

# OUR LADY OF LOURDES

CATHOLIC CHURCH  
AND SCHOOL

OCTOBER 1, 2023

TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY  
IN ORDINARY TIME



## RECONCILIATION

Available by appointment only.  
Call: 919-861-4600

## MASS TIMES

Sat. 5:00pm

Sun. 9:00am, 11:30am,  
1:30pm (Español), 5:00pm

Mon/Tues/Thurs/Fri. 8:30am

Wed. 9:00am Jueves. 6:30pm (Español)

## PERPETUAL ADORATION CHAPEL

The Adoration Chapel is open 24/7

For Baptism, Matrimony and  
Anointing, please call the  
parish office.



## PARISH STAFF

**Rev. Patrick A. Keane, Pastor**  
(919) 861-4604

**Rev. Dr. Kenneth Oguzie, C.S.Sp.**  
**Parochial Vicar**  
(919) 861-4608

**Jannine LeBlanc, Principal**  
(919) 861-4623, [jleblanc@olls.org](mailto:jleblanc@olls.org)

**Deacon Byron Champagne**  
**Adult Faith Formation/Stewardship & Engagement Coordinator**  
(919) 861-4614, [bchampagne@ourladyoflourdescc.org](mailto:bchampagne@ourladyoflourdescc.org)

**Deacon Brad Magill**  
**Business & Facilities Manager**  
(919) 861-4607, [bmagill@ourladyoflourdescc.org](mailto:bmagill@ourladyoflourdescc.org)

**Deacon Myles Charlesworth**  
[mcharlesworth@ourladyoflourdescc.org](mailto:mcharlesworth@ourladyoflourdescc.org)

**Deacon Tom Mack**  
[tmack@ourladyoflourdescc.org](mailto:tmack@ourladyoflourdescc.org)

**Maria House, Receptionist**  
(919) 861-4600, [mhouse@ourladyoflourdescc.org](mailto:mhouse@ourladyoflourdescc.org)

**Melody Gerald, Receptionist**  
(919) 861-4600, [mgerald@ourladyoflourdescc.org](mailto:mgerald@ourladyoflourdescc.org)

**Joshua Gusman, Director of Liturgy & Music**  
(919) 861-4611, [jgusman@ourladyoflourdescc.org](mailto:jgusman@ourladyoflourdescc.org)

**Arielle Lapid, Liturgy Assistant & Sacristan**  
(919) 861-4613, [alapid@ourladyoflourdescc.org](mailto:alapid@ourladyoflourdescc.org)

**Austin Faur, Director of Youth Apostolate**  
(919) 861-4600, [afaur@ourladyoflourdescc.org](mailto:afaur@ourladyoflourdescc.org)

**Candace Sperati, Children's Faith Formation**  
(919) 861-4634, [csperati@ourladyoflourdescc.org](mailto:csperati@ourladyoflourdescc.org)

**Linda Champagne**  
**Marriage Preparation & Wedding Coordinator**  
(919) 861-4600, [marriages@ourladyoflourdescc.org](mailto:marriages@ourladyoflourdescc.org)

**Robin Biggie, Maintenance**  
(919) 861-4606, [rbiggie@ourladyoflourdescc.org](mailto:rbiggie@ourladyoflourdescc.org)

**Bulletin Editor**  
[bulletin@ourladyoflourdescc.org](mailto:bulletin@ourladyoflourdescc.org)

**OLL Invitations Editor**  
[invitations@ourladyoflourdescc.org](mailto:invitations@ourladyoflourdescc.org)

### Pastoral Council Finance Council School Advisory

**Chair: Kelli Cross**  
(919) 357-2079

**Chair: Jeff Yardley**  
(919) 219-0752

**Chair: Reed Murphy**  
(919) 624-0298

Barbara McMoran  
Jason Lemansky  
Kenya Reynard  
Rachel Vann  
Beth Murphy  
Chris Fleming  
Jason Pedone  
Darren Sessler  
Terry Bogan

Ellen Crowley  
Kate Duncan  
Tom Dunham  
Jason Sandner  
Curt Williams

Den. Byron Champagne  
Kelli Cross  
Cara Fothergill  
Cathy Gephart  
Anne Holder  
Jannine LeBlanc  
Marjorie Shaughnessy  
Chris Sutton

## PARISH MEMBERSHIP

**Active members of our parish are identified by their generosity of time, talent and treasure.**

## NOTICE

Confessions are available by appointment and may be done anonymously.  
Please call the parish office: 919-861-4600

## CALENDAR & MASS INTENTIONS

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 30** 5:00pm - † Mary Kirkland Dempsey

**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 1**  
9:00am - † Thomas Guyton  
11:30am - † Wayne Bailey  
(Español) 1:30pm - Pro Populo  
5:00pm - † Matthew Hanken & † Harvey Weiss

**MONDAY, OCTOBER 2** 8:30am - Mary Ann Chism

**TUESDAY, OCTOBER 3** 8:30am - Richard Ku (Birthday)

**WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 4** 9:00am - Peter Graham (Birthday) & † Nicolette Katusha

**THURSDAY, OCTOBER 5** 8:30am - † Patricia Klockenkemper  
(Español) 6:30pm -

**FRIDAY, OCTOBER 6**  
**FIRST FRIDAY** 8:30am - Holy Souls in Purgatory & † Ann Marco

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 7**  
**FIRST SATURDAY;**  
**OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY** 5:00pm - † Irving & Julia Trusky

**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 8**  
9:00am - † Herminigilda Ng  
11:30am - † Mr. & Mrs. Thanh Kong  
(Español) 1:30pm - Pro Populo  
5:00pm - † George Bell

**Regular Office Hours**

Monday - Friday  
8:30am - 4pm

**Website**

[ourladyoflourdescc.org](http://ourladyoflourdescc.org)

**OLL Flocknote**

[ollraleigh.flocknote.com](http://ollraleigh.flocknote.com)

**Adoration Chapel**  
[oll.weadorehim.com](http://oll.weadorehim.com)

**THE MISSION OF OUR LADY OF LOURDES PARISH**  
is to invite and lead all people to know and love Jesus Christ and to live their Catholic faith through word, sacrament, community, evangelization and service.



## MINISTERIO HISPANO

HISPANIC MINISTRY

Oficina Parroquial: 919-861-4600

La Misión de la Parroquia de Nuestra Señora de Lourdes es invitar y dirigir a todas las personas a conocer y amar a Jesucristo a vivir su fe Católica a través de la palabra, los sacramentos, la comunidad, la evangelización y el servicio.

**Enlace Misas en Vivo por Youtube:** (Youtube Live stream)

Para unirse en cualquier momento con las misas celebradas en Nuestra Señora de Lourdes en directo por nuestro canal de Youtube: <https://www.youtube.com/c/OurLadyofLourdesCCRaleigh>

### **Comité Ministerio Hispano**

*Hispanic Ministry Commtte*

Roderico Roblero: (919) 986-5294

Yulisa Díaz: (919) 798-8338

Alberto Borrayes

Celeny Arreaga

Edvin Chaj

Fernando Velásquez.

### **Coordinadores Ministerio Hispano**

*Hispanic Ministry Coordinators*

Bautismo (clases): Edilmar López 919-349-5036

Coros: Juan Gómez 919-896-0849

Eventos: Laura Rosas 919-576-6111

Formación Adultos: Filomeno Méndez 919-559-8314

Grupo de Mujeres: Ilda Baltazar 919-601-8032

Grupo de Oración: Celeny Arreaga 919-641-9792

Jóvenes Adultos: José Velásquez 843-492-8103

Lectores: Hortencia Escobar 919-592-3872

M. Extraordinarios: Jesús Méndez 919-819-7007

Monaguillos: Dominica Díaz 919-822-4224

Santo Rosario: Carmela Roblero 919-454-5251

Sacristanes: Orlando Morales 919-338-4384

Visita Enfermos: Darinel Morales 919-428-8691

Ujieres: Maribel González 919-345-1943

### **HORARIO MISAS EN ESPAÑOL**

Jueves 6:30 pm

Domingos 1:30 pm

### **HORARIO MISAS EN INGLES**

Lunes, Martes, Jueves y Viernes 8:30 am

Miércoles 9:00 am Sábados 9:00 am y 5:00 pm

Domingos 9:00 am, 11:30 am y 5:00 pm

### **CONFESIONES**

Jueves (Español): Después de la misa de las 6:30 pm.

### **BAUTISMOS PARA NIÑOS MENORES DE 7 AÑOS**

#### **Requisitos:**

- Papás tienen que estar registrados en nuestra parroquia.
- Presentar copia del acta de nacimiento del niño(a)
- Llenar la forma pre-bautismal.
- Papás y padrinos asistir a la platica pre-bautismal y a la misa.
- Los padrinos no pueden estar viviendo en unión libre.

Para más información , comunicarse con:  
Edilmar López al: 919-349-5036



**VISITANDO Y LLEVANDO**  
**LA COMUNIÓN A LOS ENFERMOS**

*Pastoral Care*

Si usted tiene algún familiar o conocido de la comunidad que se encuentre enfermo y desea que se le visite, bien sea en la casa donde éste reside u hospital, o se le lleve la Santa Comunión, puede comunicarse con **Darinel Morales** al 919-428-8691.

**GRUPO DE ORACION**

*Hispanic Prayer Group*

Todos los Viernes a las 7:15 p.m. en el Salón Fallon Center.

El Grupo de Oración tiene como objetivo fortalecer la fe de sus miembros y acercarlos mas a Dios a través de Oración, predicas y alabanzas.

Para más información comunicarse con:

Celeny Arreaga al: 919-641-9792

**GRUPO DE JOVENES ADULTOS 18 a 30 años**

*Hispanic Young Adult Group*

El Grupo de Jóvenes Adultos se reúnen todos los domingos de 10:00 am a 12:00 pm en el Salón 202 del Fallon Center

El Grupo Jóvenes de Adultos se reúne para tratar temas diversos que les ayudan en su crecimiento Espiritual, Emocional y desarrollo de liderazgo. Además de organizar diversas actividades que motive a los jóvenes a participar de la vida y misión de la iglesia.

Para más información, comunicarse con:

José Velásquez al: 843-492-8103

**GRUPO DE MUJERES**

*Hispanic Women Group*

El Grupo de Mujeres se reúne todos los sábados de 6:30 pm a 8:30 pm en el salón 201 del Fallon Center.

El Grupo de Mujeres tiene como objetivo ayudar a las Mujeres a descubrir y fortalecer su identidad, así mismo incrementar y empoderar su autoestima y por supuesto mejorar su relación con Dios y su relación matrimonial y su rol como madre.

Para más información, comunicarse con:

Hilda Baltazar al: 919-601-8032

**BODAS / MATRIMONIOS**

*Wedding*

Está pensando en casarse por la Iglesia?

El primer paso, es hacer una cita con el Padre Patrick Keane (el habla español). 919-861-4600

Para más información, sobre el proceso para contraer matrimonio, por favor comunicarse con:  
Roderico Roblero: 919-986-5294

**ADORACIÓN PERPETUA ANTE**  
**JESÚS SACRAMENTADO**

Nuestra Parroquia de Nuestra Señora de Lourdes tiene una Capilla para la Adoración Perpetua las 24 Horas.

Todos estamos invitados a pasar unos momentos orando en silencio ante la presencia de nuestro Señor Jesús Sacramentado.

**Clases de Catecismo Para Adultos**

*Faith Formation Claeses for Adults*

Este programa es para personas mayores de 17 años que no estén bautizadas y para personas que solamente les hace falta la Primera Comunión y la Confirmación.

Este programa de formación de adultos es también para personas que deseen convertirse al catolicismo y para aquellos bautizados que deseen aprender un poco mas de su fe católica.

**Requisitos:**

-Llenar la forma de registro.

-Para los que no están bautizados, presentar el acta de nacimiento.

-Para los que le hace falta la primera comunión y confirmación, presentar el certificado de bautismo.

Para más información, comunicarse con:

Filomeno Méndez al: 919-559-8314



# PARISH MATTERS

## SANCTUARY CANDLES

A 14-day  
CHURCH SANCTUARY  
CANDLE  
will burn  
for the priests of the  
Diocese of Raleigh

A 14-day  
CHAPEL SANCTUARY  
CANDLE  
will burn  
for a special intention  
of Dennis & Linda  
Redoblado



## Pro-Life Sunday is 10/1

Our Lady of Lourdes Pro-Life Ministry will offer free pro-life bumper stickers, pro-life pins and pro-life prayer cards after all Masses today. Please consider joining us in changing hearts and minds. They will be available in the Narthex following all Masses. Donations are always welcome-- cash or check only.

## ALTAR FLOWERS

The flowers on the altar are  
in loving memory of Kathleen, Matthew and  
Christopher Peterson  
from Eileen and Johnny Eads

- and -

in celebration of Sarah Frances' first birthday  
from Holly Hunt



## EUCCHARISTIC CONGRESS VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

**FRIDAY OCT 20 AND  
SATURDAY OCT 21**

**PLEASE EMAIL**

**GABBY.AMOS@CCHARITIESDOR.ORG**

**TO LEARN MORE ABOUT**

**VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES**

## OFFERTORY

OFFERTORY SEPTEMBER 24 2023	NEEDED	ACTUAL	DIFFERENCE
YTD OFFERTORY (7/1/23-9/24/23)	\$ 380,800	\$ 364,016	- \$ 16,784

**OLL SCHOOL EXPANSION FUND:  
BUILDING THE LEGACY**

**\$ 165,483**

## MASS ATTENDANCE Weekend of September 24

5pm Saturday: 192  
9am Sunday: 525  
11:30am Sunday: 336  
1:30pm Sunday: 350  
5pm Sunday: 216

**TOTAL: 1,619**

## MOVIE NIGHT: FATIMA

Friday October 13, 7:00 - 9:00PM  
Fallon Center Hall



The Blessed Virgin Mary appeared six times to three shepherd children near the town of Fatima, Portugal between May 13 and October 13, 1917. Appearing to the children, the Blessed Virgin told them that She had been sent by God with a message for every man, woman and child.

Our Lady of Fatima is an approved apparition of the Catholic Church. This 2020 film is based on historical events and two hours in length. The Rosary will be prayed at the conclusion of the film. Open to all, children & teens are encouraged to attend, there is no cost.

BYOT (Bring your own treats)

Please Pray for  
our Sick &  
Suffering

FRANK BELL  
KATHLEEN CHARLESWORTH  
MYLES CHARLESWORTH  
JANET CHIAVETTA  
DANA CASH  
ELEANORA CEFALU  
ANDREW DILILLO  
BARBARA GRANT  
LOUISE GUYTON

DOUGLAS HOBBS  
GREG HOBBS  
JOE KORST  
ANNETTE LEFEBVRE  
LIZ LORSCHIEDER  
FRANK JANASIEWICZ  
DEACON TOM MACK  
ED MACKO  
EILEEN MACKO

CHRISTINE MARTIN  
JULIA MEYERS  
LOUISE NANCE  
RICHARD POLLARD  
IRMA CRUZ-QUINONES  
MARY REDMOND  
DAN & KAREN RITCHIE  
JOELLE ROEHRL  
MARY-LOUISE SAUTER

ALLISEN SCHULT  
NANCY URBEN



## RETREATS & EVENTS

### Project Rachel Post Abortion Healing Retreat January 5-7, 2024

If you desire healing from a past abortion, you are invited to experience the love of Jesus Christ at a Project Rachel weekend retreat in the Raleigh area. The weekend retreat is strictly **confidential**, for both women and men and includes discussions, spiritual exercises, the sacrament of reconciliation, a Memorial Service, and a Mass of the Resurrection. Participation offers a beautiful opportunity to experience God's love, forgiveness, and compassion. For more information or to register for the retreat:

[project.rachel@raldioc.org](mailto:project.rachel@raldioc.org) - (919) 852-1021.  
<http://rachelinc.org>

Cost is \$200 for lodging, meals, and all retreat materials. Discount of \$50 for early registration. If there is a financial burden, assistance is available.

### RALEIGH LIFE CHAIN 2023 October 1, 2:00pm-3:30pm

- The Raleigh Life Chain is a prayerful and peaceful protest and public reparation for our country to awaken consciences to the travesty of abortion.
- Plan to arrive by 1:15 -1:45 pm to pick up signs and proceed to a location on Lake Boone Trail between Blue Ridge Rd. and Myron Dr.
- Please pick up your Life Chain signs along the sidewalk in front of 2304 Wesvill Court between 1:00 - 1:45 PM. (Please return signs at the end of the Life Chain at the same pickup location no later than 3:30 pm; signs to be used next year).

For more information, please call or text:  
**Mary Ann Metcalf - 910-612-3063**



JOIN YOUR FELLOW PARISHIONERS AT

## Our Lady of Lourdes CATHOLIC CHURCH

### The Annual Parish Retreat: Faithful Stewards & the Eucharist Saturday, November 11 • 8am-4pm • Fallon Hall

This retreat offers a time for spiritual renewal for all parishioners. The focus will be on God's call to live as good stewards in thanksgiving to Him who feeds us of His own Body and Blood. Think of it as an invitation to reflect on God's unconditional love for us and our response to that love. With an emphasis on the Eucharist, attendees will learn more about Its impact on our lives and how we can grow closer to Christ by availing ourselves of his true presence. Come and be closer to Jesus this day.

**Register no later than November 4<sup>th</sup> by calling the parish office at 919-861-4600.  
(Limited to the first 200 RSVPs.)**

*There is no cost to attend and breakfast and lunch will be provided.*

*Fr. Dave Zimmer has long been committed to developing stewardship as a way of life. After attending the Msgr. McGread Stewardship Conference in Wichita in 2005, Fr. Dave began taking formal steps to introduce the spirituality of stewardship to the parish of St. John the Apostle in Minot, N.D., where he served as pastor. Fr. Zimmer retired in 2021 but continues to develop the stewardship way of life, and he has returned as a regular speaker for the Msgr. McGread Stewardship Conferences. He has also conducted more than 50 parish stewardship retreats throughout the country and addressed Presbyteral Conferences in the dioceses of Worcester, Mass., Salt Lake City, Utah, and St. Augustine, Fla., sharing his story of a parish community and pastor who embraced the stewardship way of life.*



**RETREAT LEADER**  
Fr. David Zimmer  
Diocese of Bismarck, ND



# Faith Formation

## Week of October 2-8

### Monday, October 2

### Tuesday, October 3

- 630pm **Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA)** is a process through which non-baptized men and women enter the Catholic Church. Also, it is for those who have been Baptized but never Confirmed. It includes stages marked by study, prayer, and rites at Mass. Contact: Deacon Byron Champagne, 919-861-4614, [bcchampagne@ourladyoflourdescc.org](mailto:bcchampagne@ourladyoflourdescc.org)

### Wednesday, October 4

- 10am **JOY** (Just Older Youth) is an open group of parishioners that meet in Fallon Center after the 9am Mass for Faith Formation, fellowship and a variety of different activities selected by members. Newcomers are warmly welcomed. Contact Bob Bowerman, 919-847-4808, [bob.bowerman@gmail.com](mailto:bob.bowerman@gmail.com)

### Thursday, October 5

- 930am **Thursday Theologians** meet weekly in the Fallon Center (Rm 202) to pray and discuss the weekend scriptures. Contact: Lisa Dunham, 919-630-6320, [Ldunham4@icloud.com](mailto:Ldunham4@icloud.com) (waitlisted)
- 630pm **Veritas Theology** (young adults) meet in the Fallon Center Lounge to discuss theology. Contact: Deacon Byron Champagne, 919-861-4614, [bcchampagne@ourladyoflourdescc.org](mailto:bcchampagne@ourladyoflourdescc.org)

### Friday, October 6

- 6am **That Man is You (TMIY)** provides faith formation and fellowship for Catholic men on Friday mornings from 6am to 7:30am in the Fallon Center Hall. Open to all men. Contact: Domenic Coletti, 919-389-9913, [Domenic.coletti6@gmail.com](mailto:Domenic.coletti6@gmail.com)

### Saturday, October 7

### Sunday, October 8

- 9am **Childrens Nursery** (in the Fallon Center Nursery room). The 2-3-year-olds are taught basic prayers. Contact: Candace Sperati, 919-861-4634, [csperati@ourladyoflourdescc.org](mailto:csperati@ourladyoflourdescc.org)
- 9am **Childrens Liturgy of the Word** calls young children (3-7) forward before the Scripture readings of the 9am Sunday Mass to process to the Fallon Center to celebrate and reflect on the Sunday Gospel reading in an age-appropriate way. Contact: Candace Sperati, 919-861-4634, [csperati@ourladyoflourdescc.org](mailto:csperati@ourladyoflourdescc.org)
- 1015am **Adult Faith Formation** - study and discuss Bishop Robert Barron's DVD series on The Sacraments in the Bernadette Center Classroom. Open to all. Contact: Bob Bowerman, 919-847-4808, [bob.bowerman@gmail.com](mailto:bob.bowerman@gmail.com)



# Pilgrimages with Fr. Pat Keane

[www.pilgrimages.com/frkeane](http://www.pilgrimages.com/frkeane)



## ❖ The Holy Land - \$6,168 May 19-28, 2024

Tel Aviv · Caesarea · Nazareth · Cana · Tiberias · Sea of Galilee · Jordan River · Mt. Tabor · Jerusalem · Gethsemane · Ein Karem · Bethlehem · Qumran · Jericho · Dead Sea · Mt. of Olives · Mt. Zion · Church of the Holy Sepulchre

Each day of your pilgrimage you will have time to renew and affirm your faith; to pray and reflect. The Scriptures will come alive as you visit Our Lord's homeland. You will be inspired by the natural beauty of the landscape, in addition to its rich historical heritage, it is an encounter that has changed the lives of many pilgrims, an act of faith and prayer. Pilgrims have been traveling to the Holy Land for hundreds of years, and as part of your pilgrimage, we include many of the rich traditions that have evolved over time. The maxim at the entrance to the Church of the Nativity says: "We are hoping that: If you enter here as a tourist, you would exit as a pilgrim. If you enter here as a pilgrim, you would exit as a holier one."

## ❖ Jordan & The Holy Land - \$7,198 May 16-28, 2024

Amman · Petra · Kerak · Madaba · Mt. Nebo · Jerash  
*as well as the Holy Land destinations listed above*

An additional three days of pilgrimage in Jordan, where Our Lord was baptized and Moses was buried.

### TRIPS INCLUDE...

- † Round-trip airfare
- † Airport taxes & fuel surcharges
- † Centrally located first class hotel
- † Transfers as per itinerary
- † Tour escort throughout
- † Breakfast & Dinner daily
- † Wine with dinners
- † Sightseeing and admissions fees as per itinerary
- † Daily Mass & spiritual activities

...and more; see individual trip listings





# Saint Gregory the Great

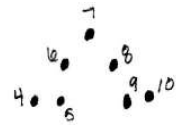
Saint Gregory the Great was a Pope.  
Do you remember the name of our  
current Pope?

**Pope Francis**

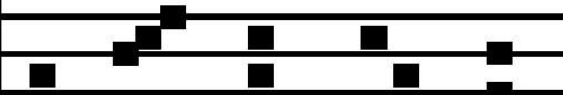
Follow the dots to draw the Papal  
crown worn by Pope Gregory. It looks  
like three crowns stacked together.

Gregorian Chant is music named  
after Saint Gregory. The squares tell  
people what notes to sing.

The words are in Latin. It means,  
"Pray for us to God. Alleluia."



**Ora Pro Nobis Deum**



**Al le lu i a**

Year A: Twenty-sixth Sunday of Ordinary Time



## Catholic Kids

Bulletin

October 1, 2023  
Ordinary Time  
Color: Green



W E O K R E M E M B E R O I W A Y O U R P

E W A O L O R D P W K E O A K

O E K W M E R C I E S O W K E

# Remember your mercies, O Lord.

E W A O P W E K O A B N O W E A I J D F K W O



Listen for the priest to say  
**MERCY** during Mass.

© 2023 TJB catholickidsbulletin.com

Prayer

Scripture

Music

History

Art

Science

Math

Physical Education

Health

Character Education

Environmental Education

Global Education

Peace Education

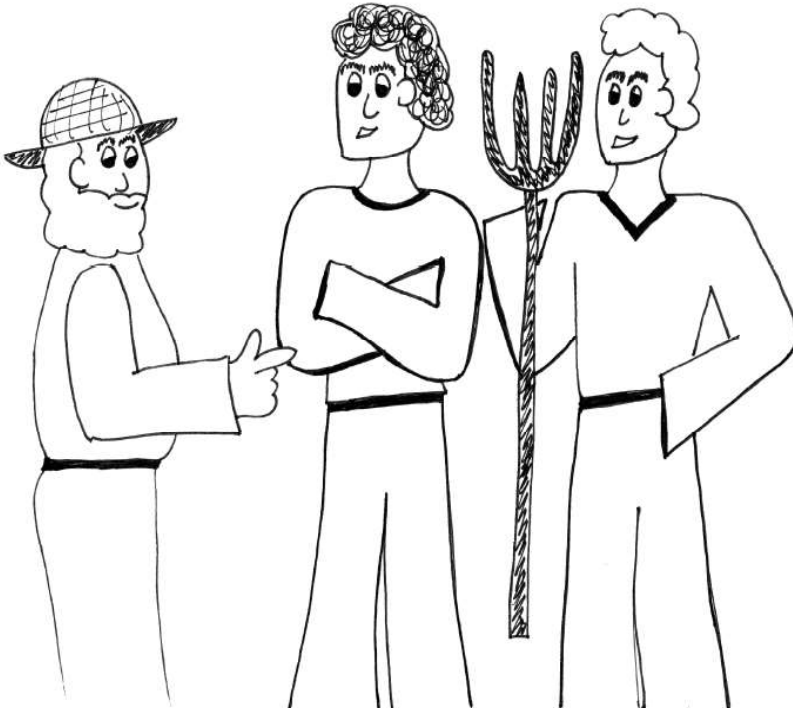
Service Learning

Technology

Visual Arts


World Languages

World Religions



Write down ideas to  
serve your family and  
friends.

## Gospel



Jesus tells a parable of a man and his sons. He asked his sons to work in the fields. Listen to the story to see what the boys will do.



# The Guardian Angels

## OCTOBER 2

Angels are servants and messengers from God. "Angel" in Greek means messenger. In unseen ways the angels help us on our earthly pilgrimage by assisting us in work and study, helping us in temptation and protecting us from physical danger.

The idea that each soul has assigned to it a personal guardian angel has been long accepted by the Church and is a truth of our faith. From the Gospel of the liturgy for their Feast Day, we read: "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" (Matthew 18:10). The Catechism of the Catholic Church states that "the existence of the spiritual, non-corporeal beings that Sacred Scripture usually calls 'angels' is a truth of faith (328)." From our birth until our death, man is surrounded by the protection and intercession of angels,

particularly our guardian angel: "Beside each believer stands an angel as protector and shepherd leading him to life (336)." The Church thanks God for our helpers, the angels, particularly on this feast day and September 29 which is the feast of Saint Michael, Saint Gabriel, and Saint Raphael, archangels. Today's feast appeared in Spain during the sixteenth century. It was extended to the universal Church and made obligatory in 1670.

*Be alert in your every action as one should be who is accompanied by angels in all your ways, for that mission has been enjoined upon them. In whatever lodging, in whatever nook or corner you may find yourself, cherish a reverence for your guardian angel. In his presence do not dare to do anything you would not do in mine. Or do you doubt his presence because you do not see him? Would it really help if you did hear him, or touch him, or smell him? Remember, there are realities whose existence has not been proven by mere sight.*

*Brethren, we will love God's angels with a most affectionate love; for they will be our heavenly co-heirs some day, these spirits who now are sent by the Father to be our protectors and our guides. With such bodyguards, what are we to fear? They can neither be subdued nor deceived; nor is there any possibility at all that they should go astray who are to guard us in all our ways. They are trustworthy, they are intelligent, they are strong — why, then, do we tremble? We need only to follow them, remain close to them, and we will dwell in the protection of the Most High God. So as often as you sense the approach of any grave temptation or some crushing sorrow hangs over you, invoke your protector, your leader, your helper in every situation. Call out to him and say: Lord, save us, we are perishing.*

—St. Bernard





## THE TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

On the Gospel of this day; St. Matthew, 21 :28-32.

**T**his parable was primarily intended to show up the hypocrisy of the chief priests and elders of the Jews, and the perilous position in which they stood in relation to God and heaven. It is, however, a warning against hypocrisy for all time. Lip service of God will not merit heaven. Nominal Christians are not working in the Lord's vineyard. At any moment they may be called from this life, and what defense can they offer the just judge? Will they dare to offer the flimsy excuses with which they try to silence their consciences now: "we didn't realize how sinful we were"; "we were too occupied with family and personal cares to have time for our spiritual duties"; "we were led astray by bad example"; "we didn't like to be different from others"; "we were going to put things right"? Who will dare to offer such excuses at the judgment seat? Their utter futility will then be apparent in all its nakedness.

However, we are still on earth, and while the door of God's mercy is wide open to us. If in the past we said, "I will not go into your vineyard", we still have time to reverse that sinful decision. Not only can we with God's grace turn over a new leaf, but we can completely wipe out the sinful pages of our life's story written up to now. Remember that what God in His mercy did for the tax-collectors and harlots in the parable, the Matthews, the Mary Magdalenes, the Augustines, the Margarets of Cortona, the Matt Talbotts and the millions of unknown penitents who are now saints in heaven He can also do for you.

We answered the call to God's vineyard by accepting baptism and membership of His Church. If we have grown lax in our fervor and refused to do the tasks allotted to us, we still have time, thanks to God's mercy and patience, to put things right. Today, look into your conscience and see how much of your past life you have given to God and how much you have kept for yourself. If you were called tonight to render an account to the Lord, would the balance sheet be in your favor? Is your corner of the vineyard producing abundant crops, or is it perhaps filling up with weeds, briars and brambles? If the latter, then we will say a heartfelt "Thank you, God, for not calling us to judgment today. We will begin right now to understand our sinful past, so that our corner of your vineyard will be in good order when you do call us. Thank you, Lord, for your mercy. God grant that we shall never abuse it."

Excerpted from *The Sunday Readings* by Fr. Kevin O'Sullivan, O.F.M.



### Our Lady of Victory

OR, OUR LADY  
OF THE ROSARY

OCTOBER 7

This feast was instituted by Pope St. Pius V in thanksgiving for the great naval victory over the Turks at the battle of Lepanto on this day in the year 1570, a favor due to the recitation of the Rosary. This victory saved Europe from being overrun by the forces of Islam.

Lepanto, perhaps the most complete victory ever gained over the Ottoman Empire, on October 7, 1571, is commemorated by the invocation "Help of Christians," inserted in the Litany of Loretto. At Belgrade, the Turks were defeated on the Feast of Our Lady of Nives in 1716. A second victory gained that year on the Octave of the Assumption determined Pope Clement XI to command the Feast of the Rosary to be celebrated by the universal Church. Leo XIII added the invocation "Queen of the most Holy Rosary, pray for us," to the Litany of Loretto. The Feast is in reality a great festival of thanksgiving for the signal and countless benefits bestowed on Christendom through the Rosary of our blessed Queen.

In modern times successive popes have urged the faithful to pray the Rosary. It is a form of contemplative prayer, mental and vocal prayer, which brings down God's blessing on the Church. It is a biblically inspired prayer that is centered on meditation on the salvific mysteries of Christ in union with Mary, who was so closely associated with her Son in his redeeming activity.