

**ST. THOMAS OF CANTERBURY / ST. JOSEPH PARISH**  
Roman Catholic Church



**September 30, 2018 - 26th Sunday in Ordinary Time**

**Your Parish Office Is Open:  
Monday-Friday: 9 am-3 pm  
www.ststthomasjoseph.com**

**Pastor:** Rev. Rees Doughty  
frdoughty@stt-stj.com

**Parochial Vicar:** Rev. John Kwaku Sah

**Weekend Assistant:** Rev. Robert Phelps

**Deacons:** Leonard Farmer, Anthony Ferraiuolo,  
John Hanley, Joseph Lieby, John Pelella

**Parish Office**

845.534.2547 · office@stt-stj.com · FAX 845.534.1357

**Faith Formation Office**

845.534.9393 · reled@stt-stj.com

Faith Formation Coordinators:

Annmarie O'Connor and Mary Ellen Tiernan

**RCIA/T**

845.661.8586 · metiernan@comcast.net

Coordinator: Mary Ellen Tiernan

**St. Thomas Church**

340 Hudson St., Cornwall on Hudson, NY 12520

**Sunday Masses**

Saturday Vigil: 4:30 pm

Sunday: 7:30 am, 9:00 am, 11:00 am

**Weekday:** Monday-Saturday: 8:30 am

**Confession**

Saturday: 9-9:45 am (or by appointment)

**Miraculous Medal Novena**

Monday after 8:30 am Mass

**Rosary:** Monday-Saturday after 8:30 am Mass

**St. Joseph Church**

4 Saint Joseph's Pl., New Windsor, NY 12553

**Sunday Mass**

Sunday: 12:30 pm

**Weekday:** Wednesday, 6:30 pm Mass

**Confession:** Wednesday, 6-6:30 pm

**Adoration:** Wednesday, 5:30 pm

**OFFERTORY**

**Sept 22/23:** \$9,188.25

**Shrines:** \$163.66; **Poor Box:** \$66.00

**Online Giving** (Sept 17-23): \$1,032.90

We thank you for your generosity and continued support of the parish! **Please Consider Donating To The Parish Through Online Giving!** Online Giving is safe and secure, and you set up when your gift is made, for how much, and for which collection. Visit [ststthomasjoseph.com](http://ststthomasjoseph.com) and under the "News/Events" tab, click on "My Own Church" for information on giving.

**The Holy Guardian Angels — 2 October**

**GUARDIAN ANGEL PRAYER**

Angel of God, my guardian dear,  
To whom His love commits me here;  
Ever this day (or night) be at my side,  
To light and guard, to rule and guide. Amen.

Source: ewtn.com

Our Cover Image is: Pietro da Cortona's "The Guardian Angel".

Source: wikimediacommons.



**MASS INTENTIONS**

**Mon, Oct 1: St. Therese of the Child Jesus**

**8:30 am** +Henry Malanowski by Vickie Malanowski

**Tues, Oct 2: The Holy Guardian Angels**

**8:30 am** Ints. of Nicolas Nosenchuck by Melissa

**Wed, Oct 3**

**8:30 am** +Hernan Herrera by Angelica Herrera

**6:30 pm** +Salvo Family by Linda Siner

**Thurs, Oct 4: St. Francis of Assisi**

**8:30 am** Special Intentions of Sharon Bywater

**Fri, Oct 5: Bl. Francis Xavier Seelos**

**8:30 am** +Liv/Dec Members of Catholic Daughters Assoc.

**8:30 Sat, Oct 6: Bl. Marie Rose Durocher**

**8:30 am** +John Sweeney by family

**4:30 pm** +Pat Seymour by Maureen Seymour;  
+John Wynn by Noreen McKiernan

**Sun, Oct 7: 27th Sunday in Ordinary Time**

**7:30 am** +Denis O'Keeffe by Hickey family

**9:00 am** For St. Thomas/St. Joseph Parishioners

**11:00 am** In Thanksgiving to the Sacred Heart of Jesus  
by Josephine Thomas

**12:30 pm** +Ester Gallo by Mr. and Mrs. Paul Gallo

ALL Masses are celebrated  
at St. Thomas of Canterbury Church  
except for the  
Sunday, 12:30 pm Mass  
and the Wednesday, 6:30 pm Mass  
which are celebrated at St. Joseph Church.

## “The Devil made me do it.” - By Fr. Shawn W. Cutler

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**T**hat excuse is somewhat quaint when it is pronounced from the lips of a six-year-old when he is caught with his hand in the proverbial cookie jar. That same excuse loses its luster, however, when it is used by grown adults to excuse their own immoral behavior or is used by the legion of apologists today who enthusiastically excuse bad, immoral, or criminal actions using any means necessary to justify such behaviors and sins.

To be sure, in this temporal world, each individual is engaged in a spiritual battle whether he wants to acknowledge it or not. Those persons who refuse to recognize this truth have already lost most of the battle, and only with a moment of God’s grace to jolt them out of their spiritual inertia will they ever have any hope of salvation. St. Paul is very clear that those forces for the good (the angels) and those forces for ill (the demons) are very much a part of the life of every Christian (see Romans 8 and Ephesians 3).

In the Nicene Creed we pray each Sunday at Mass, we profess our belief that God the Father is Creator of all that is visible and invisible. The invisible definitely includes the angels who are given to us to influence each soul to turn to God. The angels pray for us and watch over us. We each have a guardian angel, for instance. They desire only one thing for us: to be holy as God the Father is holy so as to attain eternal union with Him just as they personally behold God face-to-face. The angels have used their free will and intellect to choose the Supreme Good, God Himself.

Nevertheless, some angels turned inward and only wanted to control their own existence to the exclusion of God’s will for them. Consequently, their choice is forever sealed as saying “no” to God. Lucifer and his band of demons will forever be excluded from eternal union with God by their own choice. They desire to love themselves—which is actually a form of self-hatred for themselves and all other creatures besides God—and this brings them to the most desolate separation from God possible known as hell.

The demons do have a desire, however. They despise mankind and have an intense hatred for us because the Son of God not only shares our human nature, but He has elevated and perfects it to the exclusion of Satan’s manipulations when we remain united to Jesus in this life. In so doing, we experience eternal union with God because we do what the demons refuse to do: to trust in the Second Person of the Trinity to show us the way to God and

offer us happiness in this life through His holy Cross.

Demons oppose the actions of the angels, therefore. The legion of devils tempt us, and they know our weaknesses and dominant faults. However, no demon, including Lucifer, can make us sin. The demons are not morally responsible for our choices. They are culpable for their own choice to refuse God. We, however, can be influenced by them and the world to rationalize our conscience (which is a distortion of the good of our intellect) and tell ourselves that what is objectively morally evil can become for us falsely a moral good. That is the original deception beginning with Eve down to every person today who sins. That is the weakness in our nature (except for the Blessed Virgin and Christ Himself): that we are all prone to fall into sin without proper vigilance.

Therefore, can the Devil **make** us do anything by forcing our will to commit evil? The short answer is: No. Although Satan and the other demons are very powerful, “the power of Satan is, nonetheless, not infinite. He is only a creature, powerful from the fact that he is pure spirit, but still a creature. He cannot prevent the building up of God’s reign. Although Satan may act in the world out of hatred for God and His kingdom in Christ Jesus, and although his action may cause grave injuries—of a spiritual nature and, indirectly, even of a physical nature,” Satan cannot cause any individual to sin (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 395). Rather, the person himself yields his will to temptation and refuses to trust in God’s Commandments and His love. In short, the person chooses himself over God after falling prey to the idea that he can become the master of his own life and destiny. Every temptation we face today from the Evil One has its root in that very first temptation spoken to Eve in the Garden (see Genesis 3).

Consequently, every person also today lives with the consequences of Original Sin regarding a wounded human nature. This means, among others, that we tend to believe the lies that the Devil and the fallen world tell us in an effort to make ourselves feel like false gods. “By our first parents’ sin, the Devil has acquired a certain dominion over man, even though man remains free. Original sin entails ‘captivity under the power of him who thenceforth had the power of death, that is, the Devil.’ Ignorance of the fact that man has a wounded nature inclined to evil gives rise to serious errors in the areas of education, politics, social actions, and morals” (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 407).

When we look at the current state of the Church today and talk about the spiritual battle that we are

facing, we certainly are in need of all the help that heaven can muster, including the angels. However, we should be aware of an important point. On the one hand, it is most appropriate that we pray the St. Michael the Archangel prayer composed by Pope Leo XIII at the conclusion of Mass, even though certain priests in this diocese actively argued quite vocally against including it at all. On the other hand, Catholics should be wary of “seeing the Devil around every corner,” as it were. People with weak faith blame the Devil for everything. Instead, the person who sins—in the case of the Church today, those who have sinned grievously—bears the moral responsibility for giving into sick and perverted temptations time and again which come not only from demonic forces, but also from worldliness and our own weak nature. The Devil, to be sure, did not make any of these men commit these crimes and sins. The clergymen themselves committed them, and their souls will answer for it. Lucifer, worldliness, and our own fallen nature contribute to our temptations, but our individual soul answers for all of the individual choices that we make, for good or for ill. The culpability is ours and ours alone.

In today’s world, it is popular to punish only Anglo-Saxon capitalist males for crimes and blame them for everything. Everyone else often gets a free pass. Moral punishments for sins are certainly out of vogue since the implementation of the reforms of the Second Vatican Council; indeed, why should there be punishments at all since everyone is going to heaven in the minds of most Catholics? That accounts for the lack of Catholics going to Confession while simultaneously traipsing up to

Holy Communion every time they go to Mass even though their souls are in a state of objective mortal sin when they decide to skip Sunday Mass repeatedly. (The Devil did not make them go to football practice or sleep in on Sunday instead of going to Mass). Such people are in for a very rude awakening. Either temporal atonement is acknowledged in this life and reparation made, or it will be made fully in the next. The person who remains in obstinate mortal sin refusing to acknowledge his sins and crimes will have an eternity to consider such crimes separated from the God and the communion of saints. This is not a popular teaching today, to be sure. But, truth never is popular.

How do we avoid such a terrible eternity? We keep ourselves intellectually informed about the faith all throughout our lives, inform our conscience about objective good and evil, receive the sacraments frequently and fruitfully, practice the devotional life, surround ourselves with good friends who are supportive of the faith instead of secularists or fallen-away Catholics with a guilty axe to grind, and we should be well aware of our dominant faults so as to work to avoid them and overcome them with God’s grace and perseverance. What then, is the reward? Nothing less than the imperishable crown awaiting the faithful who seriously run the race towards eternal life so as to win that crown successfully (see 1 Corinthians 9:24-27).

*Rev. Shawn W. Cutler is pastor of St. Marguerite Bourgeoys Parish in Brookfield, CT. We thank him for allowing us to reprint his blog of 23 Sept 2018.*

**Thank  
You!**

Thanks to everyone who made our parish picnic a success last Saturday: Neil Drislane and members of the parish advisory council, our music ministers, Star Youth Group, Catholic Daughters, the Knights of

Columbus, and many others!

**Parish Trip to Switzerland, Bavaria, and Austria:**

March 21-30, 2019. Highlights include: Bern, Chateau de Chillon, Montreux, GoldenPass Panoramic Train, Gstaad, Lucerne, Innsbruck, Austrian Alps, Salzburg, Mirabell Gardens, St. Peter’s Restaurant, Tyrolean Folklore Show, Bavaria, and Oberammergau. For information, contact Mary Ellen at 845.661.8586 or maryellentianan@icloud.com.



**12 Months of Christmas Raffle:**

Congratulations to Doug Murphy who won the September prize of Robert Mondavi glasses and a Gordon Ramsey Cheese Board plate!

**Our October Prize** is a Desert Rose 6-piece serving set by Franciscan (the largest selling pattern in the history of American dinnerware and chosen by Jacqueline Kennedy for the White House) complemented by Grafton Street 3-piece flatware serving set by Waterford. (Value \$200)

**Join the Life Chain!** The Orange County life Chain will gather Sunday, October 7, 2-3:30pm on Route 211 in Middletown, beginning near the Galleria at Crystal Run and ending at Shop Rite on Rt. 211. Monitors with posters and other information will be located on the south side of Rt. 211 only. Life Chain participants are asked to line up only on the south side of Rt. 211 and to respect the directions of the monitors. For information, call 845.496.0391.