



Notes from Fr. Nick

The Ranks of Angels

This week, we will celebrate the feasts of Archangels and Guardian Angels. Have you ever wondered about the various categories of angels? In ascending order, they are: **Angels, Archangels, Principalities, Powers, Virtues, Dominions, Thrones, Cherubim, and Seraphim.** You'll hear this list in the part of the Eucharistic Prayer called the *Preface*, just before we sing the *Sanctus*.

The origin of this list comes from a medieval theologian called **Pseudo-Dionysius the Aeropagite**. Pseudo-Dionysius, originally from the Middle East, was one of the most influential Churchmen of the Middle Ages and, basically, a fraud. He purported himself to be a companion of Saint Paul, but in fact lived centuries later.

When Pseudo-Dionysius' theology made it to Europe in the 12th century, it had a massive impact. He espoused a theology called Neoplatonism, which merged the Greek philosophy of Plato with Christian theology. For Platonists, reality resides in Heaven, and our material world is an imperfect reflection of heaven.

The first thing Pseudo-Dionysius did was to assemble the various names for angels from Christian scriptures and elsewhere into one list. He then ordered them in a hierarchy. How did he determine the hierarchy? As a Neoplatonist, he looked for what he saw as the most perfect organization on Earth—and what else but the Catholic Church? He therefore organized the angels to mirror the Church's structure. Since the Church was organized in ascending order — from lay-people through deacons, priests, bishops, and the Pope — he supposed that it must reflect the perfect order of Angels in Heaven.

There are some major problems with this way of thinking. **Aristotle**, Plato's student, disputed his teacher's idea that perfect reality resides in heaven; he stated that the essence of a thing resides in itself. The world is created by God, and is not simply an imperfect reflection of heaven. Beginning with **St. Thomas Aquinas**, the Church gradually moved away from Neoplatonism, but it never completely abandoned it.

Unwittingly, we still fall into the neo-platonic trap of believing that the world is bad and heaven is good, which can cause us to discount our worldly experience. Our personal theology becomes one of avoiding sin, rather than sanctifying God's creation by our participation in it. God intends us to love our life and be happy here on earth. We can also be drawn into theological *cul-de-sacs*. The fact is we know almost nothing about angels other than they are messengers from God, and we really know nothing about how Heaven is organized. The danger of deifying the structure of the Church because we believe it mirrors heaven is that it can prevent the Church from adapting to the needs of our time and place.

*"Together we share our
Faith in Jesus Christ.*

*We live the Gospel,
and we care for others."*

MASS TIMES

Saturday 5:30 pm — Vigil (Livestreamed)
Sunday 8:00 am — Church
Sunday 9:30 am — Dominican Garden
Sunday 11:30 am — Church

OFFICE HOURS

Monday - Friday 9:00 am - 5:00 pm
Phone: 510-526-4811 (closed from 12:00-1:00 pm)

WEBSITE

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SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Saturday 4:00 pm
(and by appointment)

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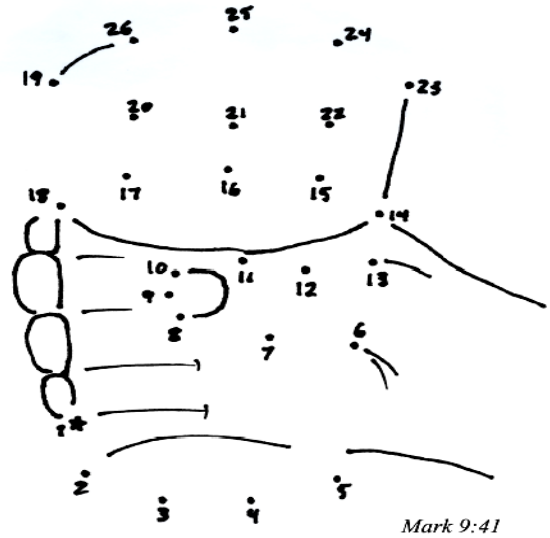
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The Kids' Bulletin

26th Sunday in Ordinary Time
 September 26th, 2021

thekidsbulletin.com



*What is it?
 Connect the dots to find out!
 Jesus says in today's Gospel reading that
 anyone who gives one to someone for His sake
 will receive their just reward.*

"If it causes you to sin" Word-Find

T W O R M Q T O S
 U B F C A U S E S
 F E E T H E L L I
 O T Y H A N D F N
 O T E R E C I M O
 T E R O T H N A T
 H R F W A E T I N
 G K I N G D O M T
 O O R S L A M E I
 D I E N T E R D N

See if you can find all the words from this part of today's Gospel passage that are in CAPITALS.

Use the left-over letters to fill in the blanks at the end.



...if your **HAND** causes you to **SIN**, cut it off; it is **BETTER** for you to enter life **MAIMED** than with two hands go **INTO** hell, to the unquenchable **FIRE**.

And if your **FOOT** causes you to sin, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life **LAME** than with two **FEET** to be **THROWN** into **HELL**.

And if your **EYE CAUSES** you to sin, pluck it out; it is better for you to **ENTER** the **KINGDOM** of **GOD** with one eye than with **TWO** eyes to be thrown into hell, where the **WORM** does not **DIE** and the fire is **NOT QUENCHED**.

It is better

September 26th, 2021 ~ 26th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Collection for the Week Ending September 19 th , 2021			
Sunday	Actual	Budget	Difference
9/19/2021	\$8,087.31	\$8,471.00	-\$383.69
Year-to-Date	\$302,821.70	\$332,427.00	-\$29,605.30

Thank you for your stewardship!



Eucharistic Adoration Returns to St. Mary Magdalen!

By popular demand, **Exposition and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament** will recommence on First Fridays, starting October 1st. Many thanks to Fr. Ioane and Fr. Anthony for leading us in prayerful meditation before the Real Presence.

Readings for the Week

- 26th *TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME*
Numbers 11:25-29 / James 5:1-6 / Mark 9:38-48
- 27th *Memorial: St. Vincent de Paul*
Zechariah 8:1-8 / Luke 9:46-50
- 28th *Weekday [St. Wenceslaus; St. Lawrence Ruiz, Martyrs]*
Zechariah 8:20-23 / Luke 9:51-56
- 29th *Feast: St. Michael, Gabriel and Raphael, Archangels*
Deuteronomy 7:9-10, 13-14 / John 1:47-51
- 30th *Memorial: Saint Jerome, Priest & Doctor*
Nehemiah 8:1-4a, 5-6, 7-12 / Luke 10:1-12
- 1st *Memorial: St. Thérèse, Virgin & Doctor of the Church*
Baruch 1:15-22 / Luke 10:13-16
- 2nd *Memorial: the Holy Guardian Angels*
Baruch 4:5-12, 27-29 / Matthew 18:1-5, 10

Mass Intentions

Saturday	5:30	Emery Fleming RIP
Sunday	8:00	Joseph Ye RIP
	9:30	For the People of the Parish
	11:30	Intentions of Joe Fitzgerald
Monday	8:30	Rolando Robles RIP
	5:30	Emery Fleming RIP
Tuesday	8:30	Simon Tapia-Urdaneta RIP
	5:30	Souls of the Unborn RIP
Wednesday	8:30	Paulina Betschart RIP
	5:30	Intentions of Grace Su
Thursday	8:30	Simon Tapia-Urdaneta RIP
	5:30	Emery Fleming RIP
Friday	8:30	Intentions of Maryanna Su
	5:30	Intentions for World Peace
Saturday	8:30	Intentions of the Su Family

JustFaith Racial Justice Programs Starting

St. Mary Magdalen Parish is pleased to continue our **JustFaith** programs on racial equity, where participants explore the question, "What does my faith call me to do?" as we learn more about the realities of race in our world and in our individual experiences. Groups will meet via Zoom for 90 minutes per week for 8 to 9 weeks. Plan to join!

Program #1, "Faith & Racial Equity" for new participants:

- ◆ **Mondays, 7:00 pm** (begins September 27th)
- ◆ **Fridays, 1:00 pm** (begins October 8th)

Program #3, for returning participants, has begun for all but one group. If you've already participated in either of the earlier programs, please contact Claire Broome below — it's not too late to rejoin!

To sign up, email cvbroome@gmail.com, or call the parish office at 510-526-4811, ext. 111.



Taizé Service on Saturday, Oct. 2nd

The next Taizé service will take place from **2:00 to 3:00 pm** on **Saturday, October 2nd**, in the church. Come, join us in song, prayer, and adoration of the Cross!

Questions? Email M. Emily Onglatco
c/o bulletin@marymagdalen.org.

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