



Dear Faithful -

Yesterday was the Feast of the Archangels. Originally each of the archangels had their own day on the calendar. But now they are a collective. In fact, some celebrate all angels on this day. I like celebrating the three archangels together, to remind us of the particular messages and actions they were each given by God for the good of the human family. Typically, we see Michael as the warrior, Gabriel as the herald, and Raphael as the healer. But as a reminder, we should never see our identity reduced to what we do. At best, what we do is our mission from God. Each of these angels find their identity in their *relationship* with God. We see this in their names.

**Michael means: "Who is like God?"** This is his battle cry against Lucifer, who rejected God's plan, thought too highly of himself, and started a ruckus in heaven. Michael ousted Lucifer.

**Gabriel means: "My power is God"** or "Power of God." As Gabriel was honored to bring this message to Zechariah and Mary, St. John Paul II commented on the meaning of Gabriel as to say that the culmination of creation, the Incarnation, was the supreme sign of the omnipotent (all powerful) Father.

**Raphael means: "God Heals."** He is made known to us by the story of Tobias in the Old Testament. He brought God's healing both physically and spiritually. He delivered Sarah from spiritual bondage. She had lived with the unfortunate reality of possession from an evil spirit. And he brought healing to Tobit who was blind.

If you reluctantly missed your opportunity to celebrate the Feast of the Archangels, fear not. They are on duty 365 days of the year. However, you still have this Sunday to celebrate your own guardian angel. Because it falls on Sunday, it may not be mentioned at Mass. But your guardian angel will be there at Mass. I offer two pieces of wisdom about your guardian angel.

- I have a cousin, who has the practice of engaging her guardian angel whenever she has a conflict with another person. She has her angel talk things over with their angel. Then she has confidence that everything will work out when she talks with the person in conflict.
- In this season of football, imagine that you are a running back, and your guardian angel is creating a hole in the defensive line for you. As long as you follow your angel to the goal, you will not be stopped. If you decide to run in any other direction, you are asking for trouble. So, in the words of Saint Paul, "Run so as to win!"

Blessings -

Fr. Jeff Belger  
Priest Director

**Prayer to My Guardian Angel**

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,  
Rule and guide.  
Amen.

**P.S. Tomorrow, we begin the "holiday months" when many people look at their charitable giving. We ask that you prayerfully discern a gift to the Newman Catholic Student Center. Your gift makes you a partner in our mission to prepare disciples for the Church and the world. Your generosity has an impact today and into the future as our students become faith filled leaders of their families, parishes, workplaces, and communities. Watch for upcoming details for Giving Tuesday on November 29, 2022- a great opportunity to become a partner in our mission!**