Living the 1981

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ST. MARY'S CHURCH

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LET'S GET SERIOUS....

Many people over the years and most certainly currently hold that there is or may be a God, but not a devil. These may hold that a higher power, a creator of all things may be real but that a devil, a fallen angel named Lucifer, is just a myth to scare people into believing in God. However, according to the Bible and Catholic teaching for two millennia, the devil is real. Jesus did battle with the Devil when three times he was tempted, essentially, away from the Cross. Jesus wasn't conversing with a hologram or a symbol of darkness but with the entity of evil itself, Satan, the leader of the fallen angels who was cast out of heaven and down to, not hell, but the earth. He's here on this earth we inhabit. The 18th Century French poet, Charles Baudelaire said, "The finest trick the devil ever played is to convince you that he does not exist". Turning to the Catechism, no. 2851, it states: "In this petition, evil is not an abstraction, but refers to a person, Satan, the Evil One, the angel who opposes God. The devil, (dia-bolos) is the one who "throws himself across" God's plan and his work of salvation accomplished in Christ." So, the devil is real, but this truth frankly frightens people into thinking they are somehow powerless of this real evil being. Not so. St. Ambrose wrote: "The Lord who has taken away your sin and pardoned your faults also protects you and keeps you from the wiles of your adversary, the devil, so that the enemy, who is accustomed to leading into sin, may not surprise you. One who entrusts himself to God does not dread the devil." If God is for us, who is against us? Rom 8:31

Last weekend I referenced in my homily a quote from an exorcist. It was taken from an interview with the Daily Wire's Michael Knowles, who is a practicing Catholic and host of his own show on that channel. The quote will follow but the man he interviewed, who is both a Catholic pastor and an exorcist, shared the story of his own struggles with Catholic faith and the Church earlier on in his life and how he stayed away from the Church during his years working as a banker on Wall Street in New York City. The priest is Fr. Dan Reehil who serves as a priest in Nashville, Tennessee. While he does touch on his personal experiences as an exorcist of the Church, he does so in order to prove that demons are real and he, in his role as a priestexorcist regularly does battle with them, empowered by Jesus Christ Himself and the prayerful and powerful presence of the Blessed Mother, whom the devil hates and detests. This is, afterall, a spiritual world with spiritual realities.

In the interview, Michael Knowles and Fr. Reehil discusses many facets of the reality of this spiritual world: about the reality of demons and demonic encounters, the Godly work of exorcisms but also the constant plethora of miracles that take place all the time. They discuss Satan in modern times and his presencs in modern politics, Catholicism and Mary, the Mother of God as well as experiences with the supernatural. Fr. Reehil shares how he personally met the devil twice in his life before fully living and working for God. The interview is both enlightening as well as inspiring in that when we choose God, while we will be tempted, God has our backs. Fr. Dan said at one point that we have nothing to lose in believing in everything as we go through life as it will lead us to live a happy, uplifted life rather than someone who goes through their whole life believing in nothing.

And now to the quote. Near the end of the hour and forty-five minute interview, Fr. Reehil shared that "in this day and age I feel a very great urgency for people to come back to God because I feel like we're on the very edge of an abyss, that something's coming and L feel like just with everything that is going on in the natural world but also in the supernatural world that, we're on the verge of something big. So, my Lenten homily was go into Lent thinking it's your last Lent and treat it that way. Do everything the best and the most, don't cheat it. Go in wanting to be a saint at Easter, because it might be your last Lent." Father related how after he had preached this message, the following day he received a message from someone who said a Church-approved seer in South America, a woman who had received a message from the Blessed Mother who said, "Treat this Lent as if it's your last". Think about that.

I have touched on this truth several times in homilies as we humans tend to think we have had a lifetime of Lent's and Christmases and Easters, etc., and that this Lent is like all the others before and the ones yet to come. But it's not. We can't live in yesterday nor can we exist in tomorrow for we only have this day, this present moment to either live in God and experience the incredible, tangible joy of life with Him even now or go through life thinking this is all there is, trying to fill our day-to-day existence with self-gratification in using things and people to somehow make us happy. But living in this way never makes one happy but is a recipe for fear, tension, stress and nothingness.

Father shared a sobering statistic of human life on planet earth in current times when he stated: "Fourhundred thousand people die every day, more than half in the womb, half out of the womb – in fact more in the womb than outside of it." When will we wake up as followers of Christ and citizens of the earth to what we are doing? Perspective is everything. Live for Christ today, now, this Lent, this moment. *(Fr. Charles)*



Schedule & Intentions

Tuesday Mar 21	
8:30am	Intentions of Connie Reid on her Birthday Requested by Jayne
Wednesday Mar 22	
7:00pm	+David Hobbs Requested by Knights of Columbus Fr. Lally Council 5793
Thursday Mar 23	
7:30am	Holy Hour
8:30am	Intentions of Fr. Edgar Polotan Requested by Ken Wright
Friday Mar 24	
6:30pm 7:00pm	Stations of the Cross +David Hobbs Requested by Knights of Columbus Fr. Lally Council 5793
Saturday Mar 25	
4:30pm	+Josephine Gerynowicz Requested by the Cudney Family
Sunday Mar 26	
9:00am	For the People
11:00am	Intentions of Rodel Guerrero on his Birthday Requested by the Family

Our Sanctuary Lamp Burns For the Parishioners of St. Mary's From Mar 19 to Mar 25, 23



Please Pray for the Sick

Chelsea Cando, Dorothy Dynes, Margot Brandreth, Ken Buchan, Jean Ferguson, Rose Flanagan, Fred Coulson, Andrew Vella, Gwen Collard. Janine Wright, Emilie Gosselin., Mark Zalter

Pray for those who have died recently

Maria Lasara da Veiga Lima, Ivan Storey

OFFERTORY

March 12th, 2023 \$4345.38 (Inc PAG)

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Liturgical Publications will be setting up the advertisements for our church bulletin. The advertising will begin in December 2022 & supports the bulletin service. Please support the bulletin and advertise your product or service. Call Liturgical Publications at 1-800-268-2637

4th Sunday of Lent March 19, 2022



Show your love on the Feast of St. Joseph through ShareLife

Thank you very much for supporting our parish's ShareLife campaign. Thus far, we have raised \$3043.00, toward our goal of \$43,000.00.

Today we celebrate the feast of St. Joseph and reflect on his holy life and the way he loved and cared for Jesus and Mary.

Next week is ShareLife Sunday. May we emulate St. Joseph's example and share our blessings with the least of our brothers and sisters.

Please give at the parish using a ShareLife envelope, online through our parish website, or at sharelife.org/donate.

Mass of Celebration to Welcome Archbishop Francis (Frank) Leo

The installation of Bishop Francis (Frank) Leo as Archbishop of Toronto will take place on Saturday, March 25, 2023 at 10 a.m. Given capacity restrictions at St. Michael's Cathedral Basilica, this will be an invitation-only event. The Mass of Installation will be livestreamed through www.stmichaelscathedral.com/live and broadcast on Salt & Light Catholic TV and through their website: www.slmedia.org. Parishioners are invited to attend a regional Mass of Welcome taking place in the (Northern Region) on Monday April 17th, 2023 at St. Mary's Parish in Barrie at 7:00pm. A reception will follow Mass in the parish hall. All are welcome. Please continue to keep Archbishop Leo in your prayers as he begins his ministry as our Shepherd.

Securities as a Charitable Gift Option

One of the most financially sound ways to support the Archdiocese of Toronto is with the gift of securities (stocks, bonds, mutual funds). When you donate stocks, mutual funds and other securities to a registered charity, you pay no capital gains tax and receive a tax receipt for the full amount of the gift. It means a great tax break for you and support of your Parish and various archdiocesan charities such as ShareLife, St. Augustine's Seminary, The Shepherds' Trust, and many others. For further information, contact the development office at 416-934-3400 Ext. 519 or email to development@archtoronto.org.

Could the person who has envelope #150 please put name and address on the front of the envelope, or give me a call at the office. Thank you Liturgical Publications 3171 LENWORTH DR. #12 MISSISSAUGA, ON L4X 2G6 1-800-268-2637

