



Catechist Connection

Glory to Jesus Christ!

Dear Catechists:



Saturday, November 8, 2014 is the Feast of St. Michael the Archangel and the other Bodiless Powers. This particular icon is a 13th Century Byzantine icon from the Monastery of St. Catherine, Sinai. Michael means "Who is like God". He is the leader of the heavenly host of Angels because in Revelations (12:7-9), he defends the Mother of Christ and the Church by fighting against Satan and his demons. He is also mentioned in the bible several other times: in the Book of Daniel protecting the Young men from the fiery furnace (10:13 and 12:1) and in the Epistle of Jude protecting Moses' body (Jude 1: 5-9). On Mondays, during the weekday Divine Liturgy, the Tropar and Kondak commemorate the Angels and ask them to protect us in our daily lives. This is a typical

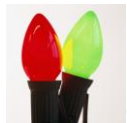
request. From the earliest times, Angels, especially Michael, have been seen to be protectors from harm and sanctuaries for burdened hearts. In fact the Tropar and Kondak for the Feast day of St. Michael are the same as for Mondays.

"Princes of the heavenly hosts, we though unworthy, beg you to encircle us through your prayers under the shelter of the wings of your spiritual glory. Guard us as we come to you and sincerely cry: 'Deliver us from dangers, O princes of the powers on high!'

Teach your children the Guardian Angel Prayer:

Angel of God, my Guardian dear, to whom God's love commits me here. Ever this day be at my side to love, to hold, to guard, to guide. Amen.

We often talk about an Icon corner in your house or classroom. I've just been reading a book called 'Praying with Children' and one of the steps is to have a sacred space in the classroom. In this book, the author, Gwen Costello, suggests having the Sacred Scripture in the space as well as other items that would lead the children to prayer, like pictures or statues. In this case, an icon would work. Candles, if possible, would be good too, because they have a calming effect on a group. A good suggestion is to use prayers from the Liturgy. This is really a good idea because there are so many beautiful prayers from the Divine Liturgy that can be taught from an early age. They may be recited or sung. You could start by having intentions and saying "Lord, have mercy" after each one. Move up to the older grades singing or reciting the prayer to the Mother of God after the Consecration: "It is truly right . . ." Whatever you do, when you pray with your class, try to listen to the still, small voice of God within you.



O my gosh, just a reminder the **Philippian Fast** starts on Saturday, November 15. Here is a prayer taken from: **Daily Meditations and Prayers for the Christmas Advent Fast and Epiphany** by Presbytera Emily Harakas and Fr. Anthony Coniaris. An excellent resource for the Philippian Fast journey.

Lord Jesus, You have come so many times to us
and found no resting place, forgive us for our
overcrowded lives, our vain haste and our preoccupation
with self. Come again, O Lord, and though our hearts
are a jumble of voices and our minds overlaid with
many fears, find a place however humble, where You
can begin to work Your wonder as you create
peace and joy within us. If in some hidden corner,
in some out-of-the-way spot, we can clear away the clutter,
and shut out the noise and darkness, come be born
again in us, and we shall kneel in perfect peace with
the wisest and humblest of men.

Blessings on the Journey,

Sr. Bonnie