

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

The end of September and first week of October is an especially rich time in the calendar of the church.

September 29, is the Feast of St. Michael and All Angels—this year it falls on a Sunday so it is superseded by the twenty-sixth Sunday of Ordinary Time, but the next day we remember St. Jerome—the fourth century scholar and Doctor of the Church who translated the Bible from Hebrew and Greek into Latin providing the church with the “Vulgate”—thus reminding us of the importance of having the Scriptures in a language accessible to the people. You might ask, “How is Latin accessible to the people?” Remember this was the fourth century and Latin was the common tongue at that time and for many centuries to follow.

St. Jerome had a great love for the infant Jesus and lived as a hermit in Bethlehem in a cell next to the site of Our Lord’s birth in Bethlehem. On our parish pilgrimage to the Holy Land, we celebrated Mass in St. Jerome’s cell which is right next to the grotto of the Nativity.

The next day, October 1, is the memorial of another saint who loved the infant Lord: St. Therese of the Child Jesus and the Holy Face. Therese of Lisieux honored the Christ child and saw in him her infant redeemer. As a Carmelite, she would have been familiar with the devotion to the child Jesus represented by the Infant of Prague. There is a stained glass window of Therese of Lisieux in the Lower Church and we should remember that the stained glass windows are not just “pretty Catholic decoration” but are sacred icons, the stained glass window serves as our shrine to St. Therese and is a place of prayer and devotion to this beautiful saint.

October 2, is the memorial to the Holy Guardian Angels—who have special guardianship of all of us, but especially our children. The image of the guardian angel at the entrance to our Infant of Prague/Pro Life chapel is a reminder that October is Pro-Life month. Don’t forget to spend a few moments of prayer in the Pro-Life Chapel praying for our children and the Pro-Life life cause.

Then on Friday we celebrate St. Francis of Assisi’s day. He is popular for his love of animals and God’s creation, but remember, he too is known for his devotion to the infant Lord as he is known for establishing the first Christmas creche.

Saturday morning at 9:30 is our First Saturday Pro-Life Mass and it is also the memorial of St. Faustina. Her relic will be on the altar as we also thank God for her life and the Divine Mercy devotion that day.

The weekend masses will celebrate the Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary. A generous donor has commissioned a new, original portrayal of Our Lady of the Rosary to be hung in the Narthex of our church. It will be dedicated and unveiled after the 10:30 Mass next weekend. The artist, Gwyneth Thompson Briggs will be here for the unveiling and will

give a talk about her work and the importance of sacred art afterwards.

Why not take extra time this week to join us as we commemorate these important saints? Remember weekday Masses are Monday at 8:30 am, Tuesday 12:00 noon, Wednesday 6:00 pm, Thursday 10:00 am and Friday at 10:00.

Your pastor,
Fr. Longenecker