

THE SEVEN LEADERS OF THE ANGELIC POWERS

Holy Scripture clearly and irrefutably witnesses that angels ceaselessly communicate with this world. The Holy Scripture and Holy Tradition of the Orthodox Church teaches us the names of the seven leaders of the angelic powers: Michael, Gabriel, Raphael, Uriel, Salathiel, Jegudiel, and Barachiel (an eighth, Jeremiel, is sometimes included).

``Michael" in the Hebrew language means ``Who is like unto God?" or ``Who is equal to God?" St. Michael has been depicted from earliest Christian times as a commander, who holds in his right hand a spear with which he attacks Lucifer, Satan, and in his left hand a green palm branch. At the top of the spear there is a linen ribbon with a red cross. The Archangel Michael is especially considered to be the Guardian of the Orthodox Faith and a fighter against heresies.

``Gabriel" means ``Man of God" or ``Might of God." He is the herald of the mysteries of God, especially the Incarnation of God and all other mysteries related to it. He is depicted as follows: In his right hand, he holds a lantern with a lighted taper inside, and in his left hand, a mirror of green jasper. The mirror signifies the wisdom of God as a hidden mystery.

``Raphael" means ``God's healing" or ``God the Healer." (Tobit 3:17, 12:15). Raphael is depicted leading Tobit (who is carrying a fish caught in the Tigris) with his right hand, and holding a physician's alabaster jar in his left hand.

``Uriel" means ``Fire of God," or ``Light of God" (III Esdras 3:1, 5:20). He is depicted holding a sword against the Persians in his right hand, and a fiery flame in his left.

``Salathiel" means ``Intercessor of God" (III Esdras 5:16). He is depicted with his face and eyes lowered, holding his hands on his bosom in prayer.

``Jegudiel" means ``Glorifier of God." He is depicted bearing a golden wreath in his right hand and a triple-thonged whip in his left hand.

``Barachiel" means ``Blessing of God." He is depicted holding a white rose in his hand against his breast.

``Jeremiel" means ``God's exaltation." He is venerated as an inspirer and awakener of exalted thoughts that raise a man toward God (III Ezra 4:36).

Source: The Prologue from Ochrid, St. Nicholas Velimirovic

Feast of the Archangels

November 8th

Synaxis of the Holy Archangels Michael, Gabriel, Raphael & all the Bodiless Powers

Troparion (*Tone 1*)

Let us praise Cherubim, Seraphim, Thrones, Powers, Authorities and Principalities, Dominions, Archangels and Angels for they are the Bodiless ministers of the Unoriginate Trinity and revealers of incomprehensible mysteries. Glory to Him Who has given you being; glory to Him Who has given you light; glory to Him Who is praised by you in thrice-holy hymns.

Archangels comprise only one of the ranks of angels. We believe there are Seven Archangels. "Michael, Gabriel and Raphael" are descriptive titles as their names are too terrible for men to know. Here, these three give honor to Jesus Christ and reveal Him to mankind.

This Icon is by the hand of [Arlene Tilghman](#).

Assignment:

Each team of altar servers (Savva & Nikita, Timosha & Lukas, Noah & Sasha) should talk together and decide which of the Archangels they would like their team to be named after. If two groups want the same Archangel the decision will be made by playing "rock, paper, scissors", best two out of three.

The due date for this assignment is February 25 at 5:00 p.m. – our next Altar Servers' practice.

I have nothing against Sts. Michael and Gabriel, of course, but I'd love to see the boys choose Archangels other than these most famous ones. I feel this will be more of a learning experience for them if they avoid the most famed angels.

Parents – please stress to the boys that just as the angels serve at the throne of God in Heaven (and serve with us in our altar as well), they should strive to emulate the selfless and obedient service of the angels during their time in the altar.

