

Daily Parish Communication

September 28, 2022

Good Morning All,

**~ This coming week - No Weekday Masses, Confessions or Adoration – Today, September 28th and Tomorrow, September 29th.**

**~ September 29, 2022 – One Night Only! Saint Michael, Meet the Angel Movie – Premiere in Poland, UK, USA, and Puerto Rico (Amstar Cinemas on Civic Center Blvd 6:30 pm. Reserve seating is available).**

**~Catholicism for Dummies class today at 1:30 - Parish Office.**

1. Today's Readings: [Wednesday of the Twenty-sixth Week in Ordinary Time | USCCB](#)

2. The RE Corner with Jan Heithaus: Among the newer saints to be added to the liturgical calendar are St. Lawrence Ruiz and companions who died from terrible tortures in Japan in the 17th century. Being born in the Philippines, he is a patron saint of that nation.

3. Quotes of the Day:

~ "I am a Christian, and this I profess until the hour of my death and for God I shall give my life. Although I did not come to Japan to be a martyr, nevertheless, as a Christian and for God I shall give my life." *St. Lawrence Ruiz*

~ "To have Christian hope means to know about evil and yet to go to meet the future with confidence." *Pope Benedict XVI*

***St. Lawrence Ruiz, Pray for Us!***

***St. Joseph, Pray for Us!***

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## Saint Lawrence Ruiz and Companions



Saint Lawrence was born of a Chinese father and a Filipino mother, both of whom were Catholic. Growing up in the Philippines, he served as an altar boy, was educated by Dominican priests, and belonged to a fraternal society dedicated to the Holy Rosary. Because he was an educated and careful writer in a largely illiterate culture, he became a clerk and a calligrapher. He married a woman named Rosario, and they had three children. He and his family lived an ordinary, secure, peaceful life of faith. As 1636 dawned, there was no reason to guess that Lawrence would continue living anything other than a quiet life focused on home and work. But then everything suddenly and drastically changed.

Lawrence was implicated, falsely, in the death of a Spaniard. It was a charge so serious he had to flee the Archipelago. Through his friendships with priests, he was invited to board a ship with three Dominicans, a Japanese priest, and a layman. In June of 1636, the small vessel sailed for Japan, a hornet's nest buzzing with anti-Catholic persecution. The ship intended to land in a peaceful region devoid of persecution, but instead errantly docked in Okinawa at the worst possible moment. Feudal Japanese Shoguns were out for the blood of Catholics, and the missionaries walked right into their tight grip. They spent over a year in prison before, along with still more Catholic prisoners, they were marched to Nagasaki for the inevitable slur against their deepest beliefs.

The Japanese had devised torture techniques carefully calibrated to elicit maximum agony and the renunciation of the faith. On September 27, 1637, the prisoners had huge amounts of water poured down their throats, were covered with boards, and then stepped on by guards, forcing the water to spurt out of their mouths, noses,

and ears. Then they were tightly bound, with one hand free in case they wanted to signal renunciation of the faith, and hung upside down over a pit. Heavy stones were tied to their bodies to draw blood more quickly down into their torsos and skulls. As the red liquid painfully pressurized their cranial sacs, the torturers strategically cut the victim's heads to release the collected blood. This prevented the loss of consciousness and prolonged the throbbing pain. Amidst this anguish, no one broke. No one renounced their faith. No one cried out for relief. Mental images of mother and father, of smiling wife and children, of home, the fireplace, and warm embraces, did not prevail. It was God or death. Lawrence's reputed last words were "I am a Catholic and wholeheartedly accept death for God; Had I a thousand lives, all these I would offer to God."

As their chest cavities filled with blood, the victims hearts could pump no more. Lawrence suffocated to death within a day or two. Some of the priests did not succumb as quickly and were beheaded. Lawrence's fifteen companions were Japanese, Spanish, French, and Italian priests, a few consecrated women, and laymen, almost all Dominicans. Their bodies were burned and their ashes scattered in the Pacific Ocean. Lawrence was beatified in 1981 in Manila, the first beatification performed outside the city of Rome. After a Philippine baby with hydrocephalus, or water on the brain, was cured through his intercession, Saint Lawrence was canonized by Pope Saint John Paul II in 1987. He is the protomartyr of the only Catholic nation in Asia, the Philippines.

*Prayer: Saint Lawrence, you were a married father yet forsook return to your earthly home to win a more glorious home in heaven. Help all fathers to be generous in quiet and in tumultuous times, to persevere in small things so they are able to display fortitude in great things.*

*Source: mycatholic.life*

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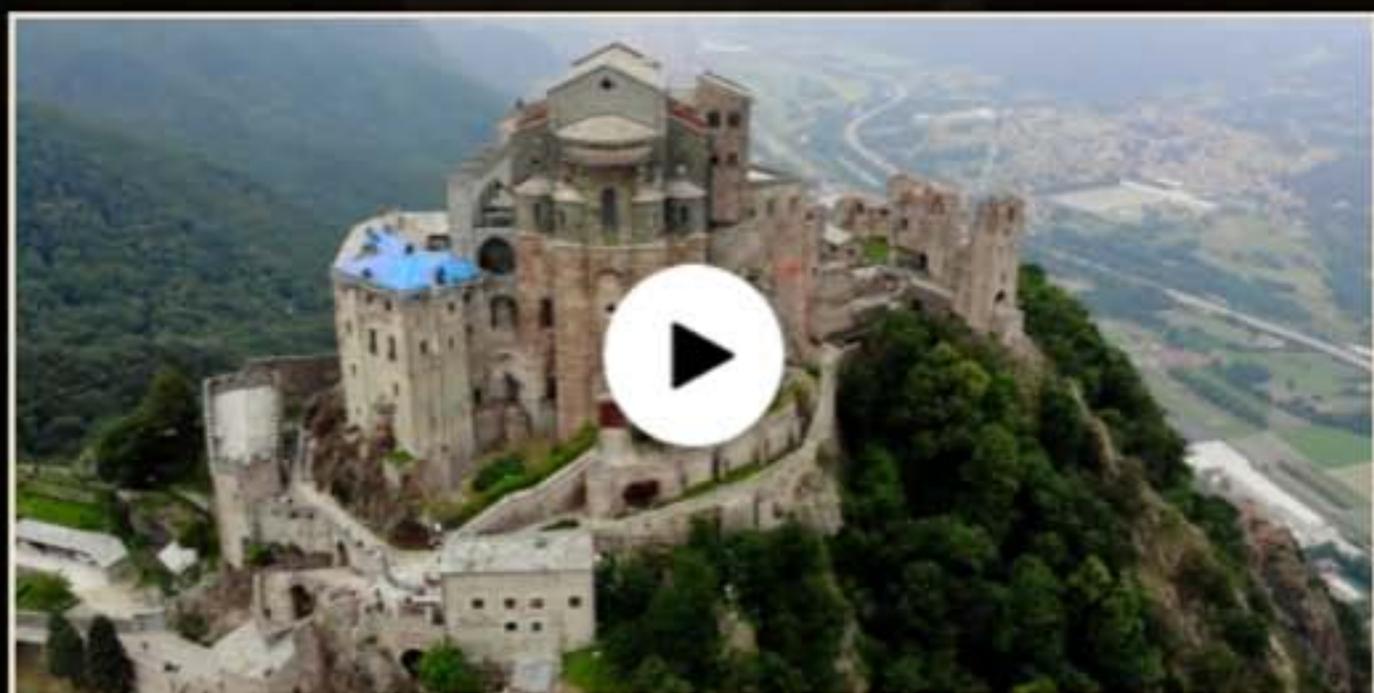
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saintmichaelmovie.com

A large, detailed stone statue of Saint Michael the Archangel, shown in profile from the waist up. He has large, feathered wings and is holding a sword aloft in his right hand and a shield in his left. The statue is set against a dramatic, cloudy sky.

# SAINT MICHAEL

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