

Angel Weekend!

September 29 was the Feast Day for the Archangels. October 2 is the Memorial Day for the Guardian Angels. So the first two pages of this bulletin contain some information about the angels so that we can praise God for them and incorporate them into our prayer life. God gave them to us to help us. Let's not neglect them.

Quick note: Do not try to name your Guardian Angel. God has already named the angels. We do not have authority to name them.

There are numerous passages in the Bible that speak about angels. Here are just three of them to get us started. First, in the book of **Exodus 23:20-22**, God promised Moses the protection of an angel in the wilderness, saying: "See, I am sending an angel before you, to guard you on the way and bring you to the place I have prepared. Be attentive to him and obey him. Do not rebel against him, for he will not forgive your sin. My authority is within him. If you obey him and carry out all I tell you, I will be an enemy to your enemies and a foe to your foes." Secondly, St. Paul frequently refers to angels in his epistles. In **Acts 27:23-24**, when threatened with shipwreck, St. Paul encouraged his fellow travelers with they would not perish. He said, "For last night an angel of the God to whom I belong and whom I serve stood by me and said, 'Do not be afraid, Paul... God has granted safety to all who are sailing with you.' Therefore, keep up your courage, men; I trust in God that it will turn out as I have been told." Finally, in **Matthew 18:10**, Jesus said, "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." [This passage is one proof-text for the existence of Guardian Angels.]

The angels, the first creatures of the universe, bear the greatest resemblance to God. The Lord bestowed on them marvelous gifts of nature and grace: wisdom, power, beauty, holiness. They were given sanctifying grace, and the virtues of faith, hope, and charity, and the gifts of the Holy Spirit. Just like man, the angels had to undergo a period of probation during which they were free to choose between good and evil. They were not yet confirmed in grace, and they did not enjoy the Beatific Vision during this time. We do not know how long this probation period was. Divine grace perfects nature according to the proper mode of that nature, and therefore the probation period was probably much shorter than Adam and Eve. Also, during the probation period, the angels had a chance to merit—to be rewarded for their works. The first act of love of God elicited by an angel is a final choice; he will love God forever. On the other hand, the angel who sins will sin forever. He is lost.

The study of angels (angelology) is a science, but not an empirical science. It uses a scientific method of gathering data and formulating theories to explain the data. The data about angels comes from (1) Biblical accounts and (2) human accounts of meeting angels. Accepting the Biblical accounts as data requires faith. Accepting thousands of human stories about encounters with angels requires trust in the persons explaining their experiences.

From the Bible and from people, we see that angels are (1) creatures of God, (2) bodiless spirits, (3) with intelligence and will, (4) who live in God's presence in heaven, (5) obey His will, (6) carry His messages, (7) assume bodies as we assume costumes, (8) influence our imagination but not our will, and (9) move material things supernaturally sometimes.

There are many people today who do not believe that God has sent us Guardian Angels and other angels to help us because of the philosophy of naturalism in our culture. Naturalism denies the supernatural: "If I cannot see it, I don't believe it exists."

Some duties of our Guardian Angels are:

1. They preserve us from many unknown dangers to soul and body.
2. They defend us against the temptations of evil spirits.
3. They inspire us with holy thoughts and prompt us to deeds of virtue in serving God.
4. They warn us of spiritual dangers and admonish us when we have sinned.
5. They unite with us in prayer and offer our prayers to God.
6. They defend us at the hour of death against the last attacks of evil spirits.
7. They console the souls suffering in Purgatory and lead them to Heaven when their faults have been fully expiated.

The rest of this summary has paragraphs from St. Faustina's *Diary*. We can learn a lot just from a few paragraphs. [I put the brief summary phrase or clause at the beginning of each paragraph, and underlined the key points.]

20. [Purgatory; Guardian Angel at St. Faustina's side.] I saw my Guardian Angel, who ordered me to follow him. In a moment I was in a misty place full of fire in which there was a great crowd of suffering souls. They were praying fervently, but to no avail, for themselves; only we can come to their aid. The flames which were burning them did not touch me at all. My Guardian Angel did not leave me for an instant. I asked these souls what their greatest suffering was. They answered me in one voice that their greatest torment was longing for God. I saw Our Lady visiting the souls in Purgatory. The souls call her "The Star of the Sea."

She brings them refreshment. I wanted to talk with them some more, but my Guardian Angel beckoned me to leave. We went out of that prison of suffering. I heard an interior voice which said, **My mercy does not want this, but justice demands it**. Since that time, I am in closer communion with the suffering souls.

314. [Guardian Angel tells St. Faustina to pray for the dying.] +When I went to the garden one afternoon, my Guardian Angel said to me, “Pray for the dying.” And so I began at once to pray the rosary with the gardeners for the dying. After the rosary, we said various prayers for the dying. After the prayers, the wards began to chat gayly among themselves. In spite of the noise they were making, I heard these words in my soul: “Pray for me!” But as I could not understand these words very well, I moved a few steps away from the wards, trying to think who it could be who was asking me to pray. Then I heard the words: “I am Sister” This sister was in Warsaw while I was, at the time, in Vilnius. “Pray for me until I tell you to stop. I am dying.” Immediately, I began to pray fervently for her, [addressing myself] to the expiring Heart of Jesus. She gave me no respite, and I kept praying from three [o’clock] until five. At five, I heard the words: “Thank you!” and I understood that she had died. But during Holy Mass on the following day, I continued to pray fervently for her soul. In the afternoon, a postcard came saying that Sister ... had died at such and such a time. I understood that it was at the same hour when she had said to me, “Pray for me.”

412. [St. Faustina prayed to her Guardian Angel when threatened by Satan.] But towards evening I felt very exhausted and could not make my Holy Hour, so I asked Mother Superior to allow me to go to bed early. I fell asleep as soon as I lay down, but at about eleven o’clock Satan shook my bed. I awoke instantly, and I started to pray peacefully to my Guardian Angel. Then I saw the souls who were doing penance in Purgatory. They appeared like shadows, and among them I saw many demons. One of these tried to vex me; taking the form of a cat, he kept throwing himself onto my bed and on my feet, and he was quite heavy, as if [weighing] a ton. I kept praying the rosary all the while, and toward dawn these beings vanished, and I was able to get some sleep. When I entered the chapel in the morning I heard a voice in my soul, **You are united to Me; fear nothing. But know, my child, that Satan hates you; he hates every soul, but he burns with a particular hatred for you, because you have snatched so many souls from his dominion.**

490. [Guardian Angel—presence and prayer.] The next morning, I saw my Guardian Angel, who

accompanied me throughout the journey as far as Warsaw. He disappeared when we entered the convent gate. Just as we were passing the little chapel on the way to greet the superiors, God’s presence took hold of me and the Lord filled me with the fire of His love. At such moments, I always have a better understanding of the greatness of His majesty. When we took our seats on the train from Warsaw to Cracow, I once again saw my Guardian Angel at my side. He was absorbed in prayer and in contemplating God, and I followed him with my thoughts. When arrived at the convent entrance, he disappeared.

630. [Angels guarding churches.] Then I saw one of the seven spirits near me, radiant as at other times, under a form of light. I constantly saw him beside me when I was riding on the train. I saw an angel standing on every church we passed, but surrounded by a light which was paler than that of the spirit who was accompanying me on the journey, and each of these spirits who were guarding the churches bowed his head to the spirit who was near me. When I entered the convent gate at Warsaw, the spirit disappeared. I thanked God for His goodness, that He gives us angels for companions. Oh, how little people reflect on the fact that they always have beside them such a guest, and at the same time a witness to everything! Remember, sinners, that you likewise have a witness to all your deeds.

706. [St. Michael assists St. Faustina.] On the Feast of Saint Michael the Archangel, I saw by my side that great Leader, who spoke these words to me: “The Lord has ordered me to take special care of you. Know that you are hated by evil; but do not fear—‘Who is like God!’” And he disappeared. But I feel his presence and assistance.

1565. [Guardian Angel tries to guard a dying man. Waiting on prayers from us.] When I entered the chapel for a moment, the Lord said to me, **My daughter, help Me to save a certain dying sinner. Say the chaplet that I have taught you for him**. When I began to say the chaplet, I saw the man dying in the midst of terrible torment and struggle. His Guardian Angel was defending him, but he was, as it were, powerless against the enormity of the soul’s misery. A multitude of devils was waiting for the soul. But while I was saying the chaplet, I saw Jesus just as He is depicted in the image. The rays which issued from Jesus’ Heart enveloped the sick man, and the powers of darkness fled in panic. The sick man peacefully breathed his last. When I came to myself, I understood how very important the chaplet was for the dying. It appeases the anger of God.

First Saturday (Oct 6) at OLS: Confession, 8:45 a.m.;
Mass, 9:30 a.m., followed by Rosary and Meditation

We Thought About You and Prayed for You!

Most of you know that a few of us went to Fatima, Portugal to the Shrine for a Pilgrimage Retreat. Here is the Novena we prayed for you:

(September 18-26, 2018) **We begin by asking the following to pray with us and for us:**

a) St. Michael, St. Joseph, Angel of Portugal (Peace), St. Jacinta, St. Francisco, Servant of God Lucia, and our patron saints.

b) The saints whose names are used for our churches in the U.S. _____, and this church _____.

c) Holy Souls (those in Heaven or in Purgatory) (1) who received any sacraments at this altar and our churches back in the U.S., (2) who had their funeral Masses at our churches, (3) whose names were used as Confirmation names at our churches, (4) from our family trees, and (5) who witnessed the miracle of the sun on October 13, 1917.

d) Our Guardian Angels and the Angels that guard our U.S. churches, altars, and territories, and this Portuguese church, altar, and territory.

[Daily Prayer:] Most Holy Virgin, you appeared at Fatima and revealed, to the three little shepherds, the treasures of graces hidden in the reciting of the Rosary. Inspire our hearts with a sincere love of this devotion, so that by meditating on the mysteries of our redemption, we may gather its fruits and obtain the conversion of sinners, and the conversion of non-believers throughout the world.

O Holy Mary, I also ask for the favor that I now so earnestly seek...**(1. Your special request. 2. The conversion of all living members in our family trees/parish boundaries, and the repose of those who have died from our family trees/parish boundaries.)**

O Mary, may that which I ask in this novena, be for the greater glory of God, for your own honor, and for the good of all people. Amen.

Our Father (3x), Hail Mary (3x), Glory Be (3x)

Imitation of Christ

Next weekend we will promote the classic book, *Imitation of Christ*. We will ask for a five-dollar donation. **Read→Think→Love.** We read so that we can think, and we think so that we can love (God and neighbor). If we don't study, our faith and prayer life decline. Fire up your intellect (brain) and will (heart) while you have them!

2018 Public Square Rosary Crusade

God wants you! Our nation is in great need of public prayer, repentance, and conversion. We ask God to save America by the powerful Rosary intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

Demonstrate your love for God through your actions. Walk and pray in front of Planned Parenthood in Granby on October 13 at noon. Please contact Larry Poehler at 970-699-2685 for more information.

MTYR is being a **Joyful Authentic Witness!** This initiative is for everyone who is a follower of Jesus Christ. As we continue to move through our community invoking curiosity in what we have in Christ, we are promoting the kingdom. Through faith, hope and charity which the Holy Spirit diffuses in the hearts of all His Church, we are His **Joyful Authentic Witnesses.** God has equipped you already. Through our real life interaction with others we have the ability to display **Kindness Joy Patience!** **You are MORE THAN YOU REALIZE. God is calling you to be MTYR!**

Saint Bernard Church will offer coffee, donuts and juice after 7 am Mass on October 14 and November 11.

Calendar of Events

- Oct 6-7 (Sat-Sun).** Promote *Imitation of Christ*
- Oct 13 (Sat).** Rosary in front of Planned Parenthood
- Oct 13-14 (Sat-Sun).** Promote the Bible. Bibles to be sold at all Masses, including children's bibles.
- Oct 14 (Sun).** StB, coffee and doughnuts after Mass
- Nov 1 (Thu).** All Saints Day—Holy Day of Obligation
- Nov 2 (Fri).** All Souls Day. Begin Novena.

Mass Collections, September 22 – 23

St. Anne	\$ 1964
St. Bernard	1431
Our Lady of the Snow	1892
St. Peter	637
St. Ignatius	<u>505</u>
Total	\$ 6429

Vocations Prayer Calendar

Please pray for our seminarians every day.

- Sat**—Patrick DiLoreto & Micah Flores
- Sun**—Kevin Kasel & Miguel Mendoza
- Mon**—Clayton Milla & Samuel Munson
- Tue**—Manuel Alarcon & Sile Kone
- Wed**—Carlos Mejia & R.D. Braz
- Thu**—Holy Vocations to marriage
- Fri**—Increase in vocations to priesthood/religious life

Mass Intentions and Schedule for StA, StB, and OLS

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

- Sat, Sep 29, StA, 5 p.m., Jeremy Seabaugh
- Sun, Sep 30, StB, 7 a.m., +John Timothy Murphy
- Sun, Sep 30, OLS, 9:30 a.m., People in our region/visitors

Weekday Masses

- Mon, Oct 1, StA, 8:30 a.m., Mary Wells
- Tue, Oct 2, OLS, 7:30 a.m., +Sue Jeffery
- Wed, Oct 3, StB, 8:30 a.m., Mark Prather
- Thu, Oct 4, OLS, 8:30 a.m., Barry/Aimee Kroneberger
- Fri, Oct 5, OLS, 8:30 a.m., Patrick and Lisa Hayes

Mass Intentions and Schedule for StP and StI

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

- Sun, Sep 30, StP, 10 a.m., Christopher and Heidi Kullman
- Sun, Sep 30, StI, 1 p.m., People in our region/visitors