



# The Messenger

October, 2017

## Morsels of Faith from Mr. Kuhar



I am so excited to begin another year of Faith Formation. It is such a gift to have the opportunity to share faith and continue our journey to heaven together.

The other night in our Confirmation preparation session we were focused on missionary disciples. We have each been chosen and called by God to be missionary disciples. Think about the apostles like Peter, James, and John who shared the message of Jesus with those they encountered. The message is one of hope, healing, and comfort. This is our call as well.

We have been given the great gift of faith. This gift is not meant to be kept only for ourselves or for our family. It can be challenging to share as we can worry about how others might view us or what they might think. We might be afraid that we are forcing our viewpoint upon another. We might feel like we do not know enough about Jesus to speak about Him to others.

Let's go back to the apostles for a moment. They were scared, uneducated men. They abandoned Jesus out of fear. Peter denied he even knew Jesus. Thomas doubted that Jesus had risen from the dead. These same men were transformed by the Holy Spirit and went out and shared the message of Jesus with all those they met. Instead of being afraid and doubting, they went out and spoke to thousands of people about all that Jesus had said and done.

This Holy Spirit who transformed the apostles and gave them the courage to go out and share how Jesus had touched their lives is the same Holy Spirit who came upon us at Baptism and we received an outpouring of at Confirmation. We have

been given the same gifts of the Holy Spirit as the apostles received. The gifts of the Holy Spirit have been given to us so that you and I can go out and be missionary disciples. This will look different for each one of us as we are all in different times and seasons of life. For some of you it might be the conversation at work with a co-worker about how the Lord has made His presence known to you. It might be offering extra prayers while you are at home taking care of the children. For each of you raising children it is sharing with them the love of Jesus, teaching them prayers, bringing them to Mass, learning about the saints together, reading the Bible, praying with and for them. These are all ways that you share faith and are missionary disciples in your home.

If you are unsure or doubting your ability call upon the Holy Spirit. You have the gifts received at Baptism and Confirmation so know that God has given you all that you need to continue His work. If you need resources or have questions please reach out to us. We are here to assist you in spreading the message of God's love to your children! Keep up the good work and know there is nothing more valuable you give to your children than the gift of faith!

September 29

Feast of Archangels

Michael, Gabriel, and Raphael

October 2

Memorial of Guardian Angels

The Bible tells us that angels are messengers from God who bring guidance and support in times of uncertainty. Michael, who defeated the disobedient angels, is a patron to defend us against evil. Raphael, who protected Tobias on a dangerous journey and cured his father's blindness, can be called upon when we need healing or guidance. Gabriel announced to Mary the coming of the Messiah. It is Gabriel who will announce with a trumpet the coming of Christ at the end of time.

The Church has assigned two feast days for angels in the autumn, when the earth begins to close down and people become concerned about survival during the cold, dark months to come. Angels remind us that God has not left us unprotected or alone. They remind us the spring will come, and the earth will come to life again in a blaze of color and warmth.

It is a custom to plant flowering bulbs on the feasts of the angels. Bulbs, like angels, are signs of hope. They are an autumn investment in the spring that is to come.

*October 2, 2017*  
*Feast of Guardian Angels*

*Blessings and Prayers through the Year*  
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## Cindy's Corner



Welcome Back!! It is such a blessing to have you with us!! Last year a main extracurricular focus was on prayer. This year, thanks to the “Memorial of the Guardian Angels” falling on a Monday, October 2, when we meet for Faith Formation class, we will focus on various feast day celebrations. There is always something to celebrate in our Catholic faith. These feast day celebrations can be opportunities to share in the Joy of the Gospel.

With grades 1-3 we are planning a little celebration for the Guardian Angels Feast Day. We will spend time in church talking about the various angels in our worship space and sing the Guardian Angel prayer to the tune of “Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star”. We will watch a movie together, share some angel food cake and lastly make an angel craft. A bit of a different routine that I believe the children will enjoy and remember. Also, as in years past each grade has been assigned a Patron Saint. Our students are reminded to celebrate those feast days as well and to call on their Patron Saints in prayer.

In addition to the Feast Days and Holy Days that readily come to mind; e.g., Christmas, Holy Week, Easter, Pentecost and such, we also acknowledge throughout the year

in Faith Formation what I think of as “The Usuals” but certainly remarkable (those in **BOLD** conveniently land on a Monday when we meet for classes-Yay!): St. Therese of the Little Flower, Saint Francis, Our Lady of the Rosary, All Saints Day, Saint Nicholas, Saint Juan Diego and Our Lady of Guadalupe, **The Baptism of the Lord**, The Presentation of the Lord, **Saint Joseph**, **The Annunciation of the Lord** and many more. Of special consideration this year will be the currently *Venerable* but soon to be *Blessed* Solanus Casey from our own Detroit area! His feast day is November 3. A Beatification Mass will be celebrated at Ford Field on Saturday, November 18. It is anticipated to be the largest Catholic event, with upwards of 60,000 people, since the visit of John Paul II to the city in 1987. If you have not visited the Solanus Casey Center in Detroit, please keep it in mind as a place to go. It will be an unforgettable experience. Should you wish to learn more about Solanus Casey himself, you will find a wealth of information at [www.solanuscenter.org](http://www.solanuscenter.org). Read this excerpt that is from this website under “Road to Sainthood” - wow!:

*“The road to sainthood for Fr. Solanus Casey is paved with 87 years of giving. As he lay dying, Fr. Solanus said to Fr. Gerald Walker, “I looked on my whole life as giving, and I want to give until there is nothing left of me to give. So I prayed that, when I*

*come to die, I might be perfectly conscious, so that with a deliberate act I can give my last breath to God.” At 11:00 the next morning, on the 53rd anniversary of his first Mass, suddenly Fr. Solanus opened his eyes wide, stretched out his arms and said clearly, “I give my soul to Jesus Christ.” He willingly gave his last breath to God.”*

We have such a rich and vibrant faith to share with our children that it is sometimes hard to know where to begin. The gift of the Liturgical Calendar is a perfect place to start. I love when the children discover a certain Feast Day, Holy Day or Saint that they can relate to and take to heart. What is your favorite feast day? Bible quote? Who is your favorite saint? Where did you recognize Jesus working in your life this day? I bet you have many faith encounters that you hold close to heart as well. Share and celebrate them with your children. Need help with this? Rely on the Holy Spirit who works in and through each one of us. It is all so exciting when we make the time. Our faith is such a beautiful gift to be opened and shared throughout our life’s journey.