

## The Archangels

# St. Michael, Gabriel & Raphael

Feast Day – September 29

September 2013 monthly saint reflection

Because the archangels are very close to God, the Church urges people to pray to them to help them in their needs. In times of temptation, people pray to **Michael**; to know and carry out God's will, you can call on **Gabriel**; and travelers and those seeking healing turn to **Raphael**. In a mysterious and powerful way, the angels protect the Church and her people.

They assure us that God cares for and is with us.

## The Archangels

# Saints Michael, Gabriel & Raphael

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*God Has numerous ways to show his loving concern for us. One of these is through the angels. God has sent angels to intervene in people's lives when they need protection on their way to heaven. The archangels, Michael, Gabriel, and Raphael are three such messengers.*



In art St Michael is usually pictured as youthful, strong, clothed in armor, and wearing sandals. Biblical accounts of Michael present him as a mighty leader bringing justice and strength. The Book of Daniel describes him as a heavenly prince who stands guard over God's people, helping the Israelites return from their Persian captivity. Michael, whose name means, "Who is like God?" is the principle fighter in the battle against Lucifer, or Satan, as related in the Book of Revelation.

The early Christians of the second century took courage from these accounts. They believed that Michael's intercession was powerful in rescuing souls from hell. In the fourth century, Emperor Constantine built a church to honor Michael.

Art depicting Gabriel most often shows him as communicating God's message. Biblically he is portrayed in three events as a messenger. In the first he explains to Daniel a vision he had concerning the Messiah. Another time Gabriel comes to Zachary, who is burning incense in the temple, and tells him the John the Baptist will be born. But most people associate Gabriel with the Annunciation and his message to Mary of the birth of Jesus. Gabriel's name means "Strength of God".



The archangel Raphael is pictured as the traveling companion of a young man. Tobiah, who is carrying a fish! A blind man named Tobit sends his son Tobiah on a journey to collect a debt. He asks Raphael (they don't know he is an archangel) to be the young man's companion and guide. After an adventure filled journey, Tobiah collects the debt, finds a bride, and restores Tobit's sight with the fish's gall. You can read the whole exciting story in the Book of Tobit in the Old Testament.

Tobit's family credits the success of the journey and the healing to the presence of Raphael. When they offer Raphael a reward, he announces who he is "I am Raphael, one of the seven angels who stand ready and enter before the glory of the Lord" (Tobit 12:15). Since it was through Raphael that Tobit was cured of his blindness, the angel's name means, "God's healing" or "God has healed."

## **St Margaret Mary's & St. Patrick's**

*September 2013*

The Archangels: St. Michael, Gabriel, and Raphael

### **Week 1 – Prepare**

As a family, find a place to gather in your home.

If you'd like, collect items to use such as a bible, cross or crucifix, candle, rosary, etc.

Read the history of Archangels Michael, Gabriel, and Raphael included in the packet.

Talk about the Archangels and what made them special; and what actions you can take personally to follow their example.

*Pray the prayers included in the packet.*

### **Week 2 – Take Action**

Read about each Archangel in scripture (hint: re-read the history). Also, included in the packet is a poem about St. Michael by Shannon Holloran. Create a poem or story (or color the picture in the packet) about St. Michael, St. Gabriel, or St. Raphael (you can do all three if you want,)

*Pray the prayers in the packet.*

### **Week 3 – Discern**

Gather in your home with any items you would like to use. Find the meanings of the names in your family (check either of the websites [www.thinkbabynames.com](http://www.thinkbabynames.com) or [www.americancatholic.org/features/saints/byname](http://www.americancatholic.org/features/saints/byname)). The Archangels are healing, protecting, and God-like. How in your life have you in the past or will do in the future call on their example to make decisions and further your faith in God?

*Pray the prayers in the packet.*

### **Week 4 – Take Action**

Gather in your home with any items you would like to use. Pray for the students starting the year at St. Patrick's School along with all the students in Vigo County. Pray for a productive and healthy school year. Call on the Archangels to be with you during this new school year.

*Pray the prayers in the packet.*

## **“Michael – Who is like God?”**

St. Michael,  
Our guardian angel and protector in battle.  
“Michael – Who is like God?”  
Spirit wind surrounded light  
Love and beauty  
took from flight  
“Mi-cha-el, Mi-cha-el”  
Soaring high and strong  
Lucifer laughed  
loud and long...  
“Mi-cha-el. Micha-el, - Who is like God?”  
This battle cry of love  
the angels called  
from high above!  
“Mi-cha-el, Mi-cha-el,”  
“Bearer of Light” cast down to hell  
and our reward  
was thanks to Mi-cha-el  
“Mi-cha-el, Mi-cha-el, - Who is like God?”

Shannon Holloran

From the beginning of time, St. Michael was a leader.  
He is found in the New Testament and is the **patron saint of police officers**.  
God bless all who serve and protect us each day!

## **Prayer to St. Gabriel, for Others**

O loving messenger of the Incarnation,  
Descend upon all those for whom I wish peace and happiness.  
Spread your wings over the cradles of the new-born babes,  
O thou who didst announce the coming of the infant Jesus.  
Give to the young a lily petal from the virginal scepter in your hand.  
Cause the Ave Maria to re-echo in all hearts  
That they may find grace and joy through Mary.

Finally, recall the sublime words spoken on the day of the Annunciation—  
“**Nothing is impossible with God,**” and repeat them in hours of trial—to all I love—  
That their confidence in Our Lord may be reanimated when all human help fails.  
**Amen.**

## **Prayer to St. Raphael**

Most glorious Prince,  
Archangel Raphael,  
Be mindful of us and pray for us,  
Here and in every place,  
To the Son of God.

O God, who gave your servant Tobias the holy Archangel Raphael  
For a companion on his journey, grant that during our earthly pilgrimage  
We may always be protected by his watchful care  
And strengthened by his help.  
**Through Christ Our Lord, Amen.**