



# EXPLORES ARCHANGELS

TO BEGIN LEARNING ABOUT ANGELS, THE CATECHISM IS A GOOD PLACE TO START. TRY THE FOLLOWING PARAGRAPHS: 328-336

**ST. RAPHAEL**, ANOTHER OF THE ARCHANGELS, IS MENTIONED IN THE BOOK OF TOBIAS. HIS NAME MEANS "GOD HAS HEALED." BECAUSE HE HELPED TOBIAS ON HIS JOURNEY, WE INVOKE HIS AID BEFORE WE TRAVEL.

THE CATECHISM OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH AFFIRMS THAT THE EXISTENCE OF ANGELS IS A TRUTH OF OUR CATHOLIC FAITH. THEY ARE MENTIONED IN SCRIPTURE EXTENSIVELY AND ARE A PART OF OUR OVER 2,000 YEAR TRADITION.

TRADITION HOLDS THAT IT IS **RAPHAEL** WHO STIRRED UP THE HEALING POOL AT BETHESDA.



THE WORD "ANGEL" MEANS "SERVANT" OR "MESSENGER OF GOD."

**ST. MICHAEL**, WHOSE NAME MEANS "ONE WHO IS LIKE UNTO GOD?" IS CALLED THE "PRINCE OF THE HEAVENLY HOST." AND IS REGARDED AS THE PROTECTOR OF THE CHILDREN OF ISRAEL (SEE DANIEL 12:1).

### SO MANY SAINTS, SO FEW DAYS!

THE FEAST OF THE HOLY ARCHANGELS IS CELEBRATED EVERY YEAR ON THE 29TH OF SEPTEMBER. THIS ANCIENT FEAST DAY USED TO BE CALLED "MICHAELMAS," (WHICH MEANS "MICHAEL'S MASS") AND INCLUDED ALL ANGELS. IN 1970, WHEN THE ROMAN CALENDAR WAS REVISED, THE SEPARATE FEASTS OF THE ARCHANGELS WAS COMBINED INTO ONE CELEBRATION FOR ALL OF GOD'S HEAVENLY MESSENGERS.



**ST. GABRIEL'S** NAME MEANS "GOD IS MY STRENGTH." IT IS GABRIEL WHO OFTEN APPEARS IN SCRIPTURE BRINGING INFORMATION ABOUT WHAT GOD PLANS TO DO IN THE LIVES OF HUMANS.

HE APPEARS TO DANIEL, TO ZACHARIAH, AND MOST FAMOUSLY, TO MARY THE MOTHER OF JESUS.



**ANGELS: TO PROTECT AND WORSHIP.** SCRIPTURE TEACHES US THAT THERE ARE NINE ORDERS OF ANGELS, OF WHICH ARCHANGELS ARE INCLUDED. THEY ARE: ANGELS, ARCHANGELS, VIRTUES, POWERS, PRINCIPALITIES, DOMINATIONS, THRONE, CHERUBIM AND SERAPHIM.

ST. MICHAEL IS OFTEN DEPICTED KILLING SATAN, AN IMAGE OF THE BATTLE IN HEAVEN THAT TAKES PLACE IN THE BOOK OF REVELATION.

JUST LIKE OTHER SAINTS, WE ASK FOR THE ANGELS TO AID US IN OUR JOURNEY TOWARDS GOD. HERE ARE SOME OF THE PATRONAGES OF THE ARCHANGELS:

**ST. MICHAEL:** AGAINST TEMPTATIONS & THE POWER OF EVIL, ARTISTS, AGAINST STORMS, BAKERS, BANKERS, SOLDIERS, IN BATTLE, THOSE IN NEED OF PROTECTION.

**ST. GABRIEL:** BROADCASTERS, AMBASSADORS, CLERGY, CHILDBIRTH, POSTAL WORKERS, PUBLIC RELATIONS, TELECOMMUNICATIONS, MESSENGERS.

**ST. RAPHAEL:** THE BLIND, COUNSELORS, DOCTORS, TRAVELLERS, YOUNG PEOPLE LEAVING HOME FOR THE FIRST TIME, SHEPHERDS.

ST. GABRIEL'S WORDS TO MARY ARE NOW SOME OF THE MOST FAMOUS WORDS SPOKEN IN OUR PRAYER: "HAIL MARY, FULL OF GRACE..."



DECKER '07

SOURCES:  
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