



Every year on September 29th, the Church celebrates the Guardian Angels: Michael, Gabriel, and Raphael. Throughout the Old and New Testaments, there are numerous accounts of the heavenly spirits.

In the Old Testament, we learn that they stood at the entrance to the Garden of Eden, they directed Abraham when he followed God's instruction to sacrifice his son Isaac, and they even interacted with Israel's kings and prophets. In the New Testament, it was the angel Gabriel who appeared to Mary to tell her she was chosen to be the Mother of Jesus. We also see examples of how the angels worked in the preaching of Jesus. It was the angels who ministered to Jesus during the agony in the garden, and they were present at the Resurrection of Jesus. St. Paul spoke about the hierarchy of the angels several times in his epistles. Later on, it was St. Thomas Aquinas who taught that every one of us is assigned a guardian angel. They perform many important tasks for all of humanity. The three that I mentioned above are the only ones that are named in the Bible.

Most of us are familiar with the idea of patron saints, and these archangels also are known as patrons. Michael, whose name means "who is like God," is the patron saint of soldiers, police officers, paramedics, the sick and dying. Gabriel, whose name means "God is my strength," is patron saint of messengers, postal workers, broadcasters, and expectant mothers. Raphael, whose name means "God has healed," is patron saint of travelers, medical workers, and matchmakers!

Many of us as young children were taught the "Angel" prayer as one of our first prayers. Below is a more adult angel prayer for these three.

*Glorious Archangels Michael, Gabriel, and Raphael, I entrust myself to your angelic mediation. Please set into motion God's plan for my life, protect me from the evil one, deliver to me God's Holy Word, and heal me of my sin. I thank you for the glorious duties you fulfill in the divine mission and rely upon you in my life. Saints Michael, Gabriel, and Raphael, pray for me!*

Have an angelic, blessed, and peaceful week ahead!