

Saints Michael, Gabriel and
Raphael
(Archangels)
29 September



About Saints Michael, Gabriel and Raphael

Each of these three archangels is named as a messenger of God in the Scriptures. Saint Michael is the guardian and protector of the Church from its roots in Israel to the global Church of today and into the future. He is mentioned in the Apocalypse (Book of Revelation) as a leader of the heavenly host. In Hebrew, his name means “who is like God”. Saint Gabriel appears in the Book of Daniel to explain some of the prophet’s visions. In the New Testament, he announced the birth of John the Baptist to his father Zechariah and he was also the bearer of the Annunciation to the Blessed Virgin Mary. Saint Gabriel’s name means “hero of God.” In the Book of Tobit, Saint Raphael is the angel who accompanies Tobit’s son, Tobias, on his journey to find a wife. He also heals Tobit of his blindness. His name means “God heals.”

Today’s feast celebrates the anniversary of the dedication of a fifth century Church to Saint Michael in Rome.

How can we apply Saints Michael, Gabriel and Raphael to our lives today?

We celebrate these three archangels together, as the great heralds of salvation and defenders against the power of evil.

If we look to Saint Michael as the protector of the Church, we would do well to pray to him amid the current crises facing our Church.

Saint Gabriel brought wonderful messages to both Zechariah and Mary. Let us rejoice with others in their good news and be supportive companions to them in their time of sorrow, with an open, listening ear.

Finally, like Saint Raphael, may we be healers of those who come to us seeking help. Let us use the wisdom and knowledge God has given us to help people overcome their problems and to also assist them to make wise and sound decisions.

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Collect

O God, who dispose in marvellous order
ministries both angelic and human,
graciously grant
that our life on earth may be defended
by those who watch over us
as they minister perpetually to you in heaven.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Gospel

John 1:47-51

You will see heaven laid open, and the Son of Man

When Jesus saw Nathanael coming he said of him,
'There is an Israelite who deserves the name, incapable of deceit.' '
How do you know me?' said Nathanael.
'Before Philip came to call you,' said Jesus
'I saw you under the fig tree.'
Nathanael answered,
'Rabbi, you are the Son of God, you are the King of Israel.'
Jesus replied,
'You believe that just because I said: I saw you under the fig tree.
You will see greater things than that.'
And then he added
'I tell you most solemnly,
you will see heaven laid open and,
above the Son of Man, the angels of God ascending and descending.'

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Antiphon

I will thank you, Lord, with all my heart; in the presence of the Angels I will praise you.

Hymn for the Feast of the Archangels

O Saint Michael you defend us
and protect us from all woe.

You ensure that God's beloved
will be kept safe from the foe.

*As we praise these Holy Angels,
we give praise to You O Lord;
for they show us your great splendour
and the beauty of Your Word.*

Saint Gabriel the Lord chose you
to announce with joy Good News
to Mary and Zechariah,
holy ones whom God did choose.

*As we praise these Holy Angels,
we give praise to You O Lord;
for they show us your great splendour
and the beauty of Your Word.*

Saint Raphael, God did choose you
to heal ills – body and mind.

You taught Tobias how to heal
his father when he was blind.

*As we praise these Holy Angels,
we give praise to You O Lord;
for they show us your great splendour
and the beauty of Your Word.*

Like Saint Michael may we defend
and keep Your Church safe from harm.

Like Saint Gabriel may we proclaim
Good News and not spread alarm.

Like Saint Raphael may we heal
those in need of special care.

Like the angels we will praise you,
by our word and deed and prayer.

Text and Music: Chris deSilva and
Alessio Loiacono

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