



## Catechist Connection



The Feast of Michael the Archangel is November 8. Saint Michael the Archangel isn't a saint, but rather he is an angel, and the leader of all angels and of the army of God. This is what the title "Archangel" means, that he is above all the others in rank.

St. Michael has four main responsibilities or offices, as we know from scripture and Christian tradition.

The first is to combat Satan.

The second is to escort the faithful to heaven at their hour of death.

The third is to be a champion of all Christians, and the Church itself.

And the fourth is to call all people from life on Earth to their heavenly judgment.

Very little is known about St Michael other than what we know from scriptures, which themselves are sparse.

In Daniel, St. Michael is mentioned twice. The first time as one who helped Daniel, and the second time he is mentioned with regard to the end times of the world when he will stand for the "children of thy people."

His next mention comes in the Epistle of St. Jude, where St. Michael is said to guard the tombs of Moses and Eve and has contended with Satan over the body of Moses.

The final mention is in Revelation, where St. Michael and his angels, do battle with the dragon.

As you can see Archangel Michael is a powerful companion on the journey to heaven for all people of God. This Feast is a good opportunity to teach children to pray to Angels for their protection.

Here is a good prayer to use from *Beneath the Mantle of Your Mercy* prayer book:

Angel of God, my holy guardian, given to me for my holy protection!

I implore you to enlighten me this day, to protect me from all evil, to urge me to do good deeds and to guide me on the path of Salvation. Amen.

The Philippian Fast begins on November 15. Prepare for the Feast of the Nativity in a way that is meaningful to you. Open your heart to the coming of the Messiah.

Help us to enter this Christmas Fast with humility, yet with joy. And Lord, give us Christmas from within, that we may share it from without, on all sides, all around us, wherever there is need. God help us, every one, to share the blessing of Jesus, in whose name we keep Christmas Holy. Amen.

Presbytera Emily Harakas

Fr. Anthony Coniaris