

A Time for Mercy
Rachel's Vineyard

Christmas 2023



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FATHER BARRY'S CORNER

It's that time of year again, Christmas. Unfortunately, we have managed to secularize Christmas forgetting that it is God's feast. All we have to do to verify that is to listen to the hymns of Christmas. We are bombarded with God's talk like, "Do you see what I see". Another hymn tells us "Christ the Savior is born". Every Christmas hymn or Christmas carol echoes God's fullness of time and His Christmas gift to all people everywhere. A gift that is both temporal and eternal. Have I not accepted that gift or somehow managed to transform it to our own use and abuse and not see God's plan of love for us? That diffusion began at the Savior's birth when there was no room at the Inn. Strangely that attitude has grown today when Christ is taken out of Christmas. The result is there is no room at the inn and His babies are legally killed. Can anything be so opposite to God's plans than the world aborting and killing babies in the womb. There is still no room in the womb. It is like a house of cards. Not only do we get rid of babies, and children but the entire family is rendered meaningless.

As Christmas approaches let us listen again to the Christmas story and the words of God in the Christmas carols and embrace the truth that God came so that we might have life and have it abundantly. Remember that Christmas was made for you not you for Christmas.

Have a Happy and Blessed Christmas,
Father Michael Barry, SS.CC.

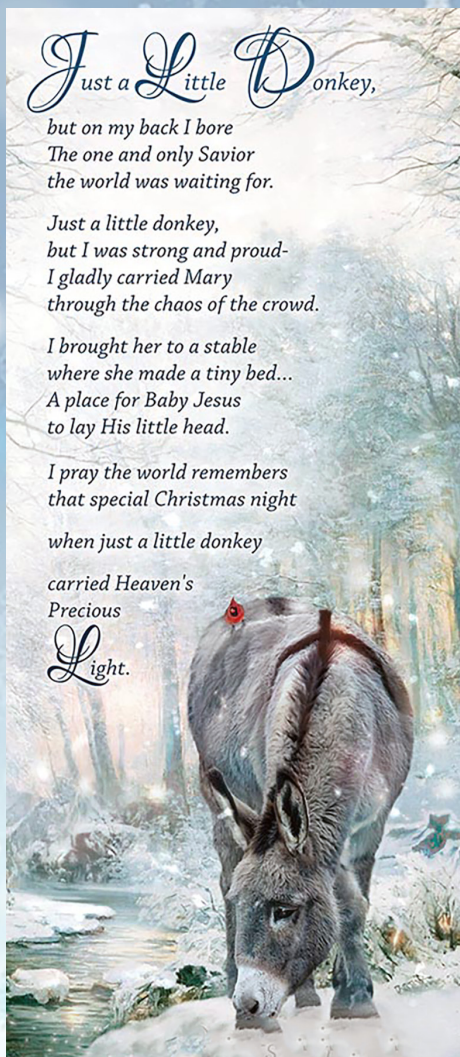
SAINT NICHOLAS

Nicholas was born in Lycia (in modern day Turkey) in the 3rd century and while still a layperson, was acclaimed bishop of Myra. Ordained a Priest, he led the diocese with charity, dedication, and full respect for orthodoxy. He died in the opening decades of the 4th century. His cult spread first in the Byzantine Empire beginning in the 6th century and then to Europe following the transfer of his relics to Bari in 1087. During his life, St. Nicholas worked numerous miracles, such as the rescuing of three maidens from being forced into prostitution or saving three men wrongfully condemned to death; more than once, the saint saved those drowning in the sea and provided release from captivity. He is depicted in episcopal vestments, his attributes are three golden balls.

PROTECTOR of Sailors, pilgrims, fishermen, the poor and scholars

You can help bring God's mercy, hope and healing to someone who has experienced an abortion by sponsoring him or her on a Rachel's Vineyard Retreat for \$360 or by contributing any amount to keep the retreats going. A Time for Mercy/Rachel's Vineyard is a non-profit 501(c)3 public benefit organization, and your gift is tax deductible.

Thank you and may God bless you.



Rachael's Vineyard Retreat Date
March 8th-10th, 2024
In English

ANGELS

God created the angels with a heavenly hierarchy. The order of the nine choirs and the roles particular to each -- are something of a mystery to us as far as details go, but they have a traditional order and descriptions that have been recognized by various Saints and Doctors of the Church for centuries.

SERAPHIM

These are the highest order or choir of angels. They are the angels who are attendants or guardians before God's throne. They praise God, calling, "Holy Holy Holy is the Lord of Hosts", the only Bible reference is Isaiah 6:1-7. One of them touched Isaiah's lips with a live coal from the altar, cleansing him from sin. Seraphim have six wings, two cover their faces, two cover their feet, and two are for flying.

CHERUBIM

Cherubim rank after the seraphim and are the second highest in the nine hierarchies or choirs of angels. The Old Testament does not reveal any evidence that the Jews considered them as intercessors or helpers of God. They were closely linked in God's glory. They are manlike in appearance and double-winged and were guardians of God's glory. They symbolized then, God's power and mobility. In the New Testament, they are alluded to as celestial attendants in the Apocalypse (Rv 4-6). Catholic tradition describes them as angels who have an intimate knowledge of God and continually praise Him.

THRONES

Thrones are the Angels of pure Humility, Peace and Submission. They reside in the area of the cosmos where material form begins to take shape. The lower Choir of Angels need the Thrones to access God.

DOMINIONS

Dominions are Angels of Leadership. They regulate the duties of the angels, making known the commands of God.

VIRTUES

Virtues are known as the spirits of Motion and control the elements. They are sometimes referred to as "the shining ones." They govern all nature. They have control over seasons, stars, moon; even the sun is subject to their command. They are also in charge of miracles and provide courage, grace, and valor.

POWERS

Powers are Warrior Angels against evil defending the cosmos and humans. They are known as potentates. They fight against evil spirits who attempt to wreak chaos through human beings.

ARCHANGELS

Archangels are generally taken to mean "chief or leading angel" (Jude 9; 1 Thes 4:16), they are the most frequently mentioned throughout the Bible. They may be of this or other hierarchies as St. Michael Archangel, who is a princely Seraph. The Archangels have a unique role as God's messenger to the people at critical times in history and salvation (Tb 12:6, 15; Jn 5:4; Rv 12:7-9) as in The Annunciation and Apocalypse. A feast day celebrating the Archangels Michael, Gabriel and Raphael is celebrated throughout the Church Sep 29. A special part of the Byzantine Liturgy invokes the "Cherubic Hymn" which celebrates these archangels and the guardian angels particularly.

Of special significance is St. Michael as he has been invoked as patron and protector by the Church from the time of the Apostles. The Eastern Rite and many others place him over all the angels, as Prince of the Seraphim. He is described as the "chief of princes" and as the leader of the forces of heaven in their triumph over Satan and his followers. The

angel Gabriel first appeared in the Old Testament in the prophecies of Daniel, he announced the prophecy of 70 weeks (Dn 9:21-27). He appeared to Zechariah to announce the birth of St. John the Baptist (Lk 1:11). It was also Gabriel which proclaimed the Annunciation of Mary to be the mother of our Lord and Saviour. (Lk 1:26) The angel Raphael first appeared in the book of Tobit (Tobias)Tb 3:25, 5:5-28, 6-12). He announces "I am the Angel Raphael, one of the seven who stand before the throne of God." (Tb 12:15)

PRINCIPALITIES

Their goal is to cause as much damage to humans as God will allow. These beings are a part of the rank of the kingdom of darkness and include fallen angels that were kicked out of heaven with Lucifer. The intent of the spirits is to hinder the purpose of God on earth.

ANGELS

These angels are closest to the material world and human beings. They deliver the prayers to God and God's answers and other messages to humans. Angels have the capacity to access any and all other Angels at any time. They are the most caring and social to assist those who ask for help.



It's not how much
we GIVE but how much
love
we put into giving.

Mother Teresa

WHAT IS THE ABORTION PILL?

40 Days For Life

A series of pills that kill a developing child: Medication Abortion is a two-drug cocktail that ends the life of the developing child during the first trimester of pregnancy. The first pill (mifepristone/RU-486) blocks the pre-born baby from receiving the hormonal support (progesterone) essential for the baby to develop, and the second pill (misoprostol) causes the uterus to contract and expels the baby from the uterus.

Painful: Side effects include vomiting, fever, nausea, chills, diarrhea, and headache. According to the Mayo Clinic, women might need painkillers to manage pain after a chemical abortion, and they might not be able to “go about their usual daily routine” after a chemical abortion. “I was amply prepared for the bleeding, but not for the pain,” said one woman of her chemical abortion. “I spent a few hours in enough pain to be incoherent.”

Messy: While abortion providers often describe pill-induced abortion as similar to having a period, former abortion worker Abby Johnson described her abortion experience as like “sitting in the middle of a crime scene...I sat there for hours bleeding, throwing up into the bathroom trash can, crying, and sweating.”

Is it too late to save my baby?

1. If you've taken the first abortion pill, there's a chance you can reverse it. Abortion Pill Reversal might be possible—if you get help now.
2. Don't wait! The sooner you begin the Abortion Pill Reversal protocol, the more likely it is you'll be able to reverse the abortion.
3. How it works: The first abortion pill, mifepristone, blocks the hormone progesterone, which is necessary for providing nutrients to an unborn baby and sustaining pregnancy. Abortion Pill Reversal provides supplemental natural progesterone to overwhelm the mifepristone.

WHAT THE ABORTION PILL IS NOT

Not medication: Medicine restores and preserves the healthy functioning of the human body. Abortion pills break a woman's healthy reproduction system.

Not Safe: One woman described her medication abortion as “the most painful experience I've ever had in my life...I literally said to my boyfriend...”I just want to die.” Dozens of women have died after taking abortion pills. According to the Mayo Clinic, a woman who undergoes a pill-induced

abortion needs “access to emergency services.”

Abortion pill complications include hemorrhage, infection, isoimmunization, and death.

Not contraception: Abortion doesn't prevent a woman from becoming a mother. The moment she conceives, she becomes the mother of a new, distinct, and unique human being. From that point on, the unborn child is growing, moving, and processing nutrition--all with his or her own personal human DNA code. By the time a woman takes an abortion pill, her child's heart is already beating!

Not your only option: Countless women regret their abortions, so if you're considering terminating a pregnancy, find out about abortion alternatives before you make a decision that will end your baby's life and change your life forever.

