



[Jesus said,]
“There is no one
who performs a
mighty deed in my
name who can at the same
time speak ill of me.
For whoever is not against
us is for us.”

MARK 9:39 –40

**ST. MICHAEL'S
FEAST DAY**
IS THIS SUNDAY,
SEPT. 29th.
COFFEE SOCIAL
following the
10:15 Mass

Spirited Truth

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

It's not always easy to figure out where God's spirit of truth is revealed or by whom the truth is spoken. After “the Lord came down in the cloud and spoke to Moses,” some of that same spirit given to Moses was also bestowed upon the seventy elders. Two other men also received the spirit, although they were not specially designated, much to the consternation of the elders (see Numbers 11:25–26). These two outsiders were somehow included among those who saw themselves as insiders. How is one to know who speaks with the authority of the spirit?

Perhaps we all need to pay attention to the possibility that “outsiders” may be speaking the truth to us. Faith communities are often considered outsiders in the larger society, not worthy of a platform to be heard from; yet, many faith communities raise their voices in

defense of the unborn, the immigrants at our doors, and the lost souls adrift among us. Throughout life, we've been surprised by children who speak truth that is unrecognized by adults. We've been surprised by the voice of women to a patriarchal society, the sexually abused to the larger Church, those who defend victims of violence. But not all outsiders speak with the authority of the spirit. How is one to know? Perhaps the Gospel gives us a clue—those who give others a cup of water to drink, which is to say, those who speak with compassion on behalf of others who are thirsty for justice and life. ✱

Reflect

How have you been surprised by someone unexpectedly speaking God's truth and wisdom?



ST. MICHAEL'S PARISH

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Pastor: Reverend Joseph F. H. Morley • Cell: 705 0236

Email: stmichaelsbermuda@gmail.com

Weekend Masses: Vigil: 5:00pm, Sunday: 10:15am

Baptisms: by appointment 3 weeks in advance

Weddings: by appointment 6 months in advance

www.facebook.com/stmichaelpaget & “LIKE” us | Diocesan Webpage: www.romancatholicbermuda.bm

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Mass Schedule & Intentions

We welcome our parishioners and visitors who have come to St. Michael's to worship this weekend. May you be blessed by your presence here today.

MINISTRIES...

SEPTEMBER 28/29th - THE FEAST OF ST. MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL

5:00PM Lector: Kathy Anderson EM: Karen Marsh
10:15AM Lector: Willie Forbes EM: LaVerne Lau
 Collection: LaVerne Lau, Pat Robinson

OCTOBER 5/6th- THE TWENTY-SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

5:00PM Lector: Alberta Canonner EM: Kathy Anderson
10:15AM Lector: Willie Forbes EM: Christine DaCosta
 Collection: Carlos DeFrias

MASS INTENTIONS...

SEPTEMBER 28/29th - THE FEAST OF ST. MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL

5:00PM Martin Kevin Cusack + (10th Anniversary)
10:15AM Deolinda & Manuel Pacheco & their Son, Victor +
 Elizabeth & Okla Basil Meade - (Married here 50 years ago)

AND ALL THOSE REMEMBERED IN OUR FLOWER MEMORIALS THIS WEEKEND

OCTOBER 5/6th- THE TWENTY-SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

5:00PM Josephine & Nyal Clinton ++
10:15AM For St. Michael's Parishioners

You are welcome to attend Morning Masses at

St. Theresa's - 7:30^{AM} Mon.-Fri.

St. Anthony's - 8:00^{AM} Tues.-Fri. | St. Patrick's - 8:00^{AM} Mon.-Fri..

ST. THERESA'S 7:30am Mass is live streamed via the Diocesan Website and their Facebook Page



SEPTEMBER 21/22nd COLLECTION: \$1094.00

Votives: \$31.37

Poor Box (SVdeP): \$60.00

THANK YOU EVERYONE WHO CONTRIBUTED

ELECTRONIC CONTRIBUTIONS CAN BE MADE ONLINE

to St. Michael's Church's

BNTB Account # 2000 6060 081824 100.

YOUR Weekly, monthly or quarterly transaction is appreciated.

When making your online transaction, be sure to include your name and "collection" as your memo on your banking transaction.

Bishop's Corner...



Dear Fellow-Catholics,

I would like to let you know that I have been reminded of the canonical appointments that should be established in each diocese of the Catholic Church. So I want to inform you that on the 1st of October 2024, the liturgical commemoration of St. Therese of Lisieux, Patroness of our Diocese, the following appointments will be made:

1. Diocesan College of Consultors - Canon 502 of Canon Law states: From among the priests ministering in the diocese, the Bishop freely appoints "not fewer than six and not more than twelve" priests to form the Diocesan College of Consultors. They are to serve for a period of five years. Their main role is to take on the governance of the Diocese if the office of the Bishop is vacant. Within eight days of receiving notification of the vacancy of an Episcopal See, a Diocesan Administrator is to be elected by the College of Consultors, to govern the diocese until the appointment of a new Bishop. Since there are only three priests ministering presently in our Diocese, all of them will be appointed to serve as Diocesan Consultors. Although their number is fewer than six, the ancient rule applies that "nobody is retained to do what is impossible."
2. The Vicar General - Canon 475 of Canon Law states: In each diocese the Bishop is to appoint a Vicar General to assist him in the governance of the whole diocese. The appointment of a Vicar General is obligatory no matter how small the diocese. The power of a Vicar General is not proper but vicarious, i.e. his power belongs to the office itself but is exercised in the name of the Bishop, and therefore cannot be exercised contrary to the will or mind of the Bishop. The Vicar General is freely appointed by the Bishop, and can be freely removed by him.

Fr. Joseph Morley has now been appointed the Vicar General of our Diocese.

Happy Patronal Feast to St. Michael's Parish in Paget!

Have a restful weekend and a blessed week!

Wes Jurewicz

Bishop Wes

A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS

We need to be vigilant about closure in the Church.... Because the devil, who is the divider—this is what the word "devil" means, the one who divides—always insinuates suspicions to divide and exclude people.... The Holy Spirit does not want closure; he wants openness, welcoming communities where there is a place for everyone.

ANGELUS, ROME, SEPTEMBER 26, 2021



YARA NARDI / CNS



COLLECT

O God, who dispose in marvelous order
ministries both angelic and human,
graciously grant that our life on
earth may be defended
by those who watch over us
as they minister perpetually to you in heaven.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
One God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

FIRST READING – Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14

As I watched:

Thrones were set up
and the Ancient One took his throne.
His clothing was bright as snow,
and the hair on his head as white as wool;
His throne was flames of fire,
with wheels of burning fire.
A surging stream of fire
flowed out from where he sat;
Thousands upon thousands were ministering to him,
and myriads upon myriads attended him.

The court was convened, and the books were opened. As the visions during
the night continued, I saw

One like a son of man coming,
on the clouds of heaven;
When he reached the Ancient One
and was presented before him,
He received dominion, glory, and kingship;
nations and peoples of every language serve him.
His dominion is an everlasting dominion
that shall not be taken away,
his kingship shall not be destroyed.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM – Psalm 138:1-5

R. In the sight of the angels I will sing your praises, Lord.

I will give thanks to you, O Lord, with all my heart,
for you have heard the words of my mouth;
in the presence of the angels I will sing your praise;
I will worship at your holy temple
and give thanks to your name. **(R)**

Because of your kindness and your truth;
for you have made great above all things
your name and your promise.
When I called, you answered me;
you built up strength within me. **(R)**

All the kings of the earth shall give thanks to you, O Lord,
when they hear the words of your mouth;
And they shall sing of the ways of the Lord:
“Great is the glory of the Lord.” **(R)**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia.

Bless the Lord, all you angels, you ministers, who do his will. *Ps 103:21*

Alleluia, alleluia.

GOSPEL – John 1:47-51

Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward him and said of him, “Here is a true child of Israel. There is no duplicity in him.” Nathanael said to him, “How do you know me?” Jesus answered and said to him, “Before Philip called you, I saw you under the fig tree.” Nathanael answered him, “Rabbi, you are the Son of God; you are the King of Israel.” Jesus answered and said to him, “Do you believe because I told you that I saw you under the fig tree? You will see greater things than this.” And he said to him, “Amen, amen, I say to you, you will see heaven opened and the angels of God ascending and descending on the Son of Man.”

Dear Padre,

After we die and go to heaven, will our guardian angel still be with us? Will we know the angel in a closer way?

“The existence of the spiritual, non-corporeal beings that Sacred Scripture usually calls ‘angels’ is a truth of faith” (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 328). The notion that each person has his or her own guardian angel may be based on Jesus’ warning not to despise “little ones” because “their angels in heaven always look upon the face of my heavenly Father” (Matthew 18:10). Saint Basil wrote, “Beside each believer stands an angel as protector and shepherd leading him to life.” How might we interact with these constant companions in heaven? In heaven, we’ll be consumed with the presence of the beatific vision—the immediate knowledge of God, which the angelic spirits and the souls of the just enjoy. In beholding God face to face, we find perfect happiness. “This perfect life with the Most Holy Trinity—this communion of life and love with the Trinity, with the Virgin Mary, the angels and all the blessed—is called ‘heaven.’ Heaven is the ultimate end and fulfillment of the deepest human longings, the state of supreme, definitive happiness” (CCC 1024). Even though “this mystery of blessed communion with God and all who are in Christ is beyond all understanding and description” (CCC 1027), to imagine the pure joy of being close to our guardian angel is just a foretaste of what heaven will be!★

Fr. Byron Miller, CSsR / DearPadre.org



ZWIEBACKESSER / SHUTTERSTOCK

Our Parish News . . .

ST. MICHAEL'S FEAST DAY THIS SUNDAY, SEPT. 29th.

- **THERE WILL BE A COFFEE SOCIAL** following the 10:15 Mass to celebrate our Parish Feast. Please come and join us on this special day. Anyone who would like to prepare something sweet or savoury for the social, please email stmichaelsbermuda@gmail.com, to let us know what you will bring. If you'd like to donate toward our flowers for our feast, in memory of a loved one, please place your contribution in an envelope and mark it Feast Day Flowers. THANK YOU IN ADVANCE.
- **EMMAUS BIBLE STUDY** looks at the weekend's three readings with discussion questions for a better understanding. Tuesdays 3:00 - 4:30pm.
- **ST. CHARLES "GOING DEEPER" BIBLE STUDY GUIDE** This NEW bible study takes you line by line through the weekend's readings. All material is provided. Thursdays 3:00 - 4:30pm. All are welcome for both or either studies. For further information please phone Fr. Joe at 705-0236.

Around the Diocese . . .

- **ST. THERESA'S 12:10 MASS** is celebrated on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays. Join us.
 - **The 9:00am Portuguese Mass at St. Theresa's - each Saturday**, followed by adoration of the Blessed Sacrament.
- **ST. PATRICK'S** The Rosary - each Wednesday morning at 10am. Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and the Rosary - each Thursday evening at 7pm. Everyone is welcome.
 - The Wednesday evening Portuguese Mass will resume October 2nd celebrated at 7pm, preceded by the recitation of the Rosary.
 - Fr. Vivien celebrates Mass in Tagalog the second(2) Friday of the month at 7:00pm. All are welcome!
- **ST JOSEPH'S FILIPINO MASS** is celebrated by Fr. Dandy on the third (3rd) Saturday of each month at 11:00am.
- **STELLA MARIS FILIPINO MASS** Join Fr. Dandy, and our Filipino community on the last Wednesday of each month at 7:00pm .
- **ST. ANTHONY'S : ST. FRANCIS PRAYER: BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS** - will take place at St. Anthony's on Sunday, October 6 at 2:00 pm sharp on the patio area by Fr. Joe. All are invited to attend this special blessing as we recognise those creatures/animals that God has given us for our entertainment, enjoyment and companionship - each creature is so different and unique that God has created for us.
- **ST. THERESA'S GIFT SHOP: Opening Hours** each Tuesday and Saturday from 10am - 2pm.

ST. THERESA'S FEAST

Bishop Wes would like to advise and apologize that this year's St. Theresa's Feast will be celebrated in a less solemn way than it has been in the past. On Saturday, 5th of October, at 6:30pm, Bishop Wes will preside the Liturgy, and the Rt. Revd. Bishop Nicholas Dill will preach. There will be no dinner afterwards.

POSTER CONTEST:

St. Theresa's Cathedral will be having a poster making contest on Saturday, 5th October at 10:00am, in the Parish Hall. The theme is "Spirit filled evangelizers to the ends of the earth". Age categories are Children (7-12), Youth (13-17) and Adult (18 & above). This contest is open to ALL Parishioners throughout our Diocese. To register please call 292-0607 Ext. 2.

Pastor's Points

Dear Parishioners,

Jews and Christians have always recognised and revered angels, spiritual beings created by God who are neither human nor divine. Scripture depicts angels as messengers of God and manifestations of God's glory and power, but only three are named in the Scriptures: Michael, Gabriel, and Raphael have traditionally held special roles in salvation history as agents of God who minister to human beings.

Because of Jesus, our sin holds no power over us. Our Lord has conquered the trappings of sin and has released His people. He is the Lamb of God, and it is by His authority that we are no longer bound by our sin.

St. Michael the Archangel (whose our Church is patron) is associated with battle; he fights against evil with the angels. They fight for God and His goodness. The authority and love of Christ overpower all else.

Nathaniel was a holy man, and Jesus identified him as a "true child of Israel" (Jon 1:47) because he had no duplicity. We too are called to be holy and truthful people who serve God and one another, not ourselves alone. We too are called to serve God and one another without lies or other untruthfulness. Therefore, let us have the courage of our convictions and not to be afraid to share and spread the faith that we have received as a gift from our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

St. Michael, pray and defend us. Amen.

Fr. Joe, Pastor



Word of Life:

United States Conference of Catholic Bishops for September 29th

"Over the years, the FDA has bent the law and shown disregard for women's health when it comes to chemical abortion. In 2000, mifepristone was first approved using an 'accelerated' review process that is supposed to be only for new drugs that treat serious illnesses and are better than existing treatments. But pregnancy is not an illness, and abortion drugs are riskier than surgical abortion."

USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities, "Abortion Pills: The Basics"

LOSS & GRIEF GROUP

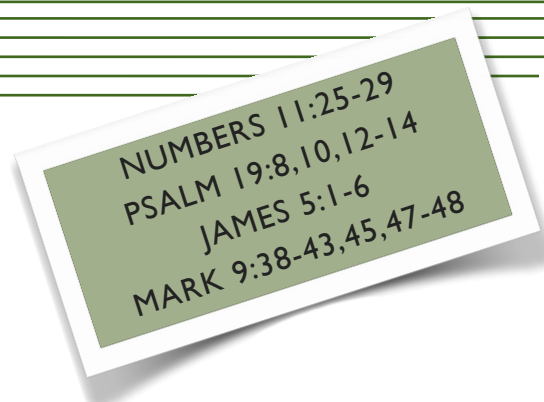
Please be advised that Bishop Wes would like to start a new project with a Loss & Grief group. The objective of the group is not to replace nor to offer psychological therapy that is needed at times, but to create a space for being listened to and supported through the experience of grief. This group gathering will take place on the first Sunday of every month at 3:00pm, beginning with **Sunday, 6th of October**, at the Bishop's House; "Halcyon" 2 Astwood Road, Paget.

EVENTS in our Catholic community...

- 1st of October, Tuesday: St. Theresa's Feast, Patroness of the Parish and of the Diocese
- 13th of October, Sunday: 7:00pm - Our Lady of Fatima Feast at St. Patrick's
- 2nd of November, Saturday: 11:00am - All Souls' Mass at St. Theresa's
- 12th of December, Thursday: 6:30pm - Stella Maris Parish Liturgical Feast



Our Sunday Readings



Scandals

JAMES 5:1-6

Reading closely

1. What does James seem to think of the rich?
2. What seems to be happening to the rich?
3. What all is *a testimony against* the rich?
4. What/Who is *crying aloud*? Why?
5. What makes the rich ready for *the day of slaughter*?
6. Why do you think the righteous offer the rich no resistance?
7. How might wealthy people have reacted to these words?
8. How might poor people have reacted to these words?

Living the word

9. What people and/or circumstances from today's times does this passage bring to mind?
10. Do you think of yourself as rich or poor? To whom are you comparing yourself?
11. How does wealth harm our relationship with God?
12. How does wealth harm our relationships with other people?

THE SECOND READING

What to treasure

All that the wealthy have accumulated won't help them on the day of judgment. Such possessions are useless; they pass away. Only by acting with justice and compassion will people gain the wealth of heaven (Matthew 6:19-21, Luke 12:15).

The poor and the just

This passage draws on the words of the Old Testament prophets who repeatedly warn that God will punish those who oppress the poor. God's concern for the poor is also reflected in Jesus' ministry.

This letter also echoes the biblical wisdom tradition. James condemns those who oppress the just, *the righteous one* (v.6; Wisdom 2:10f).

The day of slaughter

By oppressing the poor in order to accumulate their wealth, the rich reveal their self-indulgence and self-interest. Their hearts have grown fat through gluttony and greed, making them easy prey for God and his heavenly army (*the hosts*) when the day of judgment (*slaughter*) comes.

MARK 9:38-41

1. How might the disciples have tried to stop the man from expelling demons?
2. How might the man have reacted to the disciples?
3. Why do you think the disciples object to the man's actions?
4. How might the disciples react when Jesus allows the man to continue?
5. Who do you think of as an insider?
6. Who do you think of as an outsider?
7. How does Jesus redefine your boundaries?
8. Have you ever envied someone because of his/her virtuous behavior?

MARK 9:42-48

9. What are some examples of how a person could intentionally cause someone else to sin?
10. What are some examples of how a person could accidentally cause someone to sin?
11. In what ways are we affected when we cause someone to sin?
12. What are some things people have to *cut* or *pluck out* of themselves?
13. What do you need to cut out of your life?
14. Do you find Jesus' imagery compelling?

THE GOSPEL READING

Insiders & outsiders (vv.38-41)

There were both Jewish and pagan exorcists at the time of Jesus. We don't know if the man in this story was doing exorcisms for years or started doing them after he heard about Jesus. Regardless, he was using Jesus' name to vanquish demons, but he wasn't one of Jesus' followers.

The disciples want to stop the man from drawing on Jesus' power. They might be jealous: in 9:17-18 we learn that they failed to cast out a demon. Whatever their motivation, they think in narrow terms. Because the man hasn't been with them, they think he should be treated as an outsider.

Jesus disagrees. By expelling evil the man has aligned himself with Jesus and God's kingdom. Other people, too, might not know or understand Jesus, but their life-giving behavior reveals that they are fundamentally good (see Matthew 25:31-46).

Better off dead (v.42)

Verse 42 can also be translated "Whoever scandalizes one of these..." The word *scandal* comes from the Greek word for *obstacle* or *stumbling block*. Jesus warns people not to place a stumbling block in the path of those who have faith in him. Such action could provoke a believer to sin or lose faith. God will deal so severely with those who cause such scandals that it would be better if they had swiftly died.

Millstones are giant stone wheels that crush grain into flour. They are so heavy that donkeys have to turn them.

Cut off! (vv.43-48)

After warning people not to lead others into sin, Jesus warns against allowing one's self to sin. His vivid, hyperbolic language emphasizes the importance of taking radical action to avoid sin. It's better to cut off something that feels essential to us than to be permanently cut off from God.

Gehenna

Gehenna was a valley near Jerusalem that had been the site of pagan sacrifice. By Jesus' day it was a vast garbage dump. Jesus uses Gehenna in order to say, "You think it's hard to stop committing that sin? It would be a lot worse to spend the rest of your life in burning, rotting garbage with only maggots for company." The pain of cutting out a particular sin is far more bearable than that.

PRAYER

by Thomas Á Kempis

God our Father,
we are exceedingly frail and indisposed to every
virtuous and gallant undertaking.

Strengthen our weakness,
we beseech you,
that we may do valiantly in this spiritual war.

Help us against our own negligence and
cowardice, and defend us from the treachery of
our unfaithful hearts,
for the sake of Jesus Christ.
Amen.