

PRAYER CORNER

Almighty God, as we ask your help
for our brothers and sisters who are ill,
we ask you to help us to be healing people in our time and place.
May your love touch others through us,
and may I help all people to live in peace.
We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.
St. Frances of Assisi

JESUS SPEAKS TO US

John said to him, "Teacher, we saw someone driving out demons in your name, and we tried to prevent him because he does not follow us."
Jesus replied, "Do not prevent him. There is no one who performs a mighty deed in my name who can at the same time speak ill of me.
For whoever is not against us is for us.
Anyone who gives you a cup of water to drink because you belong to Christ, amen, I say to you, will surely not lose his reward."
Mark 9:38-41

September 19th Collection

Regular:	\$2,578.91
Parish Maintenance:	\$165.00
St. Vincent de Paul:	\$185.00
St. Anne's (Candles):	\$83.60
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Catholic University:	\$20.00
Online 9/14-9/20:	\$421.50

Thank you so much
for your generosity and support
of our Parish.



OUR MOTHER OF MERCY

Historically African-American Catholic Church—all are welcome!

September 26, 2021



Bulletin printed in-house at:
Our Mother of Mercy Catholic Church
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ORDINARY TIME : September 26th TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY

The **Gospel** is from St. Mark 9:38-43, 45, 47-48. There are two very practical lessons we must learn from today's Gospel: the grave obligation we have of not causing scandal to our fellow-Christians or indeed to any man or woman and secondly, the willingness we should have to sacrifice any earthly possession which is a cause of sin to us.

Scandal, the sin of being a cause or an occasion of another's sin, is doubly sinful involving one's own sin and the sin of the person scandalized. Scandal can be caused by word—that is, by teaching or propagating wrong doctrine or by giving sinful advice, and it can be caused by one's own sinful deeds which may be imitated by others. Those in positions of authority such as parents whose duty it is to bring up their children in the Christian faith, are especially liable to give scandal if they fail to live truly Christian lives. Christian parents who fail to live according to their faith will be held accountable not only for their own sins, but for the sins of their children and perhaps their children's children for generations to come.

Much, if not all of today's moral laxity and permissiveness can be blamed on parents who have failed to give the example of true Christian living in the home and in dealings with their neighbors. To children of such parents, Christianity is only a

label; it does not inform or inspire their lives, hence they are only nominal Christians. It is true that there may be "black sheep" in the best of Christian homes. When, however, all the children of a home are "black sheep" the whiteness, the sincerity, of the parents of such a home must certainly be called into question. There may be many bad influences at work outside the home but the good example of truly Christian parents can counteract these influences. Let parents see to it that they will not be a cause of scandal and a cause of eternal loss to the children God put into their charge.

The second lesson for all of us in today's Gospel is that we should ever realize that eternal life is worth any sacrifice which we may be called on to make. The road we have to travel in life is not an easy one. As our Lord says in another place: "Enter by the narrow gate for the gate is wide and the way is easy that leads to destruction, and those who enter by it are many. But the gate is narrow and the way is hard that leads to life, and those who find it are few" (Mt. 7: 13). We wish to reach heaven, therefore we must be prepared to follow Christ; we must not allow others to lead us astray but be prepared and determined to conquer and resist our own evil inclinations also.

Excerpted from *The Sunday Readings* by Fr. Kevin O'Sullivan, O.F.M.

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Space Available

Please contact Lydia at the Church Office (817) 335-1695

In Loving Memory of
Larry & Olga Martinez,
One Day at a Time.

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Mass Schedule:

Monday-Friday — 7:00 a.m.

Saturday — 8:00 a.m.

Saturday — 5:00 p.m.

Sunday — 10:00 a.m.

Holy Day -- see bulletin

Confessions:

Wednesday 6:00 p.m.—6:50 p.m.

Friday 9:00 a.m.— noon

Saturday 4:00 p.m.—4:50 p.m.

Office Hours:

Mon, Wed, & Fri

10:00 a.m. — 3:00 p.m.

FATHER BART'S CORNER

My sisters and brothers:

Feast of Sts. Michael, Gabriel and Raphael, Archangels

The name of the archangel Michael means, in Hebrew, *who is like unto God?* and he is also known as "the prince of the heavenly host." He is usually pictured as a strong warrior, dressed in armor and wearing sandals. His name appears in Scripture four times, twice in the Book of Daniel, and once each in the Epistle of St. Jude and the Book of Revelation. From Revelation we learn of the battle in heaven, with St. Michael and his angels combatting Lucifer and the other fallen angels (or devils). We invoke St. Michael to help us in our fight against Satan; to rescue souls from Satan, especially at the hour of death; to be the champion of the Jews in the Old Testament and now Christians; and to bring souls to judgment.

St. Gabriel's name means "God is my strength". Biblically he appears three times as a messenger. He had been sent to Daniel to explain a vision concerning the Messiah. He appeared to Zachary when he was offering incense in the Temple, to foretell the birth of his son, St. John the Baptist. St. Gabriel is most known as the angel chosen by God to be the messenger of the Annunciation, to announce to mankind the mystery of the Incarnation.

Our knowledge of the Archangel Raphael comes to us from the book of Tobit. His mission as wonderful healer and fellow traveler with the youthful Tobias has caused him to be invoked for journeys and at critical moments in life. Tradition also holds that Raphael is the angel that stirred the waters at the healing sheep pool in Bethesda. His name means "God has healed".

With prayers and love,

Fr. Bart, S.V.D



St. Michael

St. Gabriel

St. Raphael

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

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Monday, September 27

Live Stream Mass: 7:00 a.m.

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Tuesday, September 28

Live Stream Mass: 7:00 a.m.

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Wednesday, September 29

Live Stream Mass: 7:00 a.m.

Adoration 6:00 p.m.—7:00 p.m.

Confessions 6:00 p.m.—6:50 p.m.

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Thursday, September 30

Live Stream Mass: 7:00 a.m.

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Friday, October 1

Live Stream Mass: 7:00 a.m.

Adoration 8:00 a.m.—noon

Confessions 9:00 a.m.—noon

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Saturday, October 2

Live Stream Mass: 8:00 a.m.

Adoration 4:00 p.m.—5:00 p.m.

Confessions 4:00 p.m.—4:50 p.m.

Mass: 5:00 p.m.

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Sunday, October 3

Live Stream Mass: 10:00 a.m.

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Weekday Confessions thirty minutes before morning Mass.

Vocation View

The Law of the Lord exists to guide and direct our steps here on earth so that we might arrive safely at the palaces of heaven. Embrace the Law with your whole heart, mind and soul that you might also grow in love with the Law-giver.

Divine Word Vocation Office
1-800-553-3321
www.svdvocations.org

Weekly Readings

9/27—ZEC 8:1-8; 9:46-50

9/28—ZEC 8:20-23; LK 9:51-56

9/29—DN 7:9-10, 13-14 or RV 12:7-12a; JN 1:47-51

9/30—NEH 8:1-4a, 5-6, 7b-12; LK 10:1-12

10/1—BAR 1:15-22; LK 10:13-16

10/2—BAR 4:5-12, 27-29;

MT 18:1-5, 10

10/3—GN 2:18-24; HEB 2:9-11;

MK 10:2-16 or 10:2-12

PARISH CORNER

Guardian Angels

Angels are servants and messengers from God. "Angel" in Greek means messenger. In unseen ways the angels help us on our earthly pilgrimage by assisting us in work and study, helping us in temptation and protecting us from physical danger.

The idea that each soul has assigned to it a personal guardian angel has been long accepted by the Church and is a truth of our faith. From the Gospel of today's liturgy we read: "See that you do not despise one of these little ones, for I say to you that their angels in heaven always look upon the face of my heavenly Father" (Matthew 18:10). The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* states that "the existence of the spiritual, non-corporeal beings that Sacred Scripture usually calls 'angels' is a truth of faith (328)." From our birth until our death, man is surrounded by the protection and intercession of angels, particularly our guardian angel: "Beside each believer stands an angel as protector and shepherd leading him to life (336)." The Church thanks God for our helpers, the angels, particularly on this feast day and September 29 which is the feast of Saint Michael, Saint Gabriel, and Saint Raphael, archangels. Today's feast appeared in Spain during the sixteenth century. It was extended to the universal Church and made obligatory in 1670.

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Prayer to Your Guardian Angel

Angel of God,
my guardian dear,
To whom God's love
commits me here,
Ever this day,
be at my side,
To light and guard,
Rule and guide.

Amen.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Feast Day

Today we will be celebrating the feast day of our Lady of Ransom that occurred on September 24th. Come and join us for the festivities that will begin after the 10:00 a.m. Mass until 1:00 p.m. Some refreshments and t-shirts will be provided.

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Praying the Rosary

We are encouraging you to come and pray the Rosary every Sunday before Mass at 9:30 a.m. especially for the month of October, in observance of Our Lady of the Rosary. We also have new prayer cards, please pick one up per family for now, off the back table.

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Hurricane Ida

If you are interested in supporting those affected by Hurricane Ida, please specify it on your envelope or check.

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St. Anne's Altar Society

Ladies if you're interested in primarily assisting our Priest in the maintaining of our altar. Consider becoming a member of St. Anne's Altar Society a worthwhile ministry. You must be in good standing at Our Mother of Mercy Church. For more information contact the church office for details.

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"Anyone who gives you a cup of water to drink because you belong to Christ, amen, I say to you, will surely not lose his reward." MARK 9:41

We are made in God's image and likeness. We tend to forget this. When you look at others, do you see the face of Jesus in them? When others look at you, do they see the face of Jesus in you? When we realize that all lives matter to God, then gratitude and generously become easier. Why? Because that's the way we are made! We are one Body of Christ; when one of us is hurting, all of us feel the pain.

CATECHISM OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

PRAYER IN THE CHRISTIAN LIFE

THE LIFE OF PRAYER

THE BATTLE OF PRAYER

HUMBLE VIGILANCE OF HEART

Facing difficulties in prayer

2731 Another difficulty, especially for those who sincerely want to pray, is dryness. Dryness belongs to contemplative prayer when the heart is separated from God, with no taste for thoughts, memories, and feelings, even spiritual ones. This is the moment of sheer faith clinging faithfully to Jesus in his agony and in his tomb. "Unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if dies, it bears much fruit."¹⁸ If dryness is due to the lack of roots, because the word has fallen on rocky soil, the battle requires conversion.¹⁹

Facing temptations in prayer

2732 The most common yet most hidden temptation is our lack of faith. It expresses itself less by declared incredulity than by our actual preferences. When we begin to pray, a thousand labors or cares thought to be urgent vie for priority; once again, it is the moment of truth for the heart: what is its real love? Sometimes we turn to the Lord as a last resort, but do we really believe he is? Sometimes we enlist the Lord as an ally, but our heart remains presumptuous. In each case, our lack of faith reveals that we do not yet share in the disposition of a humble heart:

"Apart from me, you can do nothing."²⁰

18 Jn 12:24.

19 Cf. Lk 8:6, 13.

20 Jn 15:5.

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Remembering that we will be judged by what we do for the least among us, may we give generously and joyfully to support all those in need.

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