Center Library the 3rd Monday of the month. Join us for lively discussions!



## ALREADY CATHOLIC BUT WANT TO KNOW MORE ABOUT YOUR CATHOLIC FAITH?

You're invited to join us for our weekly RCIA session on Sunday mornings at 9am in the parish center. Parents are especially welcome to join us while your child attends PSR. The topic presentation for Sunday, Jan 16th: The Public Ministry of Jesus.



## TEENS ENCOUNTER CHRIST

The next TEC retreat that will take place in the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston will be held from Friday, Jan 14th to Monday, Jan 17th, at the St. John XXIII Pastoral Center in Charleston, West Virginia. It will be free for all teens who are in their junior year of high school through first year of college.

You can register on the Diocesan website, at <https://dwc.org/diocese/ministries/youth-and-young-adult-ministry/youth-ministry/tec/>, or you can contact Jeanne McKeets to register: 304-233-0880, ext. 374 or [jmckeets@dwc.org](mailto:jmckeets@dwc.org).

## ST. HILARY OF POITIERS, BISHOP AND DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH | JANUARY 13



Born a pagan, St. Hilary (c. 315 – c. 367) studied philosophy and the meaning of life, eventually making his way through the bible. He became a convert and was appointed bishop of Poitiers in 353.

Sometimes referred to as the Hammer of the Arians, St. Hilary defended the Nicene Creed against a popular heresy,

Arianism. He was exiled to Phrygia for opposing Roman emperor Constantius II, who preferred the heresy which denies Christ's divinity. From Phrygia St. Hilary fought with his pen, zealously writing against the heresy.

Eventually he was allowed to return to Poitiers, but did so by a circuitous route, preaching against Arianism all the way. St. Hilary was likely the first writer of hymns in the West, his writings on the Trinity, Psalms and Gospel of Matthew survive today. St. Hilary was created Doctor of the Church, a title given to those who provided important contributions to theology and doctrine, in 1851 by Pope Pius IX.

*"Little children follow and obey their father. They love their mother. They know nothing of covetousness, ill-will, bad temper, arrogance and lying. This state of mind opens the road to heaven. To imitate our Lord's own humility, we must return to the simplicity of God's little ones."*

*"The chief service I owe you, O God, is that every thought and word of mine should speak of you."*

- St. Hilary of Poitiers



## WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

The Women's Bible Study meets every Friday at 10am in the large conference room in the Parish Center. All ladies are welcome!

## COAT DRIVE



The Knights of Columbus will be collecting new and gently used coats thru February. A barrel will be placed in the church for donated coats. Coats may also be taken directly to Catholic Charities located in our Parish Center on the second floor.

## ROSARY ALTAR RUMMAGE SALE

As you are cleaning after the holidays, remember Rosary Altar Society's rummage sale! Items for donation may be placed in the hall basement at any time.

Please remember no computers or televisions. Thank you!



**PAINT PARTY** with Mando's Studio on January 29th at 1pm at St. Francis Xavier Parish Center. Twenty dollars per painter and needs to be paid in advance. Notify Kim Meredith (304-494-3135) or Shirley Smith (740-516-9411) for details. We have 32 spots available.

## PRAYER WARRIORS NEEDED

Parkersburg Catholic Schools are asking for intercessors who will pray for our schools. Those prayer warriors that may be interested can contact MC Heffner at [mcheffner@pchs1.com](mailto:mcheffner@pchs1.com) and she can explain more about this partnership and answer any questions.



"There are three ways to ultimate success: The first way is to be kind. The second way is to be kind. The third way is to be kind." -Fred Rogers





## DIocese of WHEELING-CHARLESTON

### FAITH FORMATION

Three five-week courses are being offered through the University of Dayton's Virtual Learning Community for Faith Formation (VLCFF). These courses are hybrid models. They are composed of both weekly live two-hour zoom lectures as well as a rich variety of online course materials and discussion experiences through the University of Dayton's Virtual Learning Community For Faith Formation (VLCFF). The courses are being underwritten by the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston's Office of Evangelization & Catechesis, who pays 100% of the tuition and the cost of the books associated with the courses. The course instructor is Dr. Rodica Stoicoiu. For further information or to register, please contact Jeanne McKeets at [jmckeets@dwc.org](mailto:jmckeets@dwc.org) with your name, address, and phone number.

#### THE NEW TESTAMENT CYCLE 1 JAN 17-FEB 20

This course explores the stories in and behind the writings we call the New Testament. Through the study of Biblical maps, articles and religious art present on authoritative websites, our text and class discussions students can grow in New Testament knowledge, understanding and application to their life and ministry.

### THE WAY

Survivors of all forms of abuse across the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston are invited to attend a special retreat entitled, "The Way." The Way is 3-day guided meditation and prayer program for men and women crafted around the Stations of the Cross. It is an opportunity for healing and prayer and for survivors to reflect on God's plan for their lives through prayer and sacraments. There will be opportunities for individual counseling and spiritual direction. Sponsored by the Archdiocese of Washington, the retreat is free of charge and will be held February 18-20, 2022, for women. The location of the retreat is not being publicized to protect the privacy of survivors. For more information on the retreat, visit <https://adw.org/the-way-retreat>. To learn more and to register, please contact Deborah McDonald at [mcdonaldd@adw.org](mailto:mcdonaldd@adw.org) or 301-853-4466



### TOGETHER IN HOLINESS FORMATION SERIES

REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN FOR THE  
1ST MARRIAGE ENRICHMENT CONFERENCE

Saturday, February 12, 2022 | 8:30 AM - 3:30 PM  
Saint John XXIII Pastoral Center | Charleston, WV  
Early Bird Couple: \$27 | Early Bird Individual: \$18  
Early Bird discount available through January 10  
Lunch Included | On-site Childcare (2-12 yrs)  
Full & Partial Scholarships Available

For more information, email the Conference Coordinator Michelle McDonald at [michelle@forlifeandfamily.org](mailto:michelle@forlifeandfamily.org)

# The Children's Corner

### Sharing the Gospel

Your Dad says, "Wash your hands, please. It is almost time to eat." After you wash your hands really well, your Dad smiles. He says, "That's my boy. You did a good job!" In today's Gospel, it was time for Jesus to be baptized. After his baptism, Jesus talked to God his Father in prayer. Jesus did everything his Father asked. God was happy with his Son and said, "I'm pleased with you."

### Prayer

God, I want to make you and my parents happy.

### Something to Draw

Draw a picture of God telling you, "Good job!"

### Mission for the Week

Find out what makes God happy.

As a family, read John 15:9-12.



Find and circle these words from today's Gospel:

JOHN  
MESSIAH  
BAPTIZING

WATER  
POWERFUL  
SANDALS

HOLY SPIRIT  
FIRE  
JESUS

A	J	T	U	A	R	B	Y	W	E	N
H	O	L	Y	S	P	I	R	I	T	O
E	H	A	I	T	O	S	U	F	A	M
J	N	E	G	Y	W	A	T	E	R	E
I	Y	B	E	H	E	U	P	L	M	S
H	S	I	N	U	R	M	O	A	Y	S
J	U	P	A	W	F	I	R	E	C	I
E	M	O	Z	T	U	Y	M	S	U	A
S	A	N	D	A	L	S	E	O	T	H
U	D	Y	T	O	E	A	N	G	E	D
S	O	B	A	P	T	I	Z	I	N	G

### ARE YOU A PARENT WITH YOUNG CHILDREN?

Check out these sites....

Catholic Sprouts – This site helps Catholic families build their Domestic Churches and raise "little saints".

Their core values are the Eucharist, The Rosary, The Saints, and Scripture.

Catholic Icing – Catholic Crafts and More for Kids  
<https://www.catholicicing.com>



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Today the Church celebrates the Feast of the Baptism of Our Lord. This brings to an end the season of Christmas. The Church recalls Our Lord's second manifestation or epiphany which occurred on the occasion of His baptism in the Jordan. Jesus descended into the River to sanctify its waters and to give them the power to beget sons of God. The event takes on the importance of a second creation in which the entire Trinity intervenes.

In the Eastern Church this feast is called Theophany because at the baptism of Christ in the River Jordan God appeared in three persons. The baptism of John was a sort of sacramental preparatory for the Baptism of Christ. It moved men to sentiments of repentance and induced them to confess their sins. Christ did not need the baptism of John. Although He appeared in the "substance of our flesh" and was recognized "outwardly like unto ourselves", He was absolutely sinless and impeccable. He conferred upon the water the power of the true Baptism which would remove all the sins of the world: "Behold the Lamb of God, behold Him Who takes away the sin of the world".

Many of the incidents which accompanied Christ's baptism are symbolical of what happened at our Baptism. At Christ's baptism the Holy Spirit descended upon Him; at our Baptism the Trinity took its abode in our soul. At His baptism Christ was proclaimed the "Beloved Son" of the Father; at our Baptism we become the adopted sons of God. At Christ's baptism the heavens were opened; at our Baptism heaven was opened to us. At His baptism Jesus prayed; after our Baptism we must pray to avoid actual sin.

— Excerpted from Msgr. Rudolph G. Bandas

## Who Was Malachi in the Bible? -Mike Nappa

Malachi was a mostly-anonymous prophet whose ministry occurred in Jerusalem during the era of Nehemiah and Ezra. Although he spoke primarily to a specific time and place in history, Malachi also prophesied of the messianic “forerunner” who would announce the appearance of Christ more than 400 years after his lifetime.

In the entire Bible, the prophet Malachi is mentioned by name only once: in the first line of the slim Old Testament book that bears his name (Malachi 1:1).

In spite of this, his words are either quoted directly, or alluded to, at least 15 times in our New Testament. Even Jesus himself quoted Malachi’s prophecy when telling a crowd about the place of John the Baptist in heavenly history (Matthew 11:7-15).

So who was this nearly-anonymous prophet? When did he live? And what were his messages? Let’s find out.

### The Hebrew Meaning of Malachi

“The oracle of the word of the Lord to Israel by Malachi ...” (Malachi 1:1)

So begins the last book of our Old Testament. In that verse we have the only indication of the person who actually wrote this prophetic message to the people of Israel. What’s interesting is that the name “Malachi” likely isn’t really a name as we might assume it to be.

Malachi is a Hebrew term that means “my messenger,” which is an oddly self-referential designation for one who claims to speak an oracle of God. That, along with its isolated use in Malachi 1:1, has led some to believe that it refers to a priestly title rather than to a given name. The Septuagint— a Greek translation of the Old Testament made a few hundred years before Christ—lends credence to this idea. That ancient text renders the name in Malachi 1:1 as simply “his messenger.”

Still, other scholars have suggested that Malachi is a shortened form of the proper name, Malachiyahu, which means “Yahweh’s messenger.” If that’s the case, then it’d make more sense as a person’s name rather than a title.

Regardless of whether Malachi was the prophet’s personal name or not, he may as well have been anonymous because the man himself is still mostly a mystery to us.

What we do know about Malachi is the time during which he lived. The book that bears his name makes several historical and cultural references that can be traced to a specific time period in biblical history, even if not to a specific year. For instance:

The practice of making sacrifices in the Temple at Jerusalem had been reinstated (Malachi 1:7-10, 3:8).

The Jews of Jerusalem at that time were living under a Persian governor (Malachi 1:8).

Intermarriage with non-Jews was commonplace, even though it had been explicitly forbidden by Mosaic Law (Malachi 2:10-12).

Religious observance by temple priests was lax at best, with standards far below what God had required (Malachi 1:7).

The practice of tithing into the temple treasury was routinely neglected (Malachi 3:8-10).

From these clues and the similarity of themes in the books of Nehemiah and Ezra, it’s commonly accepted that this preaching of Malachi occurred in Jerusalem sometime around 450 B.C. This was after Hebrew exiles had been allowed to return home from captivity in Babylon, and about 65 years (a generation or so) after the temple had been rebuilt in Jerusalem. As such, it’s actually possible that Malachi knew Nehemiah and/or Ezra because he lived in Jerusalem during the same period they did. One Aramaic translation of the book of Malachi even suggests that Ezra could have been the anonymous author of this book of prophesy. But I digress.

The importance of Malachi’s messages in light of history and theology—and even Biblical literary style—are hard to overlook. Still, the way our biblical canon has been organized can make understanding the book of Malachi somewhat confusing.

Chronologically speaking, Malachi should be much earlier in the Old Testament, somewhere alongside the books of Nehemiah, Ezra, and 2 Chronicles. But our Old Testament is organized by literary style, and so Malachi is grouped with the books of “Minor Prophets” that finish out the Hebrew Bible. Within that collection, then, this book is placed as the last entry of the Old Testament. Many Christians see that placement as fitting, but we’ll talk more about that in a moment.


There are two broad messages covered in the book of Malachi:

1. Israel must remember and observe Old Testament law, and
2. Israel must remember and take hope in the coming Messiah.

In this manner, Malachi’s prophecies dealt decisively with a specific time and place in history that’s now ancient to us. Yet, he also did much more, perhaps without even knowing it.

What has kept Malachi relevant throughout the Christian era is this simple statement he made in Malachi 3:1: “Behold, I send my messenger, and he will prepare the way before me...”

Jesus quoted this verse directly when identifying John the Baptist as the prophesied forerunner of Christ (Matthew 11:7-15). It was a promise of hope—and a promise kept some 400 years after Malachi’s lifetime. As such, many Christians see almost a poetic design in the fact that Malachi’s “prepare the way” prophesy is in the last book of the Old Testament, followed immediately by the histories of John the Baptist recorded in the gospel accounts of the New Testament.

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 Richard Newhart, D.D.S. • Parodontist  
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 (304) 422-4867 • www.thegumdr.com

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