

+ SAINTS PETER AND PAUL ORTHODOX CHURCH

A Parish of the Orthodox Church in America
305 Main Road, Herkimer, New York, 13350 • 315-866-3272
Archpriest John Udics, Rector • e-mail: john.udics@gmail.com
Deacon Demetrios Richards • e-mail: dwr00nhr@twcny.rr.com
Parish Web Page: www.cnyorthodoxchurch.org

GLORY TO JESUS CHRIST! GLORY TO GOD FOR ALL THINGS!

November 8, 2015	23 rd Sunday after Pentecost	Divine Liturgy	9:30 am
November 14	Saturday	Great Vespers	4:00 pm
November 15	24 th Sunday after Pentecost	Divine Liturgy	9:30 am

BEGINNING OF NATIVITY FAST – (SAINT PHILLIP'S FAST) until December 24

Saints of the Day: Synaxis of the Archangel Michael and the other Bodiless Powers: the Archangels Gabriel, Raphael, Uriel, Salaphiel, Jegudiel, Barachiel, and Jeremiel. New Martyr Michael the Blessed of Chernigov (1922). New Hieromartyr Priest Paul (1937). Righteous Martha, Princess of Pskov (1300). Venerable Tyssilio, Abbot of Meifod (Powys) (7th c.). Saint Willihad, Bishop of Bremen. Saint Cadfan of Wales, Abbot. +6 c. Saint Ceitho of Wales +6 c. Saint Pabiali, Prince of Wales +6 c. Saint Dingad of Wales +6 c. Saint Cledwyn of Wales +6 c. Saint Gwythian of Cornwall +5 c.

Please remember in your prayers: Suffering Christians of Egypt, Syria, the Middle East and Ukraine. Bishop Boulos and Bishop Yohanna, of Aleppo. Archimandrites Athanasy, Nectarios, Luke, Pachomy. Archpriests Alvian, Eugene, Leonid, John, Jason, John, Vincent. Priests Jacobus, Leonid, Andrew. Deacons Mark, Demetrios, Philip. Mother Victoria. Mothers Raphaela, Michaela, Catherine, Anna. Sister Piama. Monk Victor, Matushka Joanna, Mary, Valentina, Dimitri, Nina, Daniel, Helen, Catherine, Anna, Peter, Helen, Michael, Stephanie, Zara, Nolan, Emelie, Michael, Ed, Nettie, Anita, Maria, Michael, John, Linda, James, Nancy, Susan, Daniel, Aaron, Nicole, Ashley, Mark, Jennifer, Nina, Nadine, Michael, Anna, Gregory, Marianna, Isaiah, Jamie, Albert, Kevin, Robert, Robert, Andrew, Betty, David, Warren.

God Grant Many Years! Prayers for the health of Archbishop MICHAEL were offered for his nameday at Liturgy and Moleben at the request of Father John Udics.

God Grant Many Years! Prayers for the health of all the Michaels, Michaelas, Gabriels, Seraphims, Raphaelas, Angelas, Jeremys and all who celebrate their nameday today, Gregory Wooderson, Pavlos Rigas and Peter Witiak Jr were offered at Liturgy and Moleben at the request of Father John Udics.

Memory Eternal. Prayers for the repose of Olga Prawlocki were offered today at Liturgy and Litiya at the request of Mitch and Jane Chlus.

Memory Eternal. Prayers for the repose of Mary Rinko were offered today at Liturgy and Litiya at the request of John and Jean Rinko.

Memory Eternal. Prayers for the repose of Archpriest Igor and Matushka Maria Tkachuk were offered today at Liturgy and Litiya at the request of Father John Udics.

Memory Eternal. Prayers for the repose of Michael Sokerka were offered today at Liturgy and Litiya at the request of the "Memory Eternal Requiem Service Fund."

FOR YOUR INFORMATION:

November 21 Saturday 11am there will be a BAKE SALE at church

For more information call Barbara at 867 7853. You can help make pierogi – please call Barbara.

THE HOLY ARCHANGEL MICHAEL AND ALL THE BODILESS POWERS OF HEAVEN

The angels of God were celebrated by men from earliest times but this celebration was often turned into the divinization of angels (II Kings 23:5). The heretics wove all sorts of fables concerning the angels. Some of them looked upon angels as gods; others, although they did not consider them gods, called them the creators of the whole visible world. The local Council of Laodicea (four or five years before the First Ecumenical Council) rejected the worship of angels as gods and established the proper veneration of angels in its Thirty-fifth Canon. In the fourth century, during the time of Sylvester, Pope of Rome, and Alexander, Patriarch of Alexandria, the present Feast of Archangel Michael and all the other heavenly powers was instituted for celebration in the month of November. Why precisely in November? Because November is the ninth month after March, and March is considered to be the month in which the world was created. Also, as the ninth month after March, November was chosen for the nine orders of angels who were created first. Saint Dionysius the Areopagite, a disciple of the Apostle Paul (who was taken up into the third heaven), described these nine orders of angels in his book, *On the Celestial Hierarchies*, as follows: six-winged Seraphim, many-eyed Cherubim, God-bearing Thrones, Dominions, Powers, Virtues, Principalities, Archangels, and Angels. The leader of all the angelic hosts is the Archangel Michael. When Satan, Lucifer, fell away from God and drew a part of the angels with him to destruction, then Michael stood up and cried out before the faithful angels: "Let us attend! Let us stand aright! Let us stand with fear!" and all of the faithful angelic heavenly hosts cried out: "Holy! Holy! Holy! Lord God of Sabaoth! Heaven and earth are full of Thy glory!" Concerning the Archangel Michael, see Joshua 5:13-15 and Jude 1:9. Among the angels there reign perfect oneness of mind, oneness of soul, and love. The lower orders

also show complete obedience to the higher orders, and all of them together to the holy will of God. Every nation has its guardian angel, as does every Christian. We must always remember that whatever we do, in open or in secret, we do in the presence of our guardian angel. On the day of the Dread Judgment, the multitude of the hosts of the holy angels of heaven will gather around the throne of Christ, and the deeds, words, and thoughts of every man will be revealed before all. May God have mercy on us and save us by the prayers of the Archangel Michael and all the bodiless heavenly powers. Amen.

REFLECTION

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?” Saint 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).

ANGELS. From the very beginning of man, we have heard about Angels. God placed a Cherubim with a flaming sword to guard the entrance to Paradise (Gen. 3:24); Jacob saw Angels in his vision (Gen. 23:12); and later, in Genesis 32:1-2, in Psalms (148:2 and 90:11) Prophet Isaiah saw Seraphim surrounding the Throne of God and Prophet Ezekiel saw Cherubim in his vision of the House of God.

The New Testament also contains many references to angelic beings.

"Zacharias saw him... I am Gabriel, that stands in the presence of God; I am sent to speak unto thee and to show thee glad tidings." Luke 1:11, 12 & 19

As far as is known, the Angels are divided into nine ranks. Angels, Archangels, Powers, Authorities, Principalities, Dominions, Thrones, Cherubim and Seraphim.

Apostle Paul, in his Epistle to the Colossians, writes, "By Him were all things created that are in Heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether, Thrones or Dominions, or Principalities or Powers" (Col. 1-16).

The high-ranking Angels' names are revealed in the Scriptures; seven are known to us. ...

Apostle John the Theologian, in the Apocalypse, states, "Grace be unto you and peace from Him, which is, and which was, and which is to come, and from the seven spirits which are before His Throne" (Apoc. 1.4).

As to the question of the number of angelic beings that exist, Prophet Daniel in his vision, tells us that "Thousand thousands ministered unto Him and ten thousand times ten thousand stood before Him" (Dan. 7.10), Saint Cyril of Jerusalem says that, in comparison with the number of men who had lived on earth from the time of Adam, the count of Angels was much, much greater.

Angels are the most perfect spirits. They surpass man by their spiritual powers: however, they also are created beings and bear in themselves the seal of limitations. Being without flesh, they can pass through vast space with extreme speed.

Within the Sacred Scriptures we read of Angels descending to earth. It is understood that Angels are immortal and that they cannot die (Luke 20.36). Their immortality is not divine immortality, like that of God; they have been created before our earth came into existence.

"When the stars were made, all my Angels praised Me with a loud voice", said the Lord to Job (Job 38.7).

Angels are active spirits with intelligence, knowledge and a will of their own - servants of God. The fulfillers of His providential will, they glorify God.

Angels do not appear to us exactly as they are, but as God wills them to appear. They appear in so many different forms as described by their beholders.

The Angels were ordained by God to be the most perfect reflection of His grandeur and glory. The Angels sing glory to God. Some stand before Him. Saint Gregory the Theologian, in Homily 6, writes that the Angels are appointed for the "governance of the elements and the heavens, the world and everything that is in it."

There are ... "fallen Angels" on the darker side. For when they split, the Bible tells us that they were divided into equal numbers. Those dark angelic beings and forces are without ceasing at work on mankind, attempting to confuse and to deceive man's belief in God and the Lord Jesus Christ. They are working on human weaknesses so as to corrupt and drag humanity to its lowest ebb.

from **Orthodox Dogmatic Theology**