

St. Michael the Archangel, who along with the archangels St. Gabriel and St. Raphael is celebrated in today's liturgy, provides aid in the spiritual struggle fought in every human soul. The Archangel Michael is honoured as the leader of the heavenly host which threw Satan and his fellow rebels out of heaven.

Today, the Catechism of the Catholic Church stoutly maintains the existence of angels as "true of faith": "The witness of Scripture is as clear as the unanimity of tradition." Angels, the Catechism elucidates, "are servants and messengers of God. Because they 'always behold the face of my Father who is in heaven' (Mt 18:10) they are 'the mighty ones who do his word' (Ps 103:20). "The whole life of the Church benefits from the mysterious and powerful help of the angels. From its beginning until death, human life is surrounded by their watchful care and intercession." This is a development of Jewish tradition. In the Old Testament there are copious references to angels, although Michael's status is not precisely clear. In the Book of Daniel, written c 550 BC, he is "the great prince which standeth for the children of thy people".

Jesus Christ speaks (Mt 26:53) of having "more than 12 legions of angels" potentially at his side. And although the term "archangel" does not appear in the Bible, the reference in Revelation (12:7) to "Michael and his angels" suggests his supremacy. In Hebrew the name Michael actually means "Who is like unto God?" The implication, which the rebellious angels learned to their cost, is that no one possibly could be like God.

In Catholic tradition, Michael serves four distinct roles. Just as he had defeated Satan in celestial combat, so he provides aid in the spiritual struggle fought in every human soul. "With me," the worldly Bishop Blougram explains in Browning's poem:

Faith means perpetual unbelief
Kept quiet like the snake 'neath Michael's foot
Who stands calm just because he feels it writhe.

Secondly, Michael is present at every deathbed, offering the hope of redemption. Thirdly, he weighs the merits of the soul after death. Fourthly, he stands forth as the guarantor of Christ's promise to the Church that it will endure to the end of time.

The cult of Michael developed in Byzantine Christianity, though stories of his apparition on Monte Gargano (southern Italy) in the late fifth century helped to spread his fame in western Europe. Around 495, a vision of the archangel in Cornwall apparently led to the naming of St. Michael's Mount. By the end of the Middle Ages nearly 700 churches in England (many of them on high ground) bore Michael's name. His feast was even retained in the ultra-Protestant Prayer Book of 1549.

Since 1969 the Catholic Church has combined his feast day with those of Gabriel, Raphael "and all angels". Michael, though, is still in control of the army.

(www.catholicherald.co.uk/saintoftheweek)

PARISH

Mass Intentions This Week – Sept. 30 to Oct. 6

Please join us as we pray for the following "Announced Mass" intentions:

	Intention(s)	Offered by
Monday, 9am	✠ Rebecca Borg	The Family
Tuesday, 9am	✠ John Lynskey	Bob & Sharon Cullen
Wednesday, 9am	✠ Ivelda Cavoto	The Brennan Family
Thursday, 9am	✠ Ivelda Cavoto	Paul & Peggy Hughes
Friday, 9am	✠ Deceased members of the Goseto, Feliciano and Valencia families	Linda Feliciano
Saturday, 9am	✠ Lois Bell	The Dennie Family
5:15pm	✠ Rose Flannagan	The Pool Family
Sunday, 8am	✠ Ivelda Cavoto	Michael Foran
9:30am	...of Antoinette Zimmerlé	Jeannette Hendrych
11am	...our Parish and Parishioners	
12:30pm	✠ Elizabeth & Nicholas Fanuzzi	The Family

Year of Faith Movie Night – Saturday, Oct. 5, 7pm

"October Baby" ★★☆☆☆ 4.1 out of 5 stars –Goodreads.com

Witness an inspiring story about the true power of love and forgiveness.

Every life has a purpose - Every life is beautiful! Rated PG-13.

Campaign Life - Life Chain – Sunday, Oct. 6, 2–3pm

Join in prayerful, peaceful witness to the sanctity of life on behalf of the most vulnerable members of our society. Meet at the corner of Bloor & Islington. A small sacrifice of an hour compared to the sacrifice of so many lives. Mark your calendar!

Scripture Classes – Wednesdays, 10am & Thursdays, 7pm

We gather on Wednesdays in the Parish Hall meeting room and on Thursdays at OLS School, 32 Montgomery Rd. Our topic is the Gospel of John. Bring your Bible!

Rosary Group – Daily, After 9am Mass & Fridays, 2pm

One decade daily, three decades on Friday followed by the Chaplet of Divine Mercy.

Youth Ministry – Corn Roast, Sunday, Sept. 29 + Call for Members!

Join us after all Sunday liturgies on the rectory lawn (or in the Parish Hall if it rains) for \$2 roasted corn & watermelon. Benefits Out of the Cold, a ministry for Toronto's homeless.

We are volunteering at Good Shepherd Ministries on Saturday, Oct. 12, 1–4pm. Join us! Anyone interested in participating in OLS Youth and Young Adult Ministry this year is invited and encouraged to contact Abigail Lofte, Youth Minister, through the Parish Office or abigail.lofte@gmail.com or 647.861.5197 or Facebook - http://on.fb.me/15r1pW0

Help Wanted – Our St. Vincent de Paul group is looking for a few new members.

If you are interested in making a difference in the lives of people who are constantly struggling to make ends meet, please contact the Parish Office.

Thanksgiving Food Drive – Non-perishable foods needed, Oct. 12 & 13

Please bring your contribution to the church on Thanksgiving weekend. Proceeds to Good Shepherd Ministries. Urgent needs include: rice, pasta/sauce, cookies/crackers, cereal, peanut butter, jam, tea, ground/instant coffee, sugar, ketchup, mustard, relish, canned items including: tuna, salmon, vegetables, meat, fruit, soup & stew.

Sacraments of Initiation

The Sacraments of First Reconciliation, First Eucharist and Confirmation are significant milestones in the faith journeys of our young parishioners. The Archdiocese of Toronto notes that preparation for initiation is the shared responsibility of parents, the local Catholic school and the parish community.

To be eligible to receive a sacrament at Our Lady of Sorrows, participants and their families must fulfill three conditions:

- (a) they must be registered as parishioners of OLS (NB: registration at OLS School or family history of sacraments received at OLS do NOT constitute parish registration);
- (b) they must regularly attend Sunday Mass;
- (c) parents, candidates, and sponsors must participate in the relevant aspects of the program outlined below.

If your family does not regularly attend Sunday Mass at OLS and/or is not registered with a parish, you are welcome to register with us at this time and begin attending regularly. All other families should, at their earliest convenience, contact the parish nearest their home or the parish they regularly attend, for information on sacramental preparation. Information and registration forms will be distributed through OLS School and through our parish-based Religious Education program for Catholic students in non-Catholic schools in September. All others should contact the Parish Office.

Youth and Chamber Choirs

Alternating weekly, our Youth Choir (grades 3–6) and Chamber Choir (grades 7–12) assists in encouraging congregants to participate in prayerful singing. Rehearsals are on Thursdays, Youth Choir from 4–5pm and Chamber Choir from 5–6pm. Contact Michele through the Parish Office or at 416-245-0761 for more information.

St. Augustine's Lay Spiritual Formation Program

Rev. Msgr. A. Robert Nusca presents "The Book of Revelation" Workshop on Saturday, Oct. 5, 2013, 9:30am–2:30pm. Cost is \$40 including lunch. To register for this session please contact Tatiana at iofstas@rogers.com or 416-261-7207 ext. 235.

Lectio Divina – Friday, Oct. 4, 7pm, Feast of St. Francis Mass, 7:30pm

All Saints Church, 1415 Royal York Rd. Read, Reflect, Respond & Rest on the Sacred Word for Peace

Defund Abortion Mini-Rally

Did you know that annually Ontario spends \$50 million of your tax dollars to fund abortions? On Thursday, Oct. 3, 11am–noon, a Defund Abortion Mini-Rally will be held in front of Donna Cansfield's office at 4800 Dundas Street West (Islington and Dundas, NW corner). Please come and invite friends to protest this gross misuse of public funds.

"Jesus the Homeless" Transformative Education Series – Thursday, Oct. 3, 7pm

The presentation will be followed by a 15 minute silent prayer vigil near the Jesus the Homeless Statue at the college. Register at inquiries@regiscollege.ca or 416-922-5474 x221

Syria – Humanitarian Relief

The Archdiocese of Toronto is accepting financial contributions to support humanitarian relief efforts in Syria and the Middle East. Those wishing to help may do so online at www.archtoronto.org or by phone at 416-934-3411 or through the regular offertory collection, making cheques payable to: "OLS – Syria – Humanitarian Relief".

COMMUNITY