

Faith in Five – Adults
Archangels and Guardian Angels
September 23, 2022

1. The word angel comes from the Greek word “aggelos”, which means “messenger”. The Catechism states, “The existence of the spiritual, non-corporeal beings that Sacred Scripture usually calls ‘angels’ is a truth of faith,” (Catechism of the Catholic Church, paragraph 328).
2. The Bible:
 - a. identifies ‘nine choirs’ of angels, each with a name and purpose
 - b. mentions Archangels, who are recognized as leaders with special duties for God
 - c. along with the Church, recognizes seven archangels but three have names: Michael, Gabriel and Raphael.

3. **Michael** - “one who is like God.” His will is focused, immovable, and entirely driven toward accomplishing goodness; he is the protector of souls and wields his powerful sword against the poisonous and indictive aspirations of the devil who Jesus calls a “murderer from the beginning” and the “father of lies” (John 8:44). Pope St. John Paul said, “the primary task of St. Michael is to do battle against the devil”. St. Michael is invoked for protection and is the patron saint of soldiers, police and doctors.



4. **Gabriel** – “God is my strength”. St. Gabriel is mentioned in both the old and new testaments. He appeared to Daniel to help interpret the visions. In the New Testament, he appears to Zacharias, and tells him he and his wife Elizabeth will have a son to be named John. He was sent from God to Nazareth, “to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph, . . . and the virgin’s name was Mary. And coming to her, he said, “Hail, favored one! The Lord is with you” (Luke 1:27-28). Gabriel is recognized as the patron saint of messengers, telecommunication workers, and postal workers.



5. **Raphael** – “God is my health”. He is one of seven angels “who enter and serve before the Glory of the Lord” (Tobit 12:15). The meaning of Raphael’s name reflects the fact that he touched Tobit’s eyes in order to heal them of blindness. St. Raphael is the patron saint of travelers, the blind, bodily ill, happy meetings, nurses, physicians and medical workers.
6. **Feast day of the Archangels:** St. Michael, St. Gabriel, and St. Raphael – September 29.
Feast day of Guardian Angels: October 2.



7. The work of the angels is as messengers of God, while their nature is non-physical, personal spiritual beings created by God. "With their whole beings the angels are servants and messengers of God. Because they always behold the face of my Father who is in heaven' they are the mighty ones who do his word, hearkening to the voice of his word" (Catechism of the Catholic Church 329; Mt 18:10).
8. A heavenly host of angels refers to an army of angels. St. Gregory the Great [outlined the choirs of angels](#) in one of his homilies, citing the authority of Scripture. The nine choirs (groups or rankings) of angels ([Source](#))

Seraphim	Highest order; attendants or guardians before God's throne. (Isaiah 6:1-7). They proclaim the praises of God.	➤ Concern themselves with the "Glory of God". They see and adore God directly
Cherubim	Man-like in appearance, guardians of God's glory. They play a role in the Apocalypse (Rev 4-6)	
Thrones	"Angels of pure Humility, Peace and Submission"; contemplate God's power and judgements	
Dominions	Angels of Leadership; Regulate duties of the angels	➤ Fulfills God's providential plans for the universe
Virtues	Govern nature	
Powers	Warrior angels against evil	
Principalities	In the New Testament principalities refers to one type of spiritual being which are now quite hostile to God and human beings. (See side notes). God has use for them but are under His control ... They care for earthly principalities – cities, nations, kingdoms.	➤ In charge of human welfare "For we are not contending against flesh and blood, but against the principalities, against the powers, against the world rulers of this present darkness, against the spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places" (Ephesians 6:12) " He disarmed the principalities and powers and made a public example of them, triumphing over them in him" (Colossians 2:15)
Archangels	Leading angel, mentioned most in the Bible. God's messengers to help people in great need.	
Angels	Closest to humans, they communicate our prayers to God.	

9. The Catechism (336) states: "From infancy to death human life is surrounded by their (guardian angels') watchful care and intercession. 'Beside each believer stands an angel as protector and shepherd leading him to life.' Already here on earth the Christian life shares by faith in the blessed company of angels and men united in God."



10. Though Scripture does not specifically point out that each person is guarded by an angel, their work is evident throughout the Bible:

- **Psalm 91**: "For he commands his angels with regard to you, to guard you wherever you go. With their hands they shall support you, lest you strike your foot against a stone."
- In the Old Testament (**1 Kings 19**), the prophet Elijah is cared for by an angel, who encouraged him twice and provided food for him to eat.
- An angel was sent to attend to Jesus after the devil tempted him (**Matthew 4:6-11**)
- An angel was sent to Jesus to strengthen him in the Garden. (**Luke 22:41-43**)
- When Jesus was arrested, he said, "Do you suppose that I cannot appeal to my Father for help, and he will not immediately send me more than twelve legions of angels?" (**Matthew 26:53**)
- For it is written, He will command his angels concerning you to guard you carefully. (**Luke 4:10**).
- Peter was freed by an angel in prison. (**Acts 12:15**)
- "Are not all angels ministering spirits sent to serve those who will inherit salvation". (**Hebrews 1:14**)

Prayer to St. Michael

"Saint Michael the Archangel, defend us in battle. Be our protection against the wickedness and snares of the devil; May God rebuke him, we humbly pray; And do thou, O Prince of the Heavenly Host, by the power of God, thrust into hell Satan and all evil spirits who wander through the world for the ruin of souls. Amen".

Prayer to my Guardian Angel

"Angel of God, my guardian dear to whom God's love commits me here. Ever this day be at my side, to light, to guard, to rule, to guide. Amen."

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