

Tri Parish Catholic Faith Community

To Learn, Live and Proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ



St. Michael

11400 Farmers Lane NE
Greenville IN 47124
812-364-6646
(1835)



St. Bernard

7600 Highway 337 NW
Depauw IN 47115
812-347-2326
(1847)



St. Joseph

341 S SR 66
Marengo IN 47140
812-347-2326
(1885)

Reconciliation

Monday 5:30 pm St. Bernard
Tuesday 5:30 pm St. Michael
Saturday 3:30 pm St. Michael

Other times available upon request

Baptism

Preparation class for parents required, contact parish office.

Marriage

Six months preparation required, contact parish office.

Sick/Shut-ins

Please call the parish office to request anointing of the sick and for home visits.

New Parishioners

Contact the parish office for registration or pick up a form at the entrance to church and return to the parish office in the collection basket. We would love to have you become an official part of our parish family.

Priestly and Religious Vocations

Contact Vocations Director/Archdiocese of Indianapolis at 1-800-382-9836, ext. 1490.

Combined Parish Staff

Rev. Aaron Pfaff - Pastor - 812-364-6646
E-mail: aaronpfaff@gmail.com

Deacon John Jacobi - Director of Religious Education
Faith Formation Office - 812-364-6173
E-mail: johnjacobi@mw.twcbc.com

Barb Rainbolt - Business Manager
E-mail: st.michaels@mw.twcbc.com

Website: www.saintmichaelschurch.net

Mass Schedule This Week

Sunday	8:30 am	St. Bernard
	9:15 am	St. Joseph
	10:30 am	St. Michael
Monday	6:00 pm	St. Bernard
Tuesday	6:00 pm	St. Michael
Wednesday	9:00 am	St. Bernard
	10:15 am	Todd Dickey Nursing Home
Thursday	NO MASS	
Friday	9:00 am	St. Michael
Saturday	4:00 pm	St. Michael



STEWARDSHIP

Managing God's Gifts To Us

Information for all Parishes

A visit from Bishop Simon Bruté College Seminary - At St. Michael and St. Bernard during all Masses this weekend, please welcome Very Reverend Joseph Moriarty, Rector at Bishop Simon Bruté College Seminary, located here in the Archdiocese of Indianapolis. Fr. Joe will share with us an update about the seminary and their work in the spiritual formation of seminarians, preparing them for a priestly vocation. Fr. Joe will also take up a collection in support of the seminary.

Father Aaron will be celebrating Mass at Todd Dickey Nursing Home, this Wednesday at 10:15 a.m.

Back by popular demand: Fr. Aaron will be doing a final showing of his Sabbatical PowerPoint, October 19th, after the 4PM Mass (5ish), at St. Michael Church Basement.

St. John Paul II Catholic Church-St. Joe Hill Campus, Annual Turkey Shoot - Sunday, October 6, 2019. 10am - ??? Famous Chicken & Dumplings, Games, Prizes and Raffles. 2605 St. Joe Road West, Sellersburg, IN

Public Square Rosary Crusade - Saturday, October 12, 2019, 12:00 Noon, St. Mary of the Annunciation Parish invites all to join in praying the rosary at Holy Trinity Heritage Court, 702 E Market St, New Albany, IN. For information, 812-944-0417

Mount St. Francis - The Voice of God in Creation: A Contemplative Retreat - October 15-17, 2019. Fr. Vince Petersen, OFM Conv. will be leading a retreat for men and women who wish to listen more deeply to the heartbeat of God which pulses with love for Creation. Come away this autumn to detox in the beautiful sanctuary of The Mount where trails and prayer paths will lead you to new levels of awareness of God's presence. Each day will include a presentation, optional group interaction, private spiritual direction and plenty of time for prayer and solitude. This retreat will begin at 7:00 pm on Tuesday, October 15 and end at 7:00 pm on Thursday, October 17. Space is limited and the cost of \$235 includes a private room and six meals.

Our Lady of Providence High School will host an Open House on Sunday, Nov. 3, from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m., for prospective students of all ages and their families. This fun and informative event is free and open to the public. Providence faculty and staff, student ambassadors, alumni, and Board of Trustees members will be on hand to showcase the school's beautiful facility and extensive offerings. Information regarding curriculum, the House Student Leadership Program, technology, performing arts, clubs and organizations, athletics, and financial assistance will be available. Refreshments will be provided, and each student receives a gift. For more information, contact Providence Enrollment Management Specialist Brad Burden at bburden@providencehigh.net or the Providence Advancement Office at 812-945-3350. Information can also be found on our website (www.providencehigh.net) and Facebook page ([@providencehighschool](https://www.facebook.com/providencehighschool)). Providence is located at 707 Providence Way in Clarksville.

Since 1634, the Oberammergau village in Germany has staged a Passion Play every 10 years. Join Fr. Eric Augenstein to contemplate the mysteries of the cross as you discover Switzerland, Austria, and Germany! This pilgrimage takes place from July 15-24, 2020, and includes great seats at the Oberammergau Passion Play, tours of Lucerne, Interlaken, and Salzburg, and a visit to Einsiedeln Abbey, the Swiss, Benedictine community which founded Saint Meinrad. For more info, please visit www.VersoMinistries.com or call (574) 383-9396.

Middle School Math Teacher needed. St. Joseph Catholic School is seeking applications for a person to teach 4th, 5th and 6th grade math and 4th grade religion. The position will begin January 6, 2020 and extend until the end of the school year. Interested persons should send their resume to St. Joseph Catholic School, 512 N. Mulberry Street, Corydon, IN 47112. You are also welcome to call for more information. The school office phone number is 812-738-4549.

Mt. St. Francis - Help Wanted - Morning Salad Prep/Dishwasher. The Salad Prep/Dishwasher will be prepping the salad bar and washing dishes for groups of 50-100 people per meal, as well as setting up and stocking the dining room for breakfast and lunch. Other duties as needed by the Executive and Sous Chefs. Must be able to lift up to 35lbs. Work days are Wednesday through Sunday as needed from 6am to 2pm. Our busy season runs from September through May. You can expect to get 30-40 hrs. per week during this time. We slow down Jun-Aug and your hours will be adjusted to reflect this but will average around 20 hrs. a week. Benefits include two weeks of vacation after an introductory period as well as sick days and personal days. 403b retirement available. Mt St Francis Retreat Center, send resumes to chef@mountsaintfrancis.org

St. Elizabeth Catholic Charities has immediate openings for compassionate women to work part-time as House Staff on a PRN basis on 2nd and 3rd shift in downtown New Albany. Qualified individuals need to fill-in 1 to 3 days each week. Shifts are 4pm to midnight and midnight to 8am throughout the week and on weekends. This position provides support for our residents in our Women and Children's Emergency Shelter and Family Stability Program in a 24/7 environment. Send resumes to tbyrd@stcharities.org to apply.

St. Michael

Office Hours: Monday – Thursday 8:30 am – 3:00 pm
Friday – 10:00 am – 3:00 pm

Mailing Address: 11400 Farmers Lane, Greenville IN 47124

Phone: 812-364-6646 Fax: 812-364-6614

Lisa Murner – Parish Secretary
st.michaelbradford@gmail.com

Beth Gettelfinger – Pre-School
Pre-school Phone – 812-620-2807

Tim Murner – Director of Music
812-736-1189

St. Michael Mass Schedule and Intentions

Saturday	Oct. 5	4:00 PM	Paul McCauley
Sunday	Oct. 6	10:30 AM	Porter Nash
Tuesday	Oct. 8	6:00 PM	Mary Jane Pruitt
Friday	Oct. 11	9:00 AM	Joanne Kochert
Saturday	Oct. 12	4:00 PM	Jim Jones
Sunday	Oct. 13	10:30 AM	Bonnie Fessel

THOSE IN NEED OF OUR PRAYERS



Casey Snapp, Carol Ransom,
Trish Waggoner, Sue Kochert,
Judy Rae Gettelfinger, Rose
Kiefer, Anna Kaelin, Wanda

Gehm, Julie Payne, Priscilla Gettelfinger, Matthew
Kruer, Jack Dohoney, Debbie Jones, Colette
Murray, Casey Shaw, Juanita Kiesler, Mary
Drabek, Linda Rothrock, Matthew Marino,
Gretchen Hammett, Jaxon Nutini, Jerry Jacobi, Kyle
Costello, Bobby Humes, Ray Kordek, Carol Cox,
Doug Fessel, Patricia A. Trent, Roy Kruer, Luna
Smith, Ted Lippert, Irma Morales, Cherie Vickers,
Archdiocese of Indianapolis, All our Food Pantry
and St. Vincent de Paul Friends.

Please Pray for Our Military & Their Families

CPO Johnathan Akers, Danny Baker, Tyler Hall, Lt.
Col. Scott Schroeder, Zachary Shinkle, William
Gilmer, Mark Snapp, Brad Missi, Rebecca Gleitz

Weekly Collection:	September 29, 2019
Sun. Collection:	\$ 6,547.25
Needed for Budget:	\$ 7,134.65
Difference:	- \$ 587.40

The Week Ahead:

Tuesday – Quilting 8:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.
Legion of Mary 4:15 – 5:45
Wednesday – RCIA 7 p.m.

LAY MINISTER SCHEDULE:

Oct. 12 & 13, 2019

8 people needed, please adjust accordingly.

Saturday: 4:00 PM

EM: Frank Brown, Tina Rouck, Nadine Kaelin, Sue
Craig, Sharon Laufer, Donna Newton

L: Cherie Vickers, Pam Waller

S: Kathy Skaggs

SVRS: Julie Campbell

U: Alan Wise, Brian Dohoney, Bernie Gettelfinger,
Billy Jacobi

M: Quintet

Sunday: 10:30 AM

EM: Kitty Mishler, Lisa Murner, Doris Nash, Rose
Nealy, Jerry Renneker, Kim Renneker

L: Katy Casper, Karen Harbeson

S: Kim & Jerry Renneker

SVRS: Sydney Kaelin, Jace Martin

U: Jeanne Schroeder, Paul Schroeder, Fred Uhl,
Bob Book

M: Teen Choir

Soup Kitchen

Our next day will be October 7th to work in the
kitchen. Call Jo Thrasher for details. 812-364-6147.

St. Michael Food Pantry

Our Current Needs: Coffee, **Jelly, Canned Tuna
and Chicken, Pasta's & Sauce, Soups, Hamburger
Helper, Ketchup & Mustard, Mayo & Miracle**

Whip, Feminine Products, Diapers and Wipes, Razors, Shampoo & Conditioner, Laundry Soap, and Cleaning Supplies, Toilet Paper and Paper Towels. Kid friendly juice boxes, snacks, fruit cups, etc. are very much appreciated. THANK YOU FOR MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN OUR COMMUNITY!

The Finance Commission

will meet on Tuesday, October 15th at 6:30 p.m. in the Parish Center Meeting Room.

The Pastoral Council

will meet on Tuesday, October 22nd at 6:30 p.m. in the Parish Center Meeting Room.

Picnic Winners:

Grand Prize: Kaelynn Spencer
 Vacation: Doug Harkness
 Cedar Chest: Shelley Bosler
 Special Quilt: Donna Newton
 Rifle/Pistol: Rodney Murphy
 Eric Schroeder

Lots of Money:

\$1000 S.C. Kaelin
 \$750 Theresa Light
 \$400 Rose Thompson
 \$300 Dan Book
 \$300 Annette Miller
 \$200 Julia Claypool
 \$200 Jasmine Reed
 \$150 Dan Book
 \$100 Dan Book
 \$100 Rita Nordhoff

St. Bernard

Office Hours: Monday & Wednesday 8:30 am – 2:30 pm
 Mailing Address: 7600 Highway 337 NW, Depauw IN 47115
 Phone: 812-347-2326 Fax: 812-347-2172

Michelle Whittaker – Parish Secretary – SaintBernardCatholicChurch@gmail.com

Mass Schedule and Intentions

Sunday:	October 6	8:30 am	Nick & Millie Dubois
Monday:	October 7	6:00 pm	Debby Dubois Beeler
Wednesday:	October 9	9:00 am	Parishioner Intentions
Sunday:	October 13	8:30 am	Ron & Rick Magill

Reconciliation: Mondays from 5:30 pm – 5:50 pm

**Last Week's
 Collection
 Totaled
 \$1,862.00.**

Liturgical Ministers

Sunday, October 6

(L) Marla Adams
 (EM) Nina McClelland, Mary Hawkins
 Roberta Robertson
 (S) Ryan Colin, Colin Griffith
 (U) Leisa Roll

Sunday, October 13

(L) Veronica Battista
 (EM) John & Ronda Petrysian
 Mike Bary
 (S) **Needed**
 (U) Stuart Dubois

Please keep in your prayers:

Wayne Smith, Marlana Cheatham, Toni Rothrock, Michelle Wiseman, Emma Heeke, Jolene Mauck, Olive Sarles, Linda Magill, Donna Schellenberger, David Mauck, Veronica Battista, Jim Nolot, Addley Gaines, Jean Newton, Sharon Bary, Rhonda Day, Larry Colin, Juanita Hughes, Wayne Smith, Sharon Patton, Julia Griffith, Jeff Mauck, Greg Byerley, Sandy Sieg, Michael Briscoe, Bryant Otto, Carolyn Cline.



The Parish Office is closed this week.

Parish Council will meet October 7th after the 6:00 pm Mass.

The next St. Bernard Unity Meal is Wednesday, October 9th. Serving begins at 5:00 pm. Volunteers and donations are always welcome and needed. Please contact Therese Beyerle at 812-347-2750 for more information on how you can help. This is a parish wide ministry and everyone is welcome to help in whatever way they can. Last month's meal helped to feed 137 people.

The St. Rita Altar Society will host Donut Sunday next Sunday after Mass. Their next meeting is October 21st.

Eucharist Adoration will be Monday, October 14th after the 6:00 pm Mass.

The Men's Club will meet October 16th at 6:00 PM. Their next breakfast will be Sunday, October 20th.

Lector/Eucharistic Minister/Server/Usher Schedule has been prepared for this quarter and is at the entrance to church and in the narthex. Please pick up your copy. If you would like to be added to this list, please call the parish office and leave a message. I did not have Deacon John's schedule for this quarter so there may be Masses that he attends and not everyone scheduled will be needed. Please adjust as necessary.

St. Joseph

Physical Address: 341 S. SR 66, Marengo IN 47140

Mailing Address: 7600 Highway 337 NW, Depauw IN 47115

Phone: 812-347-2326 Fax: 812-347-2172

Michelle Whittaker – Parish Secretary – SaintBernardCatholicChurch@gmail.com

Father Fred Denison – Attended By

Sunday: October 6, 9:15 am

Mass Intention: Charlie & Kyong (Kim) Totten

Minister Schedule October 6

Offertory: Ferriell Family

Lectors: Angela Crecelius/Marty Will

Servers: Isaac Gresham/Sarah Fow

Greeters: Terri Ward/Richard Newton

Eucharist Ministers: Karen Eaton

Wanda Beam/Errol Toney

Sunday: October 13, 9:15 am

Mass Intention: John Senn

Minister Schedule October 13

Offertory: Fow Family

Lectors: Jane Newton/Nick Siler

Servers: Isaac Gresham/Hays Ferriell

Greeters: Angela Crecelius/Laura Zipp

Eucharist Ministers: Imogene Talley

Laura Zipp/Terri Ward



Please keep in your prayers:

Judy Neckar, Erin Haendiges, Gail Reyling, Imogene Talley, Carol Will, Richard Will, Father Fred, Mike Trusty, Francis Powell,

Monty and Mary Garrett, Delores Eisfelder, Jane Newton, Jerry Amoroso, Frank Neckar, and all those suffering in any way.

Our Military Family Members:

Tom Shawler, Jr., Hannah Bradley, Chris Eaton



Family and Friends of our parish members:

Paul Panozzo, Elmer Ray Jenkins— Connie Conklin's father; Jamie Craig—Barb Flispart's son-in-law, Carol Goins —Tom Zipp's sister, Adeline Talley—Imogene Talley's granddaughter, Angela Crecelius's nephew — Martin Gabel, Ann Phillips son — Ronnie Phillips,

Mary Lee Sneed's brother — Victor Dubois, Robin Bowman, Joni Shaw - Patty Reyling's sister, and all Prayer Requests in the Prayer Book.

Sunday Collection for 9/29/19 - \$708.00

Rosary today before Mass @8:45 am.

St. Joseph Parish Club meeting October 21st at 7:00 pm.

If anyone has any pictures of activities that have taken place at St. Joseph recently that you think would be good to use in the new church directory, please e-mail those to Michelle at St. Bernard. The fish fry, Faith Formation or possibly community outreach are things that would be suitable. Please let Michelle know if you have anything. We are trying to complete the final phases so we can get this to the publisher for printing.

Faith Formation News

Faith Formation Office Hours are: St. Michael Church - Tuesday - Thursday 9:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m., Fridays 1:00 – 5:00 p.m. and St. Bernard Church – on Friday Mornings.

Faith Formation News:

Upcoming Faith Formation Classes:

October 6 No Classes – Fall Break
October 13 Grades Pre-School – Grade 12
October 20 Grades Pre-School – Grade 12
October 27 Grades Pre-School – Grade 12

Congratulations to Kaelynn Bodenbender and Evan McNair who celebrated the Sacrament of Holy Matrimony on September 21st at St. Bernard Church. May God abundantly bless your new life together!



Thursday Morning Bible Study – Our Thursday Morning Bible Study at St. Michael will not meet this Thursday. Our next gathering will be on October 17th at 9:30 a.m. in the Faith Formation Center. All adults at St. Michael,

St. Bernard, & St. Joseph are welcome to join us anytime!

Fatima Rosary – All parishioners are invited to join us on Saturday, October 12th as we gather to pray the Rosary for peace in our world. We will gather in church at Noon.



Sacramental Parent Meetings – Parents who have a child that will celebrate their First Holy Communion this coming spring are invited to a parent gathering at St. Michael Church on Sunday, October 13th at 9:10 a.m. in the lower level of the church or at St. Bernard Church on Sunday, October 20th at 9:40 a.m. We will be discussing plans for First Reconciliation.

Confirmation Parent and Youth Meeting – We will have informational meetings for Youth Grades 9-12 from St. Michael, St. Bernard, and St. Joseph who have not yet celebrated the Sacrament of Confirmation and their Parents at St. Bernard Church on October 20th at 10:45 a.m. or St. Michael Church on October 27th at 11:30 a.m. We will discuss preparation for the Sacrament and when it will be celebrated.

Men's Group – Our next gathering at St. Michael will be on Sunday, October 20th at 7:00 p.m. in the faith formation center. We will continue our study of the

Eucharist. All men in the parish are invited to join us! Come join us as we walk together to grow spiritually as Catholic Men.

Senior Gathering – Our next gathering will be on Wednesday, October 23rd at St. Michael. We will gather at noon for mid-day prayer and then everyone is invited to bring something to share for lunch. All parishioners from St. Michael, St. Bernard, & St. Joseph are invited to attend. Our featured dish in October will be Vegetable Soup and Chicken Noodle Soup.

Epic – A Study of Church History: As Catholics, we are heirs to a remarkable heritage. The history of our Faith is so much more than a list



of facts and dates. It is a fascinating story of adventure, rebellion, tragedy, and triumph. A story 2,000 years in the making. Epic: A Journey through Church History is a captivating and fast-paced look at the story of the Catholic Church. Beginning with the lives of the apostles all the way up to the present day, Epic takes the immense history of the Church and simplifies it. In the course of twenty sessions, participants learn about the major people, places, and events that comprise the captivating story of Christianity. This Study provides participants with an understanding of Church history that enables them to have a greater sense of meaning and identity as Catholics. Join us for the Epic: A Journey through Church History at **St. Michael Church in Bradford** beginning on October 8th – we will meet on Tuesday evenings at 7:00 p.m. in the Faith Formation Center, or at **St. Bernard Church in Frenchtown** beginning on October 20th – we will meet on Sundays we have Faith Formation Classes at 9:30 a.m. in the narthex.

Altar Server Training – We will have training for any boy or girl, 4th Grade and up who would like to become an Altar Server on October 17th & 24th at St. Michael Church, 6:30 – 7:30 p.m. and at St. Bernard on November 3rd during Faith Formation Classes.



Trunk or Treat will return to St. Michael in Bradford on Thursday, October 31st,

6:00 – 8:00 p.m. We invite adults in the parish to park their car in our parish center parking lot and hand out goodies as children roam about. If you wish you can decorate your vehicle to make it more exciting for the children. Adults can also dress in costume if you like (prizes will be given for best costume and dress decorated car). Be sure to bring your own lawn chair. If you cannot make it to hand out candy, we are accepting donations of pre-packaged candy than can be left in the bin in the narthex of the church. The youth Activities Team will have hot dogs and hot chocolate available. Join us for fun for the whole family in a safe environment. In case of bad weather, we will move into the Parish Center.

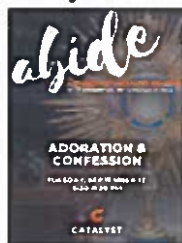
Youth Ministry News:

Jr. High Fall Daze – All youth in Grades 6-8 from St. Michael, St. Bernard, and St. Joseph are invited to give a day of service around the parish grounds on Thursday, October 10th. We will meet at St. Michael at 9:30 a.m. and do service. After lunch we will go to Golf Shores and play some mini golf. The cost of the day is \$7.00 per person for golf. The deadline to sign up is October 6th.

NCYC Pilgrimage Gathering – All youth and adults attending NCYC this November are invited to our next pilgrimage gathering on Sunday, October 13th, 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. in the Faith Formation Center.

Youth Activities Team – We will have a Youth Activities Team meeting on October 20th, 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. in the Faith Formation Center at St. Michael. Please make sure you bring your calendars with you.

Abide – Catalyst Catholic hosts Eucharistic Adoration in the Main Chapel at Mount St. Francis on Tuesday, October 15th, 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. Take some time to spend in prayer with the Lord.



Question of the Week for the 27th Sunday in Ordinary Time:

Question for Children: Jesus teaches us that our faith is powerful and with it, we can do great things. We can forgive, love, and share with others. Which of these do you do most often?

Question for Youth: The Gospel tells us even a little bit of faith is enough to make amazing things happen. How are you keeping your faith alive and growing? What good things happen in your life because of your faith?

Question for Adults: Being “in Christ” means living as Christ teaches. What signs do you see in your life of generosity, forgiveness, hospitality, or any other of Jesus’ teachings?

Formed Pick of the Week: If you have not yet registered for formed go to our parish website and click on the registration banner and register for your free account. Then go to www.formed.org and sign in with your username and password or enter through our parish portal at www.saintmichaelchurch.formed.org You can also download the free mobile app.

FORMED

PICK OF THE WEEK

Divine Mercy in the Second Greatest Story Ever Told

Episode 6: Fatima



"The story of Fatima here is quite powerful!"

—Marlann G., Trenton, NJ

[WATCH ON FORMED.ORG](http://WATCH.ON.FORMED.ORG)

Grasp the Historical Importance of Fatima

Against the backdrop of a world engulfed in war, the prophetic drama surrounding Our Lady's appearance in Portugal captures the minds and hearts of believers and unbelievers alike.



Monte Casino Pilgrimages at St. Meinrad - The Archabbey's pilgrimages to honor the Blessed Mother at the Monte Cassino Shrine have been scheduled for the Sundays in October. The pilgrimages begin with an opening hymn and a short sermon, followed by a rosary procession. The service ends with the Litany of the Blessed Virgin and a hymn. The pilgrimage dates and speakers are:

- October 6: Fr. Sean Hoppe, OSB
- October 13: Br. Nathaniel Szidik, OSB
- October 20: Br. Kolbe Wolniakowski, OSB
- October 27: Archabbot Kurt Stasiak, OSB.



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*Let not your hand be open to
receive and clenched when it is
time to give. Sirach 4:31*



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812-364-6400
deasy1966@yahoo.com

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You asked for it: Fr. Aaron's talk last week (9 Choirs of Angels), September 28 & 29 was taken from 3 articles. Here is the first article in its entirety. Watch for the 2nd & 3rd articles in the coming weeks.

The first triad of angels does what angels do best "Sing choirs of angels."



Cherub in a window at Our Lady of the Lake Church, in Ashland, Wis. (Sam Lucero | The Compass)

"Thousands upon thousands were ministering to him, and myriads upon myriads attended him" (Dn 7:10). In his vision of the court of heaven, the prophet Daniel gave us an idea of how many angels there are. Countless.

Yet, while the number of angels is beyond our grasp, tradition since the early Middle Ages (fifth and sixth centuries) has held that angels are ranked into choirs. While the number of choirs has varied between seven and 11, most commonly we have recognized nine angelic choirs. These are seraphim, cherubim, thrones, dominions, powers, virtues, principalities, archangels and angels.

We start with the first triad: the angels of presence, sometimes called councilors because they attend God much as council members of a royal court.

Angels of presence spend their existence worshiping before God. These angels include seraphim, cherubim and thrones. According to St. Thomas Aquinas, this triad focuses on the first reason for which all angels were created: to

worship and to contemplate the mystery of the Trinity. Aquinas wrote that "the superior angels have a more universal knowledge of the truth" than angels in lower triads. Because their focus is on God, these angels interact least with humans and the physical world.

Seraphim

Yet even seraphim have interacted with humans. For example, Isaiah saw a vision of the seraphim in heaven (Is 6:1-13). He described them as having "six wings: with two they veiled their faces, with two they veiled their feet and with two they hovered aloft."

From this vision, we have the song — sometimes called “the seraphic hymn” — we say at Mass: “Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord, God of hosts...”

Seraphim are also described as having wings of fire because their name — seraph — comes from a Greek word meaning “fiery one.” However, a similar Arabic word — *sharafa* — which means “lofty ones,” could remind us of their many wings and proximity to God.

“The Catholic Encyclopedia” describes seraphim as beholding God. “This means that they perceive God in the richest way possible for a created being and thus they have an unmatched intellect, will and love. ... They burn with an intense ardor of charity. It is said that the charity of the seraphim burns like white heat in a flame.”

In art, seraphim are often depicted with six wings and red robes (for their fiery nature). One instance of a seraph appearing to a human occurred in the reported vision of St. Francis in 1224, when he beheld a six-winged angel bearing Christ crucified. During the vision, Francis received the stigmata (marks of Christ’s wounds).

Cherubim

The second rank of the highest angels is the cherubim. They have little to do with those cute baby angels we see at Christmas — those are actually putti, from the Italian for “children.” These putti images began as artistic paintings of children. However, by the Baroque era (17th and 18th centuries), putti were used to symbolize the presence of God.

In fact, when cherubim are depicted from ancient tradition, they are shown carrying God’s glory on their wings and as having four faces. This comes from a vision of Ezekiel (1:5-14; 10:1-22) where the cherubim appear, bearing God. These angels had four wings, four faces — one each of a lion, man, ox and eagle — and moved as if on wheels. They are credited with guarding the mercy seat on the Ark of the Covenant (Ex 25:18-22). When Adam and Eve were banned from Eden, a cherub with “a fiery revolving sword” barred the way to the tree of life.

In art, cherubim are represented with four wings and fiery swords and often standing on wheels. Less often, they are shown with their four faces.

Thrones

Last of the angels of presence are the thrones. Little is known of these angels. Sometimes thrones are confused with cherubim, because both are represented as wheels. When appearing as wheels — as in Daniel’s vision (7:9) — they uphold God’s throne. Their lesser known name — *ophanim* — comes from a Hebrew word for wheel, because they are considered to be the wheels that supported the cherubim in Ezekiel’s vision.

Thrones are often shown as only wings and eyes, or wheels with hundreds of eyes. Their robes are often green and they hold scales of justice. This is probably because St. Gregory (sixth century), in a homily about angels, said that, through the thrones, “God accomplishes His judgments.”

Since thrones are the lowest of the first angelic triad, they exist at a point where heaven intersects creation. So it is believed thrones offer access, for the lower angels, to the wisdom of God. Some sources refer to the thrones as angels of pure submission and humility, perhaps because God sits upon them.