

ANGELS IN OUR MIDST

For God commands the angels to guard you in all your ways.
Psalm 91:11

For My angel is with you, and he is the custodian of your lives.
Baruch 6:6

Presence of God

We pause and remember that we live and breathe and move in the Lord. Our God has created us a little less than the angels and He has crowned us with glory and honor. He has pitched His tent among us. He is our God and we are His people. Come, let us worship the Lord, Whom the angels serve. Glory to You, Maker of All Things, Jesus the Redeeming Son, and the Spirit most Holy Who calls us to life, to holiness, to creativity and to love. Amen.

The Holy Guardian Angels

The doctrine that every individual soul has a guardian angel has never been defined by the Church and so is not an article of faith, but it is present in both the Old and New Testaments. As Jesus says, See that you never despise any of these little ones, for I tell you that their angels in heaven always gaze on the face of my Father in heaven. Thus even little children have guardian angels, and these angels remain in the presence of God even as they fulfill their mission on earth.

One of the benefits of this feast is that it reminds us that God cares for us each, individually. We all know this in theory, but it is easy – in times of depression or temptation – to convince ourselves that we are too small to matter, for good or ill. Let us use this feast to remind ourselves that each of us has an angel of our very own looking after us; and also to pray to God for our own Guardian Angel. What a bore and a burden to them some of us are. May we one day be a cause of rejoicing for them also.

From the Catechism of the Catholic Church

329 St. Augustine says: "Angel' is the name of their office, not of their nature. If you seek the name of their nature, it is 'spirit'; if you seek the name of their office, it is 'angel': from what they are, 'spirit', from what they do, 'angel.'"¹⁸⁸ With their whole beings the angels are servants and messengers of God. Because they "always behold the face of My Father Who is in heaven" they are the "mighty ones who do His word, hearkening to the voice of his word".¹⁸⁹

330 As purely spiritual creatures angels have intelligence and will: they are personal and immortal creatures, surpassing in perfection all visible creatures, as the splendor of their glory bears witness.¹⁹

336 From its beginning until death, human life is surrounded by their watchful care and intercession.²⁰² "Beside each believer stands an angel as protector and shepherd leading him to life."²⁰³ Already here on earth the Christian life shares by faith in the blessed company of angels and men united in God.

350 Angels are spiritual creatures who glorify God without ceasing and who serve his saving plans for other creatures: "The angels work together for the benefit of us all" St. Thomas Aquinas

Hymn

O Lord, permit us here to raise our voice;
And raise before Thy throne our feeble praise,
And thank Thee for those angels whom Thy choice
Hath lent our weakness to direct its ways,
And free us from the envious foes that lurk
To spoil the beauty of Thy cherished work.

O holy Angels, our guardians, defend us in the combat,
that we perish not in the dreadful judgment.
In sight of Thy angels I will sing to Thee, my God.
I will adore at Thy holy temple, and confess to Thy name.

Prayer Before the Scripture Readings

Speak to us, O Living God
Your disciples are listening.
Bring us the Word of Life.
Open our hearts, O Loving Christ
Your disciples are listening.
Bring us the Word of Truth.

Exodus 23: 20 – 23

See, I am sending an angel before you, to guard you on the way and bring you
to the place I have prepared.
Be attentive to him and heed his voice. Do not rebel against him, for he will not
forgive your sin. My authority resides in him.
If you heed his voice and carry out all I tell you, I will be an enemy to your
enemies and a foe to your foes. My angel will go before you.

Gospel: Matthew 18:1–5, 10

The disciples approached Jesus and said,
"Who is the greatest in the Kingdom of heaven?"
He called a child over, placed it in their midst, and said,
"Amen, I say to you, unless you turn and become like children,
you will not enter the Kingdom of heaven.
Whoever humbles himself like this child
is the greatest in the Kingdom of heaven.
And whoever receives one child such as this in My name receives Me.
See that you do not despise one of these little ones,
for I say to you that their angels in heaven
always look upon the face of my heavenly Father.

INVOCATIONS TO THE HOLY GUARDIAN ANGEL

Holy Angel, my counselor, inspire me;
Holy Angel, my defender, protect me;
Holy Angel, my faithful friend; intercede for me;
Holy Angel, my consoler, fortify me; Holy Angel, my brother, defend me;
Holy Angel, my teacher, instruct me;
Holy Angel, witness of all my actions, purify me;
Holy Angel, my helper, support me;
Holy Angel, my intercessor, speak for me;
Holy Angel, my guide, direct me;
Holy Angel, my light, enlighten me;
Holy Angel, whom God has assigned to lead me, govern me.

LITANY OF THE GUARDIAN ANGELS

Lord, have mercy on us.

Christ, have mercy on us.

Lord, have mercy on us.

Christ, hear us.

Christ, graciously hear us.

God the Father of Heaven, have mercy on us.

God the Son, Redeemer of the world, have mercy on us.

Holy Trinity, one God, have mercy on us.

Holy Mary, * pray for us,

Holy Mother of God,*

Queen of the Angels,*



St. Michael,*

St. Gabriel,*

St. Raphael,*

All holy Angels and Archangels,*

Holy Guardian Angels,*

Holy Guardian Angels, who unceasingly behold the Face of the Heavenly Father,*

Holy Guardian Angels, who never part from us,*

Holy Guardian Angels, who are devoted to us in heavenly friendship,*

Holy Guardian Angels, our faithful admonishers,*

Holy Guardian Angels, our wise counselors,*

Holy Guardian Angels, who preserve us from many evils of body and soul,*

Holy Guardian Angels, our mighty defenders against the attacks of the evil enemy,*

Holy Guardian Angels, our support in the time of temptations,*

Holy Guardian Angels, who help us when we stumble and fall,*

Holy Guardian Angels, who comforts us in troubles and sufferings,*

Holy Guardian Angels, who uphold our prayers and carry them before the Throne of God,*

Holy Guardian Angels, who through your inspirations and encouragement help us to progress in goodness,*

Holy Guardian Angels, who despite our faults never leave us,*

Holy Guardian Angels, who rejoice over our improvement and advancement in perfection,*

Holy Guardian Angels, who watch over us and pray for us even when we rest,*

Holy Guardian Angels, who do not abandon us in our agony of death,*

Holy Guardian Angels, who console the souls in Purgatory,*

Holy Guardian Angels, who lead the righteous into Heaven,*

Holy Guardian Angels, with whom one day we hope to eternally praise and behold God,*

Noble Princes of Heaven,*

Lamb of God, Who takes away the sins of the world, spare us, O Lord!

Lamb of God, Who takes away the sins of the world, graciously hear us, O Lord!

Lamb of God, Who takes away the sins of the world, have mercy on us, O Lord!

Bless the Lord, all His Angels,
you mighty ones who do His Will.
He has sent His Angels before you,
to guard you on all your ways.
My God, in the presence of the Angels I will bless You.
I want to adore You and praise Your holy Name.
Lord, hear my prayer.
And let my cry come unto You.

Let us pray

Almighty, Eternal God, in Your ineffable goodness You have assigned a special Angel to all people, from the womb onwards, as a protection for body and soul. Graciously grant that I may follow my holy Angel so faithfully and love him/her so dearly, that through Your grace and under his/her protection I may one day reach the heavenly Father's House and may merit to behold Your Divine Countenance together with him/her and all the holy Angels. We ask this through Jesus Christ, Our Lord. Amen.

Meditation of De La Salle

How much this help we receive from our good angels should lead us to respect them! Should this not also inspire us with devotion towards them and with confidence in their protection? We owe them respect, says Saint Bernard, because of their presence; devotion, because of their kindness towards us; confidence, because of their care to guard us. We are also obliged to acknowledge the unbounded charity with which they obey the order to take care of us in such great and such continual need.

Every time that we feel ourselves assailed by some violent temptation and threatened by some considerable difficulty, let us invoke this Angel who watches over us, and leads us, and who gives us help so generously in our needs and difficulties. By fervent and continual prayer, let us address ourselves to our Guardian Angel, ever present and ready to defend and console us. Often pray also to the Guardian Angels of your students, so that under their powerful protection your students may willingly practice the good you have taught them, and do this with greater ease.



Saint John Baptist de La Salle
and all you holy Brothers who have gone before us,
inspire us to act towards the youth entrusted to our care
as our Guardian Angels act toward us.



Live Jesus in our hearts. Forever!

