

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 of the terms found in the traditional prayer to St. Michael might be a bit unfamiliar, and so I offer the following 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 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 First Letter of Peter, which along with Revelations 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.

Parish Week

Sunday, 21 July 2019

Saturday, 20 July / St. Apollinaris, bishop & martyr

- 8.00 am Mass: † Luigi Deccico (Emma)
5.00 pm Mass: † Gabriel & Francis Andreas
(Maria Subramaniam)

SUNDAY, 21 JULY / 16 - C

■ *Homilist: Deacon Ramon Villardo*

- 9.00 am Mass: † Billy & Ludy Ombac (family)
10.30 am Mass: † Ramon Castro de Guzman (family)
12.00 pm Mass: † Joseph Sigmund Ocasion (family)
7.00 pm Mass: Pro Populo

Monday, 22 July / St. Mary Magdalene

- 8.00 am Mass: † Melicia & Victorano (family)
7.00 pm Mass: Int. Tessie Mendonca (friends)

Tuesday, 23 July / St. Bridget, religious

- 8.00 am Mass: † Barbara Case (Evelyn Walsh)

Wednesday, 24 July / St. Charbel Makhluf, priest

- 8.00 am Mass: † Armando & Almaria Sr. (family)

Thursday, 25 July / St. James, apostle

- 8.00 am Mass: † Irena Gogolewska (Carol Morra)

Friday, 26 July / Ss. Joachim & Anne, Parents of Mary

- 8.00 am Mass: † Erlinda De Leon (family)

Saturday, 27 July

- 8.00 am Mass: † Rolando Rubin (Cecilia Garcia)
5.00 pm Mass: † Phillip & Mary Fernando (Manuel)

SUNDAY, 28 JULY / 17 - C

■ *Homilist: Fr. Edwin Galea*

■ *2nd Collection: Maintenance*

- 9.00 am Mass: † Martin Rupp (Jim & Betty Gunn)
10.30 am Mass: † Rosario & Rolando Diaz (family)
12.00 pm Mass: † Jaime Ulibas (family)
1.00 pm Knights of Columbus Meeting & Installation
7.00 pm Mass: Pro Populo

Upcoming Weddings

There is a promise of Marriage between:

**Gnanakirisan Mohanasundaram
and Lloydnie Swampillai**

31 August 2019, St. Boniface Church, Scarborough

Tim Ip and Chrystal Raon

8 November 2019, Prince of Peace Church, Markham

Congratulations

May God guide and bless those recently Married:

André Christopher Bell and Maria Consolacion Albano

10 May 2019

**Chamara Herath Mudiyansele
and Silvia Kariyawasam Manage**

29 June 2019

Focus on the Word

16th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C

Genesis 18.1-10a; Colossians 1.24-28; Luke 10.38-42

Show favour to your servants, Lord, and mercifully increase the gifts of your grace, that, made fervent in hope, faith and charity, they may be ever watchful in keeping your commands. Amen.

ShareLife 2019

Living the Gospel by supporting victims of domestic violence



When women endure domestic violence, they require a number of services all at once—counselling, legal aid, children's aid services, and childminding. The *Safe Centre of Peel* brings these and other services together in one secure location, helping hundreds of people every year. *ShareLife* funding of Catholic Family Services of Peel-Dufferin, one of 10 onsite agencies, helps ensure adults and children receive compassionate care in their time of need.

Please make a sacrificial gift to *ShareLife* through our parish.

Our Parish goal for 2019 is: \$43,900.00

Total Raised to Date is: \$33,117.00

There are still late donations coming in; this year's Campaign officially closes at the end of July. We will publish the Grand Total for our 2019 Campaign in the first bulletin in August.

Please donate, and help us reach our goal! Your generosity to *ShareLife* will help bring compassion and hope to others.

Bingo Fun Night Thank You

Many Thanks to all who assisted in the *Bingo Fun Night* held in the Ark at St. Maria Goretti School on Saturday, 13 July. It really was a fun evening, a tremendous success, and a much appreciated boost to our parish *ShareLife* Campaign. For a detailed list of the names of those involved, and the 50/50 Draw winner, check the website bulletin at the address below the *Coming Up*.

RCIA, RCIC



3 August ***The path to Holiness: Growing in Faith***
(Mass at 7 pm, Meeting at 7.30 pm)

Thinking of becoming Catholic? Leave a message for the Pastor at: 416-261-0076, and come to the next meeting for Inquirers.

COMING UP

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5 Aug. Feast of the Dedication of the **Basilica of St. Mary Major**;
- Infant Baptism Parent/Godparent Meeting (7:40 pm);
- **Fr. Elias Chachati**, Anniversary of birth (1955)

6 Aug. Feast of the **Transfiguration of Our Lord**:

15 Aug. Feast of the **Assumption of Mary**

Website stmariagoretti.archtoronto.org

For more information on these and other parish activities, see pages 3 and 4 in the website bulletin.

ShareLife 2019

Bingo Fun Night

Thank You



Many thanks to all who assisted in the **Bingo Fun Night** held on Saturday, 13 July. It was a tremendous success, and a much appreciated boost to our parish *ShareLife* Campaign.

ShareLife Committee

Peter Carnie
Cheryl Dalliday
Cezar Corbillon
Norma & Laureano Cruz
Guillerma Jeresano
Corine Maulion

Bingo Volunteers

John & Louise Arsenault
Mia Carnie
Tommy Carnie
Jun Jeresano
Francesco Elizalde
Shirley Persaud
Delma Singh



50 / 50 Draw Winner

Lilia Mackin

(See photo at upper right of page, with Fr. Edwin presenting Lilia with her prize of \$900.00, representing half of the total proceeds of \$1,800.00.)



SL ShareLife

Living the Gospel

Our Service Agencies

Community / Family Services

Catholic Community Services of York Region, Catholic Cross-cultural Services, Catholic Family Services of Durham, Catholic Family Services Peel-Dufferin, Catholic Family Services of Simcoe Country, Catholic Family Services of Toronto, *FertilityCare* Toronto, Natural Family Planning Association

People with Special Needs

Mary Centre, *Our Place* Community of Hope, Saint Elizabeth Health Care, St. Bernadette's Family, Resources Centre, St. Michael's Homes / Matt Talbot Houses, *Silent Voice* Canada (*ministry to the deaf*)

Children and Youth

Catholic Children's Aid Society of Toronto, Catholic Settlement House Day Nursery, *Covenant House*, Sancta Maria House

Young Parents: Rosalie Hall, Rose of Durham, Rose of Sharon, *Vita Centre*

Seniors

Les Centres d'Accueil Heritage, Loyola Arrupe Centre, Providence Healthcare, Society of Sharing

Affiliated Organizations

Camp Ozanam (*Society of St. Vincent de Paul*), Good Shepherd Ministries, Birthright International

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Help us reach our goal! Your generosity to *ShareLife* will help bring compassion and hope to others.

ShareLife is the annual charitable appeal of the ARCHDIOCESE OF TORONTO. It raises funds to support a large family of Catholic Agencies. They assist at home and in countries around the world. They feed the hungry, shelter the homeless, protect the weak & care for the sick.



Russian homes near Archangelsk

Repair & Renewal

The new parking bollards and lot configuration



Repair & Renewal Update: We would like to thank all parishioners for their loyal support of our family of faith. At this time, we need to bring to everyone's attention that the Repair & Renewal work underway this Summer has resulted in some improvements to our parking lot.

As described in our last R&R Report, new *bollards* have been installed to clearly identify the pedestrian area at the base of the exterior Church steps, and to provide a higher level of security. In addition, the engineers have created a new design for the parking spaces, allowing for a safer flow for traffic. Please observe the directional signs, and be careful while entering and leaving the parking spots.

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Warning: Email Scam

To: All Parishes
From: Emanuel Pires, Creative Services Manager, OPRC
Date: Thursday, 11 July 2019
Re: Email Scam Alert

Parishioners from a number of our Churches have been targets of an email scam, similar to one done last year.

The scammer is creating Gmail accounts and using them to impersonate parish priests. Typically, the scammer emails parishioners posing as a priest and requesting gift cards.

Please be cautious when checking your email. Verify email requests for money or gift cards by phoning the parish at a known phone number (not a phone number listed in the email).

If you receive a suspected scam email from someone claiming to be one of our priests, please bring it to the attention of your pastor and ask him to forward the message to the Archdiocese of Toronto's Help Desk:

athelpdesk@archtoronto.org.

☺ Your sabbath smile

