



# My Father's House

## Retreat Center

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## Guardian Angels

They come as God's messengers of love.  
They come from realms of peace above.  
From homes of never fading light,  
From blissful mansions ever bright.

They come to watch around us here,  
To soothe our sorrow, calm our fear,  
Ye heavenly guides, speed not weary,  
God willeth you with us to stay.

But chiefly at its journey end,  
'Tis yours the spirit to befriend,  
And whisper to the willing heart,  
"O Christian soul, in peace depart."

To us the zeal of angels give,  
With love to serve thee while we live,  
To us an angel - guard supply,  
When on the bed of death we lie.

To God the Father, God the Son,  
And God the Spirit, three in One,  
From all above & all below,  
Let joyful peace unceasing flow.

Oct. 2, 1958 - Castle Gandolfo

Sermon by St. Bernard  
Pg. 1454

Fill you with respect - for the presence of angels  
Inspire devotion - because of their loving service  
Instill confidence - because of their PROTECTION.

They are here to serve and protect you.  
Four functions -

To Light	To Rule
To Guard	To Guide

To Light – they instill thoughts into our minds. They are messengers. They bear God’s message to us in a way we can receive it and follow it.

To Guard – they protect us – leading us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

To Rule – they are part of the Heavenly Kingdom with its one King. We are subjects to law as they are.

From without – they ward off dangerous intruders.

From within – they seek to govern our minds with God’s wonder and our hearts with His love.

To Guide – We are on troubled water. Like rudder they steer us – first this way and then that. Telling us where to go, where not to go, what to do, what not to do.

**Ps. 91:11-12, 10**

God has given His angels charge over you to protect you in all your ways. They shall lift you with their hands lest you stub your foot against a stone.

No evil shall harm you, no plague shall come near your tent.

They lead us to praise and worship

9 choirs

Cherubim

Seraphim

Dominions

Thrones

Powers

Virtues

Principalities

Archangels

Angels

Worship – Holy, holy, holy

Isaiah saw them

In the presence of the angels, I will sing to you my God.

Praise – worship – glory – anointing – with glory, honor, blessing 1456

Angels we have heard on high,  
Sweetly singing in reply,  
O’er the plains,  
and the mountains in reply,  
Echo back their joyous strains.

(Song “This is Holy Ground, We are Standing on Holy Ground”)

**Ex. 23:20-21**

See, I am sending an angel before you, to guard you on the way and bring you to the places I have prepared. Be attentive: to hear him and heed his advice.

# Angels Are Our Heavenly Protectors

Ss. Michael, Gabriel and Raphael are the three archangels mentioned in the Bible. Their feast day is celebrated on September 29th.

The name Michael comes from the Hebrew meaning "Who is like God?" St. Michael the Archangel is described by the Prophet Daniel as the leader who guards God's people and protects them from harm. He is called the head of the heavenly armies and is the patron of soldiers and policemen.

## St. Michael

St. Michael the Archangel, defend us in battle.

Be our protection against the wickedness and snares of the devil. May God, rebuke him, we humbly pray, and do you, O Prince of the Heavenly Hosts, by the power of God, cast into hell Satan and all the other evil spirits who prowl about the world, seeking the ruin of souls. Amen.

Gabriel means "God's Strength." The Archangel Gabriel appears in both the Old and new Testaments. He comes to the Prophet Daniel two times to explain a vision Daniel had of the Messiah. St. Gabriel tells the priest Zechariah that his wife Elizabeth will have a son and that his name is to be John. Six months later, we find the Archangel Gabriel greeting the Virgin Mary, "Hail, full of grace, the Lord is with you." In the Annunciation in the Gospel of Luke, we can find Gabriel's predictions that Mary, too, shall bear a son and that he should be named Jesus. Gabriel, majestic in appearance, is referred to as God's herald, the one who brings God's message to men. He is the patron of the communication arts.



## St. Gabriel

O God, who from among all your angels, chose the Archangel Gabriel to announce the mystery of the Incarnation, mercifully grant that we who solemnly remember him on earth, may feel the benefit of his patronage in heaven, who lives and reigns for ever and ever. Amen.

Raphael is derived from the Hebrew meaning "God has healed". He is mentioned in the Book of Tobit in the Bible. Tobit hired the young man Raphael to escort his son Tobiah on an adventurous trip. During the trip, Tobiah collected a debt, found his bride and a fortune, and Tobit's sight was restored. When Tobit tried to reward the young man, though to be the source of such good luck and healing, Raphael said, "I am Raphael, one of the seven holy angels who present the prayers of the saints and who enter into the presence of the glory of the holy one." Raphael is the patron of travelers.

## St. Raphael

O God, send the Archangel Raphael to our assistance.

May he who stands forever praising you at your throne, present our humble petitions to be blessed by you. Through Christ, Our Lord. Amen.

Angels are spiritual beings. They appear to us as figures of great beauty and power. Through them, God has shown His care and concern for His people. Today we can still call upon them for their protection.

On October 2nd, the Church honors the Guardian Angels who watch over us and keep us in their care. Let us give thanks for all these heavenly helpers.

## All the Angels

All you holy angels and archangels, thrones and dominations, principalities and powers, the virtues of heaven, cherubim and seraphim, praise the Lord forever. Amen.

## Exactly What is a Novena?

Novena is a term describing a series of prayers that are prayed over a period of time. Typically, the prayers for a novena are said for nine consecutive days. The word novena comes from the Latin *novenus*, which means a set of nine. Although, novenas do not have to last nine days, as some are said in three or five days, as well as once a week for nine weeks.

It is believed that novenas originated from the nine days Our Lady and the Apostles waited in the Upper Room between the Ascension of Jesus and the coming of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost. Those who were gathered there spent the time in prayer as they waited.

In addition to praying the prayer or prayers of the novena, the faithful are encouraged to attend daily Mass and Holy Communion, if possible. A novena can be made publicly in churches and chapels or in private by individuals. Usually it is made by invoking the intercession of a particular saint or made directly to God in the hopes of obtaining spiritual or temporal favors.

Nine day novenas are made to St. Jude as the patron of desperate or hopeless cases. St. Therese the Little Flower has proven over and over that she hears and helps those who appeal to her through a five-day novena. Countless people have even received evidence of her care and concern by receiving roses in one form or another while praying for her assistance.

Prayer is indeed powerful. However, we must always remember that, whether we ask for physical, emotional or spiritual healing, for guidance or for help in material matters, it be done to us according to God's will. The divine wisdom of the Lord knows what is best for us. We must always trust in His goodness.

Two traveling angels stopped to spend the night in the home of a wealthy family. The family was rude and refused to let the angels stay in the mansion's guest room. Instead, the angels were given a space in the cold basement. As they made their bed on the hard floor, the older angel saw a hole in the wall and repaired it. When the younger angel asked why, the older angel replied... Things aren't always what they seem.

The next night the pair came to rest at the house of a very poor, but very hospitable farmer and his wife. After sharing what little food they had, the couple let the angels sleep in their bed where they could have a good night's rest. When the sun came up the next morning, the angels found the farmer and his wife in tears. Their only cow, whose milk had been their sole income, lay dead in the field.

The younger angel was infuriated and asked the older angel "How could you have let this happen! The first man had everything, yet you helped him. The second family had little but was willing to share everything, and you let their cow die." "Things aren't always what they seem," the older angel replied.

"When we stayed in the basement of the mansion, I noticed there was gold stored in that hole in the wall. Since the owner was so obsessed with greed and unwilling to share his good fortune, I sealed the wall so he wouldn't find it. Then last night as we slept in the farmer's bed, the angel of death came for his wife. I told him to take the cow instead."

Things aren't always what they seem. Sometimes this is exactly what happens when things don't turn out the way we think they should. If you have faith in God, just trust that every outcome is always to your advantage. You might not realize it until much later.