

Reasons to Believe in God and in the Holy Catholic Church He Set Up (by Fr. Michael)

More and more people are coming to me wondering if God exists and if the Catholic religion is just a “fairy tale” to make us feel good.

If someone came to you today and asked you why you believe that God exists and why you believe the Catholic Church was set up by Christ, what would you say?

God does exist and He did set up a religion to worship Him. Here are eight reasons to believe that God exists (in no particular order) and a few final comments about our Catholic religion.

1. Creation. I know that God exists because of creation. Some Supreme Being had to create us and everything around us. **Romans 1:19-20** states: “For what can be known about God is evident to them, because God made it evident to them. Ever since the creation of the world, his invisible attributes of eternal power and divinity have been able to be understood and perceived in what He has made. As a result, they have no excuse.”

Some people try to explain away the universe by the “big bang theory.” It is just a theory. However, if the universe was created through a big bang, Someone had to cause the big bang; we call God the First Cause.

2. The gift of faith. I know that God exists because of the gift of faith and the consolation I receive by following His “rules.” In **John 14:15**, Jesus says, “If you love Me, you will keep My commandments.” I notice that when I have a intimate relationship with God and try to keep His commandments, I am full of joy. When I follow the teaching of the Bible, I have peace. As a matter of fact, I feel like what Paul said in **Galatians 5:22-23**: “[T]he fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control.”

3. Eucharistic miracles. I believe God exists because of Eucharistic miracles. Here are two examples. In September 2013, I went to Santarem, Portugal, and saw a Eucharistic miracle from the year 1266. There is a Host (Jesus) that has not corrupted at all since that year. The staff at the church where the miracle is on display told us the Host was tested around 2003 and the results were that the Host was still bleeding.

During Mass in Boxmeer, Holland, in the year 1400, the wine in the chalice was transformed into Blood and bubbled out of the chalice, splashing onto the corporal. The priest, terrified at the sight, asked God to forgive

his doubts, and the Blood immediately stopped bubbling out of the chalice. That Blood that had fallen onto the corporal coagulated into a lump the size of a walnut. Even today one could go to Holland and see the miracle, which has not changed

When scientists test many of these Host miracles, they find that the Host is heart tissue. For me, this shows that Jesus is trying to love us with His heart when we receive Him in Holy Communion.

To see more examples of Eucharistic miracles, visit: http://www.therealpresence.org/eucharst/mir/engl_mir.htm

4. Incorrupt bodies. I believe that God exists because of incorrupt bodies; we call them incorruptibles. God performs miracles in keeping them from decaying all the way. Some are partially corrupt.

In September 2013 while I was on pilgrimage through Portugal, Spain, and France, I saw the incorrupt bodies of St. Catherine Laboure (d. 1876) and St. Bernadette Soubirous (d. 1879)—both dead for well over 100 years.

If you do a Google search on “incorruptibles,” you will find page after page. One practical Youtube video is: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cygNDLJx_aw

5. Present miracles/healings. I know that God exists because of the current miracles that I get to see. On May 15, 2013, I was concelebrating at a Healing Mass in Cincinnati, OH, at the Holy Spirit Center. There were about 150 people in attendance. One person in attendance was my former Air Force R.O.T.C. cadet Jennifer. I asked her and her husband to come. To be succinct, she was healed that night of a vocal cord problem, an eyesight problem, and serious complications from a concussion. She was singing the final praise song that night (after three hours of Mass and Eucharistic Adoration), and her voice came back. She thought that God may have healed her, so she stopped taking her daily medication for the concussion. She has been fine and med-free ever since.

I have seen a number of people get healed from additions to pornography and masturbation. All of them were healed after they were in right relationship with God—attending Mass, frequent Confession, and praying the Angelic Warfare Confraternity Prayer. Also, they did other prayers.

There are many miracles/healings at Lourdes, France. There are almost 7,000 healings that have been documented there, but the Church—being careful—will always be slow to approve them. Please visit: http://www.miraclehunter.com/marian_apparitions/approved_apparitions/lourdes/miracles1.html

6. Exorcisms. I know that God exists because of the reaction of demons when they are exposed to God and His saints and holy objects. If you speak to an exorcist, he will tell you about what happens during an exorcism. The demons react to many things: the Eucharist; the Word of God (Bible passages); blessed water, crucifixes, incense, bells, rosaries; relics of saints; certain prayers in Latin (considered a sacred language); and other prayers (Rosary, Litany of the Saints, Litany of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, etc.) A few ways to tell if someone is influenced strongly by a demon is that he/she can speak a language he/she never studied and/or the person has superhuman strength. There are people who fake a possession, but there are ways to discover who is faking and who is not. Visit: <http://www.ncregister.com/daily-news/help-for-exorcists-how-a-new-york-psychiatrist-battles-demons>

7. Saints willing to give their lives for Christ. I know God exists because of the countless number of people who have defended Jesus Christ and were martyred because of doing so. We just celebrated the Solemnity of Saints Peter and Paul on June 29. St. Paul was beheaded and St. Peter was crucified upside-down. As a matter of fact, 11 of 12 of the Apostles were martyred.

Reports are coming in saying that over 900,000 Christians were martyred for their faith in 2016.

St. Bernadette Soubirous [1844-1879] died of serious physical complications at age 35. The Blessed Virgin Mary appeared to her 18 times at Lourdes (Feast Day, Feb. 11), and she was never afraid to defend her story. St. Bernadette was taken in by the local police and questioned many times. She never worried or flinched. One time, the police commissioner Jacomet insisted, "No, you're not speaking the truth. If you don't tell me who it was who forced you to tell this story, I'll prosecute you as a liar." Bernadette replied, "Do as you wish, sir." He said, "Get ready to go to prison." She calmly replied, "So much the better! I shall cost my father less, and in prison you'll come and teach me my Catechism." She was always ready to die for God and Mary. She was in excruciating pain at her death, and even ridiculed by her mother superior.

8. The tilma of St. Juan Diego. Recall that the Blessed Virgin Mary appeared several times to Juan Diego at Tepeyac in Mexico in December 1531. Eventually the image of the Blessed Virgin appeared on his tilma (cape). Here are just a few miraculous facts.

(a) The image has lasted and shows no signs of deterioration. Juan Diego's tilma is made of a rough cactus fiber which normally disintegrates in 15 to 30 years. Yet, the image of Guadalupe has remained

intact for almost 500 years without fading or cracking. Moreover, it was subjected to candle smoke for many years, which should have accelerated the process of deterioration. In 1778, a worker accidentally spilled strong nitric acid onto a large portion of the image. To everyone's astonishment, only slight stains appeared which can still be seen in the upper right side.

Additionally, in 1921 a bomb concealed in some flowers was placed directly under the image. When the bomb detonated, the marble altar rail and windows 150 feet away were shattered, a brass crucifix was twisted out of shape, but the image was left unharmed.

(b) The image is always 98.6°F, the temperature of the human body. No matter what the surrounding temperature, season, or weather, the image remains at an even 98.6°F.

(c) Using enlarged photos, several images can be seen reflected in the eyes of the Virgin. They appear to be the images of Juan Diego, Bishop Juan de Zumarraga, Juan Gonzales, the interpreter and others.

(d) Within a few years of the image appearing on the tilma, over six million Aztecs converted.

To get more miraculous facts, visit: <https://www.catholiceducation.org/en/culture/catholic-contributions/the-amazing-truth-of-our-lady-of-guadalupe.html>

To end, let's just say that these are just a few things that point to the existence of God. There are countless other examples we could use. Also, we could have added many real stories about the Mass and the sacraments. If people were intellectually honest, they would study the early Church Fathers and see what they wrote. As one example, St. Justine the Martyr wrote about what Mass looked like in 155 A.D. It looks almost exactly like what you see today. So many Church Fathers and Mothers talked about the Real Presence of Jesus in the Eucharist. Please visit:

<http://www.therealpresence.org/eucharst/tes/a7.html>

When people are struggling to believe in God or His Catholic Church, all of us need to be able to give reasons for our faith. Let's end with **1 Peter 3:14-16**: *But even if you should suffer because of righteousness, blessed are you. Do not be afraid or terrified with fear of them, but sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts. Always be ready to give an explanation to anyone who asks you for a reason for your hope, but do it with gentleness and reverence, keeping your conscience clear, so that, when you are maligned, those who defame your good conduct in Christ may themselves be put to shame.*

Good Website to Study Your Faith:
<https://www.scripturecatholic.com/>

July 4th Masses: Praise God for Our Freedoms

Time is a gift. Freedom to worship is a gift. We invite you to come to Mass on Wednesday, July 4th, and thank God for His gift of time and the freedom He has given to us in America. Masses followed by the Patriotic Rosary:

- St. Peter**, 8:30 a.m.;
- Our Lady of the Snow**, 9:30 a.m.
- St. Bernard**, 9:30 a.m.

First Saturday Devotion, July 7, at Our Lady

Our Lady at Fatima requested that we go to Mass, Confession, recite the Rosary, and meditate on it for 15 minutes for five consecutive first Saturdays of the month. You have a chance to respect her request this coming Saturday at Our Lady of the Snow.

Rosary, 9:30 a.m. followed by meditation, then Confession. Mass, 11 a.m.

Upcoming Church Celebrations

- July 26**, Thurs, St. Anne: Mass at 5 p.m.; then dinner
- August 5**, Sun, Our Lady of the Snow. Mass as usual at 9:30 a.m. with the Musicians of St. Clare, followed by a potluck meal outside or in the basement.

Sports-Bible Camp; July 19-20

- Days: Thursday-Friday
- Time: 8:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.
- Where: Fraser Valley Sports Complex.
- For boys and girls: kindergarten completed through 6th grade completed.
- Typical sports: volleyball (this is a real sport; everything else is just a game), basketball, soccer, martial arts.
- No cost.

Second Collections at St. Bernard and Our Lady of the Snow This Summer Until Labor Day Weekend

These collections are for improvements and repairs. We will get brand new carpet at both churches. The carpet is worn out and we will go with carpet squares. The carpet at OLS is bubbling up in a few places; also, more and more stains are appearing. The carpet at OLS is 18 years old; at StB, probably over 25.

At StB, it looks like we have an outdoor underground pipe that is leaking. We are looking at ways to fix the problem and replace the old pipe. This will be costly.

By the way, St. Anne will not have second collections this summer because she has already collected over \$11,000 via the garage sale and coupon money for plants and trees coming through the mail.

Pregnancy Resource Connection (PRC) Open House

- When: Saturday, July 14 from 3-6 p.m.
- New Location: 3 Ten Mile Road in Granby
- Food: The grill will be going and there will be fun for the entire family
- Check it out: Over 100 motorcyclists from the Christian Motorcyclist Association will be driving by at 3 p.m.

Life and Legacy Golf Tournament

- When: Friday, July 20
- Where: Grand Elk Golf Course, Granby
- Time: 7:30 a.m. breakfast, 8 a.m. registration, 9 a.m. tee-off.
- Registration: \$135/golfer; \$500/team
PRC: 979-887-3617
- Proceeds: Pregnancy Resource Connection and WPCS

Calendar of Events

- Jul 7 (Sat)**. First Saturday Mass at OLS, 11 a.m.
- Jul 19-20 (Thu-Fri)**. Sports-Bible Camp in Fraser
- Jul 26 (Thu)**. Celebration of Saints Joachim and Anne: Mass at St. Anne at 5 p.m. followed by potluck dinner
- Aug 5 (Sun)**. Celebration of OLS. Mass at 9:30 a.m. followed by a potluck meal

Mass Collections, June 23 – 24

St. Anne	\$ 2464
St. Bernard	3327
Our Lady of the Snow	2529
St. Peter	538
St. Ignatius	682
Total	\$ 9540

Vocations Prayer Calendar

Please pray for our seminarians every day.

- Sat**—Jacob Machado & Ryan Mack
- Sun**—Thomas Gonzaga & Davide Milani
- Mon**—Zachary Michalczyk & Anthony Phan
- Tue**—Michael Tran & Vincent Mukalazi
- Wed**—Paolo Mori & Daniel Pereira
- Thu**—Michael Pitio & Jhan Pierre Sainea
- Fri**—Men and women applying for formation

Mass Intentions and Schedule for StA, StB, and OLS

KEY: StA = St. Anne; StB = St. Bernard;
OLS = Our Lady of the Snow

- Sat, Jun 30, StA, 5 p.m., People in our region & visitors
- Sat, Jun 30, StB, 5:30 p.m., Robert and Janice Boynton
- Sun, Jul 1, StB, 7 a.m., Keith and Debbie Morrison Fam.
- Sun, Jul 1, OLS, 9:30 a.m., Margaret Ledezma
- Sun, Jul 1, StA, noon, +Mary Elizabeth Hensley

Weekday Masses

- Mon, Jul 2, StA, 8:30 a.m., Kaitlyn Kullman
- Tue, Jul 3, OLS, 7:30 a.m., Elsie Kullman
- Wed, Jul 4, **StB**, 9:30 a.m., Keith/Debbie Morrison Fam.
- Wed, Jul 4, **OLS**, 9:30 a.m., +Jim Dice
- Thu**, Jul 5, **OLS**, 8:30 a.m., Samuel Kullman
- Thu**, Jul 5, **StA**, 8:30 a.m., Peter and Kathleen Brownell
- Fri**, Jul 6, **OLS**, 8:30 a.m., Kevin and Mary Kelly

Mass Intentions and Schedule for StP and StI

KEY: StP = St. Peter; StI = St. Ignatius (Walden)

- Sun, Jul 1, StP, 10 a.m., Elizabeth Kullman
- Sun, Jul 1, StI, 1 p.m., People in our region and visitors
- Wed**, Jul 4, **StP**, 8:30 a.m., Mark and Debbie Goulette