

ANGELS & SAINTS

DEACON ED PRISBY

OPENING PRAYER



WHAT DOES THE CHURCH TEACH ABOUT ANGELS?

- Both Scripture and Tradition repeatedly affirm that God has in fact created non-human angelic beings to be his agents, warriors, and messengers.
- They are personal and immortal; they have a rational intellect and free will, yet they are pure spirits, without bodies like ours.
- They surpass in perfection all visible creatures, as is evident from their splendor. (Psalm 103:20-21)
- Nevertheless, redeemed human beings will one day be perfected in such a way that the angels will be subject to them. (1 Corinthians 6:3)

WHAT DOES THE CHURCH TEACH ABOUT ANGELS?

- After the angels were created God put them to a test.
- Theologians speculate on the exact nature of the angels' test:
 - The angels were given a glimpse of the creation of human beings, and then God disclosed to them that out of pure love, He was going to invite the human race into heaven.
 - God disclosed that men and women would sin, but God would forgive them and actually redeem them by becoming one of us.

WHAT DOES THE CHURCH TEACH ABOUT ANGELS?

- Lucifer was the most intelligent of all the angels.
- He and one-third of the angels rebelled against God and refused to submit to His dominion. (Rev. 12:3-4)
- Saint Michael the Archangel and the other two-thirds of the angels decided to remain loyal to God and fought against the angels who rebelled.
- Hell was created by God as a place of eternal punishment for Lucifer and all the fallen angels, who were created intrinsically good but freely chose to become bad.

ST. MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL EXPELLING LUCIFER AND THE REBELLIOUS ANGELS



WHAT DOES THE CHURCH TEACH ABOUT ANGELS?

- Just as God tested the angels, He also tested the first human beings in the Garden of Eden: Adam and Eve.
- A serpent, who was the devil in disguise, tempted them to sin.
- Through their own free-will, Adam and Eve sinned by choosing to defy God and disobey his commands.
- This rebellion caused them to lose “sanctifying grace” and be cut off in their relationship with God.
- This is the first sin, also known as “original sin.”

WHAT DOES THE CHURCH TEACH ABOUT ANGELS?

- Angels have played a critical role in salvation history, from the fall of man to the present.
- In various ways they carried out God's divine plan for humanity.
- When God the Son became incarnate in Jesus Christ, angels surrounded and served Him throughout His earthly life, from His conception up to the very moment of His ascension into heaven.
- They will also announce Christ's return to earth at the end of time and will serve him as he judges the earth.

WHAT DOES THE CHURCH TEACH ABOUT ANGELS?

- Angels are *“ministering spirits, sent to serve, for the sake of those who are to inherit salvation.”* (Hebrews 1:14)
- They join the Church in her worship and ministry; they serve us as guardians, intercessors, and guides.
- With the saints in heaven they behold the face of God and enjoy the eternal life of the Blessed Trinity.

ANGELS NAMED IN BIBLE

- The Bible names only three specific angels.
 - St. Michael the Archangel
 - Only angel mentioned in both Old and New Testaments
 - Prince of the angels and protector who battles the devil
 - Name means *“who is like God?”*
 - St. Gabriel the Archangel
 - Angel who visits the Blessed Virgin Mary to announce she is carrying the Christ child
 - Also appeared to Zacharia to inform him that his wife Elizabeth will give birth to John the Baptist
 - Name means *“strength of God”*
 - St. Raphael the Archangel
 - Appears in the book of Tobit in the Old Testament
 - Name means *“healing of God”*

ANGELIC HIERARCHIES

- **Seraphim**

- The highest choir, comprehend God with maximum clarity, and therefore their love flames the hottest. (“Seraphim” means “the burning ones.”) Lucifer (“Light-bearer”) was once one of them.

- **Cherubim**

- The cherubim contemplate God too, but less in himself than in his providence. “Cherubim” means “fullness of wisdom.”

- **Thrones**

- Thrones contemplate God’s power and judgments. (Thrones symbolize juridical power.)

- **Dominions**

- Dominions are Angels of Leadership. They regulate the duties of the angels below them, making known the commands of God.

ANGELIC HIERARCHIES

- **Virtues**

- Receive their orders from the Dominions and “run” the universe, so to speak, especially the heavenly bodies.

- **Powers**

- Warrior Angels that serve the Virtues by fighting against evil influences that oppose the virtues' plan.

- **Principalities**

- Care for earthly principalities, that is, cities and nations and kingdoms.

- **Archangels**

- Archangels are generally taken to mean "chief or leading angel," they are the most frequently mentioned throughout the Bible. They carry God's important messages to man.

- **Angels**

- These angels are closest to the material world and human beings. They are our personal guardian angels. They deliver the prayers to God and God's answers and other messages to humans. Angels have the capacity to access any and all other Angels at any time. They are the most caring and social to assist those who ask for help.

FEAST DAYS HONORING ANGELS

- **September 29th**
 - Saints Michael, Gabriel and Raphael,
Archangels
- **October 2nd**
 - The Holy Guardian Angels

PRAYERS

Angel of God

**my guardian dear
to whom God's love
commits me here.**

**Ever this day
be at my side,
to light and guard,
to rule and guide.**

Amen


Classically

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 -

cast into hell, satan and

all the evil spirits,

who prowl about the world

seeking the ruin of souls.

Amen.

- Pope Leo XIII

Feast of the Archangels
29 September



WHAT DOES THE CHURCH TEACH ABOUT SAINTS?

- The “holy one” who leads a life in union with God through the grace of Christ and receives the reward of eternal life.
- The Church is called the *communion of saints*.
 - *The unity in Christ of all the redeemed, those on earth and those who have died.*
 - *We confess our belief in the “Communion of Saints” when we recite the Apostles Creed.*
- November 1st – All Saints Day

THE GREATEST SAINT IN HEAVEN



WHAT DOES THE CHURCH TEACH ABOUT SAINTS?

- Saints warrant honor and veneration, but never adoration or worship.
- Adoration and worship is given to God alone!
- Catholics give the Blessed Mother the highest type of honor, though we stop short of crossing the line into adoration (because worshiping Mary would be idolatry).
- She is given the utmost respect because of her special relationship with Jesus.

The Three Forms of Veneration



"LATRIA"

Adoration; supreme worship allowed to God alone.



"HYPERDULIA"

Special veneration due to the Blessed Virgin Mary.



"DULIA"

The reverence accorded to saints and angels.

WHAT DOES THE CHURCH TEACH ABOUT SAINTS?

- In the Catholic Church, anyone who goes to heaven is considered a saint.
- Those who are in heaven but never officially canonized are still as saintly as those named by the pope.
- Officially “canonized” saints are men and women who lived lives worthy of recognition, honor, and imitation.
- Saints are ordinary human beings who had their share of struggles with sin and vulnerabilities of being human.
- By God’s grace, they overcame their shortcomings, proving that we can do so too.

THE CANONIZATION PROCESS

- To be named a saint, candidates are canonized, or formally authenticated through an intense study of the person's life.
- Everything that's known about a candidate – their words, deeds, and writings – comes under close scrutiny.
- If the details of the candidate's life are determined worthy of formal sainthood, the facts and evidence are presented to the pope for approval.
- No one becomes a saint until the pope says so.

The road to sainthood



LOCAL REQUEST

A person's local bishop gathers information and sends a petition to the Vatican. If the Vatican agrees to consider that person for sainthood, they receive the title

"SERVANT OF GOD"



VATICAN REVIEW

After reviewing materials and conducting more research, a Vatican council decides if the person lived a life of "heroic virtue." If it decides "yes" then the person is called

"VENERABLE"



BEATIFICATION

If the church finds proof of a miracle that it believes was caused by the intercession of the person, he or she can be beatified. Beatified people are called

"BLESSED"



CANONIZATION

The final step usually requires proof of a second miracle, although popes have waived this in a handful of cases recently. Once canonized, a person is officially called a

"SAINT"

Note: Martyrs don't need proof of a miracle to be beatified.



- Official sainthood isn't merely an honor for the saints themselves.
- The saints serve as examples for the faithful who struggle to reconcile their human natures with their spiritual aspirations.
- Think of canonized saints as the Catholic Church's "hall of fame."

INTERCESSION OF THE SAINTS

- Just as the living on earth can and do pray for others (intercession), the saints in heaven can and do pray for the living here on earth.
- In both cases, the intercessor prays to the one mediator (Jesus Christ) on behalf of someone else.
- The Catholic Church sees the intercession of the saints as one big prayer chain in the sky.
- Patron saints serve as intercessors for particular areas.

VENERATING THE SAINTS

- We who venerate the saints are adoring Christ, as it is from His power that they emanate and it is to His true divinity that they bear witness.
- It is for this reason that, over the course of the year, the Church has surrounded the great feasts of our Lord Himself with feasts of the various saints.
- The saints testify to the power of Our Lord.
(John 15:1)

WHY FOLLOW THE SAINTS EXAMPLES

- They bear witness to the action of Jesus Christ throughout the course of the history of the Church within this world.
- The saints testify to His actions and His passion, His resurrection and the gift of His Spirit.
- In the lives of the saints the effects of the Life of Christ and its undeniable fruits are brought nearer to our hearts and our minds.

THE VEIL REMOVED



QUESTIONS?

CLOSING PRAYER