

# FAITH NEWSLETTER – OCTOBER 2017



## Channels of Peace:

Channels of Peace is an intentional courtesy, virtues based program that we are rolling out this year under the leadership of Mr. Gibbs. It is an initiative based on the Intentional Courtesy program present in other schools, but customized to fit the ideals of St. Francis of Assisi, our Patron Saint, who was a promoter of Peace. Our Grade 6 has had a special retreat in September where they learned about Channels of Peace and how to be Encouragers to our younger students. In the weeks to come, they will do presentations at each elementary grade, and get them engaged in learning more and promoting peace, being intentionally courteous and loving one another as we are called to do. Our whole staff, but especially our Religion teachers will help support this program in their classrooms. Our culture at St. Francis should stand to gain even more growth and strength in our faith because of this program. More updates in the coming months!

## Virtue of the Month:

**Hope:** “Biblical hope is a confident expectation and desire for something good in the future... [it] not only desires something good for the future; it expects it to happen... [and] it is confident that it will happen.” At Saint Francis of Assisi, we believe in having hope that defies reason, as we work to achieve the plans that God has for us all. <http://www.desiringgod.org/messages/what-is-hope>

## Sacraments:

Last month, we focused on the first Sacrament of the Catholic Church, which is Baptism. The second sacrament of initiation (into the Catholic Church) is Confirmation. Confirmation is called that because it confirms and strengthens baptismal grace. It is conferred by the “anointing of the Sacred Chrism” (oil mixed with balsam and consecrated by the bishop). The words that are said by the bishop during this anointing refer to a gift of the Holy Spirit that mark the recipient with a seal. Through the sacrament, the grace given to us in baptism is “strengthened and deepened”. Like baptism, confirmation may be received only once, and the recipient must be in a state of grace (meaning free from any known unconfessed mortal sin) in order to receive its effects.

## Saint of the Month:

### St. Michael the Archangel

**Feast Day:** September 29

**Patron Saint of:** grocers, soldiers, doctors, mariners, paratroopers, police, and sickness.



Little is known of St. Michael the Archangel, other than what is written in scripture. As an angel, he has four main responsibilities:

1. Combat Satan
2. Escort the faithful to Heaven
3. To be a champion of Christians and the Church itself
4. Call men on Earth to their heavenly judgement

Here is a prayer you can use to invoke protection through St. Michael:

*St. Michael the Archangel,  
defend us in battle.  
Be our defense against the wickedness and snares of the Devil.  
May God rebuke him, we humbly pray,  
and do thou,  
O Prince of the heavenly hosts,  
by the power of God,  
thrust into hell Satan,  
and all the evil spirits,  
who prowl about the world  
seeking the ruin of souls. Amen.*

## Service Opportunities:

Please consider giving of your time, talent and treasure to support our amazing St. James faith community. Some of the ministries that you and your family could get involved in are: greeting, Mass reading, youth group, Share the Word, Eucharistic ministry, gift bearers, adoration group, altar serving, sacramental preparation, St. Vincent de Paul, and music ministry. For a complete list of all the parish ministries available at St. James, please click on this [link](#). Please contact Leanne at [Religiousedu@stjamesparishrc.com](mailto:Religiousedu@stjamesparishrc.com) to get involved!

*"The LORD BLESS you and KEEP you;  
the LORD make his face SHINE on you  
and be GRACIOUS to you;  
the LORD turn his face toward you  
and give you PEACE."  
NUMBERS 6:24-26*