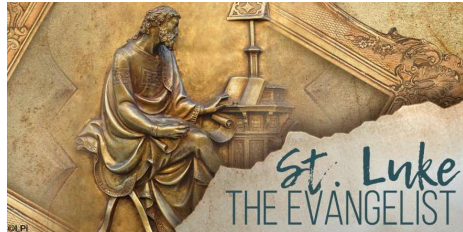


St. Luke the Evangelist Parish
13 North St., Geneseo, NY



Our Saints and Intercessors, Part I

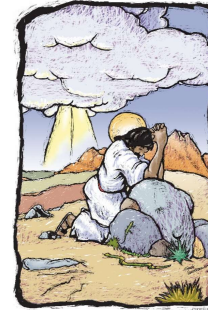
Fr. Jeffrey S. Tunncliff
September 11, 2019



Our Saints and Intercessors, Part I

Let us Pray

Luke 1:1-4



"Since many have undertaken to compile a narrative of the events that have been fulfilled among us, just as those who were eyewitnesses from the beginning and ministers of the word have handed them down to us, I too have decided, after investigating everything accurately anew, to write it down in an orderly sequence for you, most excellent Theophilus, so that you may realize the certainty of the teachings you have received."



Our Saints and Intercessors, Part I



The Saints in
General



Our Saints and Intercessors, Part I

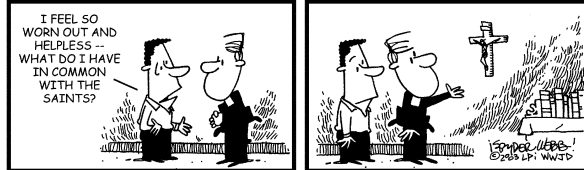


Why are the saints
important?



Our Saints and Intercessors, Part I

ALL SAINTS



Our Saints and Intercessors, Part I

Why are the Saints Important?

- Examples of holy life
 - Mary – “Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word” (Luke 1:38)
 - St. Patrick’s re-conversion from atheism
- Examples of perseverance
 - Lucy
- Intercessors
 - Why pray to the saints when I can pray to God?



Our Saints and Intercessors, Part I



What is veneration?



Our Saints and Intercessors, Part I

Common Misconceptions

- Veneration vs. Worship
- How having a relationship with the saints can help us have a relationship with Jesus



Our Saints and Intercessors, Part I



What makes one a saint?



Our Saints and Intercessors, Part I

What Makes One a Saint?

- Canonization vs. all in Heaven
- "cloud of witnesses" - Hebrews 12:1
- Matthew 5:1-12a Beatitudes



Our Saints and Intercessors, Part I

Communion of Saints

- We are not created to be isolated individuals
- *Catechism of the Catholic Church, 954* ""The three states of the Church. "When the Lord comes in glory, and all his angels with him, death will be no more and all things will be subject to him. But at the present time some of his disciples are pilgrims on earth. Others have died and are being purified, while still others are in glory, contemplating 'in full light, God himself triune and one, exactly as he is'" (original quote from *Lumen Gentium*, 49).



Our Saints and Intercessors, Part I

From Communion of Saints to Intercessory Prayer

Catechism of the Catholic Church, 955

""So it is that the union of the wayfarers with the brethren who sleep in the peace of Christ is in no way interrupted, but on the contrary, according to the constant faith of the Church, this union is reinforced by an exchange of spiritual goods."" (original quote from *Lumen Gentium*, 49)



Our Saints and Intercessors, Part I

Intercessions of the Saints

- Asking family and friends to pray for you
- Mary interceded at the Wedding in Cana (John 2:1-11)
- *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 956 quotes from St. Dominic's dying words, "Do not weep, for I shall be more useful to you after my death and I shall help you then more effectively than during my life."
- Revelation 5:8 & 8:3 – "the prayers of the holy ones"
- Who does the miracle(s)?



Our Saints and Intercessors, Part I

Patron Saints

- From intercession to patron saints of particular needs
 - Patron saint of police officers, etc.
- Names of our churches



Our Saints and Intercessors, Part I

Name saints associated with our parish

- | Current | Saints from Our History |
|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Holy Angels | 7. Assumption |
| 2. St. Lucy | 8. Holy Name |
| 3. St. Luke | 9. St. Maria de Mercede |
| 4. St. Mary | 10. St. Raphael |
| 5. St. Patrick | 11. St. Anne's Society |
| 6. St. Thomas Aquinas | |

- Craig Development Center
- Chapel of Divine Compassion



Our Saints and Intercessors, Part I

Mary

Solemnity –
December 8th
Immaculate
Conception



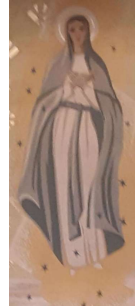


Our Saints and Intercessors, Part I

Mary in the Creed & Mass

"and by the Holy Spirit
was incarnate of the
Virgin Mary, and become
man."

Mary is also mentioned
in all the Eucharistic
Prayers



Our Saints and Intercessors, Part I

Mary in Scripture

- Infancy narratives
 - Matthew
 - Luke – Annunciation & Visitation
 - "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word" (Luke 1:38)
- John 2:1-11 – The Wedding at Cana
- Luke 8:19-21 – Mary and other relatives come to visit
- John 19:25 – Mary is there at the foot of the Cross
- (After Jesus' death) Acts 1:14 - "All of these devoted themselves with one accord to prayer, together with some women, and Mary the mother of Jesus, and his brothers."



Our Saints and Intercessors, Part I

"To Jesus Through Mary"

"Now we're ready to consider four core Catholic beliefs about Mary known as the four Marian dogmas: Mary's Immaculate conception, her being the Mother of God, her perpetual virginity, and her Assumption to heaven. ***It would be a mistake, however, to think of these dogmas as being only about Mary. Though certainly related to Mary, these four Marian dogmas are actually centered on Jesus Christ.*** What the Church proclaims about Mary in these dogmas is intimately connected to the reality of who Jesus is. ***They ultimately are meant to help us know and understand Jesus and his plan of salvation better, so that we can love him all the more.***" (Love Unveiled, 144, italics my emphasis).



Our Saints and Intercessors, Part I

"To Jesus Through Mary" (cont'd)

Catechism of the Catholic Church, 487

"What the Catholic faith believes about Mary is based on what it believes about Christ, and what it teaches about Mary illumines in turn its faith in Christ."



Our Saints and Intercessors, Part I

Marian Feasts and Memorials

- There are many. St. Mary's has celebrated on the Immaculate Conception
- Regarding Immaculate Conception - "Mary was not given this unique privilege of being full of grace for her own sake, but for the sake of the child whom she would carry in her womb." (*Love Unveiled*, 145).
 - "Hail, full of grace" Luke 1:28 (cf. *Love Unveiled*, 146)
 - Prevenient grace (*Love Unveiled*, 147)



Our Saints and Intercessors, Part I

Mary's Titles – Mother of God

- In Luke 1:43, Elizabeth refers to Mary as the "mother of my Lord."
- Cf. Matthew 13:55, John 2:1 - Mary referred to as the mother of Jesus
- "Holy Mary, Mother of God." Sometime in the Middle Ages, the second half of the Hail Mary, which begins by invoking her title of Mother of God, was composed. This title comes from the earliest days of Christian faith. Mary is the Mother of God, because she is the mother of Jesus who is true God and true man, as defined by the Council of Ephesus in AD 431." (*Catechism for Adults*, 471)
- January 1st Solemnity



Our Saints and Intercessors, Part I

Mary's Titles (cont'd)

- St. Maria de Mercede - Cuylerville
- The Church of the Assumption - Mount Morris



Our Saints and Intercessors, Part I

Mary's Titles - Queen

- We might think of queen as the wife of the king but biblically and in ancient near eastern kingdoms, it is the king's mother who has the influence. (Sri, *Love Unveiled*, 139)
- "The office of the queen mother was not just some honorific, figurehead position. She had real authority. As a member of the royal court, the queen mother sat on a throne, wore a crown, and shared in the king's authority to lead (see 2 Kings 24:12; Jer 13:18-20). Most of all, she also served as an advocate for the people. Citizens of the kingdom would bring their petitions to the queen mother, knowing that she would present them to her royal son." (*Love Unveiled*, 139).
- See in 1 Kings as wife of David, Bathsheba has little influence (1 Kings 1:16-17, 31) but when David dies and Solomon becomes king, she has much more influence. See 1 Kings 2:19-20 (*Love Unveiled*, 139-140).



Our Saints and Intercessors, Part I

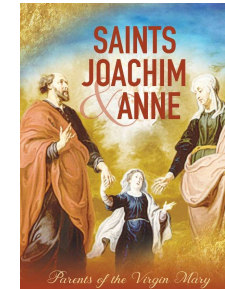
Did Mary Have Other Children?

- Did Jesus have brothers & sisters (*Love Unveiled*, 150-151)
 - Bible passages about his brothers and sisters
 - Mk 3:31-35
 - Mk 6:3
 - Gal 1:19
 - Hebrew word does not distinguish close relatives like brothers vs. cousins
 - John 19:25-27 - Jesus giving Mary to John at the foot of the Cross
- Cf. *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 500



Our Saints and Intercessors, Part I

Mary's Family Growing Up



Our Saints and Intercessors, Part I

Holy Angels

Memorial:
October 2nd



Our Saints and Intercessors, Part I

Holy Angels in the Creed

"I believe in one God,
the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all things visible and *invisible*."





Our Saints and Intercessors, Part I

Holy Angels

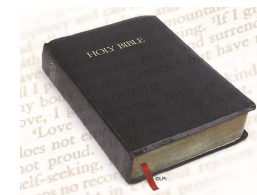
Compendium: Catechism of the Catholic Church, 60.
 "Who are the angels? The angels are spiritual creatures, incorporated, **invisible**, immortal, and personal beings endowed with intelligence and will. They ceaselessly contemplate God face-to-face and they glorify him. They serve him and are his messengers in the accomplishment of his saving mission to all."



Our Saints and Intercessors, Part I

Holy Angels in the Bible

- Biblegateway.com – The word "angel" is found in the New American Bible, Revised Edition 296 times
 - Most often as messengers



Our Saints and Intercessors, Part I

Holy Angels in the Bible

- Guide
 - Exodus 23:20 - "See, I am sending an angel before you, to guard you on the way and bring you to the place I have prepared."



Our Saints and Intercessors, Part I

Angels in the Bible

- As warrior/protector
 - 1 Chronicles 21:15 - "God also sent an angel to Jerusalem to destroy it; but as the angel was on the point of destroying it, the Lord saw and changed his mind about the calamity, and said to the destroying angel, "Enough now! Stay your hand!"
 - Matthew 4:11 - "Then the devil left him and, behold, angels came and ministered to him."



Our Saints and Intercessors, Part I

Angels in the Bible

- Archangels
 - Raphael - Book of Tobit
 - Gabriel - annunciation to
 - Mary – Luke 1:26-38
 - Zechariah – Luke 1:5-25
 - Michael - defeats the enemy, Revelation 12:7, Jude 1:9



Our Saints and Intercessors, Part I

Angels in the Bible

- Harvesters
 - Matthew 13:39 - “and the enemy who sows them is the devil. The harvest is the end of the age, and the harvesters are angels.”



Our Saints and Intercessors, Part I

Angels in the Bible - Fall of the Angels

Catechism of the Catholic Church, 391 (cf. 391-395)

“Behind the disobedient choice of our first parents lurks a seductive voice, opposed to God, which makes them fall into death out of envy. Scripture and the Church’s Tradition see in this being a fallen angel, called “Satan” or the “devil.” The Church teaches that Satan was a first a good angel, made by God: “The devil and the other demons were indeed created naturally good by God, but they became evil by their own doing (Lateran Council IV).”



Our Saints and Intercessors, Part I

Angels in the Bible

Guardian Angels

- Psalm 91:11 “For he commands his angels with regard to you, to guard you wherever you go.”
- Matthew 18:10 “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.” (The gospel for the Memorial of the Guardian Angels on October includes this verse).



Our Saints and Intercessors, Part I

Holy Angels – Our Guardians

Catechism of the Catholic Church, 336

"From its beginning until death, human life is surrounded by their watchful care and intercession. "Beside each believer stands an angel as protector and shepherd leading him to life."" (quote within quote from St. Basil Adv. Eunomium III, I:PG 29, 656B)



Our Saints and Intercessors, Part I

Holy Angels - Namesake

- Perhaps the church named "Holy Angels" for our guardian angels best expresses why we name our churches the way we do



Our Saints and Intercessors, Part I

Summary

- The saints are real people who lived lives just like us and are examples of holy life as well as intercessors
- The Virgin Mary – "Do whatever he tells you" (John 2:5) – good things happen when we follow Jesus
- Holy Angels – We are never alone. Jesus is with us and sends angels to watch over and guide us.



Our Saints and Intercessors, Part I

"Homework"

Researching "your" patron saint

- The saint you share a name with
- A saint whose memorial falls on your birthday
- Saint name you chose when you were confirmed

Suggested resources

- <https://www.catholic.org/saints/>
- <https://www.franciscanmedia.org/source/saint-of-the-day/>
- Parish office resources



Our Saints and Intercessors, Part I

Future Schedule

- Schedule of what is to come
- Discussion of
 - Dates
 - October 2nd
 - November 6th
 - Location
 - Time



Our Saints and Intercessors, Part I

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Our Saints and Intercessors, Part I

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