

Angels & Archangels October 1, 2023

Our **Catholic Church** confirms the **existence** of **angels**, and their **holy presence** in our lives from **birth** till **death** and **beyond!**

What is an angel or an archangel? And why are they so special?

The **Catechism** teaches that,

"The existence of the spiritual, non-corporeal beings that Sacred Scripture usually calls 'angels' is a truth of faith" (#328).

The word, "**angel**," in the **Greek** is "**Angelos**" and in **Hebrew**, "**Malak**" both meaning a "**messenger**."

Angels are created by **God** as **spiritual** but **non-corporeal beings**—that is, **not** possessing a **physical body**, they are **pure spirits**. The teachings of the **O.T.** includes the belief in **angels**.

Angels are also created **immortal**, that is, they will never experience the **taste of death** like human beings.

Meditating upon the **beauty** and **majesty** of "**angels**" one realizes how much **God** loves humanity! **God** has created billions of **angels** to protect and guide:

Page 2.

people—both individuals and groups, and places—like special nations, cities, buildings, churches, parishes, families, children, etc., as **“guardian angels.”**

Can you imagine that every hour of every day of every year, our faithful **“guardian angel”** stands at our side, focused on our **well-being** desiring only what is **“good”** for us!

An interesting fact to consider is how closely and personal these heavenly beings are to us. When **God** created our particular **“guardian angel”** the **angel had to not only** accept the **task** of **guiding** us throughout our **life and beyond**, but **he/she** also had to **“freely choose”** each one of us!

Once the **guardian angel chooses us**, their first choice is to **“love us”—always and forever!** The great **theologian and philosopher, St. Thomas Aquinas** defines **love** as **“the choice to will the good to others.”** **Our guardian’s love** for us will always lead us to **“choosing and willing”** what is **“good for us”** if we listen to them and take their advice. **Our protective and guiding angel will NEVER lead us astray or to make a bad or evil or sinful decision! NEVER!!!**

Page 3.

As a result, all the *inspirations, guidance, and protection* presented or suggested to us by our **guardian angel** will always be **good and very pleasing to God!** The challenge is if we are going to accept these inspirations and divine guidance!

God, in His infinite goodness, has assigned to every human being a **personal angel**, known as the **“guardian angel”** to protect, rule and guide us throughout our life.

They will guide and protect us throughout our life and beyond, meaning that our **“guardian angel”** will be with us at the **passing** from this world to the next. At our **“particular judgment”** **God** will mercifully judge if our soul is worthy to spend eternity with Him in heaven, and in that case, the **“guardian angel”** will be with us for all eternity. If the soul is condemned to the eternal punishment of Hell, the **“guardian angel”** will return to **God saddened by the loss of that soul.** But, if the soul should receive a period of purification in **Purgatory, the “guardian angel”** will pray for us always and visit that **soul** often bringing **comfort, peace, and the prayers of others! What a loving and merciful God** we have in thinking of everything!

Also, the **Bible** recognizes, "**nine choirs**" of **angels** and their **hierarchy**. They are in sets of three: ***Seraphim, Cherubim, Thrones***— (*Highest orders*) ***Dominations, Powers, Virtues***—(*Middle orders*) ***Principalities, Archangels, and Angels***—(*Lowest orders*).

I would like to conclude with a word on the **special angels** known as "**Archangels.**" **Archangels** are recognized as **leaders**, and they are **entrusted** with **special duties** by **Almighty God**.

Scriptures mentions **seven archangels**, but only **three** are mentioned which are ***Michael, Gabriel, and Raphael!***

What is the meaning of their name and what is their principal ministry?

Michael is repeatedly depicted in **Scriptures** as the "**great captain**," the "**leader**" of the **heavenly hosts**, and the "**soldier-hero**" **battling evil and helping** the **people of God!**

The name **Michael** means "***one who is like God.***" **His will** is **immovable, focused,** and **directed** toward **goodness.**

Page 5.

St. Michael is the **protector of souls** and employs **His powerful sword** against the **poisonous** and **negative aspirations of the devil** whom **Jesus** calls the

"father of lies" and a **"murderer from the beginning"** (John 8:44).

St. Michael is also the protector of the **Holy Eucharist** guarding every **Tabernacle** around the world from any **abuse**.

During a visit to the **Sanctuary of St. Michael the Archangel**, also known as the **"Cave of St. Michael"** on **Mt. Gargano**, near **Padre Pio monastery**, **Pope St. John Paul II** said, *"The battle against the devil is the principal task of **St. Michael** the archangel."*

This declaration is affirmed in the Book of Revelation,

"Then war broke out in heaven; Michael and his angels battled against the dragon. Although the dragon and his angels fought back, they were overpowered and lost their place in heaven. The huge dragon, the ancient serpent known as the devil or Satan, the seducer of the whole world, was driven out; he was hurled down to earth and his minions with him" (Revelation 12:7-9).

Next, we have the **Archangel Gabriel**, whose name means **"Power of God"** or the **"God is my strength."**

Gabriel was chosen by **God** to announce to **Mary** the mystery of the **Incarnation**. The **archangel Gabriel** said to **Mary**:

Page 6.

"Hail, full of grace! The Lord is with you...Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. Behold, you will conceive in your womb and

bear a son, and you shall name Him Jesus.” (Luke 1:27). Then, Mary in her innocence asked the archangel “how can that be since she was still unmarried?” Gabriel answered Her: “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. Therefore, the child to be born will be called holy, the Son of God” (1:32)

Gabriel is the “angel” of bringing **Good News!**

Our third **archangel** is **Raphael**, whose name means “**Medicine of God**” or “**God heals.**”

Raphael is one of **seven angels** who stands before the **Face of God** and here reveals **his true identity** to **Tobit** and his son **Tobias**, declaring: “**I am Raphael, one of the seven angels who stand and serve before the Glory of the Lord**” (Tobit 12:15).

Raphael’s special ministry is found in the **Old Testament** in the **Book of Tobit**. **Tobit**, unable to work because of his **blindness**, sent his son **Tobias** to the town of **Media** to request repayment on a loan. **Tobit** instructed **Tobias** to **hire** an experienced **guide** to **accompany** him on this long and difficult journey; so, **Tobias** enlisted the **assistance** of an **experienced traveler**, **Azariah**, who was really the **Archangel Raphael** in disguise.

Page 7.

The incredible adventure of **Tobit** and **Raphael** concluded on a **threefold happy ending**:

1. **Tobiah’s marriage to Sarah.**

2. the healing of Tobit's blindness.
3. the restoration of the family fortune.

St. Raphael has been called the **Patron of Healing**, and **Patron of the blind**, and of **happy meetings**, and of **nurses and physicians**, as well as, of **travelers**.

Let us often **pray, dialogue, seek advice and guidance** from our "**guardian angel.**" Also, **Protection** from **St. Michael**, **inspirations** from **God's Word** from **St. Gabriel** and from **St. Raphael**, **guidance in our travels and healing!** **These holy angels were created to help us during our lifetime and to lead us to the "Father's House" in heaven!** *Angel of God, my guardian dear, to whom God's love commits me here, ever this day be at my side, to light and guard, to rule and guide. Amen.*