SANCTI ARCHANGELI

The Holy Archangels

Angels are pure spirits created by God, personal and immortal, with intellect and will, who serve as His messengers (CCC 328–336). Of their countless ranks, Sacred Scripture gives the names of only three — Michael, Gabriel and Raphael — and these are the only angelic names the Church honors.

"Bless the Lord, all you his angels, mighty in strength, who do his word." — Psalm 103:20



Guido Reni, c. 1636 · Santa Maria della Concezione, Rome

St. Michael

Mi-ka-El · "Who is like God?"

FEAST September 29

SCRIPTURE Dan 10:13; 12:1 · Jude 9 · Rev 12:7–9

HIS MISSION

Prince of the heavenly host, who led the faithful angels and cast Satan and the rebel angels out of heaven. Defender of the Church and of souls in spiritual combat, he assists the dying and, as the old Requiem Mass prays, leads souls "into the holy light."

SYMBOLS

- **Sword & armor** — the battle against evil
- **Satan underfoot, chained** — the devil defeated (Rev 12)
- **Scales** — the weighing of souls at judgment

PATRON OF
the Universal Church, soldiers, police, and the dying



Vladimir Borovikovsky, 1804–1809

St. Gabriel

Gavri-El · "Strength of God"

FEAST March 24 (traditional calendar)

SCRIPTURE Dan 8:16; 9:21 · Luke 1:11–20; 1:26–38

HIS MISSION

God's herald of the Incarnation. He explained Daniel's visions of the coming Messiah, announced the birth of John the Baptist to Zechariah, and greeted the Virgin Mary at the Annunciation: "Hail, full of grace, the Lord is with thee."

SYMBOLS

- **Lily** — the purity of the Virgin Mary
- **Raised hand** — the greeting "Ave, gratia plena"
- **Trumpet & scroll** — herald of God's message

PATRON OF
messengers, diplomats, postal and telecommunications workers



Titian, c. 1512–1514 · Gallerie dell'Accademia, Venice

St. Raphael

Rapha-El · "God heals"

FEAST October 24 (traditional calendar)

SCRIPTURE Tobit 3:17; 5–12 · cf. John 5:4

HIS MISSION

Disguised as Azarias, he guided young Tobias on his journey, bound the demon Asmodeus to free Sarah for marriage, and healed old Tobit's blindness. "I am Raphael, one of the seven holy angels who stand before the Lord" (Tob 12:15).

SYMBOLS

- **Young Tobias & his dog** — guardian of journeys
- **Fish** — whose gall healed Tobit's eyes
- **Pilgrim's staff** — patron of travelers

PATRON OF
travelers, the sick, physicians, the blind, and happy meetings