

# St. Michael

## Patron Saint of the Archdiocese of Toronto



St. Michael is the patron Saint of our Archdiocese, and of several of its central institutions. After the death of Michael Power, our heroic first bishop, St. Michael Cathedral was dedicated on the feast of St. Michael, 29 September 1848. It is fitting, that we celebrate our heavenly patron, St. Michael the Archangel, and that we ask for his intercession.

We hear about St. Michael in the Bible, especially in the Book of Daniel and in the Book of Revelation, which remind us that the personal struggles that each of us confronts during our brief passage through this earthly life, and the challenges that the Church itself confronts, are all set within the majestic perspective of the triumph of good over evil that is made clear in Revelation 12, and that is reflected as well in Ephesians 6. God calls on each of us to engage courageously in a battle against evil.

At the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, Pope Leo XIII introduced a special prayer to St. Michael:

“ST. MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL, DEFEND US IN BATTLE. BE OUR DEFENSE AGAINST THE WICKEDNESS AND SNARES OF THE DEVIL . . . .”

Everyone should recite it to obtain help in the battle against the forces of darkness and against the spirit of this world. Pope Francis has also recommended this prayer.

The Prayer to St. Michael is deeply rooted in the Word of God and in the living faith tradition of the Church. Each of us can so easily become caught up in the illusions of our rich and individualistic society, but the Prayer to St. Michael reminds us of the stark seriousness of the daily battle against evil in all its forms. It is a bluntly realistic prayer in its recognition of the harsh fact of evil, something from which we can all tend to avert our gaze. More than that, however, it is a joyfully confident expression of serene trust in the power of God. That is the source of our joyful hope; it is the divine energy that derives the evangelization of this world.

Some of the terms found in the traditional prayer to St. Michael might be unfamiliar to some people. The following reflections on the biblical and spiritual background to the prayer may help.

### *St. Michael the Archangel, defend us in battle.*

One of our great Christian spiritual classics, the “*Spiritual Combat*” by Lorenzo Scupoli, reminds us of the struggle that we frail children of God experience in our quest for holiness. As G.K. Chesterton once observed, life is a journey, and a puzzle, but also a battle. We are to imitate Christ in daily life, and to love with the love of God on earth. We are to be like God. The very name “MICHAEL” means “*who is like God.*” We call out to St. Michael the Archangel, to help us to be like God in our daily love of neighbor, and to defend us in this day of battle against all that is not of God.

### *Be our protection against the wickedness and snares of the Devil.*

We should not make “the devil made me do it” an excuse for our sins; Satan tempts, but does not compel. God has granted free will to each of us, and constantly guides and sustains us in the exercise of our free will not only directly, but also indirectly through His saints, like St. Michael. But we are vulnerable to the snares of temptation. Each of us should reflect on the account in Genesis 3 of the tempting of Adam and Eve. That biblical passage reveals a common pattern of human folly and pride. It is a mirror in which, if we are honest, we can see ourselves. An inflated ego can mislead anyone, and we can easily fall to the snares of temptation.

Christian tradition identifies three basic sources of temptation: the world, the flesh and the devil. The world, the environment in which we live, which is scarcely conducive to a life of virtue, can ensnare us in temptation. Temptations can also come from within, from the flesh, and it is helpful to examine our consciences daily using the categories of the seven deadly sins, which are really facets of the temptations of the flesh: pride, anger, envy, greed, laziness, lust and gluttony. And, finally, we can be tempted by the devil, the fallen angel of temptation. Read MATTHEW 4:1-11 for the description of the temptation of Jesus in the desert. To recognize the Satanic dimensions of evil is part of our Faith, and anyone who has experienced the resilient reality of evil in this world will not ignore it. We should not over-emphasize or dramatize this fact of reality, or constantly dwell upon it; but if we ignore it, we do so at our own peril. We can so easily be naïve, and fail to recognize the cosmic context of the earthly struggle against evil.

### *May God rebuke him, we humbly pray,*

In all our struggles we totally depend on the action of God. In Revelation 12, which is the main scriptural source for the Prayer of St. Michael, the vision of God’s protection of the Church encourages the disciples of the Lord in times of struggle on earth. We also call to mind the words of Jesus in Matthew 4:10 “Begone, Satan! For it is written, ‘You shall worship the Lord, your God, and him only shall you serve.’”

*And do thou, O Prince of the heavenly hosts, by the power of God, thrust into hell Satan, and all the evil spirits, who prowl about the world seeking the ruin of soul. Amen.*

All is done by the power of God. We simply ask St. Michael to be our protector, acting by the power of God, recalling the words of the 1<sup>st</sup> Letter of Peter, which along with Revelation 12 is a scriptural foundation for the Prayer to St. Michael:

“Humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that in due time he may exalt you. Cast all your anxieties on him, for he cares about you. Be sober, be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. Resist him, firm in your faith.”  
(1 Peter 5: 6-9)

Joyfully, confidently, and serenely trusting in God, we nonetheless always need to be vigilant in battling against every form of evil, and we ask St. Michael to come to our aid in that battle.



# Focus on the Word

## The Transfiguration of the Lord

Daniel 7.9-1-14; Peter 1.16-19; Matthew 17.1-9

*O God, who in the glorious Transfiguration of your Only Begotten Son confirmed the mysteries of faith by the witness of the Fathers and wonderfully prefigured our full adoption to sonship, grant we pray, to your servants, that, listening to the voice of your beloved Son, we may merit to become co-heirs with him. Amen.*

## Parish Week † Sunday, 6 August 2023

**Sat., 5 Aug. / Dedication of the Basilica of St. Mary Major;**  
- also **Blessed Frederic Jansoone**

■ *Fr. Elias Chachati, birthday (1955)*

8.00 am Mass: † Ramon Umali (family)  
5.00 pm Mass: Int. Thanksgiving Birthday (Fr. Elias Chachati)

### SUNDAY, 6 AUG. / TRANSFIGURATION OF THE LORD

■ *Homilist: Deacon Ramon Villardo*

9.00 am Mass: † Lydia Marquez (family)  
10.30 am Mass: Int. Fr. Elias Birthday (CWL)  
12.00 pm Mass: Int. Thanksgiving (Dominic & Anita)  
7.00 pm Mass: Pro Populo

### Monday 7 Aug. / St. Sixtus II, pope, & Companions, martyrs

8.00 am Mass: Int. Thanksgiving (Leena D'Souza)  
7.00 pm Mass: † Barbara Gacusana (Mom, Evelyn)  
7.40 pm Infant Baptism Parent/Godparent meeting

### Tuesday, 8 Aug. / St. Dominic, priest

8.00 am Mass: † Corrado Vindigni (Carmelo & Edna)

### Wed., 9 Aug. / St. Teresa Benedicta of the Cross, virgin & martyr

8.00 am Mass: † Catalina Mirafior (Corine Maulion)

### Thursday, 10 Aug. / St. Lawrence, deacon & martyr

8.00 am Mass: † Grantham Visser (Erma Fernando)

### Friday, 11 Aug. / St. Clare of Assisi, virgin

8.00 am Mass: † Trevor De Silva (wife)

### Saturday, 12 Aug. / St. Jane Frances de Chantal, religious

8.00 am Mass: † Caroline Bastiampillai (family)  
5.00 pm Mass: † Lalita D'Souza (Joseph)

### SUNDAY, 13 AUG. / 19-A

■ *Homilist: Fr. Edwin Galea*

■ *2<sup>nd</sup> Collection: Canadian Missions*

9.00 am Mass: † Domingo Garcia (Emilio Go & family)  
10.30 am Mass: † Ana Madrero (family)  
12.00 pm Mass: † Betty (Deborah Paciej)  
7.00 pm Mass: Pro Populo



## Liturgy Notes

### Feast of the Transfiguration: 6 August

Parishioners may be interested to know that this year, a major liturgical feast falls on Sunday, 6 August: the Feast of the *Transfiguration of the Lord*. This Feast takes precedence over the sequential Ordinary Time Sunday. Our liturgical ministers, and especially our Lectors, should note that it is not the "18<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time." Please prepare for the correct Readings.

## Family Fun Night 19 August, 6-10 pm

Our Parish Ministries are holding a FAMILY FUN NIGHT, Saturday, 19 August, 6-10 pm. This is a fundraiser for our Parish *ShareLife* Appeal, with Karaoke, Bingo, Door Prizes, Line Dancing and a 50/50 draw. Tickets are limited, and include a meal. Pick up yours at the FUN NIGHT table in the Vestibule after any Sunday Mass.

For more details, call: **Peter**, 647-679-9649, 10 am-9 pm.

## Parish Bazaar Quilt Raffle Winner

*Reminder:* At our Annual Bazaar on 23 July, a *Quilt Raffle* was held. The winning number is: **0682310**. *Congratulations!* Please call **Lillian** to claim the quilt: 647-909-6425.

## World Youth Day 2023 1-6 August

Parishioners are asked to remember in their prayers the Youth from Canada and around the world who are concluding their participation in the WORLD YOUTH DAY events in Lisbon, Portugal, 1-6 August.

## Catholic Cemetery Masses 7.00 pm, 16 August



The annual CATHOLIC CEMETERY MASSES in our diocese this year will be held at 7.00 pm on Wednesday, 16 August. The celebrants at the closest cemeteries to us will be:

**CHRIST THE KING, Markham: Bishop Vincent Nguyen**  
**HOLY CROSS, Thornhill: Bishop John A. Boissonneau**

## COMING UP

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15 Aug. *Feast of the Assumption of Mary (Masses at 8 am & 7 pm)*  
16 Aug. Annual CATHOLIC CEMETERY Masses (7 pm)  
19 Aug. FAMILY FUN NIGHT (6-10 pm)  
25 Aug. Wedding: Grisales – D'Souza (10:30 am)  
26 Aug. Wedding: Kranz – Lago (2:00 pm)

# Christians in India Suffer More Than Two Attacks a Day

*In the first half of 2023, 400 episodes of raw violence against the Church have taken place.*

(AID TO THE CHURCH IN NEED / Manipur, 07.27.2023)

Violence in Manipur, India has been going on for more than two months, and has resulted in the loss of hundreds of Churches and many lives. Added to this reality are 400 violent incidents against Christians in 23 states of India. The state that has experienced most violence is Uttar Pradesh, with 155 incidents reported. Last year, during the same period (January to June), 274 cases were noted of violence against Christians.

Six districts of Uttar Pradesh has registered such incidents: 13 in Jaunpur, 11 in Rae Bareilly and Sitapur, 10 in Kanpur and 9 in each of the districts of Azamgarh and Kushinagar. However, the greatest number of violent incidents against Christians is in district of Bastar in Chhattisgarh with 31 incidents.

According to reports registered by the *United Christian Forum* (UCF), the month of June 2023 witnessed the greatest number of cases against Christians with 88, that is, almost three a day. March followed with 66, February with 63, January with 62, May with 50 and April with 47. During the same period last year, sadly, January was at the top of the table with 121 incidents, almost four a day. After 40 cases in May, there were 31 in February, 29 in April, 28 in March and 25 in June.

All these violent incidents against Christians occurred throughout the country, regardless of the political party in power. There are 23 states that are witnessing such violence against Christians. After Uttar Pradesh (155 incidents) there is Chhattisgarh with 84, Jharkhand with 35, Haryana with 32, Madhya Pradesh with 21, Punjab with 12, Karnataka with 10, Bihar with 9, Jammu and Cashmere with 8, Gujarat with 7, Uttarakhand with 4, Tamil Nadu with 3, West Bengal with 3, Himachal Pradesh with 3, Maharashtra with 3, Odisha with 2, Delhi with 2, Andhra Pradesh with 1, Assam with 1, Chandigarh with 1 and Goa also with 1.

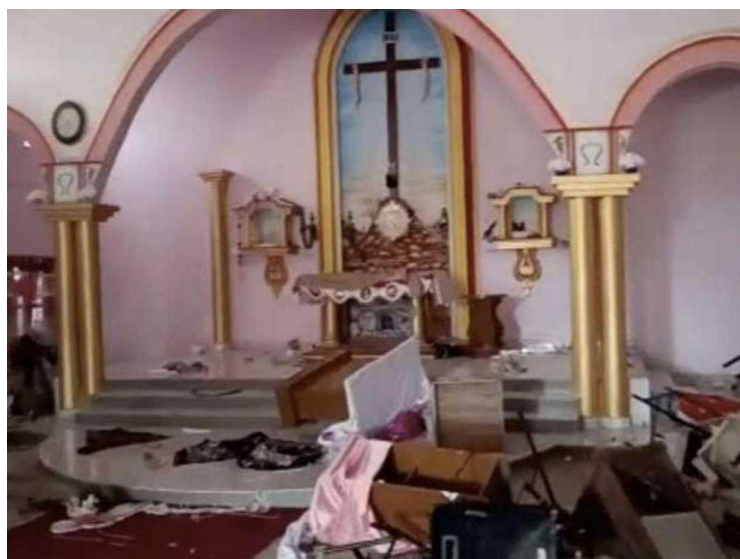
The UCF reports that the incidents have been increasing constantly since 2014: there were 147 cases in 2014; 177 in 2015; 208 in 2016; 240 in 2017; 292 in 2018; 328 in 2019; 279 in 2020; 505 in 2021; 500 in 2022 and 400 in the first 1909 days of 2023.



Despite being victims of all these atrocities, Christians face more complaints than the accused, as the police don't investigate or prosecute the perpetrators of the violence. There are 63 complaints presented against Christians over false accusations of conversions under the Law of Freedom of Religion. There are still 35 Pastors in prison with bail repeatedly denied. Moreover, those that are free on bail are imprisoned due to bureaucratic delays in the process of their release. Several representations of leaders of the Christian community continue waiting for an answer from the President, the Prime Minister and the Minister of the Interior.

## *Petition to the Supreme Court of India*

The matter reached a hearing on July 10, 2023 and the Union's government opposed the petition. It was then that lawyer Colin Gonsalves decided to present a petition so that the special investigation team would include officials outside the respective states to register complaints, investigate and prosecute. He also requested police protection petition meetings held by the Christian community and the provision of legal assistance to all the victims. The last hearing was on 14 July 2023.



## 6 August - The Transfiguration

### *A Word About Raphael's Greatest Masterpiece* (See page 2 of this bulletin.)

Peter, James and John climbed the mountain with Jesus to pray; and there they witnessed an unveiling of the divine glory of Christ. The miracle of the Transfiguration helped to strengthen the Apostles' faith, revealing that Jesus was really God. It is an encouragement to all Christians as well, giving us hope that we, too, will be glorified in heaven.



On the Feast of the Transfiguration, celebrated on 6 August, we are reminded of this great miracle, which has inspired faithful disciples throughout the centuries, and which has been memorialized in art and history.

#### *Raphael's Masterpiece*

On Good Friday in 1520 AD, prominent Italian painter and architect Raffaello Sanzio da Urbino (better known as simply "Raphael") died at the age of 37. He left behind a large body of work including paintings, altarpieces, sculptures, sketches... and one unfinished oil painting on wood, titled the Transfiguration.

Raphael, busy with other commissions, had worked on the *Transfiguration* for four years, but he died prematurely, before it could be completed. The work was finished by Raphael's student Giulio Romano after the artist's funeral. There is a noticeable difference in the fine details of the top and bottom, probably because the hand of the Master had been stilled by his death.

Even in its unfinished state, Raphael considered the *Transfiguration* to be his greatest masterpiece. He was so proud of it, in fact, that it was prominently displayed behind his deathbed.

Two scenes from the Gospel of Matthew are depicted in Raphael's *Transfiguration*: At the top, Christ has climbed Mount Tabor with the Apostles, and there he is transfigured, appearing in his glorified body, flanked by Moses (representing the *Law*) and Elijah (representing the *Prophets*). But in the lower part of the painting, the Apostles are struggling to heal a sick child. Only when the transfigured Christ appears in their midst is the child healed.

The original painting is now housed in the Vatican Museum. A spectacular large mosaic reproduction of the *Transfiguration*, created by a team of artists who worked nine years on its fine details, was installed in St. Peter's Basilica in 1774.

## Israeli Journalist Dresses as a Franciscan and Exposes Jews' Discrimination Against Catholics

(ZENIT News / Jerusalem, 07.29.2023)

As a result of the growing atmosphere of Christianophobia and racism in Jerusalem's streets by Jewish groups, an Israeli journalist of the local TV Channel 13 made a report whose result left him surprised. Dressed as a Franciscan friar and in the company of a true friar, Yossi Eli verified that Jews' attacks against Christians is a fact. The journalist went on the walk, which Franciscan friars usually do to the Holy Sepulcher in the old city of Jerusalem, with a hidden camera. The camera captured the insults and spit that the Jews directed against him and the other friar, including by military men and children.

These aggressive and violent episodes by Jews against Christians have grown in recent months:  vandalism in Christian cemeteries,  verbal violence against leaders and Christian processions,  obscene words painted on walls of Christian institutions, etc. This anti-Christianism has increased as a result of the present composition of the nationalist government, racist in character.

The most recent episode of this growing wave of anti-Christianism in the city of Jerusalem, which isn't Israel's capital, was the official visit of a German Minister to the Wall of Lamentations. Accompanied by the German Abbot of the Abbey of the Dormition of Mary, an official of the Western Hall Heritage Foundation, asked Abbot Nikodemus Schnabel to take off his pectoral cross. The moment was captured in a video by Christoph Schult, a journalist of the German weekly "Der Spiegel." After the request to conceal the cross, the Abbot said: "This is very grave, you're not respecting my religion. You are hindering my human rights. I'm not provoking; I'm an Abbot, this is my way of dressing and the cross is part of it."

In a note, the Western Hall Heritage Foundation defended the employee's action, stressing that she approached the Abbot politely and that, after his answer, she didn't impede the Abbot's passage. Abbot Schnabel then wrote on his social networks: "It's painful to see how the atmosphere in his wonderful city is changing always for the worse under the new Israeli government." And he added: "Jerusalem is big enough for everyone."

The episode led Israel's Ambassador to the Holy See to say the following: "We must prevent these unspeakable acts from being repeated. The freedom of religion and worship is guaranteed in Israel and must continue being so." President Isaac Herzog also condemned anti-Christian episodes and said they were shameful. "I energetically condemn the violence in all its forms, led by a small and extreme group of people against the holy sites of the Christian faith and against the Christian clergy in Israel," he said during a ceremony to commemorate the Founder of Zionism.



Clergy at the El Shaddai Scarborough Cell Group 29<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Mass, 29 July.



John Estrella and Rochelle Carino receive a blessing for their engagement, 29 July.



A Summer Sunday.



CWL Convention, 15 May 2008

"The secret of happiness is to live moment by moment and to thank God for all that He, in His goodness, sends to us day after day."

*Saint Gianna Beretta Molla, 1922-1962*



**Archbishop Francis Leo** visits St. Bernard Senior Residence, 27 July.



The green water at LOVE PARK, Queen's Quay.



LRT off the rails.



*"There's more inside."*