

that country, as well as for the Jews...

The Church has always invoked, and paid a religious honor to the holy angels. Origen teaches, that they assist us in our devotions, and join their supplication to ours... He tells us, that the angels carry up our prayers to God, and bring back his blessings and gifts to us; but that Christians do not invoke or adore them as they do God...

If we desire to live for ever in the company of the holy angels, we must lead on earth the life of angels. We must learn to converse with God by assiduous prayer and holy contemplation, and to walk in His presence by frequent aspirations, withdrawing our minds, as much as we can, from a vain distracting world; adoring and loving God, rejoicing in Him, bending our wills cheerfully under all His appointments, and studying with our whole strength to obey His law, and fulfill His Holy Will in all things. We must also work our minds into the holy temper and dispositions of the blessed angels, putting on the same perfect humility, the same uninterrupted tranquility, constancy, meekness, patience, pure and vehement love of God, and zeal for His glory, with all other virtues. Neither do certain transient acts suffice to denominate a person meek, humble, or virtuous; these dispositions must be wrought into his very frame, and be the firm, habitual, permanent, reigning affections of his soul. They must, as far as our state will allow, be pure without alloy, or mixture of anything inordinate or irregular. No one can be admitted into the society of the spotless angels, or stand in the presence of a God of infinite purity and sanctity; no one can find a place in the region of the blessed, who is not perfectly without spot or blemish... How great a task have we upon our hands! But how noble and happy is the pursuit! Perfectly to subdue all our passions, to counteract and reform all our vicious inclinations, and to acquire, cherish, and constantly improve all virtues. This is not done by broken and interrupted essays and attempts, but by a vigorous and constant application of the means, and repeated fervent acts of all virtues.

\*(excerpted from: [www.bartleby.com](http://www.bartleby.com))

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# ***Saint Michael the Archangel***

**Feast Day: September 29**



***Saint Michael, the Archangel,  
defend us in battle!  
Be our protection against the evil one!***

## The Dedication of Saint Michael's Church

\*The festival of St. Michael and All the Holy Angels has been kept with great solemnity on the 29<sup>th</sup> of September ever since the fifth century, and was certainly celebrated in Apulia in 493. The dedication of the famous church of St. Michael on Mount Gargano, in Italy, gave occasion to the institution of this feast in the West... The dedication of St. Michael's church in Rome, upon Adrian's Mole, which was performed by Pope Boniface IV, in 610, was also performed on this same day...

Though only St. Michael be mentioned in the title of this festival, it appears from the prayers of the Church that all the good angels are its object, together with this glorious prince and tutelary angel of the Church. On it we are called upon to give thanks to God for the glory which the angels enjoy, and to rejoice in their happiness. Secondly, to thank Him for His mercy to us in constituting such glorious beings to minister to our salvation, by aiding and assisting us. Thirdly, to join them in adoring and praising God with all possible ardor, desiring and praying that we may do His Will on earth with utmost fidelity, fervor, and purity of affection, as it is done by these blessed spirits in heaven; and that we may study to sanctify our souls in imitation of the spotless angels to whom we are associated. Lastly, we are invited to honor, and implore the intercession and succor of the holy angels.

A circumstance in the blessed angels which above all others is most amiable and pleasing to devout souls, is the constant and perfect fidelity of these holy spirits to God. Their innocence and sanctity were never tarnished with the least spot or stain, the purity of their affections was never debased by the least mixture of anything inordinate and the ardor with which they love God, and exert all their powers to serve Him, and do his Holy Will, never admits the least abatement...

Another motive why we ought to love and honor the holy angels is our relation and close affinity with them. Our souls are spiritual and immortal like them; and by sanctifying grace are their co-heiresses and fellow-members. They are glorious citizens of

heaven, and we are called to be one day their companions. They will receive an additional *accidental* glory from our company, who are to repair their losses, and fill the seats forfeited by their apostate fellows. We are to be eternally united with them in bliss and love, and are already united by grace, and the communion of saints...

God is pleased frequently to employ the ministry of His angels in affording us many helps, and in the government of this lower world. He can do all things by the simple act of His own Will, and stands not in need of ministers to execute his decrees, as earthly kings do... It is from His infinite goodness and wisdom that he employs superior spirits in various dispensations of His providence concerning men.. Upon how many occasions were Abraham, Jacob, Moses, and other patriarchs and prophets favored with apparitions and visions of these holy spirits!...

Saint John describes a great battle of St. Michael and the good angels, with the devil and his angels, which seems by the context not to belong properly to the expulsion of these latter out of heaven when they sinned, but to some efforts of the evil spirits, when they were vanquished by Christ in the mystery of our redemption. By this victory of St. Michael we see the concern of the good angels for the salvation of man, and the activity and success with which they exert themselves in His behalf... The holy scriptures assures us, that the angels are the ministers of God appointed to execute His orders, and to do His Will in our favor. God promises their ministry and succor to all who serve Him...

That the good angels often intercede with God for us, and that their patronage is piously invoked, is an article of the Catholic faith... If the angels give us their blessing, and do us greater offices, can we imagine that they do not pray for us?...The angels who are solicitous for us oppose the efforts of Satan against us, by praying for us. The prophet Daniel was informed in his visions how vigorously the guardian angel of Persia interposed in favor of that country, and much more what good offices Michael and other angels interposed in favor of