

St. John's Newsletter



Angels of God

Many movies and TV shows have been made about Angels with various images, attributes and qualities but what does the Bible tell us about Angels? What does the Church tell us about Angels?

The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* affirms that “the existence of spiritual, non-corporeal beings that Sacred Scripture usually calls ‘angels’ is a truth of faith” supported by both Scripture and tradition.

The Catechism further explains that “as purely spiritual creatures, angels have intelligence and will: they are personal and immortal creatures, as the splendor of their glory bears witness” (CCC 328, 330).

One of the most familiar stories in the Bible is in the Gospel of Luke when the Angel Gabriel appears to the young virgin Mary and says, “Hail, Full of Grace.” She accepts the responsibility as the Mother of the Incarnation of God. Later, an angel appeared to assure Joseph that the baby was God’s will. Also in Luke, an angel appeared to Zachariah to foretell the birth of his son John to his wife Elizabeth. At the birth of Jesus, the angels praised and glorified God sending the humble shepherds to search for the newborn king. We hear these stories every Advent season.

Before each Mass, the St. John’s congregation prays for protection from St. Michael the Archangel. Stories of Angels as messengers and warriors for God are in both the Old and the New Testament.

Messengers (angels) appeared to Abraham (announcing his son), Lot (to save him from Sodom), Jacob (on a journey), Tobias (on journey), Daniel (in the lion’s den), Zachariah (announcing his son), Mary (incarnation), Joseph (guiding him to protect Jesus as baby), Paul (in prison), Mary Magdalene (at the tomb) and Jesus (after 40 days in the desert) and many others.

In addition to messages and protection, angels praise and glorify God. In every holy Mass, we join our voices with the choirs of angels and exclaim “Hosanna in the highest.”

The books of Isaiah, Ezekiel, Psalms, and Revelation describe the multitude of angels praising God. The **seraphim and cherubim** and angels whose purpose is to glorify God.

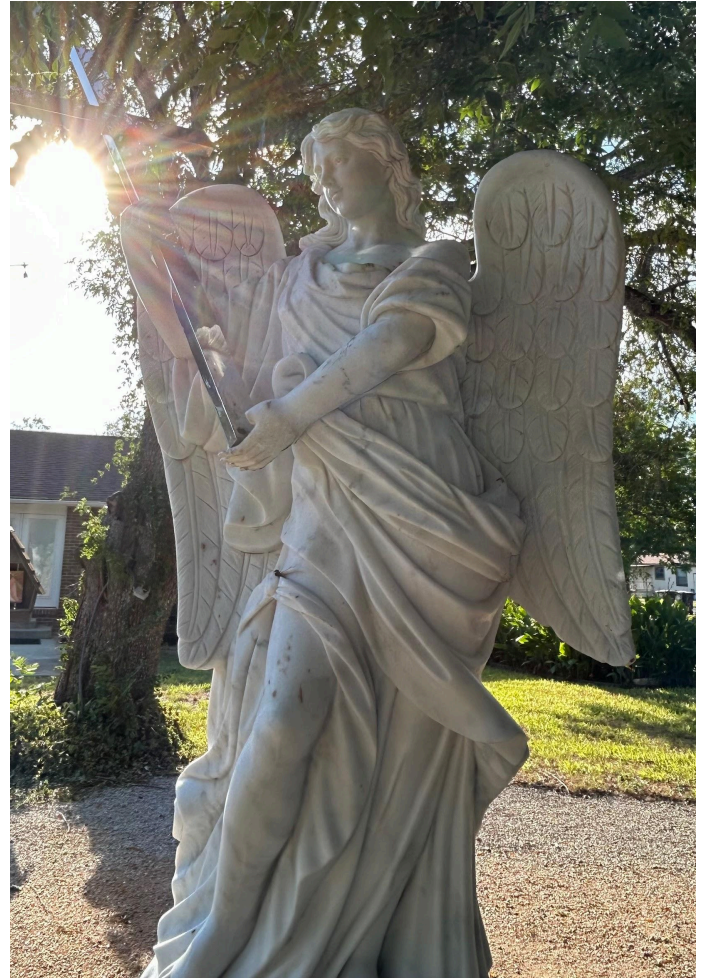
Guardian Angels

The Catechism also reminds us that a human life is surrounded by the angels’ watchful care and intercession from its beginning until death. We all have a guardian angel who protects and leads us through life. Sometimes we forget the angel is there and think we are alone, but who has not felt the strength of something other than himself leading him out of a bad situation?

Sources: <https://thinkaboutsuchthings.com/types-of-angels/>

<https://www.catholicshare.com/listen-guardian-angel-st-padre-pio/#axzz5mi34AKUw>

Angels in the Bible by George M. Smiga. Little Rock Scripture Study. 2021
Catechism of the Catholic Church.



Guardian Angel Prayer

Angel of God, my guardian dear,
to whom his love commits me here;
ever this day be at my side,
to light and guard, to rule and guide.
Amen.