

# PRAYERS IN THE PEW™ MONTHLY

## FAITH IN ACTION CALENDAR / HIGHLIGHTS

MON FEB 6	St. Paul Miki and Companions, Japanese Martyrs
WED FEB 22	Ash Wednesday
THU FEB 23	St. Polycarp, Bishop and Martyr

*Faith Formation Companion to Prayers in the Pew™*

### → MONTHLY SYNOPSIS ←

*February 2023 – February is a month of contrasts. We barely finish the Christmas season when we are thrown into the penitential season of Lent. It is a good time to remember our great spiritual mentors such as Michael the Archangel and the necessity of living a moral life in a time of social chaos.*



## THE PRAYER TO ST. MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL

Of all the angels known to Scripture, none has a place of eminence like St. Michael the Archangel. He is the only angel to appear in at least four books of the Bible (Joshua 5-6, Daniel 12, Jude 9, Revelation 12). Clearly, St. Michael is the most important of all angels and is rightly known as the “Prince of the Heavenly Host” and the “Protector of the Church.”

Most people don't know that Michael's name is not actually a name – it is a battle cry! In response to Lucifer's audacity in comparing himself to the Creator, Michael immediately rose and rebuked the wicked angel with the phrase that became his name: “Who is like God?” In the Hebrew language this rhetorical question consists of three short syllables: “Mi-cha-El” Michael. He then cast Satan and the other rebellious angels from Heaven in the ferocious battle that we read about in Chapter 12 of the Book of Revelation.

Despite the Church's long devotion to the warrior angel, its most famous prayer to the Archangel Michael is

rather recent, and there is a fascinating story about its origins. The records are not clear on the exact date, but sometime between 1884 and 1886, when Pope Leo XIII had just finished celebrating Mass, he had a mystical vision in which he saw demons gathering in Rome and heard the devil talking to Jesus.

According to the report, the devil was boasting that he could destroy the Church and demanded sufficient time to do so. Supposedly, our Lord allowed the devil the space of a century in which to attempt to accomplish his evil agenda. This dialogue shook the Pope to his core, and he became extremely pale and afraid of what he had just heard. When Pope Leo came out of his mystical vision, he immediately went to his desk and wrote down what we now know as the Prayer to St. Michael the Archangel. The Church greatly encourages the faithful to pray it as a protection from spiritual evil in our world.

### THE PRAYER TO ST. MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL

*Saint Michael Archangel, defend us in battle,  
be our protection against the wickedness  
and snares of the devil;  
may God rebuke him, we humbly pray;  
and do thou, O Prince of the heavenly host,  
by the power of God, cast into Hell Satan  
and all the evil spirits  
who prowl about the world seeking  
the ruin of souls. Amen.*

### SPIRITUAL CHALLENGE

This month's challenge is to call upon the great Archangel Michael and ask him for the grace to live your Catholic faith more vitally and to protect your children and loved ones from all spiritual harm. St. Michael is the Protector of the Church, so also ask his intercession for the Church Militant as it experiences many persecutions and upheavals.

*- CA State Chaplain, Father John P. Grace, OSA*

## BIBLE BASICS



**Daniel 10:21** However, I will tell you what is inscribed in the writing of truth. Yet there is no one who stands firmly with me against these forces except Michael your prince.

**Exodus 34:28** So Moses was there with the LORD for forty days and forty nights, without eating any food or drinking any water, and he wrote on the tablets the words of the covenant, the ten words.

## FAITH FUNDAMENTALS



### The Ten Commandments

The Catechism calls the Ten Commandments "fundamental duties" (CCC, 2072) toward God and man. This is where God makes some basic demands on all His children, but His demands are hardly burdensome. In eight out of ten cases, the commandments simply tell us what to avoid for our own good and the good of our neighbor! These "negative" commandments are the bare minimum of what it means to live a moral life.

Here is a refresher course on God's Law:

- 1 "I am the Lord thy God, thou shalt not have any strange gods before Me."
- 2 "Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain."
- 3 "Remember to keep holy the Sabbath day."
- 4 "Honor thy father and mother."
- 5 "Thou shalt not kill."
- 6 "Thou shalt not commit adultery."
- 7 "Thou shalt not steal."
- 8 "Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor."
- 9 "Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's wife."
- 10 "Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's goods."

## CATECHISM CONNECTION



**2033** – The 'deposit' of Christian moral teaching has been handed on... alongside the Creed and the Our Father the basis for this catechesis has traditionally been the Decalogue which sets out the principles of moral life valid for all men.

**2072** – Since they express man's fundamental duties towards God and towards his neighbor, the Ten Commandments reveal, in their primordial content, grave obligations. They are fundamentally immutable, and they oblige always and everywhere. No one can dispense from them. The Ten Commandments are engraved by God in the human heart.

## CALENDAR OF FAITH | FEBRUARY

<b>FEB 2</b> <i>Thu</i>	Presentation of Jesus in the Temple
<b>FEB 3</b> <i>Fri</i>	St. Blase, Bishop and Martyr (Blessing of Throats)
<b>FEB 5</b> <i>Sun</i>	St. Agatha, Virgin and Martyr
<b>FEB 6</b> <i>Mon</i>	St. Paul Miki and Companions, Japanese Martyrs
<b>FEB 8</b> <i>Wed</i>	St. Josephine Bakhita, Virgin
<b>FEB 10</b> <i>Fri</i>	St. Scholastica, Virgin
<b>FEB 11</b> <i>Sat</i>	Our Lady of Lourdes
<b>FEB 14</b> <i>Tue</i>	Saints Cyril and Methodius, Bishops and Doctors of the Church
<b>FEB 17</b> <i>Fri</i>	Seven Holy Founders of the Servite Order
<b>FEB 21</b> <i>Tue</i>	St. Peter Damien, Bishop and Doctor of the Church
<b>FEB 22</b> <i>Wed</i>	ASH WEDNESDAY (NOTE: This is not a holy day of obligation; the Season of Lent begins)
<b>FEB 23</b> <i>Thu</i>	St. Polycarp, Bishop and Martyr

## THE SCHOOL OF SAINTS



"The powers of hell will assail the dying Christian; but his angel guardian will come to console him. His patrons, and St. Michael, who has been appointed by God to defend his faithful servants in their last combat with the devils, will come to his aid." ~ *St. Alphonsus Liguori*

"I have great reverence for Saint Michael the Archangel; he had no example to follow in doing the will of God, and yet he fulfilled God's will faithfully." ~ *St. Faustina Kowalska*

## – FAITH IN ACTION –

### FEATURED PROGRAM

#### ASAP & PREGNANCY CENTER SUPPORT

The new Aid and Support After Pregnancy (ASAP) initiative is a call to action for Knights of Columbus across the United States and Canada to increase financial support to pregnancy resource centers, maternity homes and other organizations which give direct assistance to new mothers and/or babies. The goal for the Knights is to donate at least \$5 million through the fraternal year ending June 30, 2023. The Knights' ASAP initiative will enhance the significant resources the Knights and local councils already provide to mothers and their children, both born and unborn. Check with your local KofC council to find out how you can help.