



Synaxis of the Archangels Michael & Gabriel & the Bodiless Hosts
November 8/21

St. Michael Orthodox Church Patron Saint

The Holy Heavenly Bodiless Powers were created by God before the Material world. Before creating the visible world, He brought the angelic nature into being by His Word and perfected them in sanctity through His Holy Spirit. They are secondary lights who, by the Grace of the Holy Spirit, receive illumination from the primordial and

unoriginated Light and share in its everlastingness.

God has made Angels His servants and He sends them to watch over the world. An angel is a messenger according to the meaning of the Greek word. The Angels watch over peoples and nations. In the Revelation of St. John the Theologian, we read that each local Church is protected by its own Angel. At the side of each Christian, God has placed a Guardian Angel who constantly watches over us, without ceasing to be in the presence of God (Matt. 18:10 and Heb. 1:14).

God alone knows the quality and limitation of the angelic nature. “A stream fire issued and came forth before Him; a thousand thousand served Him and a thousand times ten thousand stood before him,” says the Prophet Daniel (Dan. 7:10). Church Tradition sets them in nine orders, divided into three triads. The Highest Triad includes the Seraphim, Cherubim and Thrones, the Middle Triad consists of the Dominions, Powers and Authorities. The Lowest Triad includes the Principalities, Archangels and Angels.

Over all the Nine Orders, the Lord appointed the Holy Archangel Michael (his name in Hebrew means “who is like unto God”), as Chief Commander. He cast down from Heaven the arrogantly proud Lucifer and the other fallen spirits when they rebelled against God, summoned the orders of Angels and cried out, “Let us attend.” He participated in many other events both in the Old Testament and in the New Testament.