

SACRED HEART

Dear Friends in Christ,

This **Sunday** we will begin the religious education program for our parishes. They will be held in the **Library at St. John the Baptist** after the 9:30 a.m. Mass.

On **October 11**, we will begin our **RCIA** program for:

1. Any who are interested in learning more about the **Catholic Faith**
2. All who are thinking about joining the **Church**
3. Those who are in a relationship with a **Catholic** and would like to understand the other person better
4. Those who are just curious about **Catholicism**
5. Those **Catholics** who would like to refresh their understanding of their **Faith**.

This will also be held in the **Library** of **St. John the Baptist**. The **Wednesday Evening Mass** will be moved from **Sacred Heart** to **St. John the Baptist** since our meeting space is there. **The Mass will change from 6:30 to 6:00 p.m. with RCIA following at 7:00 p.m. in the Parish Library on the second floor.**

A very important message: The Italian Festival is coming very soon. There is always a need for volunteers. Anyone from St. John's or Sacred Heart who are able and willing to help, please call the office and you will be directed how to sign up. Jeremy Polk is organizing the volunteers at Sacred Heart to help with the parking. Parking is a great service to the Festival and an important fundraiser for Sacred Heart. It's a great opportunity to serve our communities.

Have a blessed week!
Msg. Frank Lane

Mass Time Change: Mass times at Sacred Heart are **Wednesdays and Thursdays at 6:30 p.m.** and **St. John the Baptist** are **Mondays and Tuesdays at 9:00 a.m.** Starting **October 11**, Masses on **Wednesdays** at Sacred Heart will be held at **St. John the Baptist** at **6:00 p.m.** with **RCIA** following at **7:00 p.m.** at **St. John the Baptist Parish Library** on the **second floor**.

MASSES AT SACRED HEART

Saturday 9/23	4:00 p.m.	+ Dorothy M. Hardgrove by Mary Hardgrove Sutphen
Sunday 9/24	11:00 a.m.	+ Mary Jo Quinn by Mary Rykowski
Wednesday 9/27	6:30 p.m.	+ George E. Hardgrove Jr. by Mary Hardgrove Sutphen
Thursday 9/28	6:30 p.m.	Living and Deceased Members of Sacred Heart
Friday 9/29	10:00 a.m.	Living & Deceased Members of Sacred Heart
Saturday 9/30	4:00 p.m.	+ Tom O'Reilly by Mary Rykowski
Sunday 10/1	11:00 a.m. from SJB	+ Antonio Caradonna by Mr. & Mrs. Castelluccio

SH Collection Counters for Monday, September 25, 2023

Donna Bowers and Rita Ward

SH Collection Counters for Monday, October 2, 2023

David and Gilda Cottrill



Office Hours: Parish office hours are **Monday** through **Friday** from **9:00 a.m.** to **2:00 p.m.**

Praying the Rosary: You are invited to join fellow **Sacred Heart Parishioners** in praying the **Rosary** prior to **Sunday Mass**. Parishioners meet at **10:30 a.m.**

MASS INTENTIONS: Sacred Heart is in need of Masses to cover for **Wednesdays, Thursdays, Saturdays, and Sundays**. Please consider having a Mass said for your loved ones. Thank you!

Requesting a Mass Intention:

To request a **Mass Intention** at **Sacred Heart**, please put the following information in an envelope and place it in the collection basket.

Your Name: _____

Name of the **person** for which the intention is being requested: _____

Please put if person is **deceased** or living _____

Date you would prefer the **Mass** to be offered: _____

Stipend (The suggested stipend for a **Mass Intention** at **Sacred Heart** is **\$10.00**.)



Join Us in Ryan Hall: Please consider coming to **Ryan Hall** after **Mass** for coffee, donuts, and fellowship. This is a time to get to know fellow parishioners and just relax with a good cup of coffee. We look forward to seeing you there!

Kroger Rewards: for **August** was **\$98.12**. Thank you for your support.

If you are interested in becoming Catholic, receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation, or Baptism, please contact Sacred Heart Office at 614-294-5319 for more information.

For Weddings and Funerals, please contact Aggie Howard at ahoward@sjbitaliana.org or call the office at 614-294-5319.

WEEKLY STEWARDSHIP AT SACRED HEART

September 17, 2023

Number of Envelopes used Sunday – 16

In Env:	\$ 670.00
Loose:	\$ 511.00
Total	\$ 1,181.00
Less Diocesan 8% Assessment	\$ -(94.48)
	\$ 1,086.52
Votives	\$ 6.00
Diocesan Charities	\$ 3.00
Capital Repair	\$ 15.00
Total	\$ 24.00

\$\$\$ HOW IS SACRED HEART DOING? \$\$\$

Budgeted Offertory for Fiscal Year (7/1/23-6/30/24)

	Budgeted	Actual	Difference (\$)
This Wk.:	\$ 2,800.00	\$ 1,181.00	-(1,619.00)
FYTD:	\$ 26,600.00	\$ 22,996.00	-(3,604.00)

Order of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) Life is a journey that continually searches for meaning. The **Order of Christian Initiation of Adults** (which used to be called **RCIA**) is a way for unbaptized persons and those who have been baptized in another **Christian** tradition to become a **Roman Catholic**. For the unbaptized, the **OCIA** gradually uncovers the story of **God's** salvation for all. This is completed through the study of the mystery of **Jesus'** life, death and resurrection, the workings of the **Holy Spirit** as revealed in history, as well as sacramental life and spiritual practices of the **Catholic Church**. Within the setting of a parish community, and in accordance with the **Church's** liturgical year, this process of formation includes four stages, as well as rituals which mark these stages (**National Directory for Catechesis**, 35). If you are a **baptized Christian** who seeks full communion with the **Catholic Church**, or a **baptized Catholic** who has received no other faith formation and has not received the Sacraments of **Confirmation** and **Eucharist**, you are also welcome to this class. For more information about **OCIA**, please contact **Sharon Curtin** at 614-563-8405, or email **SCurtin@sjbitaliana.org**. The first class is **October 11, 7:00 p.m.**, in the **Library at Saint John the Baptist Church on the second floor**.

PARISH SCHOOL OF RELIGION: One of the most important aspects a parish must have to survive is a strong religious education program. **St. John/Sacred Heart** classes begin this morning, **September 24th**, in the **Library on the second floor at St. John the Baptist Church**. Classes will be held regardless of the number of students who are registered. **Grandchildren of grandparents are welcome if the grandparents are registered at either parish**. The class begins right after the **9:30 a.m. Sunday Mass** and will last **45 minutes**. If you are willing to assist as a teacher or an aide, please call **Sharon Curtin** 614-563-8405, or email at **SCurtin@sjbitaliana.org**.

Good News, But We Need Volunteers: **Jeremy Polk** has graciously offered to be the coordinator for **The Italian Festival Parking Fundraiser!! BUT – HE CAN'T DO IT ALONE!** He needs volunteers! Each volunteer signs up to cover one **2-3-hour** shift throughout the weekend (the more volunteers, the shorter the shifts). The Festival runs from **Friday, October 6-Sunday, October 8**. If you are willing to help, please sign up on your way out of church this morning. **Thank you!**

Check Out the Website! **Parisioner Aaron Sens** has taken over as the administrator of **sacredheartchurchcolumbus.org**. Take some time to check out the newly updated website! The website is a great way to keep track of events and to easily support our parish by setting up electronic monthly donations. **Thanks Aaron!**

AROUND US

The Holy Father's Intentions for the Month of September 2023:
For people living on the margins: *We pray for those persons living on the margins of society, in inhumane life conditions; may they not be overlooked by institutions and never considered of lesser importance.*

CATHOLIC MEN'S LUNCHEON – FRIDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2023 – SPEAKER JOHN BRADFORD. Join us **Friday, October 6** at **St. Patrick Church** in downtown **Columbus** for a luncheon featuring a talk titled **"What is a Man? The Hunt for Manhood"** by **John Bradford**, **Founder and President of Wilderness Outreach**, a **501(c)(3)** public nonprofit corporation. Learn more about **Wilderness Outreach** at **https://www.wildernessoutreach.net**. If you are interested in sponsoring this or another luncheon, contact **Jim Gernetzke** at **jimgernetzke@noslumine.com**. **Holy Mass** (optional) begins at **11:45 a.m.** followed by lunch at **12:10 p.m.** and **Mr. Bradford's** presentation. No reservations are necessary. **\$12.00** covers the lunch and meeting. Bring a friend!



The Columbus Catholic Young Adult Conference is a **Catholic Conference** in the **Diocese of Columbus** that seeks to empower young adults to transform their communities through their identity in **Christ**. This Conference has been designed and developed by young adults for young adults. We want to give conference participants the practical tools and resources to live out their discipleship and create faith-filled communities of young adults where they live. **Join us on Saturday, October 14, 2023, at Saint John Neumann Parish in Sunbury. Doors open at 8:15 am. For more information on the agenda, keynote speakers and registration, please visit https://www.ccyac.org.**

FOOD + EDUCATION = HOPE: It has been said that one person can make a difference, and we all know that to be true. Think of what we can accomplish together! **Mary's Meals** is a global hunger organization that provides meals in the classroom leading to a bridge out of poverty. We invite you to support this wonderful organization on **September 28** by purchasing a table or tickets to an event called: **An Evening With**. This year the keynote speaker is the founder and **CEO of Mary's Meals, Magnus MacFarlane-Barrow**. This inspirational evening supports two educational opportunities, locally and worldwide, through **Mary's Meals**. Proceeds support both **Mary's Meals** and tuition assistance. **Contact Julie at jnaporano@scprep.org.**

Today's Gospel: The **Gospel** is from **St. Matthew 20:1-16a**. The work we must do in **God's** vineyard is the fulfilling of the duties of our state in life. By carrying out these duties faithfully and honestly, we are doing the will of **God**. The greater part of our day and indeed of our life, will be taken up with tasks of themselves worldly, but these tasks when done in the state of grace and with the intention of honoring **God**, have a supernatural value. For this, we must thank **God** for **His** goodness and generosity. Looking back on life, how many years have we really given to **God**? Were we clear with our intention, or were we idle? If we were idle, today's parable gives us new hope and courage. It may be the Sixth or the Ninth or even the Eleventh Hour of our life, but we can still earn heaven if we listen to **God's** call and set to work diligently in **His** vineyard. If we put our conscience right with **God** today and resolve to be loyal to **Him** from now on, He will be as generous to us, as the parable promises.

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

"Without forgiveness, there is no hope; without forgiveness, there is no peace. Forgiveness is the oxygen that purifies the air of hatred; it is the antidote to the poisons of resentment; it is the way to defuse anger and heal so many maladies of the heart." @Pontifex



Prayer:

O God, who founded all the commands of Your sacred Law upon love of You and of our neighbor, grant that, by keeping your precepts, we may merit to attain eternal life. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with You in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen

Lectio Divina

SCRIPTURE READING + MEDITATION + PRAYER + CONTEMPLATION

“What page, what passage of the inspired books of the Old and New Testaments is not the truest of guides for human life?” ~Saint Benedict, from the *Rule of Saint Benedict* (73:3)

The month of September is dedicated to Our Lady of Sorrows.

“We cannot better assure our eternal happiness than by living and dying in the service of the poor, in the arms of Providence, and with genuine renouncement of ourselves in order to follow Jesus Christ.” +SAINT VINCENT DE PAUL

Monday, September 25 ~ Twenty-Fifth Week in Ordinary Time

Holy Gospel: Luke 8:16-18 Jesus said to the crowd: “No one who lights a lamp conceals it with a vessel or sets it under a bed; rather, he places it on a lampstand so that those who enter may see the light. For there is nothing hidden that will not become visible, and nothing secret that will not be known and come to light. Take care, then, how you hear. To anyone who has, more will be given, and from the one who has not, even what he seems to have will be taken away.”

Meditation: What does the image of light and a lamp tell us about God's kingdom? Lamps in the ancient world served a vital function, much like they do today. They enable people to see and work in the dark and to avoid stumbling. The Jews also understood “light” as an expression of the inner beauty, truth, and goodness of God. In his light we see light (Psalm 36:9). His word is a lamp that guides our steps (Psalm 119:105). God's grace not only illumines the darkness in our lives, but it also fills us with spiritual light, joy, and peace. Jesus used the image of a lamp to describe how his disciples are to live in the light of his truth and love. Just as natural light illumines the darkness and enables one to see visually, so the light of Christ shines in the hearts of believers and enables us to see the heavenly reality of God's kingdom. In fact, our mission is to be light-bearers of Christ so that others may see the truth of the gospel and be freed from the blindness of sin and deception.

Prayer: O God, who founded all the commands of your sacred Law upon love of you and of our neighbor, grant that, by keeping your precepts, we may merit to attain eternal life. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Contemplation: Jesus remarks that nothing can remain hidden or secret. We can try to hide things from others, from ourselves, and from God. How tempting to shut our eyes from the consequences of our sinful ways and bad habits, even when we know what those consequences are. And how tempting to hide them from others and even from God. But, nonetheless, everything is known to God who sees all. There is great freedom and joy for those who live in God's light and who seek his truth. Those who listen to God and heed his voice will receive more from him — abundance of wisdom, guidance, peace, and blessing. Do you know the joy and freedom of living in God's light?

Tuesday, September 26 ~ Twenty-Fifth Week in Ordinary Time

Saints Cosmas and Damien, Martyrs

Holy Gospel: Luke 8:19-21 The mother of Jesus and his brothers came to him but were unable to join him because of the crowd. He was told, “Your mother and your brothers are standing outside and they wish to see you.” He said to them in reply, “My mother and my brothers are those who hear the word of God and act on it.”

Meditation: Have you given any thought to the real meaning of what it means to be Christian? While being a Christian involves doctrine, precepts, and commandments, it is first and foremost a relationship – a relationship with Christ built on trust, affection, commitment, loyalty, faithfulness, kindness, thoughtfulness, compassion, mercy, helpfulness, encouragement, support, strength, protection, and so many other qualities that bind people together in mutual love and unity. God offers us the greatest of relationships – union of heart, mind, and spirit with himself, the very author and source of love (ref. 1

John 4:8,16). God's love never fails, never forgets, never compromises, never lies, never lets us down nor disappoints us. His love is consistent, unwavering, unconditional, and unstoppable. Nothing can deter him from ever leaving us, ignoring us, or treating us unkindly. God wants all of our relationships to be rooted in his love. Jesus is God's love incarnate — God's love made visible in human flesh (ref. 1 John 4:9-10). That is why Jesus describes himself as the good shepherd who lays down his life for his sheep and the shepherd who seeks out the sheep who have strayed and lost their way. God is like the father who yearns for his prodigal son to return home and then throws a great party for his son when he has a change of heart and comes back (ref. Luke 15:11-32). Jesus offered up his life on the cross for our sake, so that we could be forgiven and restored to unity and friendship with God. It is through Jesus that we become the adopted children of God — his own sons and daughters. That is why Jesus told his disciples that they would have many new friends and family relationships in his kingdom. Whoever does the will of God — “those who hear the word of God and act on it” — is a friend of God and a member of his family — his sons and daughters who have been ransomed by the precious blood of Christ.

Prayer: May you be magnified, O Lord, by the revered memory of your Saints Cosmas and Damian, for with providence beyond words you have conferred on them everlasting glory, and on us, your unfailing help. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Contemplation: Ask yourself a very fundamental question: Who do you love and cherish the most? God did not intend for us to be alone, but to be with others. He gives us many opportunities for developing relationships with family, friends, neighbors, and co-workers. Why does Jesus seem to ignore his own relatives when they pressed to see him? His love and respect for his mother and his relatives is unquestionable. Jesus never lost an opportunity to teach his disciples a spiritual lesson and truth about the kingdom of God. On this occasion when many gathered to hear Jesus he pointed to another higher reality of relationships, namely our relationship with God and with those who belong to God.

Wednesday, September 27 ~ Twenty-Fifth Week in Ordinary Time **Saint Vincent de Paul, Priest**

Holy Gospel: Luke 9:1-6 Jesus summoned the Twelve and gave them power and authority over all demons and to cure diseases, and he sent them to proclaim the Kingdom of God and to heal the sick. He said to them, “Take nothing for the journey, neither walking stick, nor sack, nor food, nor money, and let no one take a second tunic. Whatever house you enter, stay there and leave from there. And as for those who do not welcome you, when you leave that town, shake the dust from your feet in testimony against them.” Then they set out and went from village to village proclaiming the good news and curing diseases everywhere.

Meditation: Why does Jesus tell the apostles to “travel light” with little or no provision? “Poverty of spirit” frees us from greed and preoccupation with possessions and makes ample room for God's provision. The Lord wants his disciples to be dependent on him and not on themselves. He wills to work through and in each of us for his glory. Are you ready to handle the power and authority which God wishes you to exercise on his behalf? The Lord entrusts us with his gifts and talents. Are you eager to place yourself at his service, to do whatever he bids you, and to witness his truth and saving power to whomever he sends you?

Prayer: O God, who for the relief of the poor and the formation of the clergy endowed the Priest Saint Vincent de Paul with apostolic virtues, grant, we pray, that, afire with that same spirit, we may love what he loved and put into practice what he taught. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Contemplation: When people use the phrase “you can’t teach an old dog new tricks” as a crutch to say that they do not have the ability or the capacity to change their lives, they are shortchanging themselves, the power of God, the power of the Holy Spirit, and the transformative words and teachings of Jesus Christ. God's word has power to change and transform our lives. Do you recognize the power and authority which God has entrusted to you as his son or daughter? Jesus gave his apostles both power and authority to speak and to act in his name — to cast out evil spirits, to heal, and to speak the word of God. When Jesus spoke of power and authority he did something unheard of. He wedded power and authority with love and humility. The “world” and the “flesh” seek power for selfish gain. Jesus teaches us to use it for the good of our neighbor.

About Saint Vincent de Paul: Saint Vincent de Paul was a great apostle of charity, and brought a great revival of the priesthood in the 17th century. He was born near Dax in the Landes (France) in 1581. As a young priest he was captured by Moorish pirates who carried him to Africa. He was sold into slavery, but freed in 1607 when he converted his owner. Having returned to France, he became successively a parish priest and chaplain to the galley-slaves. He founded a religious Congregation under the title of Priests of the Mission or Lazarists (now known as Vincentians), and he bound them by a special way to undertake the apostolic work of charity; he sent them to preach missions, especially to the ignorant peasants of that time, and to establish seminaries. In order to help poor girls, invalids, and the insane, sick and unemployed, he and St. Louise de Marillac founded the Congregation of the Daughters of Charity, now better known as the Sisters of St. Vincent. St. Vincent worked tirelessly to help those in need: the impoverished, the sick, the enslaved, the abandoned, the ignored. He died in 1660 at St. Lazarus's house, Paris. His motto: "God sees you."

Thursday September 28 ~ Twenty-Fifth Week in Ordinary Time **St. Wenceslaus, Martyr; St. Lawrence Ruiz and Companions, Martyrs**

Holy Gospel: Luke 9:7-9 Herod the tetrarch heard about all that was happening, and he was greatly perplexed because some were saying, "John has been raised from the dead"; others were saying, "Elijah has appeared"; still others, "One of the ancient prophets has arisen." But Herod said, "John I beheaded. Who then is this about whom I hear such things?" And he kept trying to see him.

Meditation: As you watch the news, read a book, or interact with people, whom do you most admire? People with power, influence, fame or wealth? Scripture warns us of such danger (ref. Proverbs 23:1-2). King Herod had respected and feared John the Baptist as a great prophet and servant of God. John, however did not fear to rebuke Herod for his adulterous affair with his brother's wife. Herod, however, was more of a people pleaser than a God pleaser. Herod not only imprisoned John to silence him, but he also beheaded him simply to please his family and friends. Now when reports of Jesus' miracles and teaching reach Herod's court, Herod becomes very troubled in conscience. He thinks that John the Baptist has risen from the dead! Herod sought to meet Jesus more out of curiosity and fear than out of a sincere desire to know God's wisdom and truth.

Prayer ~ Saint Wenceslaus: O God, who taught the Martyr Saint Wenceslaus to place the heavenly Kingdom before an earthly one, grant through his prayers that, denying ourselves, we may hold fast to you with all our heart. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Prayer ~ Saint Lawrence Ruiz and Companions: Grant us, we pray, Lord God, the same perseverance shown by your Martyrs Saint Lawrence Ruiz and his companions in serving you and their neighbor, since those persecuted for the sake of righteousness are blessed in your Kingdom. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Contemplation: So who is the most influential in your life? And who do you most want to be like? We naturally look up to other people we want to imitate. If we truly want to be like God and to live as his sons and daughters, then it greatly helps us to have models and examples of holy people – Christ-like persons who follow in his footsteps – who show us how to live in the power of God's love and holiness. God's grace frees us from the tyranny of fear and the pressure to please others rather than to please God. Do you allow God's grace to fill you with faith and courage to choose what is good and pleasing to him and to reject whatever would keep you from embracing his love and will for your daily life?

Friday, September 29 ~ Twenty-Fifth Week in Ordinary Time **Feast of Saints Michael, Gabriel and Raphael, Archangels**

Holy Gospel: John 1:47-51 Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward him and said of him, "Here is a true child of Israel. There is no duplicity in him." Nathanael said to him, "How do you know me?" Jesus answered and said to him, "Before Philip called you, I saw you under the fig tree." Nathanael answered him, "Rabbi, you are the Son of God; you are the King of Israel." Jesus answered and said to him, "Do you believe because I told you that I saw you under the fig tree? You will see greater things than this." And he said to him, "Amen, amen, I say to you, you will see heaven opened and the angels of God ascending and descending on the Son of Man."

Meditation: What does Jesus mean when he says "you will see heaven opened, and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of man"? One of the most remarkable revelations recorded in the

bible is the dream of Jacob (Genesis 28:12-17). God had opened a door for Jacob that brought him and his people into a new relationship with the living God. In Jacob's dream God revealed his angelic host and showed him the throne of heaven and promised Jacob that he and descendants would dwell with the living God. Who are the angels and why do they intervene between heaven and earth? The scriptures tell us the angels are God's servants and messengers. "They are the mighty ones who do his word, hearkening to the voice of his word" (Psalm 103:20). The angels belong to Christ and were created for and through him (Colossians 1:16). The Letter to the Hebrews speaks of the role of the angels in God's plan of salvation: "Are they not all ministering spirits sent forth to serve, for the sake of those who are to obtain salvation?" (Hebrews 1:14) The angels are not only messengers but protectors and guardians as well. "For he will give his angels charge of you to guard you in all your ways" (Psalm 91:11). We are not alone in our struggle against sin and evil in the world. The armies of heaven fight for us and with us in the spiritual battle for our hearts, minds, and wills.

Prayer: O God, who dispose in marvelous order ministries both angelic and human, graciously grant that our life on earth may be defended by those who watch over us as they minister perpetually to you in heaven. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Contemplation: Jesus' response to Nathaniel's new faith is the promise that Jesus himself will be the "ladder which unites earth with heaven." Jesus proclaims that he is the fulfillment of the promise made to the Patriarch Jacob and his descendants. Jesus is the true ladder or stairway to heaven. In Jesus' incarnation, the divine Son of God taking on human flesh for our sake, we see the union of heaven and earth – God making his dwelling with us and bringing us into the heavenly reality of his kingdom. Jesus' death on the cross where he defeated sin and won new life for us through his resurrection opens the way for each of us to come into a new relationship with God as his sons and daughters. The Lord Jesus opens the way for each of us to "ascend to heaven" and to bring "heaven to earth" in the daily circumstances of our lives. God's kingdom is present in those who seek him and who do his will. Through the gift of faith God opens a door for each one of us to the heavenly reality of his kingdom. Do you see and believe the heavenly reality with the "eyes of faith?"

About this Feast and the Archangels: The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* teaches us that, "[T]he existence of the spiritual, non-corporeal beings that Sacred Scripture usually calls "angels" is a truth of faith. The witness of Scripture is as clear as the unanimity of Tradition." Angels are pure, created spirits. The name "angel" means "servant" or "messenger of God." Angels are celestial or heavenly beings, on a higher order than human beings. Angels have no bodies and do not depend on matter for their existence or activity. They are distinct from saints, which humans can become. Angels have intellect and will, and are immortal. They are a vast multitude, but each is an individual person. Archangels are one of the nine choirs of angels listed in the Bible. In ascending order, the choirs or classes are 1) Angels, 2) Archangels, 3) Principalities, 4) Powers, 5) Virtues, 6) Dominations, 7) Thrones, 8) Cherubim, and 9) Seraphim. 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 combating 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. **Archangel 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. The angel's salutation to our Lady, so simple and yet so full of meaning, Hail Mary, full of grace, has become the constant and familiar prayer of all Christian people. 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*.

Scripture passages (NAB translation) courtesy of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops;
prayers are from *The Roman Missal*, Catholic Book Publishing, 2011;
information about saints, solemnities, feasts and memorials courtesy of the Catholic Culture web site.

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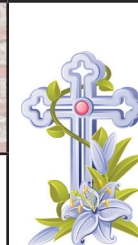
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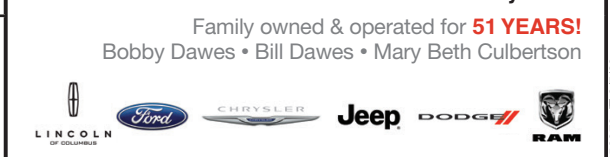


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