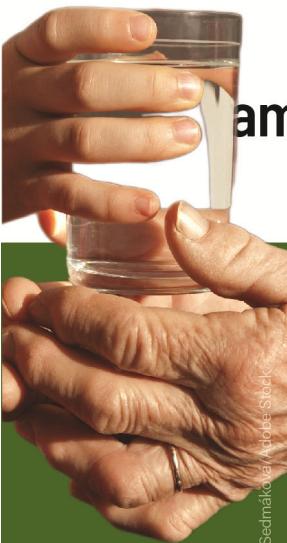


# Twenty-sixth

## Sunday in Ordinary Time

September 26, 2021

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**Any who give you a cup of water to drink  
because you belong to Christ,  
amen, I say to you, will surely not lose their reward.**

Mark 9:41

**St. John the Evangelist Church  
309 Lotz Avenue, Altoona, PA 814-942-5503  
[www.stjohnsaltoona.org](http://www.stjohnsaltoona.org)**

### PASTORAL STAFF

Monsignor Michael Becker - mbecker253@aol.com; allinall214@gmail.com  
Deacon Gene Neral - gene@lifeinfocus.net  
Kristina Hoyne - Parish Council President - inaugh@aol.com  
Jena Bowman - Business Manager - stjohnchurch@atlanticbb.net  
Deborah Johnson - Director of Music/Pastoral Associate - dj219@msn.com  
Diane Ryan - Faith Formation Coordinator/Secretary - stjohnsecretary@atlanticbb.net  
Mark Krepich - Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults - mark.krepich@gmail.com  
Ken Dunmire - Maintenance

### NEXT WEEK'S APPOINTMENTS

#### LECTORS

Sat. Oct. 2 - 4:00 PM - Joyce Cunningham,  
NOT FILLED  
Sun. Oct. 3 - 8:00 AM - Diane Turcovsky, Daniel Turcovsky  
Sun. Oct. 3 - 11:00 AM - Bob Olson, Wally Wargo

#### ALTAR SERVERS

Sat. Oct. 2 - 4:00 PM - Keaton Swope, NOT FILLED  
Sun. Oct. 3 - 8:00 AM - Nicholas Helsley, Emily Miller  
Sun. Oct. 3 - 11:00 AM - Estella Koch, Evie Koch

#### EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS

Sat. Oct. 2 - 4:00 PM - Connie Baker, NOT FILLED  
Sun. Oct. 3 - 8:00 AM - Lou Ann Clark  
Sun. Oct. 3 - 11:00 AM - Dolores Capriotti,  
Donna Moyer

#### MINISTERS OF HOSPITALITY

Sat. Oct. 2 - 4:00 PM - Betsy Lloyd, Judy Sneath,  
Paula VanSickel, Larry VanSickel  
Sun. Oct. 3 - 8:00 AM - Mary Truesdale, Charlie  
Moore, Ginny Reeder, Mike O'Neill  
Sun. Oct. 3 - 11:00 AM - Wendy Campbell, Patrick  
Podoletz, Mary Grace Horton, Peg Madden

#### SACRISTAN

Sat. Oct. 2 - 4:00 PM - Mary & Ray King  
Sun. Oct. 3 - 8:00 AM - Darlene Scarpaci  
Sun. Oct. 3 - 11:00 AM - Marilyn Bevan

#### SCRIP

Sat. Oct. 2 - 4:00 PM - Julie Beiswenger, NOT FILLED  
Sun. Oct. 3 - 8:00 AM - Chris Palazzi,  
Heather Yasolsky  
Sun. Oct. 3 - 11:00 AM - Peg Madden,  
Marge Rudolph

#### **September Prayer Intention of Pope Francis *An environmentally sustainable lifestyle***

We pray that we all will make courageous choices  
for a simple and environmentally sustainable lifestyle,  
rejoicing in our young people who are resolutely  
committed to this.



## A Few Words from the Pastor:

**STOP BY THE ATRIUM!** All are invited to stop in our Atrium (formerly the Day Chapel) to get a look at the sacred space we are preparing for our 3 – 6 year olds. Registration will begin soon, and our sessions will begin in early October!

**A SPECIAL DAY FOR MIGRANTS** - This Sunday, September 26, the Catholic Church will be observing the World Day of Migrants and Refugees (WDMR), which it has been doing since 1914. It's always an occasion to express concern for different vulnerable people on the move; to pray for them as they face many challenges; and to increase awareness about the opportunities that migration offers. This year's theme announced by Pope Francis is – "Towards an ever wider 'we'."

**A SYNOD IS COMING! WHAT IS A SYNOD?** The term is often used to describe the process of fraternal collaboration and discernment that bodies like conferences of bishops were created to express. What the synod is, practically speaking, is an advisory panel. It is a body which gives the pope a way of discussing the issues of the day, and receiving feedback and advice from the episcopacy. St. Paul VI may have given it its current shape, but the reality is that popes have always done this, consulting with their bishops on different matters, in one form or another. The next Synod in Rome will have as its topic, "Synodality." How is it essential to the life of the Church, and in what ways do we still need to grow as a church. The Synod on synodality will open with a "diocesan phase" in October 2021 and conclude with the Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops at the Vatican in October 2023. Pope Francis will "inaugurate the synodal path" over the weekend of Oct. 9-10 with an opening session and a Mass.

**ALL SAINTS WEEK?** All Saints Day is November 1. But I've always felt that the last days of September and the first days of October certainly qualify as an amazing week of saints! Our lineup for the week includes St. Vincent DePaul, Saints Michael, Raphael and Gabriel the Archangels, St. Jerome, the Little Flower St. Therese of Lisieux, and our Holy Guardian Angels!

**ROSARY MONTH!** The month of October each year is dedicated to the Most Holy Rosary. This is primarily due to the fact that the liturgical feast of Our Lady of the Rosary is celebrated annually on October 7th. It was instituted to honor the Blessed Virgin Mary in gratitude for the protection that she gives the Church in answer to the praying of the Rosary by the faithful.



**BLESSING OF PETS** - Each year as we celebrate the feast of St. Francis of Assisi (October 4) all are invited to bring their pets to church for our annual pet blessing. Our blessing of pets here at St. John's will take place next Sunday, October 3, at 1 o'clock in the front circle.

**A SERVICE DOG** - "Hello, I am a service dog and my name is Jak of Hearts. When you see me at church I am working. My human, Erika Yasolsky, needs my help in calming anxiety, and I am trained as a psychiatric service dog. Erika's nervous system is always on hyper drive. She cyber schools to avoid crowds. She trains with me at Shady Rock or Harmony Horsemanship. I go with Erika everywhere. Erika's mother is Heather, and you can often find her at the SCRIP table in the Gathering Space. I would ask that you not pet me, which can be distracting, but I know that Heather will be glad to answer any questions about my work with her daughter Erika. Thank you for welcoming me to Mass." Jak

### Access to clean drinking water is a human right



**SEASON OF  
CREATION**  
SEPTEMBER 1-OCTOBER 4

One particularly serious problem is the quality of water available to the poor. [...] Even as the quality of available water is constantly diminishing, in some places there is a growing tendency, despite its scarcity, to privatize this resource, turning

it into a commodity subject to the laws of the market. Yet *access to safe drinkable water is a basic and universal human right, since it is essential to human survival and, as such, is a condition for the exercise of other human rights*. Our world has a grave social debt towards the poor who lack access to drinking water, because they are denied the right to a life consistent with their inalienable dignity. (29-30; emphasis in original)

**CATHOLIC CHARITIES HAS AN URGENT NEED FOR DIAPERS IN LARGER SIZES (SIZE 4 AND UP). IF YOU CAN DROP A BOX OFF IN THE GATHERING SPACE, WE WILL SEE THAT THEY ARE PICKED UP AND DELIVERED TO CATHOLIC CHARITIES.**

## **FAITH FORMATION NEWS**

- Just a reminder that Parents/Students should wear a mask/facial covering when entering the building.
- Sept. 26: NO CLASS
- October 3: 9:15 - 10:45 CLASS
- October 3: Confirmation Service Project Humane Society Collection/Pet Blessing 1:00 PM
- October 10: NO CLASS
- October 17: 9:15 - 10:45 CLASS/ 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Fall Session - The Creed

**STEWARSHIP CORNER:** Our Gospel passage and the Second Reading from the letter of St. James urge us to examine our lives for anything that is keeping us from loving God above all else. St. James warns that our possessions can cause us to detach ourselves from God. When we hold onto possessions too tightly, they come to possess us. The “stuff” can easily become the focus of our energy and attention. Attachment to materials things can slowly and steadily lead to corruption, even as individuals. If you have considered the spiritual discipline of tithing, (the stewardship of treasure) now may be the time to act on it. Stewardship of treasure leads us to let go of unhealthy attachment to material things and leads us to attach ourselves to God, relying on Him as our true source of security and happiness. We come to understand that all we have is a gift from our loving Father and we use it to bless others and glorify Him. What a wonderful freedom there is in living this way! Set some time aside to think about how you can make a plan to live in this freedom. (*Stewardship Reflection*, Catholic Stewardship Consultants, Inc. 2018/9/30)

**September 12, 2021**

Envelopes	\$ 5,125.00
Loose Offerings	\$ 581.00
Children's Offerings	\$ 2.00
Catholic Education	\$ 141.00
Catholic University	\$ 40.00
Assumption of Mary	\$ 15.00
Retired Priest Medical	\$ 60.00
Food Bank Collection	\$ 30.00
<i>Subtotal</i>	\$ 5,994.00
Online Giving	\$ 3,798.00
<b>Total Offertory</b>	<b>\$ 9,792.00</b>

***Restore\*Repair\*Rejoice***

Payments/Donations \$178,655  
Pledge Payment Committed \$10,215  
Total Pledges/Donations \$188,870

**2021 Catholic Ministries Drive: Goal \$42,813**

Payments/Donations \$45,550  
Pledge Payments Committed \$400  
Total Pledges/Donations \$45,950  
\*Over our Goal \$2,737

## **ST JOHN'S PRAYER LIST**

Please call Ginny Reeder (695-7671) or email her at [gyny.reeder@gmail.com](mailto:gyny.reeder@gmail.com) to add or remove someone from the prayer list. PLEASE PRAY FOR THE FOLLOWING and their caregivers and give thanks for those who have recovered. *Lord we ask for your blessings and care for these and all people in need:*

Aiden • Seth Alexander • Amy B. • Scott Brenneman  
Dan Burley • Cari Ann • Michelle Cooney  
Mary Lee Madigan-Davis • Betty Dennis  
Michael DeStefano • Gary Ellis • Bernadine Farrell  
Kathy Felty • Leann Frazier • Matt Gormley  
Randy Horton • Alexandra Hudson Tim Jimenez  
Amy Langenbacher • Lisa • Sherri Maffettone  
Genevieve Mathias • Susie Miller • Karrie McCall  
Sylvia Louise Mills • Barbara Moore • Ailani Myers  
Patricia Olson • Mary Oricko • Linda Pletcher  
Connie R • Mary Rajnish • Allison Recker Vicki Riley  
Lauryn Ryan • Olga Romerowicz • Mike Rudolph  
Pat Seiler • Bruce Shank • Anne Showalter  
Betsy Slat • Tim Temofonte • Bill Teufel • Kathy Wagner  
Lois Werfel • Daronda Wooldridge

**HOME WITH THE LORD:** Your prayers are requested for the repose of the soul of:

**Robert Cole**  
**Rose Marie Nail - sister of Mary Ann Cole**  
*May they rest in the peace and joy of the Lord.*

**THE EUCHARIST IN SCRIPTURE:** Beginning Oct. 17th, we will begin a 6-week ADULT ED program called “The Eucharist in Scripture”. We will be meet in the cafeteria on Sunday mornings until Nov. 21, the weekend before Thanksgiving. Videos will begin at 9:30, followed by our discussion. We will forgo drinks and treats during these sessions to avoid concerns with the virus.

**If you signed up in the spring of 2020,** have the workbooks and would like to complete the program this fall, just check the box by your name on the sheets on the card table in the Gathering Space.

**If you did not previously sign up** and would like to participate with us, just add your name and phone number on the blank spaces and we will see about getting workbooks.

**If you have a workbook, but will be unable to join us,** and are willing to offer your book to someone else, please just drop it off on the card table in the Gathering Space and we will give it to someone who will use it.

If you have questions about the program, please email or speak to Deacon Gene.

**TOASTY TODDLER COLLECTION:** St. John's Women's Group needs your help! Beginning October 1, we are accepting donations for the Toasty Toddler Program of NEW- Hats, Scarves & Gloves, Coats & Snowsuits for Boys and Girls. Sizes needed-Newborn through Toddler Size 5T and 4, 5, 6, 6x, 7, 8 or Small. There will be a box in the Gathering Space for your donation. Thank you!

**THANK YOU!** God Bless our Altar Servers: Mai Linh Do, Ryan Donoughe, Nicholas Helsley, Estella Koch, Evie Koch, Camille Krug, Makayla Langenbacher Nevaeh Langenbacher, Savannah Langenbacher, Emily Miller, Ethan Miller, Claire Nackley, Sophia Raneri, Kaelab Ruggles, Aidan Schurr, Keaton Swope and Amber Yasolsky. Please pick up a small token of our thanks for your service to our faith community. Gifts are in the Sacristy and available for pick up after all Masses. The server or parent of the server may pick up. Contact the office with any questions or alternative time for pick up.

**SPIRITUAL RETREAT:** Find Your Purpose... Spiritual Retreat on Saturday, October 9, at St. Michael's Church begins at 8:00 a.m. in the Social Hall with coffee and doughnuts, 9:00 a.m. Father David Tickerhoof, TOR of Franciscan University of Steubenville, Ohio will speak on What is the Church's Grace of Renewal, and Why Do We Need It Now, prayer, Mass followed by luncheon. Make reservations before October 2nd calling Darlene Harella (814) 934-1759. All are invited. Free will offering. Sponsored by Catholic Daughters Court #1755.

**DOROTHY DAY CENTER TAG SALE:** The Dorothy Day Outreach Center is having their Bi-Annual Tag Sale on Saturday, October 16<sup>th</sup> from 8:00 AM – 2:00 PM. The Tag Sale will be located in the Stokes Auxiliary Gym at Saint Francis University. Signage will be found on campus to help locate the gym. Feel free to call (814) 419-8679 with any questions.

**FEAST OF ST. FRANCIS DAY OF CELEBRATION:**  
Saturday, October 2<sup>nd</sup> - Food and Baked Goods for Sale  
10:00 AM - Rummage/Garage Sale and Friar's Nook Gift Shop Fall Sale  
3:00 PM - Rosary; 3:30 PM - Pet Blessing; 4:00 PM - Mass  
*Bring a lawn chair or blanket!*

**A LETTER FROM THE NEW PRIEST AT OUR SISTER PARISH IN HAITI:** In Marmont, we are well grace to God. We continue to pray for you and all people in your community. The opening the school is taking back to September 21 because the earthquake who strike the Country. I work now in the school to open with many joys for the kids. We will have this year more kids in the school. Thanks to God! Can you pass my congratulation to each people who help us in this program for the kids because, they should very difficult to go to school without your support. May God continue to bless you all the time and give a strong health for your family and the Mission. Union of prayers!  
*Fr. Bernard of Marmont, Diocese of Hinche/Haiti.*  
**Please return your student sponsorship donation of \$150. this week so that we may send funds to the Sts. Peter and Paul School in our sister parish.**



Twenty-sixth Sunday  
in Ordinary Time  
September 26, 2021

The law of the LORD is perfect,  
refreshing the soul;  
the decree of the Lord is trustworthy,  
giving wisdom to the simple.

— Psalm 19:8

## Schedule for the Week

### Sunday, September 26 – The 26<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:00 AM - Mass for *People of the Parish*  
11:00 AM - Mass for *Barbara Neral* requested by  
St. John's Staff

### Monday, September 27 – Saint Vincent de Paul, Priest

8:30 AM - Mass for *Helen Fornwalt* requested by  
Fred & Donna Fornwalt

### Tuesday, September 28 – Weekday

8:30 AM - Mass for *Reta M. Loth* requested by  
David & Bonnie Loth

### Wednesday, September 29 – Saints Michael, Gabriel & Raphael, Archangels

5:30 PM - Confessions  
6:00 PM - Mass for *Fred Mazzarella* requested by  
Karen Mazzarella

### Thursday, September 30 – Saint Jerome, Priest & Doctor of the Church

8:30AM– Mass for *Krista Riccitelli* requested by  
Ryan, Siena & Sadie

### Friday, October 1 – St. Thérèse of the Child Jesus, Virgin & Doctor of the Church

8:30AM– Mass for *Barbara Neral* requested by  
Lois Dullinger & Family

### Saturday, October 2 - Vigil of The 27<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

3:00 PM - Confessions  
4:00 PM - Mass for *Grady Weyandt* requested by  
His mother, Linda Weyandt

### Sunday, October 3 – The 27<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:00 AM - Mass for *People of the Parish*  
11:00 AM - Mass for *David Petrak* requested by  
Mary Petrak

## READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Zec 8:1-8; Ps 102:16-21, 29, 22-23; Lk 9:46-50  
Tuesday: Zec 8:20-23; Ps 87:1b-7; Lk 9:51-56  
Wednesday: Dn 7:9-10, 13-14 or Rv 12:7-12a; Ps 138:1-5;  
Jn 1:47-51  
Thursday: Neh 8:1-4a, 5-6, 7b-12; Ps 19:8-11; Lk 10:1-12  
Friday: Bar 1:15-22; Ps 79:1b-5, 8-9; Lk 10:13-16  
Saturday: Bar 4:5-12, 27-29; Ps 69:33-37; Mt 18:1-5, 10  
Sunday: Gn 2:18-24; Ps 128:1-6; Heb 2:9-11; Mk 10:2-16  
[2-12]



# **Any who give you a cup of water to drink because you belong to Christ, amen, I say to you, will surely not lose their reward.**

Mark 9:41

## **THE FREEDOM OF GOD**

Today's readings remind us that God is free: God acts as God wills regardless of what human beings might expect. In the reading from Numbers, God's spirit enters two men, Eldad and Medad, even though they had not been with the others who had received the spirit of God. And in Mark's Gospel, Jesus endorses an unknown exorcist, who did God's work in the name of Jesus but was not officially sanctioned by the disciples. That God's spirit is shared widely does not threaten Moses or Jesus. They celebrate the notion that God's spirit blows where it wills. Moses was shaping the people of Israel, and Jesus similarly was shaping the community of disciples, to encounter a radically free God who doesn't fit their preconceptions. This encounter, when received with humility, widens their vision and deepens their faith. God continues to shape the Church similarly today, to open us up to God's freedom.

## **LOOK WITHIN**

A wrestling match of sorts takes place in this section of Mark's Gospel. Jesus tries mightily to describe what it will mean to be his followers, and the disciples try mightily to avoid the subject. They point to an outsider, and the dangers he poses. Jesus turns the tables and asks his disciples to look within themselves: how are they a danger to Jesus and his work? Jesus uses graphic language, invoking self-amputation, to underscore his point.

Sometimes our most difficult obstacles lie deep within. Like our hands and feet, some attitudes and habits are deeply a part of us, and their removal would be traumatic for us. Yet we know that some beliefs (such as idolatries based on race, wealth, or gender) or behaviors (such as addictions) seriously harm ourselves and many others. We need a prayerful, non-neurotic watchfulness about our inner life. When necessary, we need a fierce resistance to anything that places us or others in danger.

## **UNITY IN CHRIST**

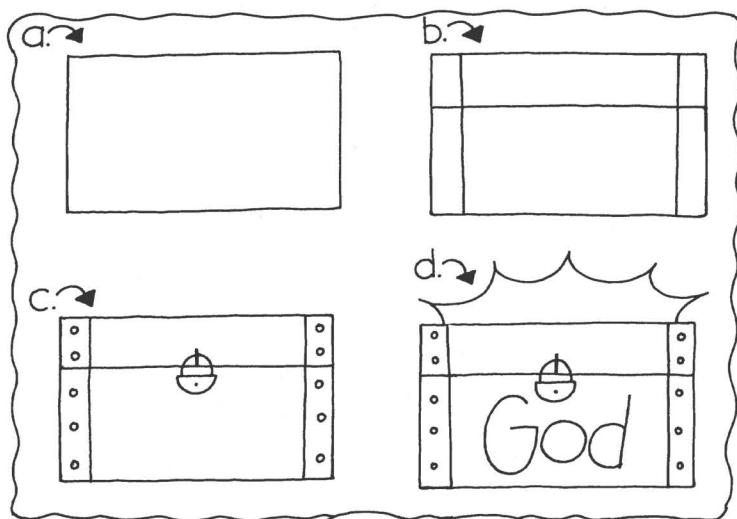
Jesus, in today's Gospel from Mark, says "whoever is not against us is for us." Mark was speaking to his own Christian community. From its beginnings, there were tensions in the Church about who speaks for Jesus. Jesus himself always called for unity of heart and a diversity of expression as a sign of the truth of the Gospel. It is no secret that in Christian history and continuing today, divisions have seriously damaged the message and cause of Christ.

In our own time and place, cultural and political divisions have reduced our ability to solve problems and to live together in a just and peaceful society. Perhaps this is a time for Christians to step up, to remember that our unity in Christ is far deeper than the differences that we perceive. We are called to reach out and listen to each other, to honor each other as members of the Body of Christ. Christians can lead the way, and show everyone watching how it's done.

# God's Word for Children

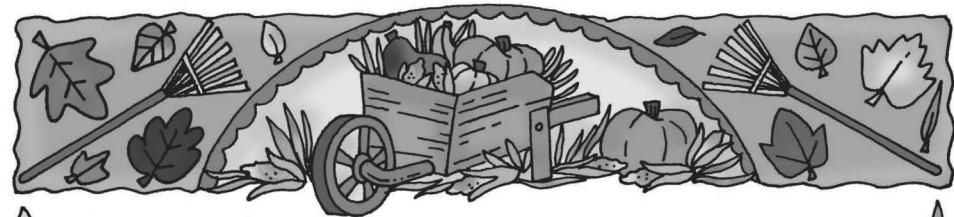
People shouldn't make  
getting things and money their first goal.  
Instead, let's make loving God and living God's way  
something to treasure.

Follow the easy steps to draw a treasure chest of your own.



Now  
you  
try!

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## Twenty-sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

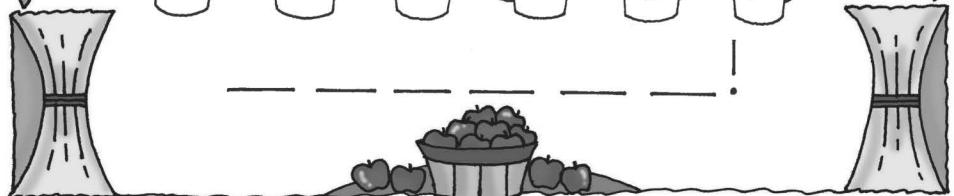
Jesus assured his disciple John that whoever gives a cup of water to a follower of Christ would have a certain thing.

To find what that is, use a blue crayon to "fill" each cup that has both a cross and a handle on the right.

Record the letters from your filled cups, in the order they appear, on the lines at the bottom of the page.



\_\_\_\_\_!



"Teacher, we saw someone driving out demons in your name."

Mark 9 : 38



## MESSENGERS OF GOD

On September 29 we celebrate the feast of Saints Michael, Gabriel, and Raphael, Archangels. Angels are "messengers of God." They announce to us that God is with us to give us strength and protection, guidance and health.

The "voice of an archangel" is mentioned in 1 Thessalonians 4:16.

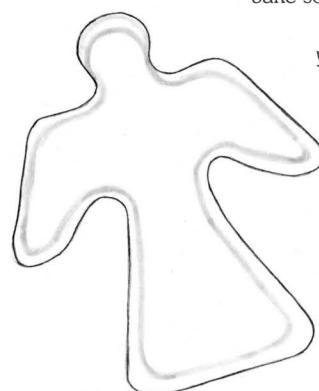
Michael is one of the archangels. His name means "Who is like God?" Michael, the defender of Christians and of the Church, is mentioned in the Bible in the books of Daniel (10:12-13) and Revelation (12:7-9).

Another archangel is Gabriel. The name Gabriel means "God is my strength." Gabriel is the angel who announced to Mary that she would become the mother of Jesus (Luke 1:26), and told Zechariah about the expected birth of his son, John (Luke 1:8), the future Baptizer who would point the way to Jesus. Eastern Orthodox Catholics remember that announcement to Zechariah today, September 23.

The Archangel Raphael, whose name means "God is my health," is a helper and guide in many stories of the Old and New Testaments (see Tobit 12:3, 15).

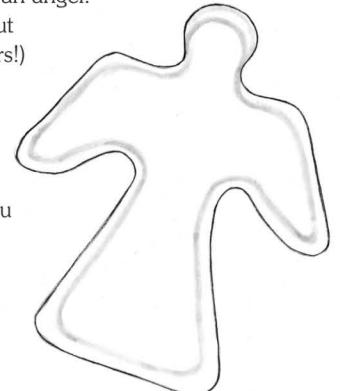
On this feast of these archangels,  
bake some cookies in the shape of an angel.

(You might have to bring out  
your Christmas cookie cutters!)



Decorate them and  
give them to  
friends and family  
with a message like,

"May the angels remind you  
of God's love  
and bring sweetness  
to your life."



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