



TODAY'S READINGS: *Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14 or Revelation 12:7-12a; John 1:47-51 (647).* "In the presence of the angels, I will sing your praise."

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 30

FEAST OF JEROME, PRIEST, DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH Anger management is a holy good idea

Jerome is remembered primarily as translator of the scripture from the original languages into Latin in the fourth century, but he is also known for his rather short temper! How do you deal with your own? Psychologists say anger is a normal, usually healthy, human emotion, but they add that out-of-control anger is destructive. To either condemn all anger as a deadly sin or to use Jesus' anger at the temple merchants to excuse your own justified anger is too easy. You may need help beyond prayer to control this emotion. If so, ask for it.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Nehemiah 2:1-8; Luke 9:57-62 (457).* "No one who sets a hand to the plow and looks to what was left behind is fit for the kingdom of God."

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 1

FEAST OF THERÈSE OF THE CHILD JESUS, VIRGIN, DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH God revealed in the little things

Thérèse of the Child Jesus is held in beloved esteem for her simple spirituality. She lived a sheltered life and died young (24), so perhaps we may fail to see the strength that belied her years. Rooted and nurtured by scripture and prayer, Thérèse knew that Jesus was present with her in all things. She forged a new spiritual way, her "little way," in a time of great formalism in spiritual life, and in doing so she opened the door for all to see the gift of personal relationship with God who is love. Saint Thérèse, pray for us.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Nehemiah 8:1-4a, 5-6, 7b-12; Luke 10:1-12 (458).* "I believe I shall see the good things of the Lord."

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 2 FEAST OF THE HOLY GUARDIAN ANGELS Angel of God, my guardian dear

At the time of our birth, it is believed that we each receive a guardian angel to accompany us on life's journey. This companion remains at our side for our whole life. The Catechism of the Catholic Church states, "The existence of the spiritual, non-corporeal beings that Sacred Scripture usually calls 'angels' is a truth of faith." The word *angel* means "messenger, especially of God." Angels can help us in daily activities and choices, during times of joy and hardship. As you go about your day today, turn to your heavenly companion on earth for encouragement, support, and friendship.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Baruch 1:15-22 (459); Psalm 79:1b-5, 8-9; Matthew 18:1-5, 10 (650).* "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."

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 3 The mystery of our joy

October is Rosary month. On this first Saturday we recall with Mary the many pleasures of parenthood: anticipating the baby, sharing the news, seeing the child for the first time, dedicating this new life to God. The final Joyful Mystery celebrates the deep relief parents feel every time their worst fears about their children's safety are proven mistaken. These gentle, simple moments are meant to be savored. Pray the Joyful Mysteries today for expectant parents, new parents, and parents on a learning curve everywhere.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Baruch 4:5-12, 27-29; Luke 10:17-24 (460).* "Rejoice because your names are written in heaven."

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2015

TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Prophet-able words should be taken to heart

Biblically, prophets are people chosen by God to boldly speak of God's perspective on life. Since most of us like to be told everything is just peachy the way it is, being reminded otherwise is not pleasant. No wonder most prophets at first tried to reject the call. It's a challenging two-edged sword, either to *listen* to a truth-teller who points out a need to change or to *become* such a prophet. Yet Jesus wished the spirit of prophecy were more common, and so it is: At Baptism you became part of a prophetic people. Listen, learn, and when necessary, speak out.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Numbers 11:25-29; James 5:1-6; Mark 9:38-43, 45, 47-48 (137).* "Would that all the people of the Lord were prophets!"

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 28 SUKKOTH BEGINS

Give thanks when the storm passes

The Jewish festival of Sukkoth is based on texts in Leviticus that both remember the journey of deliverance and thank God for an abundant harvest. There are echoes of this festival in the American celebration of Thanksgiving. The word *sukkoth* means "tent" or "booth," suggesting the nomadic journey to the Holy Land. While one is often moved to prayer in a moment of crisis, thanksgiving—one of the four major types of prayer—too often can be forgotten once the crisis passes. What have you told yourself you will never forget to be grateful for?

TODAY'S READINGS: *Zechariah 8:1-8; Luke 9:46-50 (455).* "Whoever receives this child in my name receives me."

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 29

FEAST OF MICHAEL, GABRIEL, AND RAPHAEL, ARCHANGELS

Angels of God

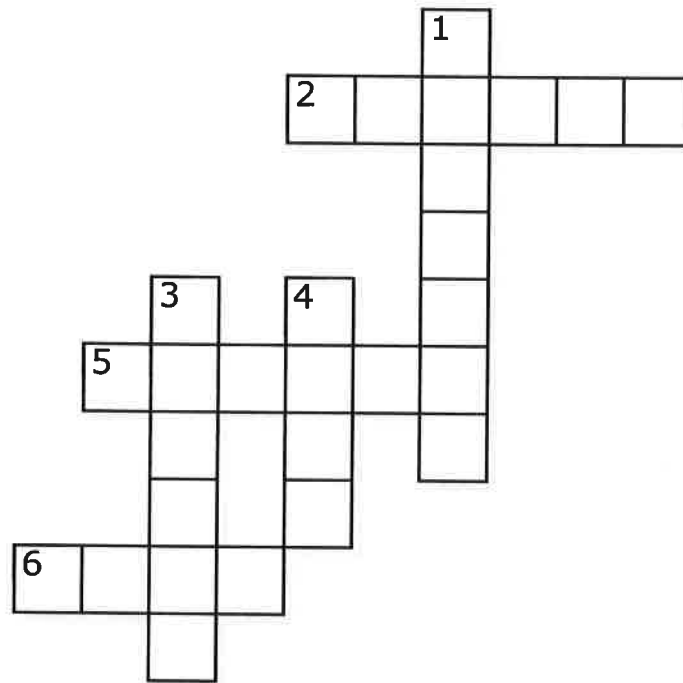
Once upon a time, Catholic children were instructed to make sure there was space at the table or desk for their guardian angel. And that is where most knowledge of angels began and ended. Nonetheless, church teaching is clear that angels are spirits who are servants and messengers of God. On this feast of three angels, we remember Michael who fought a dragon and is the patron saint of soldiers, dear Gabriel who announced good news to Mary and is the patron of those in telecommunications, and Raphael, who healed Tobit's blindness and is the patron of travelers, physicians, and the sightless. Make a little space in your own life for God's messengers.



Invest just five minutes a day, and your faith will deepen and grow—a day at a time.

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CatholicMom.com Gospel Activities - Mark 9:38-48



Across

- 2) "There is no one who performs a _____ deed in my name who can at the same time speak ill of me."
5) "Teacher, we saw someone driving out _____ in your name, and we tried to prevent him because he does not follow us."
6) Today, we read from the Gospel according to _____.

Down

- 1) For whoever is not _____ us is for us.
3) "Anyone who gives you a cup of water to drink because you belong to Christ, amen, I say to you, will surely not lose his _____."
4) Who was speaking to Jesus at the beginning of this Gospel?