



Our Lady of Mount Carmel *and* Our Lady of Loreto Parish

37 MASSASOIT ROAD, WORCESTER, MA

Parish telephone: 508-753-5001

Parish fax: 508-754-1537 Rectory: 508-304-9988

Parish e-mail - clergy@ourladyofloreto.net

or lisaolmc@gmail.com

Parish Website: www.mtcarmel.ws



MINISTERIAL STAFF

Rev. Msgr. F. Stephen Pedone, Pastor
fpedone@charter.net

Gerald Montiverdi, Deacon

Donald Pegg, Deacon

Joan D'Argenis, Director of Religious Ed.
joan_dargenis@yahoo.com

Maria Sciannameo, RCIA Director

Michael Sacco, Joseph Sama - Finance

Lisa Fenuccio, Administrative Assistant
lisaolmc@gmail.com

Julia Tufano, Secretary

David Soares, Parish Council Chair

Edward Amorello, Property Comm. Chair

Joan Venincasa and Virginia Bailey, Organists

Josef Konkol, Choir Director

Mary DiSilvestro, Sacristan

Joseph Godek, Respect Life Ministry
jogopapa7@gmail.com

John Oliver, Hospitality Ministry and Property Manager

Patricia Solitro, Safe Environment Coordinator

Chester DiLeo, Coordinator, "Our Father's Bread" Ministry
to Homebound—cdileo2@charter.net

Richard Annunziata, Grand Knight of the Knights of
Columbus—Rsa06@charter.net

MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday Vigil: 4:00 p.m.

Sunday: 8:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.

DAILY MASS

Monday through Thursday 7:00 a.m.

HOLY DAY MASSES

Vigil: 6:00 p.m.

Holyday: 7:00 a.m. and 12:15 p.m.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Saturdays from 3:00-3:45

Or by appointment—please call 508-304-9988 to
schedule.

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

To schedule a baptism please call 508-753-5001

SACRAMENT OF MATRIMONY

Couples planning to be married should contact the pastor
at least a year in advance. A program of preparation is
required for all couples planning to marry in the church. To
schedule a wedding please call 508-753-5001.

SACRAMENT OF THE SICK

Please contact the parish office at 508-753-5001

PARISH REGISTRATION

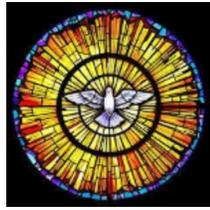
To become a registered member of the parish, please call
508-753-5001 or register on-line at www.mtcarmel.ws.

As a reminder Our Lady of Mount Carmel and Our
Lady of Loreto Parish follows the guidelines of the
national Charter for the Protection of Children and
Young People approved by the US Bishops and
the policies of the Diocese of Worcester in
screening those who work with children in our
care and in helping victims of abuse find healing.

If you or someone you know has been sexually
abused by a Church employee or volunteer in the
past, please contact The Office for Healing and
Prevention at 508-929-4363 (direct line & confi-
dential voicemail). You may also contact Mon-
signor Pedone, or Deacon Montiverdi at 508-753-
5001. If you are concerned about a current case
of abuse, please contact the local civil authorities
immediately.

All church staff and volunteers must complete a
CORI form and complete a Safe Environment
Training session. For more information please
contact our Safe Environment Coordinator Pat
Solitro at 508-753-5001.

**Our Lady of Mt. Carmel and Our Lady of Loreto Parish
PRAYER FOR PARISH SPIRITUAL RENEWAL**



Lord God, You love us with an everlasting love, and You choose us to share Your love with others. We ask that You rekindle in our hearts a new spirit of faith, of prayer and of reconciliation. Inspire us to search out and find ways of bringing one another closer to You. We pray for all who form our parish community, that we remain faithful to Your teaching, that we remain steadfast in our prayer, both personal and communal, that together with You and the Holy Spirit, our parish may be renewed and transformed. All this we ask in the name of Jesus and through the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen

Please cut out and pray daily.

**‘AT THE FOOT OF THE CROSS’
SUPPORT GROUP**

Widows and widowers, or anyone suffering the loss of a loved one, are invited to our monthly gathering on **Thursday, September 30th at 6:30 pm** in the parish center. We’ve gotten very positive feedback about our group so please plan on joining us. Refreshments will be available.

Joining us this week is Bruce Plumley, a licensed funeral director at Mercadante Funeral Home and an ordained Congregational minister, who has vast experience in assisting people in the grieving process and has published works on the subject of grieving.

RESPECT LIFE NEWS

The Respect Life Ministry will be conducting a signature petition drive after all Masses on the weekend of **Sept. 25 & 26**. This petition is to stop passive infanticide, the willful killing of an infant that has survived an abortion. This is unconscionable and must be stopped. Please sign this petition. Help to do God's work. You must be a registered voter in MA and sign the sheet for your city/town with your name and street address. This costs nothing, but a child's life is priceless !

**Our Lady’s Annual
Miraculous Medal Novena**

We continue for **6 consecutive Tuesdays, ending on Tuesday, November 2nd**



A great opportunity for graces and the tremendous power of the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary, patroness of our parish.

Our speakers are:

- Tuesday, Sept. 28 - 7:00 pm—Fr. Walter Riley**
- Tuesday, Oct. 5-7:00 pm – Bishop Robert J. McManus**
- Tuesday, Oct. 12 - 7:00 pm – Deacon Paul Audette**
- Tuesday, Oct. 19—7:00 pm-Deacon Donald Pegg**
- Tuesday, Oct. 26 - 7:00 pm-Msgr. James Moroney**
- Tuesday, Nov. 2 -7:00 pm - Fr. Richard Polek**

All are welcome to attend.

Check the parish website for live-streaming of the Novena.

MASKS MUST BE WORN



RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults)

The Parish RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults) program at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel and our Lady of Loreto Parish begins in the fall and continues through the Easter season. This program is open to

any ADULT who 1) is interested in becoming Catholic, 2) is in need of receiving any one or all of the Sacraments of Initiation (Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist, 3) wishes to enter into full communion with the Roman Catholic Church, as well as those who have been away from the Church and want to return and/or just wants to learn more about the teachings of the Church.

Our Lady of Mt. Carmel-St. and our Lady of Loreto Parish will begin its RCIA program on **Thursday October 21 2021** at 6:30 pm at the center. If you are interested or would like more information please contact Maria at 508-842-7604 or email sciannameo352@gmail.com . Please give your name, and contact information. Or call the center at 508-753-5001.

ADULT FAITH FORMATION

Our Adult Faith Formation group helps us grow closer to Jesus, build up the Christian community, and live as disciples of Jesus.

Our Adult Faith Formation program, will be held on **Mondays beginning October 18, 2021** from 6:30-7:30 pm and will focus on catechesis/teaching of the Church using scripture, Magisterium of the Church and tradition and how these truths and teachings relate to our current everyday lives!

Please register for class by calling the parish office at 508-753-5001 or Maria at 508-842-7604 leave you name and contact information if there is no answer.

Classes will be held if there are at least 5 people registered for the class.



FROM THE PASTOR’S DESK

Dear Friends,

Recently, I read an article in which Pope Francis called the Sacrament of Penance a "sacrament of joy", indeed a "feast", in Heaven and on earth.

It is not the sacrament, scarcely frequented these days, that is changing. What the Pope proposes is a completely different outlook on confession, different from the experience of so many Christians and different from a certain historical legacy.

First of all, the Pope indicated that within the sacrament lies "the remedy" for the moments in life when we are down. And to the question of a young lady, Petra, who asked him during his recent visit to Budapest, Hungary, how her peers could "overcome the obstacles on the path to God's mercy", he responded with another question: "If I ask you: what do you think about when you go to confession? I am almost certain of the answer: sins. But are sins really the focus of confession? Does God want you to approach Him by thinking about you, your sins, or about Him?"

The Christian way, Pope Francis had said two days earlier in Budapest, begins with taking a step backward, with removing oneself from the center to make room for God. This same criterion, this same outlook, applied to confession, can provoke a smaller or greater Copernican revolution in the life of each person: I am no longer at the center of the sacrament of penance, humiliated with my list of sins — perhaps always the same ones — to be told with difficulty to the priest. At the center is the encounter with God who welcomes, embraces, forgives, raises up.

"One does not go to confession," the Pope explained to the young people, "as chastised people who must humble themselves, but as children who run to receive the Father's embrace. And the Father lifts us up in every situation, He forgives our every sin. Hear this well: God always forgives! Do you understand? God always forgives!" One is not going to a judge to settle accounts, but "to Jesus who loves me and heals me".

Pope Francis advised priests to "feel" in God's place: "Let them feel themselves to be in the place of God the Father who always forgives and embraces and welcomes. Let us give God first place in confession. If God, if He, is the protagonist, everything becomes beautiful, and confessing becomes the Sacrament of joy. Yes, of joy: not of fear and judgment, but of joy".

The new outlook on the sacrament of penance proposed by the Pope, therefore, asks us not to remain prisoners of shame for our sins — shame which "is a good thing" — but to overcome it, because "God is never ashamed of you. He loves you right there, where you are ashamed of yourself. And He loves you, always". To those who still cannot forgive themselves, believing that not even God can do it "because I will always fall into the same sins", Pope Francis says, "When does God take offence? When you go to ask Him for forgiveness? No, never. God suffers when we think He can't forgive us, because it is like telling Him, 'You are weak in love!' Instead, God rejoices in forgiving us, every time. When He raises us up, He believes in us as He did the first time, He does not get discouraged. We are the ones who are discouraged, He is not. He does not see sinners to label, but children to love. He does not see people who have erred, but beloved children; wounded, perhaps; and then He has even more compassion and tenderness. And every time we confess — never forget this — there is a celebration in Heaven. May it be the same on earth!"

From shame to celebration, from humiliation to joy. This does not come from Pope Francis, but from the Gospel, where we read of the father who anxiously awaits his sinful son, constantly scanning the horizon, and even before the son has time to humble himself by meticulously detailing all his faults, he embraces him, lifts him up and celebrates with him and for him.

May we never doubt God’s love for us, which is unconditional and eternal. The proof of that love is Jesus Christ who came to show us the width, depth and breadth of this love.

Autumn Blessings!
Monsignor Pedone

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION REGISTRATION

Children in public schools or non-Catholic private schools and academics should be attending religious education classes on a yearly basis. Children planning on receiving the Sacrament of First Holy Communion must attend classes for two years (Grade 1 and Grade 2.) Candidates for the Sacrament of Confirmation must attend classes for two years (Grade 9 and Grade 10.)

Children in parochial schools and private Catholic schools are required to attend classes only for one year (the year of preparation.) First Holy Communion is usually received in Grade 2 and Confirmation in Grades 9 or above. Registration forms are available in the office at the Our Lady of Loreto Center, Monday –Thursday from 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. and in the vestibule of the church. There is a fee of \$35.00 per child or \$60.00 per family.

CCD Schedule

Classes will begin on Sunday, OCTOBER 3 - Grades Pre-K through Grade 4 will meet on Sunday morning from 9:00 – 11:30 a.m. and includes attendance at the 10:30 a.m. Mass. Parents are asked to attend Mass with their children. Attendance in the pre-K and Kindergarten are not mandatory. Grades 5 – 10 will meet on Sunday morning from 11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Students are required to attend Mass, it is suggested that they attend the 10:30 a.m. Mass.

Candidates for the Sacrament of First Communion and Confirmation must attend classes for two years if they attend a Public school, which includes private schools. (Grade 9 and Grade 10.) Students who attend parochial schools only need to attend one year of CCD.

LUKE: Stories on the Road.....

Frank Runyeon live on October 16, 2021

Because of limited seating, tickets must be purchased ahead of time. No tickets will be sold the day of the event. To purchase tickets please contact the parish office or our Facebook page. Ticket price: \$ 10.

Sponsored by Mercadante Funeral Home.

Financial Stewardship

For the week ending September 19, 2021



Income

Offertory:	
Week-End	\$2,928.37
On-Line Giving	973.80
Mail	840.00
Maintenance	115.00
All Souls	25.00
Catholic Schools	20.00
All Saints	5.00
World Missions	<u>5.00</u>
Total Offertory	\$4,912.17
CYC:	
Car Wash	744.00
Apple Pies	<u>464.00</u>
Total CYC	1,208.00
Funeral Stipends	300.00
Memorial Donations	200.00
Candles	76.00
Mass Stipends	45.00
Novena	37.00
Total	<u>\$6,778.17</u>
Expenses:	
Utilities: (August)	
Electricity	\$2,171.22
Internet, Cable & Phone	551.45
Natural Gas	<u>69.15</u>
Total Utilities	\$2,791.82
Salaries and Wages	5,797.00
Payroll Taxes (August)	924.50
Repairs and Maintenance	825.00
Novena	200.00
Employee Benefits	156.84
Supplies	99.37
Payroll Service Fee	<u>58.00</u>
Total	<u>\$10,852.53</u>

MOUNT CARMEL GOLDEN YEARS CLUB

September 2021

September 28, 2021

10:00 AM Socializing
 12:00 NOON Lunch – Followed by Social
 After Lunch Bingo

*Bingo for members only

BECOME AN ONLINE Knights MEMBER FOR FREE!

Now through December 31st, the Knights of Columbus are offering free 12 month memberships when you join online. Use promo code MCGIVNEY2020 Our council number at Loreto is #13575 <https://www.kofc.org/secure/en/join/join-the-knights.html>

WORLDWIDE ROSARY FOR OUR COUNTRY AND OUR WORLD TO OVERCOME EVIL AND THE TRIUMPH OF GOOD!

Even in this time of worry, confusion, and darkness, there are tremendous signs of hope, including a renewed devotion to Our Lady and the power of the rosary, and a firmer trust in her promise at Fatima that “In the end, my Immaculate Heart will triumph.”

In that spirit, you are invited to gather at our center, with members of our parish Faith Formation class, where we hope to virtually connect with the worldwide group, to pray the rosary with other believers around the world as Ralph Martin, Lila Rose, Kimberly Hahn, Sr. Miriam James Heidland, Fr. Donald Calloway, Fr. Boniface Hicks, Fr. Josh Johnson, Chris Stefanick, and many other Catholic teachers and influencers lead us through the sacred mysteries.

This will be a live, worldwide, virtual event at 7:30 pm eastern, on **October 7, 2021**—yes, that’s right, the feast of Our Lady of the Rosary!

Please join us for this worldwide rosary! If you have questions, please call Maria at 508-842-7604. We hope to see you there!

EIGHTH ANNUAL CELEBRATE PRIESTHOOD TASTE OF THE DIOCESE GALA

For the past seven years, the Diocese of Worcester has hosted “Celebrate Priesthood - Taste of the Diocese” as a benefit for Retired Priest’s Care. We cannot let a year go by without pausing to reflect on the gift of the priesthood in the lives of all Catholics. On **Thursday, October 28, 2021** we are planning an in-person **Taste of the Diocese** event preceded by live presentations to be streamed online for those who cannot gather with us in person. We are excited to announce a new venue for this year! **Saint Paul Diocesan Jr./Sr. High School** will host our tasting event in the newly refurbished Gymnasium and the live Presentations will be Streamed on the internet from the Burke Auditorium. Attendees can attend both events or simply drop in at any time for the tasting in the Gymnasium. To make a donation, buy tickets for Taste of the Diocese, or to get more information to place an advertisement, visit worcesterdiocese.org or call Michael Gillespie at 508-929-4368.

JOIN THE LIFE CHAIN ON OCTOBER 3!

All are invited to join the annual Life Chain on Sun., Oct. 3 from 2:00 - 3:30 p.m. This event of peaceful, prayerful witness to the sacredness of human life is held annually on Respect Life Sunday across the nation. Life Chain stations will be located at Elm Park/Highland St. and at Denny’s Restaurant on Lincoln St. in Worcester and at White City Plaza in Shrewsbury. Signs will be available at the local Life Chain stations. The event will be held rain or shine. For more information, contact Joe Godek at 508-614-5971. All are welcome to join in this prayerful effort to help build a Culture of Life.



MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, September 25, 2021—4:00 p.m.

John Fenuccio (16th Anniversary) by Family
**William Novick and parents John and Nancy,
 Vincent and Joan Pace, Virgilio and Shirley
 Pace and parents Salvatore and Carmela** by
 Family

Anthony Murgo (3rd Anniversary) by Wife and Family
Barbara Pignataro (Month's Mind) by Tony & Betty
 Chionchio

Sunday, September 26, 2021—8:00 a.m.

Michael DelloStritto by Wife Josie and Children

Sunday, September 26, 2021—10:30 a.m.

Joanne Colombo (Month's Mind) by Aunt Rose
Donny DiBaro (Anniversary) by Family
Msgr. Rocco Piccolomini (6th Anniversary),
Henry C. Martin (34th Anniversary) and
Marion I. Papetti (2nd Anniversary) by
 Michael C. Martin

Monday, September 27, 2021—7:00 a.m.

The Sick of the Parish

Tuesday, September 28, 2021—7:00 a.m.

Rocco and Clementine by Family
Dominic DiBaro Jr. (21st Anniversary) by Family

Wednesday, September 29, 2021—7:00 a.m.

Adolfo Ortiz Sr. (Birthday Remembrance) by the Ortiz
 Family

Thursday, September 30, 2021—7:00 a.m.

The People of the Parish

Saturday, October 1, 2021—4:00 p.m.

Marie Fors (19th Anniversary) by Husband

Sunday, October 2, 2021—8:00 a.m.

Antonietta and Arturo Fraioli by Josie DelloStritto
 and Family

Sunday, October 2, 2021—10:30 a.m.

Antonio Leone and Antoinette Leone by Family
Anna Marie Pascucci by Carmine and Esther
Brian Farrar by the MacGregor Family

Rest in Peace

*We, the parish community of Our Lady of
 Mt. Carmel and Our Lady of Loreto, extend our
 deepest sympathy to the family and friends of
 Maria Fulginiti and Marie Borbone. May God
 grant them peace forever and bring comfort to their fami-
 ly and friends.*



Please pray for the sick of our parish: Francis Caf-
 fone, Donna Grasseschi, Lori Blackwell, Matteo Fiore,
 Patrick Loconto, Frank "Butch" Rano, Sylvia Pusateri,
 Thelma Ortiz, Cynthia Pedone, Roland Dionne, Sue
 Cozzolino, Anthony DeAngelis, Anthony & Paul
 Locantore, Ann Servidio, Eleanor Gallo, Joseph
 Vancelette, Vinny Tiscione, Madelyn Martin, Anthony
 Paldino, Ann Marie Verdolino, Emma Taubert, Char-
 lene Swalec, Irene Bastardo, Lorrie Tufano, Riccardo
 & Silvia Cazzaniga, Maxwell Mitchell, Lynn Wagner,
 Carol Youngstrom, Rudy Aromando, Chris Watson,
 Aldona Kibelkstis, Richard and Rita Sharameta, Peter
 & Mary Antonucci, Cindy Worthington, William Fiorino,
 George Burton, Beverly DeMarco, Lucille Carrier,
 Richard Rolla, George Burton, Charlotte O'Mara, Re-
 nate Perry and Angela Vizzo. May the Lord give
 them strength, courage and healing.

**THIS WEEK OUR SANCTUARY LAMPS
 ARE DEDICATED TO THE MEMORY OF:**



MsVera Sbrogna
 By husband Gus

Donny DiBaro Jr. (Anniversary)
 By Family

Albert Riggieri
 By Wife and Children

Gloria Doerr
 By Chris Riggieri

Cursillo is back!!!

"Behold, I stand at the door and knock..." It's time to learn
 more about your Faith. Cursillo weekends are a wonderful,
 fun way to give you a start on this journey.

Two weekends are being offered in 2021.

Women's : October 14-17
Men's: November 11-14.

For more information contact **Elizabeth Santley @ 508-304-
 -8871**, or at esantley@yahoo. Applications are available in
 the vestibule of the church.

**If anyone who has made a Cursillo would like to be a
 sponsor, please contact Elizabeth Santley.**

God has his own time.

We are just impatient.



Invest just five minutes a day, and your faith will deepen and grow—a day at a time.

Sunday, Sep 26, 2021

TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Well done, good and faithful servants

Mother's and Father's Days aren't occasions for parents to toot their own horns about how fabulously they fulfilled the tasks of child-rearing. These dates are for their children to recall and celebrate the special people who made their lives possible. Similarly, today's Priesthood Sunday isn't meant for priests to beat the drum about their vocation. It's an opportunity for the rest of us, who benefit from their fidelity, to thank the men who were present to the first moments of our life in faith and will be there at the last—plus countless moments in between.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Numbers 11:25-29; James 5:1-6; Mark 9:38-43, 45, 47-48 (137). "Would that all the people of the LORD were prophets!"*

Monday, Sep 27, 2021

MEMORIAL OF VINCENT DE PAUL, PRIEST

God works with us as we are

Saint Vincent de Paul is known for founding two religious orders, reforming the church, and serving the poor to such an extent that he is the patron of all works of charity. Many schools and parishes bear his name. But in his lifetime, he was also known for being irritable and quick-tempered—which his friends confirmed and he himself admitted. He said it was only God's grace that made him compassionate, humble, and generous. He's a perfect example that we don't have to be perfect to do saintly work—if we let God soften our hard-heartedness, what great things we might do.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Zechariah 8:1-8; Luke 9:46-50 (455). "For the one who is least among all of you is the one who is the greatest."*

Tuesday, Sep 28, 2021

MEMORIAL OF WENCESLAUS, MARTYR

A faith that runs in the family

Good King Wenceslaus is, of course, best known for his care of the poor and the concern he showed his servant, as immortalized in the famous Christmas carol. Indeed, it was young Wenceslaus' habit to sneak out in the middle of the night and—with his servant assisting—roam the countryside looking for poor or imprisoned people he could anonymously help with his almsgiving. But Wenceslaus and his grandmother, Saint Ludmila, could also be patron saints for grandchildren who are raised in the Catholic Christian faith primarily by their grandparents. Pray for all modern grandparents who assume this role.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Zechariah 8:20-23; Luke 9:51-56 (456). "Many peoples and strong nations shall come to seek the Lord."*

Wednesday, Sep 29, 2021

FEAST OF MICHAEL, GABRIEL, AND RAPHAEL, ARCHANGELS

God's special care for migrants

Every minute of the day 20 people in the world leave everything behind to escape war, persecution, or terror. The archangels of the Bible represent God's special care for these migrants. Michael was the guardian of Israel during their captivity in the foreign land of Babylon. Gabriel is the patron saint of diplomats and ambassadors living in foreign countries. Raphael is featured in the Book of Tobit accompanying the story's hero, Tobias, on his journey to a foreign land to find a wife. The church recognized World Day of Migrants and Refugees last Sunday. Pray that the archangels guide and protect migrants and refugees making perilous journeys everywhere.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14 or Revelation 12:7-12a; John 1:47-51 (647). "You will see heaven opened and the angels of God ascending and descending on the Son of Man."*

Thursday, Sep 30, 2021

MEMORIAL OF JEROME, PRIEST, DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH

Translating the faith for the ages

Where would the church be without the word? If you have ever read a verse from the Bible, thank Saint Jerome (347-419). His translation of the Bible from Greek and Hebrew into Latin set the standard until the mid-20th century, paving the way for scholarship that affects our contemporary translations of scripture. His pivotal writing and translating earned him the rare title of "doctor of the church." Give a nod to Saint Jerome by reading a favorite scripture passage today.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Nehemiah 8:1-4a, 5-6, 7b-12; Luke 10:1-12 (458). "Say to them, 'The Kingdom of God is at hand for you.'"*

Friday, Oct 01, 2021

MEMORIAL OF THÉRÈSE OF THE CHILD JESUS, VIRGIN, DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH

Graceful glances

Glances are totally underrated. They seem trivial, hurried and fleeting, even stolen! They are the smallest of gestures, barely registering a flick of the eye. It is surprising then that a glance can also be a prayer. Saint Thérèse of Lisieux wrote, "For me, prayer is an aspiration of the heart, it is a simple glance directed to heaven, it is a cry of gratitude and love in the midst of trial as well as joy; finally, it is something." Our prayerful "glances" are significant. They register with God. A glance can communicate everything to God, especially when life leaves us wordless. Pause now for a moment and glance at God.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Baruch 1:15-22; Luke 10:13-16 (459). "Justice is with the Lord, our God."*

Saturday, Oct 02, 2021

MEMORIAL OF THE HOLY GUARDIAN ANGELS

All night and all day

Years back, in perhaps what were more innocent times (or at least appear so to us now), Catholic schoolchildren were encouraged to leave a little space on their chairs for their guardian angels. This charming bit of nostalgia reveals a deeper article of faith. From biblical times to the present, the testimony on angels guiding us has been consistent. Saint Augustine said, "Go where we will, our angels are always with us," while Saint Bernard encouraged Christians to "Make the holy angels your friends . . . we have nothing to fear under the protection of these guardians." Perhaps the larger truth is that although suffering and even tragedy may come our way, if we leave our hearts open, we will not be left alone. God will be at our side. Scoot over a bit!