

Monday The Holy Angels

Mondays we hold in especial reverence all of the Holy Angels. “Angels are spiritual creatures who glorify God without ceasing and who serve his saving plans for other creatures: ‘The angels work together for the benefit of us all.’” (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 350)

Angels are purely spiritual creatures and non-corporeal (meaning without body). They have both intellect and will, and they are personal and immortal creatures. “St. Augustine says: ‘Angel’ is the name of their office, not of their nature. If you seek the name of their nature, it is ‘spirit’; if you seek the name of their office, it is ‘angel’: from what they are, ‘spirit’, from what they do, ‘angel.’ With their whole beings the angels are servants and messengers of God. Because they ‘always behold the face of my Father who is in heaven’ they are the ‘mighty ones who do his word, hearkening to the voice of his word’.” (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 329)

Angels have been present since God spoke them and all of creation into existence and throughout the history. They announced salvation and serve to accomplish God’s divine plan. They spoke on God’s behalf and protected those God willed they protect. It was through the Archangel Gabriel that God announced His only-begotten Son.

In the old calendar (Extraordinary Form) there is also a Votive Mass of the Holy Angels, typically said on Tuesdays, though not restricted to only Tuesdays.



“Bless the Lord, all ye his angels: you that are mighty in strength, and execute his word, hearkening to the voice of his orders.” (Psalm 102:20)

Monday

The Holy Angels

WHAT ARE THE CHOIRS OF ANGELS?

There are nine Choirs of Angels, divided into three triads, or groups, each with specific concerns:

1st Triad: they concern themselves with contemplating and adoring God directly.

Seraphim – The 6-winged Seraphim who sing the Sanctus, “Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of Hosts” (Isaiah 6:3).

Cherubim – According to Genesis 3:24, Cherubim were placed before the gates of the Garden of Eden after Adam and Eve were cast out.

Thrones – They contemplate God’s power and justice.

2nd Triad: fulfill God’s plan in the universe; they are known as the “angels of creation” because they concern themselves with the ordering of the universe.

Dominations (or Dominions) – Their name invokes authority.

Virtues – They carry out the orders from dominations and govern heavenly bodies.

Powers – They fight against the evil one and his forces opposed to God’s plan.

3rd Triad: serve and interact with humanity; they concern themselves with the minute ordering of the universe and specific causes, including the welfare of people.

Principalities – They care for earthly domains, such as nations or cities

Archangels – There are seven Archangels (Tobit 12:15). We know the names of three of them from Scripture: Michael, whose name means “Who is like God;” Gabriel, whose name means “Strength of God;” and Raphael, whose name means “Medicine of God.”

Angels – All other angels fall into this category, including Guardian Angels. Each human being has a personal Guardian Angel just for them!

