

Daily Homily  
Sts. Michael, Gabriel, and Raphael; Archangels  
Twenty-Sixth Week in Ordinary Time, Wednesday  
29 September 2021  
[USCCB Daily Readings](#)

Angels and Archangels are very much part of our Tradition, they are very much part of Scripture, they are very much given to us this day ... especially the three and only three that have names. God's Word named Michael, Gabriel, and Raphael. Their names actually give us a clue to their purpose and their message.

**Michael** is a name which means "Who dares to be like God?" It's a question and a challenge. Michael's message is God protects, defends Christians from those who want to overthrow God, who protects us from the powers of evil that can overwhelm, that can stress us out, that can wear us down. Michael is named in the Book of Revelation ... He is the one casting out angels from heaven who thought they were God. There is no opposite to God. The opposite of faithful Archangel Michael is the fallen angel Satan. Michael is considered the protector of Israel and the protector of the Church. The Book of Daniel tells us that Michael will lead the dead to God on the Day of Resurrection. Something to look forward to.

**Gabriel** is a name that means "hero of God." That's the message he brings...he names the heroes of salvation history. He was the one hiding in the temple waiting for Zechariah's time to do the prayer so that he could announce a heroic moment: Zechariah and his wife Elizabeth were to have a child, John the Baptist. Another heroic moment Gabriel announced: to Mary, she would have a child, Jesus. She would soon realize ... as we all now realize ... That God makes possible the impossible. That God creates and authors heroic moments. The Book of Daniel says Gabriel announced the end of the Jewish people's exile in Babylon. And according to tradition, Gabriel's trumpet will awaken the dead on the day of judgement. Again, something to look forward to.

Lastly, **Raphael**. A name which means, God has healed. Raphael plays an important part in the Book of Tobit, he guards a young man on a journey and restores sight to the man's elderly father. In John's Gospel the pool where Jesus healed a paralyzed man was said to have been stirred by the angel Raphael.

All three bear not just a name ... but a particular message that announces and proclaims some aspect of God for us and with us.

These heavenly beings are not human at all, they are pure spirit ... nor could humans ever be angels, we are made to be a little more than them.

But we do know that these spirits are sent and that's what makes them angels... they are sent to us with a message from heaven. This day, may their message be greeted with our open hearts.