

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
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

All Saints Day Mass Schedule -

Thurs. Oct. 31st ("All Hallows' Eve") - 6:30 p.m. at St. Bernard (no Mass at St. Michael)

Friday, Nov. 1st - 9:00 a.m. at St. Michael and 7:00 p.m. at St. Michael.

Second Collection Today- This weekend is World Mission Sunday. Please take this opportunity to reach out in faith to more than two-thirds of the world's people who have yet to hear the Good News of Jesus Christ. Please be as generous as possible.

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.

Christ the King in Paoli will be having their annual chicken dinner fundraiser on Sunday October 20 from 11:00 am until 2:00 pm. Cost is \$10.00 for adults and \$5.00 for ages 5 – 10.

Mount St. Francis - "We Walk by Faith: From where we come – To where we go" - October 25-27, 2019. Fr. Vince Petersen, OFM Conv. will facilitate this Men's Weekend. This weekend retreat will help men to appreciate how God has been leading them in their spiritual journeys. By taking an account of the past and looking forward to the future with hope, participants will come to a deeper understanding of how Christ is present to them now in their daily lives. Check-in begins at 6:00 pm on Friday, October 25 and the retreat ends after the 10:00 Mass on Sunday, October 27. The \$215.00 conference fee includes four meals and a single room for two nights.

Music at Mount St. Francis on Saturday, October 26 from 5pm – 7pm. Featuring the Dick Sisto Jazz Trio. Refreshments available for purchase.

Our Lady of Providence High School's Performing Arts Department will present James and the Giant Peach in the Robinson Auditorium on Saturday, Oct. 26, at 7:00 p.m. and Sunday, Oct. 27, at 2:00 p.m. Performed by the freshman and sophomore Providence Players, this delightful children's musical is an offbeat adaptation of the classic Roald Dahl adventure. The whole family will enjoy this fantastical tale of a boy, his insect friends, and their amazing journey across the ocean on a giant piece of fruit. Tickets are \$5 for adults and students (K-12) and can be purchased at the door. Free admission for children under 5 and for Deanery teachers. Please note: The Saturday show could be moved to Sunday, Oct. 27, if a Providence sports team would be competing in a postseason tournament at the same time. Please check the Our Lady of Providence High School Facebook page and website (www.providencehigh.net) for more information.

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). Providence is located at 707 Providence Way in Clarksville.

Painting with the Padre at Mt. St. Francis - November 8 7:00 pm-9:00 pm. All painting supplies will be provided, and everyone will go home with an original work of art they painted themselves! Bring friends and a favorite bottle of wine to sip and share. A variety of cheeses and light snacks will be served. \$40.00 per person. Doors open at 6:30 pm. Call 812-923-8817 or register online for Painting with the Padre! www.MountSaintFrancis.org/registration

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 hours per week during this time. We slow down Jun-Aug and your hours will be adjusted to reflect this but will average around 20 hours 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@stecharities.org to apply.

Legion of Mary Meeting - Every Tuesday at 4:15-5:45 in the Faith Formation Building at St. Michael.

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.michaels@mw.twcbc.com

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

Tim Murner – Director of Music
812-736-1189 - tmurner1@gmail.com

St. Michael Mass Schedule and Intentions

Saturday	Oct. 19	4:00 PM	Gerald Nordhoff
Sunday	Oct. 20	10:30 AM	Mary Cervantes
Tuesday	Oct. 22	6:00 PM	Bernard & Janette Uhl
Friday	Oct. 25	9:00 AM	Sally Gettelfinger
Saturday	Oct. 26	4:00 PM	Joanne Kochert
Sunday	Oct. 27	10:30 AM	Deceased Members of the Tablar & Krider Families

THOSE IN NEED OF OUR PRAYERS



Johnnie & Ruth Morris, 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:	October 13, 2019
Sun. Collection:	\$ 7,939.00
Needed for Budget:	\$ 7,134.65
Difference:	+ \$ 804.35

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

LAY MINISTER SCHEDULE:

Oct. 26 & 27, 2019

8 people needed, please adjust accordingly.

Saturday: 4:00 PM

EM: Tina Rouck, Frank Brown, Sue Craig, Linda Smith, Pam Waller, Carol Wise

L: Donna Newton, Cherie Vickers

S: Robert & Vickie Fessel

SVRS: Olivia Wise

U: Melvin Jacobi, Leo Kaelin, Syl Kaelin, Dean Newton

M: Cheryl, Kathy, Vickie, GERALYN

Sunday: 10:30 AM

EM: Roger Harbeson, Pam Martin, Marty Miller, Kitty Mishler, Lisa Murner, Doris Nash

L: Karen Krider, Pam Martin

S: Rick Elder

SVRS: Daily Pittman, Logan Robbins

U: Gary Geswein, Dana Hall, Ryan Hall, Bob Haller

M: All Musicians

Soup Kitchen

Our next day will be November 4th

The Week Ahead:

Tuesday – Quilting 8:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.
Legion of Mary 4:15 – 5:45 p.m.
Pastoral Council 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday – Senior Gathering Noon
RCIA 7 p.m.

St. Michael Food Pantry

Our Current Needs: **NOTE: Our pantry is at a critically low status – any and all help is greatly appreciated!**

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!**

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 20	8:30 am	Dennis Lambert
Monday:	October 21	6:00 pm	Parishioner Intentions
Wednesday:	October 23	9:00 am	Ron & Rick Magill
Sunday:	October 27	8:30 am	Frank & Josephine Kannapel

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

Liturgical Ministers

Sunday, October 20

- (L) Anne Robertson
- (EM) Stacy Robertson, Anne Robertson
Lisa Rathgeber
- (S) Ryan Colin, Colin Griffith
- (U) Stewart Colin

Sunday, October 27

- (L) Nina McClelland
- (EM) Mike Bary, Eric Sieg
Mary Hawkins
- (S) **Needed**
- (U) Eric Sieg

**10-6-19 Collection
Totaled \$2,180.00.
Brute' Seminary
Collection Totaled
\$732.00.
10-13-19 Collection
Totaled \$2,013.00.**

Please keep in your prayers:

Donnell Royer, 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, Sharon Patton, Julia Griffith, Jeff Mauck, Greg Byerley, Sandy Sieg, Michael Briscoe, Bryant Otto, Carolyn Cline.



Men's Club will host breakfast after Mass this morning in the parish hall. Everyone is invited.

We extend our sympathy and prayers to the family of Sarah Janette (Bird) Stone (Brian and Darlene {Bary} Stone's mother) who passed away this past week.

The St. Rita Altar Society will meet Monday after the 6:00 pm Mass. Rada products are being sold until October 31 with delivery before the end of November. Catalogs and order forms are in the Narthex. There will be someone in the Narthex after every mass in October to collect order forms and money. Checks should be made payable to St. Bernard Catholic Church. Also, ten percent of proceeds from St. Rita Altar Society projects during the months of October, November and December will be tithed to St. Elizabeth Catholic Charities.

We are missing our blue laundry basket and a couple of plastic drink pitchers from the parish hall. If you have borrowed them, kindly please return. Thank you.

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 20, 9:15 am

Mass Intention: Parishioner Intentions

Minister Schedule October 20

Offertory: Hubert Family

Lectors: Karen Eaton/ Carolyn Pellman

Servers: Ashley Fow/Sarah Fow

Greeters: Judy Neckar/Johnnie Senn Graves

Eucharist Ministers: Paul Conklin

Jane Newton/David Schaftlein

Sunday: October 27, 9:15 am

Mass Intention: Parishioner Intentions

Minister Schedule October 27

Offertory: Theresa Martin/Terri Ward

Lectors: Paul & Connie Conklin

Servers: Ashley Fow/Hays Ferriell

Greeters: Terri Ward/ Richard Newton

Eucharist Ministers: Karen Eaton

Wanda Beam/Errol Toney



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.

9-29-19 Collection Totaled \$708.00

10-6-19 Collection Totaled \$1,197.00.

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

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 20 Grades Pre-School – Grade 12
October 27 Grades Pre-School – Grade 12
November 3 Grades Pre-School – Grade 12
November 10 Grades Pre-School – Grade 12

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. Bernard Church on Sunday, October 20th at 10:45 a.m. We will be discussing plans for First Reconciliation.



Thursday Morning Bible Study – Our Thursday Morning Bible Study at St. Michael will meet this Thursday, October 24th 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!

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 24th at St. Michael Church, 6:30 – 7:30 p.m. and at St. Bernard on November 3rd during Faith Formation Classes.

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 9:50 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: All are invited to join us for our Church History Study on Tuesday evenings at



St. Michael and Sunday mornings at St. Bernard. We will meet on October 20th at St. Bernard and discuss the Introduction and on October 22nd we will study Session 2: Persecution Part 1 at St. Michael.



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.

All Saints Wax Museum at St. Bernard – Everyone is invited to join us on Sunday, November 17th following the 8:30 a.m. Mass as some of the children in our Faith Formation program present a Wax Museum of some of our Church's beloved saints. Come hear how our children have learned about a particular saint in first person!

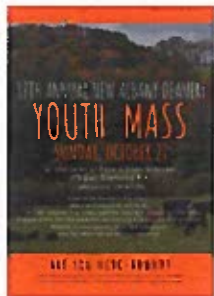


Volunteer at the National Catholic Youth Conference in Indianapolis – On November 21st – 23rd the Archdiocese of Indianapolis will host the National Catholic Youth Conference at the Indiana Convention Center. As you can expect we need many volunteers to host over 20,000 youth and their chaperones from all over the country. If you would like to volunteer please go the following link to sign up: <http://ncyc2019.volunteerlocal.com/volunteer/?id=40760>

Youth Ministry News:

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.

Fall youth Mass continues deanery tradition



On Sunday, October 27 Catalyst Catholic will host the 37th annual New Albany Deanery Youth Mass on the farm of Pete & Joan Schickel (371 Ball Diamond Hill / Lanesville, IN 47136). The afternoon will begin with Mass at 4pm and will include a chili supper, hayrides, games, a bonfire

and more! There will even be special activities for high school youth attending NCYC! Middle school youth, high school youth and families (of all ages) welcome. Please dress for the weather and bring a blanket or lawn chair.

NCYC Pilgrimage Gathering – We will have a meeting for all youth attending NCYC this November and their parents on Sunday, November 10th at 6:00 p.m. in the lower level of the church.

Abide – Catalyst Catholic hosts Eucharistic Adoration in the Main Chapel at Mount St. Francis on Tuesday, November 19th, 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. Take some time to spend in prayer with the Lord.



Question of the Week for the 29th Sunday in Ordinary Time:

Question for Children: Jesus teaches us to trust God. How does God help you in your daily life?

Question for Youth: Jesus tells us that persistence will pay off, if we continue to pray to God. How and when do you pray? How could you grow in the ways that you pray?

Question for Adults: When you pray, what do you ask for most often? How do you know God gives you this request?

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

True Reformers

Episode 4: Saint Charles Borromeo: The Good Shepherd



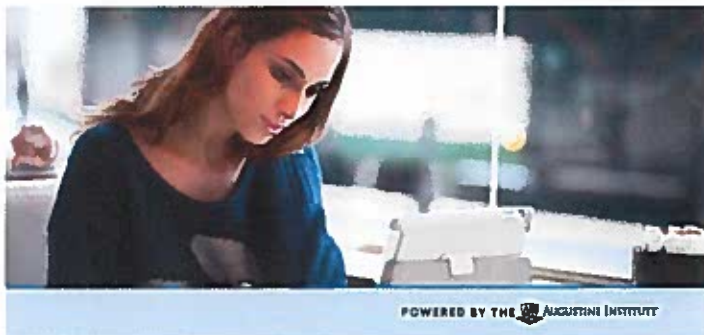
"This presentation is great at teaching so many truths of our faith and the challenges of their times. Inspiring!"

—Theresa B., Harbor Springs, MI

WATCH ON FORMED.ORG

A Cardinal Dedicated to Reform

As the nephew of Pope Pius IV, Charles Borromeo was one of the most powerful men in all of Rome. Yet he chose the extraordinary challenge of reform, and spent himself in the service of his flock.



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 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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Fr. Aaron's Homily (9 Choirs of Angels), September 28 & 29 was taken from 3 articles. Here is the third article in its entirety. All 3 articles are on the website: www.saintmichaelschurch.net

The angels that we know best of all

Lowest ranks of angels interact with humans the most

"Of angels bending near the earth, to touch their harps of gold."



In the ordering of the nine choirs of angels, the lowest three ranks (third triad) are those angelic beings who might actually have been in the choirs who sang at the birth of Christ. The number of angels is beyond our knowledge, but tradition since the early Middle Ages (fifth and sixth centuries) has held that the nine choirs include the messenger angels. These include principalities, archangels and angels.

The word "angel" comes from the Greek word, *aggelos* — which in turn comes from a Hebrew word (*mal'akh*) for "one who is sent" or a messenger.

St. Thomas Aquinas noted that, of the three reasons why God created angels, these three choirs of angels are the ones who fulfill the third purpose: to serve as messengers from God to

human beings. Scriptures record all sorts of heavenly messages delivered by angels: from prophets such as Jeremiah to outcasts like Tamar, the mother of Ishmael, to Mary and Joseph — and those shepherds at Bethlehem.

One of the best visuals of this work of the heavenly messengers is the dream of Jacob, when he saw many angels ascending and descending from heaven on what we now call "Jacob's ladder" (Gn 28:10-19).

As with the previous choirs, there are angels in this triad of angelic choirs that interact most closely with those in the ranks above them. So the lowest rank of the angels of government — the powers — are believed to interact most closely with the upper rank of the messenger angels, the principalities.

Principalities

Just as the angelic powers have charge of history, the principalities are charged with overseeing groups of people and educating them in the ways of God. They protect worldly powers, watch over their leaders and inspire them to do good works. In heraldry, they are represented as wearing crowns and carrying swords or scepters to direct God's commands. As protectors, principalities wear chain mail and helmets. It is possible that they are among those mentioned as "angels of the seven churches" in the first chapters of the Book of Revelation.

Just as there are generals in armies or managers in office, these angels lead the archangels and angels in the ranks directly below them.

St. Thomas Aquinas explained it in musical terms: "Now in the execution of any action, there are beginners and leaders; as in singing, the precentors (head of music in a school); and in war, generals and officers; this belongs to the 'principalities.'" This leadership role is why, in art, principalities also carry scepters — or maybe they are maestros' batons.

Archangels

Below the principalities come the archangels — the princes of angels. We probably know these angels the best of all, especially three of them.

We know of these three archangels — some sources, including the Book of Tobit, say there are seven in all — from the Bible. They are called Michael, Raphael and Gabriel and they serve as divine ambassadors, warrior chiefs and heralds. In art, they may appear in armor with shields and a sword. (Yes, Raphael and Gabriel have served as warriors.)

Michael is often shown slaying a dragon, a reminder of his role in the battle that drove the fallen angels from heaven (Rv 12:7). Gabriel often holds a lily representing his place as the Angel of the Annunciation (Lk 1:26-37). Raphael appears in travel garb and carries a fish from his role as Tobiah's guide and protector (Book of Tobit). It is also of note that, while archangels are listed as eighth in the nine choirs of angels, Michael is considered the battle commander of all the angels. This is because of his zeal against Satan in the war in heaven.

Angels

The final choir is that of the angels. They are called the lowest in the ranks, but this is more due to their interactions on earth than on their value or importance. Again, there is no number to these angels. They exist in myriads and include the heavenly choirs and guardian angels.

The Lord himself revealed that the guardian angels of children look directly upon the face of the Father (Mt 18:10). And St. Jerome noted that "The dignity of a soul is so great, that each has a guardian angel from its birth."

We all know how angels are represented: with wings to signify their role as messenger; with flowing robes and shining faces that reflect God's glory; and with peaceful faces, even when battling demons. Their faces reflect their knowledge that God is supreme and the final battle has been won in Christ. This is why their Christmas song echoes through the ages: "Glory to God in the highest and, on earth, peace to people of good will."