

"Ever this day  
be at my side"

www.graceinaction.org  
September 2009

# GRACE IN ACTION

LIVING CATHOLIC STEWARDSHIP™

celebrate  
*September*

- 8 Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary
- 9 St. Peter Claver
- 14 Exaltation of the Holy Cross
- 29 St. Michael, St. Gabriel and St. Raphael
- 30 St. Jerome

## newparable

### Teach your children well



here once was a child who lived in fear. Upon hearing news reports of school shootings and natural disasters and pandemics, this boy shuddered in his skin. The world seemed a wicked, hostile place, full of perils and threats. Every stranger seemed a potential criminal. This boy had no sense of the spiritual. His parents believed neither in God, nor in angels nor saints. This child knew only the scientific world, the realm of empirical evidence. And the boy never felt safe, not even while in his own home, because he worried about kidnappers and germs, food poisoning, lightning bolts and house fires.

There was another boy who also knew about the dangers in the world, the possible tragedies, random misfortunes and maladies. This youngster, however, did not find himself paralyzed by fear. His family had given him the gift of faith. This boy knew he was never alone. This child had listened to the stories of Scripture, and took comfort in God's love and



"A Moment in Time," by Ken Papaleo; highcountrycoloring.com

"Life is an opportunity, benefit from it. Life is beauty, admire it. Life is bliss, taste it. Life is a dream, realize it. Life is a challenge, meet it. Life is a duty, complete it. Life is a promise, fulfill it. Life is sorrow, overcome it. Life is a song, sing it." — Mother Teresa

the law of love given by Jesus Christ. This boy especially loved the stories of the brave saints. And although he believed in the existence of evil, he also believed in the existence of angels. The boy knew that strangers could be angels in disguise. He never forgot one of the first prayers he'd learned — the prayer to his guardian angel. He also called upon the archangels. As he grew, the boy learned more and more prayers that helped to bring him comfort and feel safe in God's hands — even in the darkest hours.

## kidscorner

### Identifying archangels

On Sept. 29, we celebrate the feast of the Archangels. The Bible mentions the three archangels by name: Gabriel, Raphael and Michael. When you see an angel in religious art, you can identify the archangels if you know their symbols. Archangel Michael defends us from evil. He carries a sword and sometimes is shown with a devil. Archangel Gabriel is a messenger. He often is shown with a lily. Archangel Raphael helps heal the sick. He often is shown with a fish. Next time you see a picture of an angel, see if you can tell if it's an archangel. And if so, which one?



Illustration by Quincy Benton

Log on to [www.graceinaction.org](http://www.graceinaction.org) for children's charming explanations about angels, sure to make you smile. SAMPLE: "I only know the names of two angels. Hark and Harold." — Gregory, 5 years old

Do not neglect hospitality, for through it some have unknowingly entertained angels. Let your life be free from love of money but be content with what you have.

— Hebrews 13:2,5



# Places of Pilgrimage: Sedona, Ariz.



The Chapel of the Holy Cross is a Catholic chapel belonging to the Parish of St. John Vianney and the Catholic Diocese

of Phoenix. In the midst of Sedona's reputation as a spiritual center for New Age mysticism lies the church of one of the world's oldest faiths.

When Marguerite Brunswig Staude traveled to New York City in 1932 she noticed that, if viewed at a certain angle, one could see a cross in the Empire State Building. This discovery inspired the idea of a church with a similar visual effect. Staude traveled all over Europe looking for the perfect location on which

to build her vision. It wasn't until 1956 that Staude – also an accomplished religious painter and sculptor, as well as a student of Frank Lloyd Wright – watched her largest work of art come to life right here in the United States.

In Sedona, Ariz., the Chapel of the Holy Cross was built into a thousand-foot red rock wall, an architectural miracle, with stunning views of Cathedral Rock, Bell Rock, Courthouse Butte and much of the eastern rim of Sedona. Now a favorite tourist attraction, Staude hoped the church would not only be "a monument to faith but a spiritual fortress so charged with God that it spurs man's spirit godward." To find out more visit [www.chapeloftheholycross.com](http://www.chapeloftheholycross.com).



Courtesy photo

## thewaywepray

### Prayer for Jews: Shalom

During this holy time for Jews – the Jewish New Year begins sundown Sept. 18; and Yom Kippur, the Day of Atonement, begins sundown Sept. 27 – we pray that Jews, Catholics and Muslims in the Middle East come to respect one another. The following is a prayer by Father Henri Nouwen.

*Dear Lord, you came to this world not only as a man, but specifically as a Jewish man. I will never fully understand your words, your gestures, your actions unless I fully realize your Jewishness. It is becoming clearer to me every day that the Jews have much to teach me not only about the Old Testament and the Jewish religion, but also about you. Lord, I pray for the Jews. Give them peace and freedom after the many centuries of persecution and oppression; ... give their children the "Shalom" in its full sense of physical, mental, and spiritual well-being. I pray especially that you give to the Jews the generosity of heart to keep forgiving us Christians for the cruelties and atrocities to which we have subjected them and their forefathers and foremothers. Finally I pray that the Jews will see you more and more as one of their own: a brother, a rabbi, a teacher who honored and respected the Jewish law and who spoke in the tradition of the great prophets.*

*O Lord, deepen my love for your people. Amen.*



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## faithfact Scripture 911

St. Jerome, whose feast we celebrate this month, translated the Bible from Greek into the vernacular Latin. "Love the knowledge of the Scriptures," St. Jerome wrote, "and you will not love the errors of the flesh." Call on these Scripture "phone numbers" for various spiritual emergencies:

- ☎ If you are sad, phone John 14 ☎
- If you have sinned, phone Psalm 51
- ☎ If you are facing danger, phone Psalm 91
- ☎ If people have failed you, phone Psalm 27
- ☎ If it feels as though God is far from you, phone Psalm 139
- ☎ If your faith needs stimulation, phone Hebrews 11
- ☎ If you are alone and scared, phone Psalm 23
- ☎ If you are worried, phone Matthew 8:19-34
- ☎ If you are hurt and critical, phone 1 Corinthians 13
- ☎ If you wonder about Christianity, phone 2 Corinthians 5:15-18
- ☎ If you feel like an outcast, phone Romans 8:31-39. For more visit [graceinaction.org](http://graceinaction.org).

## trythis Digital Scriptures

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