

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 19th century, Pope Leo XIII introduced throughout the Church a special prayer to St. Michael: “St. Michael the Archangel, defend us in battle. Be our protection against the wickedness and snares of the devil.....” I ask everyone to 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 terms in the traditional prayer to St. Michael might be unfamiliar to some of the faithful. Here are some reflections on the biblical and spiritual background to the prayer:

St. Michael the Archangel, defend us in battle.

One of our great Christian spiritual classics, the “SPIRITUAL COMBAT” of **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 not only a journey and a puzzle, but also a battle. We are to imitate Christ in daily life, to love with the love of God on earth: 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. Recognition of the Satanic dimensions of evil is part of our Faith and anyone who has even for a moment observed or 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 unhealthily dwell upon it, but ignore it at our 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, and we simply ask that St. Michael be our protector, acting always by the power of God, keeping in mind the words found in the 1st Letter of Peter. Along with Revelation 12, it 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

21st Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C
Isaiah 66.18-21; Hebrews 12.5-13; Luke 13.22-30

O God, who cause the minds of the faithful to unite in a single purpose, grant your people to love what you command and to desire what you promise, that, amid the uncertainties of this world, our hearts may be fixed where true gladness is found. Amen.

Parish Week ❖ Sunday, 21 August 2022

Saturday, 20 Aug. / St. Bernard, abbot & doctor

- 8.00 am Mass: † Bernardo Villaron (family)
- 5.00 pm Mass: † Dominic & Maria Fernandes (Joseph)

SUNDAY, 21 AUG. / 21-C

- Homilist: Fr. Elias Chachati
- August R&R Report

- 9.00 am Mass: † Eleanor Alex Aexandris (friends & family)
- 10.30 am Mass: † Sosena Mengesha (Giovanna)
- 12.00 pm Mass: † Carmelita & Teodoro Mulla (Willie)
- 7.00 pm Mass: Pro Populo

Monday 22 Aug. / Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary

- 8.00 am Mass: † Jean & John Dabrowski (Ray)
- 7.00 pm Mass: Int. Thanksgiving Adrian Crutchley (mother)

Tuesday, 23 Aug. / St. Rose of Lima, virgin

- 8.00 am Mass: † Maurice Bu Samao (Beatriz Yamal)

Wednesday, 24 Aug. / St. Bartholomew, apostle

- 8.00 am Mass: Int. Thanksgiving Adrian Crutchley (mother)

Thursday, 25 Aug. / Ss. Louis, Joseph Calasanz, priest

- 8.00 am Mass: † Louisa D'Sa on her 90th Birthday (Lillian D'Souza)

Friday, 26 Aug.

- 8.00 am Mass: Int. Rufina Tapia (family)

Saturday, 27 Aug. / St. Monica

- 8.00 am Mass: Int. Thanksgiving (Craστο family)
- 1.00 pm Wedding: Steven Grisani & Francesca Fernandes
- 5.00 pm Mass: † Ignacio & Concepcion Saldivar (Norma Ravil Barbon)

SUNDAY, 28 AUG. / 22-C

- Homilist: Deacon Ramon Villardo
- 2nd Collection: Maintenance

- 9.00 am Mass: † Therese & Endaya Bernaldo (Raphael)
- 10.30 am Mass: † People killed in Nigeria (D'Souza family)
- 12.00 pm Mass: † Severina Tuason (family)
- 2.00 pm KOC Installation of Officers
- 7.00 pm Mass: Pro Populo

A Special Gift ALTAR FLOWERS

Our Parish gratefully thanks **Carol Morra** for her gift of two beautiful flower arrangement from the funeral Mass of her father, † **Matteo Lombardi**, held at Annunziatomi Church. Matteo was born on 29 October 1920, and died on 18 March 2022. May God grant him eternal rest. *Caro Matteo, riposa in pace.*

Mass Intentions Requests for 2023

The *Mass Intention* book for 2023 is now open. The Parish Office will accept requests for intentions after any Sunday Mass and during weekday office hours.

ShareLife 2022

Many thanks for your contribution to our 2022 Parish Campaign.

Please make a sacrificial gift to *ShareLife*.

Our Parish goal for 2022 is: \$42,000.00

This year's *ShareLife* campaign ends on: **31 December**.

The needs are *great*, and we all have to do our part to care for our neighbor. *ShareLife* really is a lifesaver. Since it was established in 1976, it has been the living sign of the charity of the Church in our Archdiocese. Please donate, and help us reach our goal! Your generosity will help bring compassion and hope to others.



Rosary Sunday 11 September

The annual *Rosary Sunday* celebration at the Martyrs' Shrine in Midland will be held on Sunday, 11 Sept. The CWL chartered and filled one coach; a *waiting list* that was started now has enough registrations to warrant a second vehicle. At the time of printing, there are 12 spaces available. Sign up now, or you'll be walking.

Call: **Lillian**, 416-267-6802, or **Virginia**, 416-509-8459.

COMING UP

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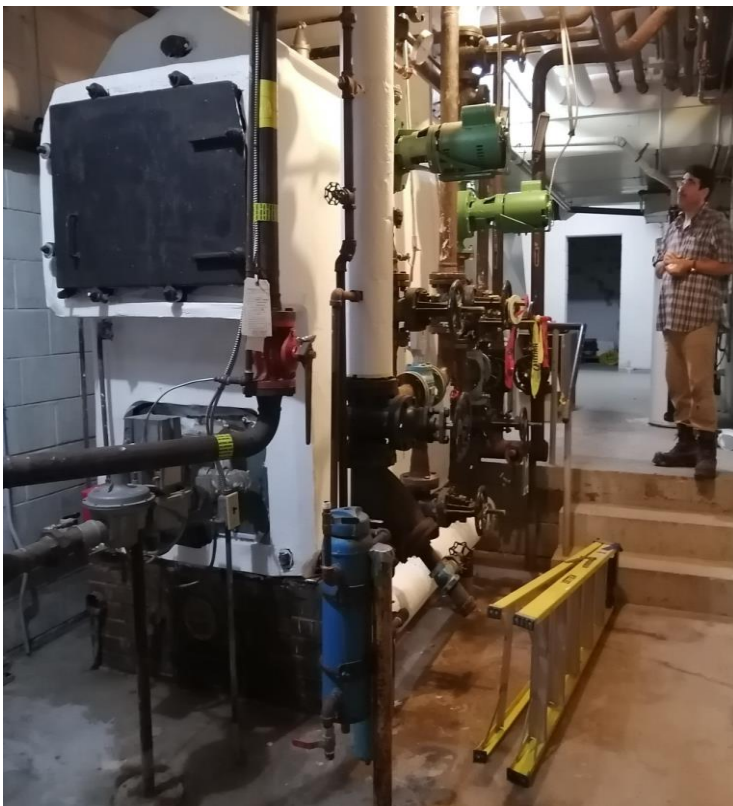
- 2 Sept. Wedding: Dollolasa & Corloncito (1:00 pm)
- 5 Sept. Infant Baptism Parent/Godparent Meeting (7:40 pm)
- 11 Sept. Annual ROSARY SUNDAY pilgrimage (Martyrs' Shrine, Midland);
- Infant Baptism (1:30 pm)
- 17 Sept. Wedding: Bulac & Marzo (1:00 pm)
- 18 Sept. 2nd Collection: *Needs of the Church in Canada*
- 24 Sept. Wedding: John & Gayle (2:00 pm)
- 25 Sept. 2nd Collection: *Maintenance*;
- Wedding Anniversary: Rosaria & Renato Niro (1:15 pm)
- 29 Sept. Wedding: Mulla & Mendoza (10:30 am)
- 1 Oct. *Feast of St. Thérèse of Lisieux*;
Wedding: Vasantharjah – Puvanarajh (11:00 am);
- 2 Oct. 2nd Collection: *Healing & Reconciliation*
- 4 Oct. *Feast of St. Francis of Assisi*;
- Infant Baptism Parent/Godparent Meeting (7:40 pm)
- 9 Oct. Infant Baptism (1:30 pm)
- 23 Oct. 2nd Collection: *World Missions*
- 24 Oct. Municipal Elections
- 30 Oct. 2nd Collection: *Maintenance*;
- CWL (1:00 pm)

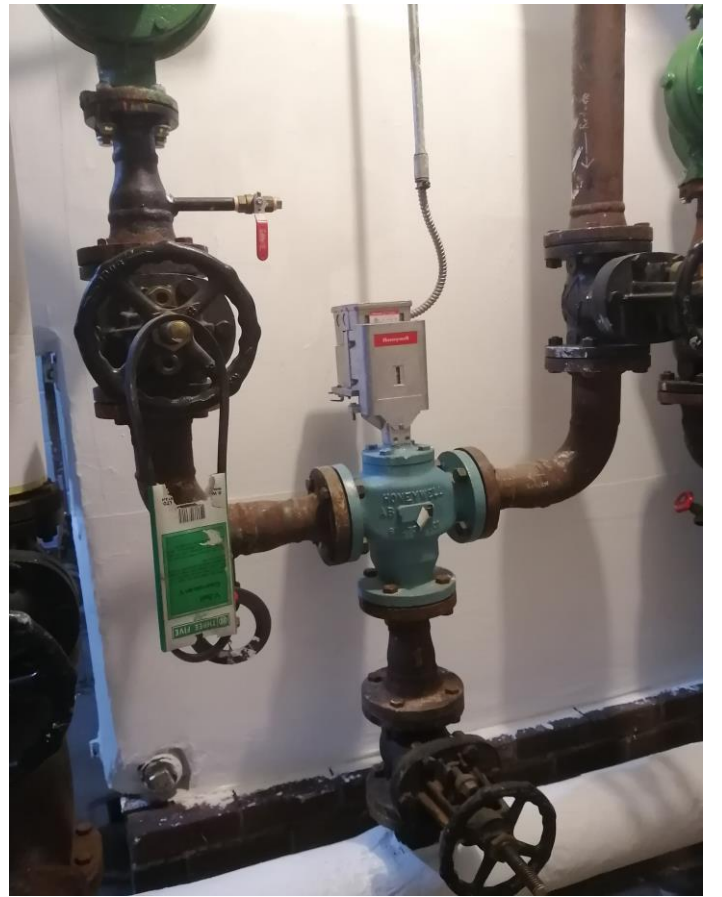
Website stmariagoretti.archtoronto.org

For more information on Parish activities, check pages 3 and following in the website bulletin.



Sonny Costa Junior (*centre*) with **Bruno** and **Alessandro**, nearing the completion of the work on our Church boiler, July 2022. All the original insulation, which contained asbestos, had to be removed and replaced with fiberglass.







Hydro pole repairs.



The 2023 Sunday Offertory Envelopes are delivered.



Summer repairs underway at St. Maria Goretti School.

Every Summer, the catch basins in the parking lot and school laneway must be cleaned out with high-powered suction hoses. This is necessary to ensure the optimal performance of the basins, particularly in view of the increasing frequency of very intense rainstorms with record-breaking precipitation. Basins that are clogged with debris can pose a significant hazard to nearby properties in the case of major rain events.





South Sudan Ravaged *by war, drought and floods*

Before a leg injury forced him to postpone travel, Pope Francis was scheduled to make an ecumenical “Pilgrimage of Peace” to South Sudan. He would have been joined by Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby and Rev. Jim Wallace, moderator of the Church of Scotland. Together, the three faith leaders were hoping to build on momentum established back in 2019, when the South Sudanese political leaders attended a spiritual retreat at the Vatican. That event, in particular the moment when Francis bowed to kiss the feet of all present, was a turning point for the African country, where civil war had been raging for six years.

Not long after their visit to Rome, on February 22, 2020, President Salva Kiir and First Vice President Riek Machar, the opposition leader, announced the end of hostilities. It was an extraordinary development: while the South Sudanese peace process has been sluggish, and sporadic fighting has continued, this previously unthinkable display of unity signaled real progress. Whenever their visit occurs, Francis, Welby, and Wallace should harbor no illusions about the brutality of South Sudan's recent history and the difficulties it poses for creating a lasting peace. The country has been split along ethnic lines since violence erupted in December 2013, two years after the referendum that formalized South Sudan's independence.



In a totally bizarre moment, football fans at the Hard Rock Stadium, Miami join the effort to save a cat that slipped off a ledge during a game on 11 September 2021. It fell 20 meters below into an American flag held by its rescuers.



Many thanks to Mike Adamik and our Summer student volunteers for their help with mowing the Church lawn, cleaning the debris that is blown onto our property and repairing the damage to our flower beds and lawn edges caused by scavenging rodents.



Let the Earth
breathe.

