

“Though War Be Waged Upon Me”

A Saint Michael  
Treasury of Prayer and Reflection



Carol Puschaver

**WAR BROKE OUT** in heaven;

Michael and his angels battled against the dragon. The dragon and its angels fought back, but they did not prevail and there was no longer any place for them in heaven. The huge dragon, the ancient serpent, who is called the Devil and Satan, who deceived the whole world, was thrown down to earth, and its angels were thrown down with it. . . .

Then the dragon became angry . . . and went off to wage war against . . . those who keep God's commandments and bear witness to Jesus.

Revelation 12.7-9, 17

Though War Be Waged  
Upon Me

A Saint Michael Treasury  
of Prayer and Reflection

Carol Puschaver

Copyright 2019 Carol Puschaver

Cover design by Patty Sinay

Published on the Feast of the Archangels, September 29, 2019

Unless otherwise indicated, all Scripture quotations are from the *Saint Joseph Edition of the New American Bible, Revised Edition* and all prayers are believed to be in the public domain.

ISBN 9781693220548

*I have observed Satan fall like lightning from  
the sky.*

*Luke 10 .18*



*Dedication*

*To the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus,  
with tender, grateful affection.*

*Though war be waged upon me, even then will I trust.  
Psalm 27.3*

## ACKNOWLEDGMENT

My heartfelt thanks to my sister, Elona Gortz, for her generous giving of self, as always, her invaluable attention to detail and wise direction.

Thanks to all who read the several drafts of this devotional booklet: Janet Jaffe, Fr. William Dolan, S.J., Anne Costa, Joanne Hettinger, Kathy Kreinheder and Mike Seagriff.

Thanks to Patty Sinay for her lively enthusiasm and artistic talent.

A most special and loving thanks to the Archangel, Saint Michael, peerless model of courage, grace and devotion.



## TABLE of CONTENTS

<b>Introduction</b>	9
<b>I Mikha-el!</b>	11
<b>II Defend Us in Battle</b>	15
<b>III The Saint Michael Chaplet</b>	19
Brief Description of the Chaplet	
Chaplet Diagram	
(A) Chaplet Prayers, including an Act of Contrition	
(B) History: Indulgences Granted by Blessed Pius IX	
<b>IV A Small Prayer Treasury</b>	27
For the For the Reign of The Sacred Heart	
An Act of Consecration to Saint Michael the Archangel	
An Act of Consecration to Saint Michael the Archangel – Most Noble Prince	
Novena Prayer to St. Michael the Archangel	
Prayer to St. Michael the Archangel, Abbreviated (Pope Leo XIII)	
Prayer to St. Michael the Archangel, Original (Pope Leo XIII)	
Prayer for the Protection of the Church and Her Members	
Holy, Holy, Holy	
St. Michael – Illustrious Leader	
Prayer to St. Michael – Intercede for Me	
St. Michael For Personal Protection	
St. Michael’s Prayer for Law Enforcement Officers	
Prayer for Help Against Spiritual Enemies	
O Jesu! Life-Spring of the Soul	
Litany of Saint Michael the Archangel	
<b>V An Archangel’s Beauty: Reflections on the Treasury of Western Christian Art</b>	41
Beyond Brush Stroke and Bas-Relief	
Appearance and Bearing	
Arrayed for Battle	

Arms and the Archangel	
Symbols and Signs of Office: Chains, Scales, Book of Life	
The Enemy	
The Most Fundamental Perspective	
<b>VI Ways to Love and Honor Saint Michael</b>	<b>53</b>
<b>VII Did you know . . . ?</b>	<b>59</b>
Concluding Prayer to the Archangels	
Works Cited	65
Works Consulted	66

## INTRODUCTION

... where sin increased, grace abounded all the more.

(*New American Standard Bible, Rom. 5.20*)

As I reflect on the words of St. Paul in the context of current events around the world, I earnestly believe that we are living in a time of extraordinary, if not indeed unprecedented, grace.

The near-constant and ubiquitous barrage of evil can be mind-numbing and paralyzing: nuclear weapons' brinksmanship, mass extinctions of untold species, resurgent nationalism coupled with seemingly irreconcilable ideological divides, the mounting, ominous frequency of "once-in-a-century" weather events, commonplace mass shootings, brazen terrorist attacks . . . and the list goes on.

Yet, *grace abounds*. Our Blessed Lord, Who triumphed over sin and death has promised to be with us always. At a time when humanity seems to have lost its moral bearing, when truth is whatever one chooses to make it in any given situation, and life can be as precarious as a random bullet or fit of road rage, it is all the more important to remember that Jesus is "*the Way, the Truth and the Life*" (*John 14.6*), now and for all eternity. Even as He would "*not leave [us] orphans*" (*John 14.8*), so neither will He leave us defenseless, especially in a time of such grave peril.

There is one in the company of heaven who formerly battled the evil one, and by the power of Almighty God, prevailed against him. By that same divine power and blessed providence, this heavenly warrior stands always at the ready to defend us in the fight against evil. He is the glorious Warrior Archangel, St. Michael.

And, oh yes, *grace abounds!*

*Th' infernal Serpent. . .*

*He trusted to have equall'd the most High,*

*. . . Him the Almighty Power*

*Hurl'd headlong flaming from th' Ethereal Sky . . .*

*Paradise Lost, Book 1*

# I

## ***MIKHA-EL!***



Yasothan, Thailand

St. Michael the Archangel, Defender of Divine Glory,  
pray for us.

*Litany of St. Michael*

## MIKHA-EL!

Dating back to the time of St. Augustine and the early Fathers, Church tradition has long maintained that God created the angels as spiritual beings in heaven, endowed them with free will and so imbued them with celestial light “that they might live in wisdom and happiness” (Bourke, 219).

Filled with wonder, beauty and goodness, an entire universe unfolded in response to the Creator's ineffable command, “*Let there be . . .*” (Gen. 1.3). An incomparably exquisite earth teeming with life came to be, a garden paradise – a man and woman made in the divine image and likeness (Cf. Gen. 1.27).

For reasons that may remain forever shrouded in profound mystery, amid all the glories of creation was one being who disdained and refused humble submission to his Creator, preferring instead “an arrogant joy in his own private sovereignty.” (Bourke, 222). Heretofore known as the angel Lucifer, the “Light bearer” in heaven, this was the one who became instead the Devil, the perfidious “*father of lies*” (John 8.44). Countless rebel angels swarmed to this primal fiend in defiance against God. And this first and most egregious of all lies spewed out by Satan would echo down through the ages:

*I will be like the Most High! (Isa. 14.14)*

This most incendiary *casus belli* was met with a castigating rebuke so powerful as to tear open the heavens:

“...war broke out in heaven; Michael and his angels battled against the dragon. The dragon and its angels fought back, but they did not prevail and there was no longer any place for them in heaven. The huge dragon, the ancient serpent, who is called the Devil and Satan, who deceived the whole world, was thrown down to earth, and its angels were thrown down with it...Then the dragon became angry . . . and went off to wage war against...those who keep God's commandments and bear witness to Jesus.” (Rev. 1.7-9, 17)

In the course of this first of all wars – fought between angel legions on the so improbable-seeming battlefield of heaven, God raised up an invincible champion: the redoubtable warrior, Saint Michael the Archangel, “whose very name, derived from the Hebrew, Mikha-el, is one with his [piercing] battle cry.” (Puschaver, *A Saint Michael Treasury*, 4)

## QUIS UT DEUS

\**Quis ut Deus* is the Latin equivalent of Michael and Mikha-el. Although the three words act together to ask the question – “Who is Like to God?” – the punctuation mark is omitted after the word “Deus,” in keeping with standard Latin usage.

## II

# “DEFEND US IN BATTLE!”



Vienna, Austria  
*(Michaelskirche)*

St. Michael the Archangel, Brave Defender of those who hope  
in God, pray for us.

*Litany of St. Michael*



## “DEFEND US IN BATTLE!”

“When Jesus named St. Peter as the ‘rock’ on which He would build His Church, He declared *‘the gates of hell shall not prevail against it’* (Matt. 16.18). These ‘gates’ will never vanquish the Church, and Satan’s ultimate defeat has been sealed already. Yet, even [the most] casual look at current events makes [it only too] clear that the Devil is not going down without a fight” (Puschaver, *Bulletin*). Could it be that the evil which seems only to intensify and grow exponentially more virulent day after day is in part the war that was foretold so long ago in the Book of Revelation?

Four times Sacred Scripture specifically mentions St. Michael by name (*Dan. 10.13, Dan. 12:1, Jude 1:9, Rev. 12:7*). Accordingly, the Church has long attributed to him a corresponding number of principal roles:

1. To fight against Satan,
2. To be the champion of God’s people,
3. To rescue the souls of the faithful from the power of the enemy, especially at the hour of death, and
4. To call away from earth and bring men’s souls to judgment (Holweck).

Throughout the centuries, the Warrior Archangel has remained active in his paramount role as the champion of humanity against the forces of evil. Such storied places as Monte Sant’Angelo in Apulia, Italy, Mont St. Michel off the Normandy coast of France, and San Miguel del Milagro in Tlaxcala, Mexico bear witness to his ongoing divine intervention on our behalf against our infernal enemy.

In view of the current state of our world, one particular account of St. Michael's power against the forces of evil seems almost uncannily relevant – even prescient – namely, the vision of the aged Pope Leo XIII in 1884.

“On one occasion while in the company of the cardinals after having celebrated Mass, the Holy Father collapsed, as if dead. He was unresponsive; he had *no pulse* (emphasis added). His face appeared ashen; frozen in abject terror. When at length he recovered, he told of the 'horrible picture [he had] been permitted to see,' that is, 'a vision of the activities of the evil spirits and their efforts against the Church. But in the midst of the horror, the Archangel Michael appeared and cast Satan and his legions into the abyss of hell.' Pope Leo's terrifying experience inspired him to compose immediately the Prayer to St. Michael, an abbreviated form of which has come to be recited around the world.

“What is one to make of Pope Leo's vision and his inspired prayerful response? That I leave to each one to discern as they think best. For myself, when I consider the tide of current events, reflect on human behavior and try to take the pulse of our feverish world, I am convinced that the forces of evil are actively at work with unprecedented furor. And with ever-increasing fervor and urgent tenacity, I am moved to pray with His Holiness, Pope Leo XIII” (Puschaver, *A Saint Michael Treasury*, 5):

*Saint Michael the Archangel, defend us in battle! Be our defense against the wickedness and snares of the devil. May God rebuke him we humbly pray, and do thou, O Prince of the Heavenly Host, by the power of God, cast into hell Satan and all the evil spirits prowling around the world, seeking the ruin of souls. Amen.*

At the Holy Father's direction, the prayer was promulgated and recited at the end of Mass throughout the Universal Church from 1886 until it was omitted from the liturgy in 1965 following the First and Second Vatican Councils (Cf. Donovan).

It is noteworthy and encouraging that bishops around the world, including a growing number in the United States, have, in the wake of recurring Church scandals, sought to have the prayer to Saint Michael reinstated and once more recited after Mass (Cf. Roberts, *National Catholic Register*).

**III**

**THE SAINT MICHAEL  
CHAPLET**



Berlin, Germany

*(Michaelskirche)*

St. Michael the Archangel, Powerful Intercessor of Christians,  
pray for us.

*Litany of St. Michael*

## THE SAINT MICHAEL CHAPLET

The Saint Michael Chaplet was revealed by the Archangel himself during an apparition in 1751 to the Servant of God, Antonia d'Astonac, a Portuguese Carmelite nun living in a convent in Vetralla, Italy. He promised special graces and favors to all who recite the Chaplet, “**particularly in such times as the Catholic Church should experience some special trial...**” (Forster) (Emphasis added).

*Those who pray the Chaplet before receiving Holy Communion will have an escort of nine angels, one from each of the nine Choirs of angels, and*

*Those who pray the Chaplet daily will enjoy the continual assistance of St. Michael and that of all the holy angels during this life, and*

*He, St. Michael, will obtain deliverance from purgatory for all who pray the Chaplet and for their relations. (Cf. Puschaver, *A Saint Michael Treasury*).*

### A BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE CHAPLET

The Saint Michael Chaplet is unique in several ways, most notably the nine segments with three beads each. The medal of St. Michael and the prayers included in the Chaplet also make it one of a kind.

Each of the nine segments corresponds to one of the nine choirs of angels and follows the customarily recognized hierarchy, starting with the Seraphim as the highest

ranking and the Angels as the lowest. Each segment starts with a salutary prayer addressed specifically to one of the choirs, and continues with one Our Father and three Hail Marys. Apart from the nine segments are four beads leading to the St. Michael medal. One Our Father is recited on each bead – one in honor of St. Michael, one for St. Gabriel, one for St. Raphael and the last in honor of the Guardian Angel of the person praying the Chaplet.

The Chaplet then finishes with a prayer to St. Michael, brief invocation and a concluding prayer to God.



### The Saint Michael Chaplet

+ In the Name of the Father, and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

**On the medal:** Oh God, come to mine assistance. Lord, make haste to help me.

### **Make an Act of Contrition:**

*O My God, I am sorry for my sins with all my heart. In choosing to do wrong, and failing to do good, I have sinned against You, Whom I should love above all things. I firmly intend, with your help, to do penance, to sin no more, and to avoid whatever might cause me to sin. Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ suffered and died for my sins. In His Name, my God, have mercy. Amen.*

**Glory be to the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.**

### **The Nine Salutations**

1. Through the intercession of St. Michael and the heavenly choir of SERAPHIM, may the Lord make us worthy to burn with the fire of perfect charity. Amen.

*Recite one Our Father and three Hail Marys.*

2. Through the intercession of St. Michael and the heavenly choir of CHERUBIM, may the Lord vouchsafe to grant us the grace to leave the ways of wickedness to run in the paths of Christian perfection. Amen.

*Recite one Our Father and three Hail Marys.*

3. Through the intercession of St. Michael and the heavenly choir of THRONES, may the Lord infuse into our hearts a true and sincere spirit of humility. Amen.

*Recite one Our Father and three Hail Marys.*

4. Through the intercession of St. Michael and the heavenly choir of DOMINIONS, may the Lord give us grace to govern our senses and subdue our unruly passions. Amen.

*Recite one Our Father and three Hail Marys.*

5. Through the intercession of St. Michael and the heavenly choir of POWERS, may the Lord vouchsafe to protect our souls against the snares and temptations of the devil. Amen.

*Recite one Our Father and three Hail Marys.*

6. Through the intercession of St. Michael and the heavenly choir of VIRTUES, may the Lord preserve us from evil and suffer us not to fall into temptation. Amen.

*Recite one Our Father and three Hail Marys.*

7. Through the intercession of St. Michael and the heavenly choir of PRINCIPALITIES, may God fill our souls with a true spirit of obedience. Amen.

*Recite one Our Father and three Hail Marys.*

8. Through the intercession of St. Michael and the heavenly choir of ARCHANGELS, may the Lord give us perseverance in faith and in all good works, in order that we gain the glory of paradise. Amen.

*Recite one Our Father and three Hail Marys.*

9. Through the intercession of St. Michael and the heavenly choir of ANGELS, may the Lord grant us to be protected by them in this mortal life and conducted hereafter to eternal glory. Amen.

*Recite one Our Father and three Hail Marys.*

**On the remaining four beads** closest to the St. Michael medal, recite one Our Father each in honor of the Archangels, Saints Michael, Gabriel, and Raphael, and your Guardian Angel.



O Glorious Prince St. Michael, chief and commander of the Heavenly Host, Guardian of souls, Vanquisher of rebel spirits, Servant in the house of the Divine King, and our most admirable Conductor, who shines with excellence and rare angelic virtue, vouchsafe to deliver us from all evil, who turn to you with confidence, and enable us by your gracious protection to serve God more and more faithfully every day. Amen.

V. Pray for us, O Glorious St. Michael, Prince of the Church of Jesus Christ.

R. That we may be made worthy of His promises.

### **Concluding Chaplet Prayer**

Almighty and Everlasting God, Who by a prodigy of goodness and a merciful desire for the salvation of all people, have appointed the most glorious Archangel Michael as Prince of Your Church, make us worthy, we implore You, to be delivered by his powerful protection from all our enemies, that none of them may harass us, especially at the hour of our death, but that we may be conducted by him into the august presence of Your Divine Majesty. This we beg through the infinite merits of Jesus Christ Our Lord. Amen.

END

We can gather some appreciation of the special importance the Church has attached to the St. Michael Chaplet, most notably in bygone years, when we study the Papal Indulgences that were granted. A compelling example comes from Blessed Pius IX whose pontificate spanned 32 years from 1846 to 1878:

I. An indulgence of seven years and seven quarantines every time the Chaplet is said.

II. An indulgence of 100 days daily to anyone who carries this Chaplet about him, or kisses the medal with the representation of the holy angels appended to the said Chaplet.

III. A plenary indulgence once a month to everyone who says daily this Chaplet, on any one day when, after Confession and Communion, he shall pray for the exaltation of our Holy Mother the Church and the safety of the Sovereign Pontiff.

IV. A plenary indulgence, with the conditions above [on the]:

1. The Feast of the Apparition of St. Michael, May 8,
2. The Dedication of St. Michael, September 29,
3. St. Gabriel the Archangel, March 18,
4. St. Raphael the Archangel, October 24, and
5. Holy Angel Guardians, October 2 (Forster).

# IV

## A SMALL PRAYER TREASURY



Paris, France

*(Fontaine Saint-Michel)*

St. Michael the Archangel, Angel of Peace, pray for us.

*Litany of St. Michael*

Unless otherwise indicated,  
all prayers are believed to be in the public domain.

## A SMALL PRAYER TREASURY

### FOR THE REIGN OF THE SACRED HEART

O Mary Immaculate, great Queen of Heaven and earth and our gentle advocate, deign, we implore you, to intercede for us. Ask God to send St. Michael and the holy Angels to ward off all the obstacles contrary to the Reign of the Sacred Heart in our souls, our families, our country, and the whole world.

And you, O holy Michael, Prince of the Heavenly Host, we humbly ask you from our hearts to come swiftly to our aid.

Defend us against the rage of Satan, and through the divine power bestowed upon you by our loving and merciful God, having secured the victory for the Church here below, guide our souls to our eternal home. Amen.

### AN ACT OF CONSECRATION TO SAINT MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL

St. Michael the Archangel, invincible prince of the angelic host and glorious protector of the Universal Church, I greet you and praise you for that splendor with which God has adorned you so richly. I thank God for the great graces He has bestowed upon you, especially those of remaining faithful when Lucifer and his followers rebelled, and of battling victoriously for the honor of God and the Divinity of the Son of Man, Jesus.

St. Michael, I consecrate to you my soul and body and my five senses especially. I choose you as my patron and protector, and entrust the salvation of my soul to your care. Be the guardian of my obligations as a child of God and of the Catholic Church, as I once more renew my baptismal promises to renounce Satan, and all his works, and all his empty promises.

Assist me by your powerful intercession in the fulfillment of these sacred promises, so that, imitating your zeal, courage and loyalty to God, and trusting in your kind help and protection, I may be victorious over the enemies of my soul, and be united with God in heaven forever. Amen.

**AN ACT OF CONSECRATION TO SAINT  
MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL  
MOST NOBLE PRINCE**

Oh most Noble Prince of the Angelic Hierarchies, valorous warrior of Almighty God, and zealous lover of His glory, terror of the rebellious angels, and love and delight of all the just ones, my beloved Archangel St. Michael, desiring to be numbered among thy devoted servants, I, today offer and consecrate myself to thee, and place myself, my family, and all I possess under thy most powerful protection.

I entreat thee not to look at how little, I, as thy servant have to offer, being only a wretched sinner, but to gaze, rather, with favorable eye at the heartfelt affection with which this offering is made, and remember that if from this day onward I am under thy patronage, thou must during all my life assist me, and procure for me the pardon of my many grievous offenses, and sins, the grace to love with all my heart my God, my dear Savior Jesus and my sweet Mother Mary, and obtain for me all the help necessary to arrive to my crown of glory.

Defend me always from my spiritual enemies, particularly in the last moments of my life. Come then, oh Glorious Prince and succor me in my last struggle, and with thy powerful weapon cast far from me into the infernal abysses that prevaricator and proud angel that one day thou prostrated in the celestial battle.

St. Michael, defend us in our daily battle so that we may not perish in the Last Judgment. Amen.

## NOVENA PRAYER TO SAINT MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL

St. Michael the Archangel, loyal champion of God and His people, we turn to you with confidence and seek your powerful intercession.

For the love of God, Who made you so glorious in grace and power, and for the love of the Mother of Jesus, the Queen of Angels, be pleased to hear our prayer.

You know the value of our souls in the eyes of God. May no stain of evil ever disfigure their beauty. Help us to conquer the evil spirits who tempt and threaten us.

We desire to imitate your loyalty to God and Holy Mother Church, and your great love for God and God's people.

And since you are God's messenger for the care of His people, we entrust to you these special intentions:

**(Mention specific intentions here)**

St. Michael, since you are, by the Will of the Creator, the powerful intercessor of Christians, we have confidence in your prayers. We earnestly trust that if it is God's holy Will, our petitions will be granted.

Pray for us, St. Michael, and also for those we love. Protect us in all dangers of body and soul. Help us in our daily needs. Through your powerful intercession, may we live a holy life, die a happy death and reach our heavenly home, where we may praise and love God with you and all the angels and saints forever. Amen.

Lord, hear and grant our special intentions for this novena. Amen.

**PRAYER TO ST. MICHAEL  
THE ARCHANGEL, ABBREVIATED  
(POPE LEO XIII)**

Saint Michael the Archangel, defend us in battle! Be our defense against the wickedness and snares of the devil. May God rebuke him we humbly pray, and do thou, O Prince of the Heavenly Host, by the power of God, cast into hell Satan and all the evil spirits prowling around the world, seeking the ruin of souls. Amen.

**PRAYER TO ST. MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL,  
ORIGINAL  
(POPE LEO XIII)**

O Glorious Archangel St. Michael, Prince of the Heavenly Host, be our defense in the terrible warfare which we carry on against principalities and powers, against the rulers of this world of darkness, and spirits of evil.

Come to the aid of man, whom God created immortal, made in His own image and likeness, and redeemed at a great price from the tyranny of the devil. Fight this day the battle of the Lord, together with the holy angels, as already thou hast fought the leader of the proud angels, Lucifer, and his apostate host, who were powerless to resist Thee, nor was there place for them any longer in

Behold, this primeval enemy and slayer of men has taken courage. Transformed into an angel of light, he wanders about with all the multitude of wicked spirits, invading the earth in order to blot out the name of God and of His Christ, to seize upon, slay and cast into eternal perdition souls destined for the crown of eternal glory.

This wicked dragon pours out, as a most impure flood, the venom of his malice on men; his depraved mind, corrupt heart, his spirit of lying, impiety, blasphemy, his pestilential breath of impurity and of every vice and iniquity. These most crafty enemies have filled and inebriated with gall and bitterness the Church, the Spouse of the Immaculate Lamb, and have laid impious hands on her most sacred possessions. In the Holy Place itself, where has been set up the See of the most holy Peter and the Chair of Truth for the light of the world, they have raised the throne of their abominable impiety, with the iniquitous design that **when the Pastor has been struck, the sheep may be scattered** (Emphasis added).

Arise then, O invincible Prince, bring help against the attacks of the lost spirits to the people of God, and give them the victory. They venerate Thee as their protector and patron; in Thee, Holy Church glories as her defense against the malicious power of hell; to Thee has God entrusted the souls of men to be established in heavenly beatitude. Oh, pray to the God of peace that He may put Satan under our feet, so far conquered that he may no longer be able to hold men in captivity and harm the Church. Offer our prayers in the sight of the Most High, so that they may quickly conciliate the mercies of the Lord; and beating down the dragon, the ancient serpent who is the devil and Satan, do Thou again make him captive in the abyss, that he may no longer seduce the nations. Amen. (Forster).



## **PRAYER FOR THE PROTECTION OF THE CHURCH AND HER MEMBERS**

O Glorious St. Michael, Guardian and Defender of the Church of Our Lord Jesus Christ, come to the assistance of the Church, against which the powers of hell are unchained. Guard with your special care Our Holy Father, the Pope, and our bishops, priests, all our religious and lay people, and especially children. Obtain for us all that the hour of triumph may speedily arrive. O glorious Archangel St. Michael, watch over us during life, defend us against the assaults of the demon, obtain for us a favorable judgment and the happiness of beholding God face to face for endless ages to come. Amen.

### **HOLY, HOLY, HOLY**

Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God of Host, the heavens and earth are full of Your glory.

St. Michael the Archangel, defend us in the battle that we may not perish in the dreadful judgment. Amen.

### **ST. MICHAEL - ILLUSTRIOUS LEADER**

St. Michael the Archangel, Illustrious Leader of the heavenly army, defend us in the battle against principalities and powers; against the rulers of the world of darkness and the spirit of wickedness. Amen.

## PRAYER TO ST. MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL – INTERCEDE FOR ME

St. Michael, intercede for me with God in all my necessities, especially (*mention special petition*). Obtain for me a favorable outcome in the matter I recommend to you. Mighty prince of the Heavenly Host, and victor over rebellious spirits, remember me for I am weak and sinful and also prone to pride and ambition. Be for me, I ask, my powerful aid in temptation and cruelty, and above all do not forsake me in my time of struggle with the powers of evil. Amen.

### ST. MICHAEL FOR PERSONAL PROTECTION

St. Michael the Archangel! Glorious Prince, Chief and Commander of the Heavenly Host; Guardian of our souls; Conqueror of the rebel angels! How beautiful you are, in your heaven-made armor. How we love you, dear Prince of Heaven!

We, your happy clients, yearn to enjoy your special protection. Obtain for us from God a share of your stalwart courage; pray that we may have a strong, abiding and tender love for Our Redeemer, and in every danger or temptation, be invincible against the enemy of our immortal souls. O Standard-bearer of our salvation! Please be with us in our last moments, and when our souls have quit this earthly exile, carry them safely to the Judgment Seat of Christ. There may Our Lord and Master be pleased to command that you bear us swiftly to the kingdom of eternal bliss. Teach us ever to repeat with you your sublime cry: “Who is like unto God!” Amen.

### ST. MICHAEL'S PRAYER FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS

St. Michael, heaven's glorious commissioner of police, who once so neatly and successfully cleared God's premises of all evil agents, look with kindly and professional eyes on your earthly force.

Give us cool heads, stout hearts and uncanny flair for investigation and wise judgment.

Make us the terror of burglars, the friend of children and all law-abiding citizens, kind to strangers, polite to bores, strict with lawbreakers and impervious to temptations.

You know, St. Michael, from your own experience with the devil, that the police officer's lot on earth is not always a happy or easy one, but your sense of duty that so pleased God, your hard knocks that so surprised the devil, and your angelic self-control give us inspiration.

And when we lay down our batons, [and finish our last patrols] enroll us in your heavenly force, where we will be as proud to guard the Throne of God as we have been to guard the city of all the people. Amen.

## PRAYER FOR HELP AGAINST SPIRITUAL ENEMIES

Glorious St. Michael, Prince of the Heavenly Host, who stands always ready to give assistance to the people of God; who fought with the dragon, the old serpent, and cast him out of heaven, and now valiantly defends the Church of God in order that the gates of hell may never prevail against her, I earnestly entreat you to assist me also, in any painful and dangerous conflict which I have to sustain against the same formidable foe. Be with me, O Mighty Prince! that I may courageously fight and wholly vanquish that proud spirit, whom, by the Divine Power you have so gloriously overthrown, and whom our powerful King, Jesus Christ, has, in our own nature, so completely overcome. Intercede for me and be my help, so that, having triumphed over the enemy of my salvation, I may with you and all the holy angels, praise the clemency of God Who in His sublime mercy has granted repentance and forgiveness to fallen humanity. Amen.

## O JESU! LIFE-SPRING OF THE SOUL

O Jesu! Life-spring of the soul!  
The Father's Pow'r, and Glory bright!  
Thee with the Angels we extol;  
From Thee they draw their life and light.

Thy thousand thousand host are spread,  
Embattled o'er the azure sky;  
But Michael bears thy standard dread,  
And lifts the mighty Cross on high.  
He in that Sign the rebel powers  
Did with their Dragon Prince expel:  
And hurl'd them from the Heaven's high towers,  
Down like a thunderbolt to hell.

Grant us with Michael still, O Lord,  
Against the Prince of Pride to fight;  
So may a crown be our reward,  
Before the Lamb's pure throne of light.

Now to the Father, and the Son,  
Who rose from death, all glory be;  
With Thee, O holy Comforter,  
Henceforth through all eternity.

[*Within the Octave of the Ascension*]  
Glory to Jesus, who returns  
In pomp triumphant to the sky,  
With Thee, O Father, and with Thee,  
O Holy Ghost, eternally.

Noah, [tosingistoprayer.wordpress.com](https://tosingistoprayer.wordpress.com/2017/04/27/), 4/27/2017.

Words: attr. Rabanus Maurus, ca 9th C.; tr. Fr. Edward Caswall, C.O., 1849.

Tune: "*Solemnis Haec Festivitas*," *Paris Gradual*, 1689.

LITANY IN HONOR OF  
SAINT MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL

V. Lord, have mercy.

R. Christ have mercy.

V. Christ hear us.

R. Christ graciously hear us.

V. God the Father of heaven,

R. Have mercy on us.

V. God the Son, Redeemer of the world,

R. Have mercy on us.

V. God the Holy Spirit,

R. Have mercy on us.

V. Holy Trinity, one God,

R. Have mercy on us.

Holy Mary, Queen of the Angels, *pray for us.*

*(Repeat after each invocation below).*

Saint Michael the Archangel,

Most glorious attendant of the Triune Divinity,

Standing at the right of the altar of incense,

Ambassador of Paradise,

Glorious Prince of the heavenly armies,

Leader of the Angelic host,

Standard-bearer of God's armies,

Defender of Divine glory,

First Defender of the Kingship of Christ,

Strength of God,

Invincible Prince and Warrior,  
Angel of Peace,  
Guide of Christ,  
Guardian of the Christian Faith,  
Champion of God's people,  
Guardian Angel of the Eucharist,  
Defender of the Church,  
Protector of the Sovereign Pontiff,  
Angel of Catholic apostolic work,  
Powerful Intercessor of Christians,  
Brave Defender of those who hope in God,  
Guardian of our souls and bodies,  
Healer of the sick,  
Help of those in their agony,  
Consoler of the souls in purgatory, *pray for us,*  
God's messenger for the souls of the just,  
Terror of evil spirits,  
Victorious in the battle against evil,  
Guardian and patron of the universal church,  
V. Lamb of God, You take away the sins of the world,  
R. *Spare us, O Lord.*  
V. Lamb of God, You take away the sins of the world,  
R. *Graciously hear us, O Lord.*  
V. Lamb of God, You take away the sins of the world,  
R. *Have mercy on us.*

**LET US PRAY:** Loving God, look mercifully upon us as we struggle against the evil afflicting our world. Be pleased to grant us, in this time of our so great need, the swift and sure protection of Your glorious Archangel Michael, the same Prince of the Heavenly Host, who, by Your power, cast into hell Satan and all evil spirits. We make our prayer in the Name of Your beloved Son, Jesus. Amen.

AN ARCHANGEL'S BEAUTY:  
INSIGHTS FROM THE TREASURY OF  
WESTERN CHRISTIAN ART

**Beyond Brushstroke and Bas-Relief**

*For it is the Lord, your God, who goes with you to fight  
...and gives you victory (Deut. 20.4).*

Formidable, mighty; resplendent with divine grace and beauty, St. Michael presents the defining image of a warrior who has no equal. Over the centuries, countless painters, sculptors, silver and goldsmiths – all manner of artists – have sought to portray the peerless Archangel. Inspired by Scripture and undoubtedly captivated by *the* apocalyptic struggle between good and evil, they have modeled him almost exclusively as a soldier, perhaps not unlike the Roman centurion Our Lord encountered in Capernaum (Cf. *Matt. 8.5*). They have also cast him as a medieval knight – when chivalry marked its finest hour.

If it were somehow possible to arrive at a composite image and true sense of St. Michael based on the vast treasury of Western Christian art, we might well call to mind the strapping young David who dispatched Goliath (Cf. *1 Sam. 17*). Moreover, as with David, we might discern in the Warrior Archangel a magnificent heroic figure, afire with that certain indomitable fighting spirit – and frankly – downright pluck:

*'Whenever a [wild beast] came to carry off a sheep from the flock, I would chase after it, attack it, and snatch the prey from its mouth. If it attacked me, I would seize it by the throat, strike it, and kill it' (1 Sam. 17. 34-35).*



*'I come against [the foe] in the Name of the Lord of Hosts . . . for the battle belongs to the Lord' (1 Sam. 17.45, 47).*

### **Appearance and Bearing**

*He was ruddy, a youth with beautiful eyes, and good looking (1 Sam. 16.12).*

To St. Michael belong the countenance and the bearing of a warrior unshakable in the extreme, make-or-break moment of battle. Beneath magnificently outstretched wings, the Archangel's laser-focused attention sharpens his searing gaze; fierce tenacity animates his whole being. Locked in one-on-one combat with the Arch Enemy he tramples firmly underfoot, he admits no trace of fear, hesitation or panic. Rather he *leans into the fight* and presses inexorably down to Hell the monstrous figure of Satan – Satan, who but so recently shone as Lucifer, the angelic “light-bearer” in heaven. St. Michael does not recoil, even as he sees revealed for the first time the “fiery furnace” (Matt.13.42) where the “worm shall not die . . . [and the] fire shall not be extinguished” (Isa. 66.24). So thorough is his commitment to the battle he wages for the love and honor of his God, he will allow nothing to deter him. He bends toward the fires of Hell and, “by the power of God,” casts thereunto the Prince of Darkness.

St. Michael's boundless love and devotion for God: *these* are the foundation; the source and summit of his surpassing, exquisite beauty. What an example for us all!

### **Arrayed for Battle**

*Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes (Eph. 6.11).*

From luminous unfurled wing to sandaled toe, St. Michael appears every inch the heavenly warrior, most often clad in the manner of a Roman officer for unsparing struggle. The centerpiece of his armor which naturally draws our attention is the breastplate he wears, a finely contoured cuirass, burnished and battle worthy. The shoulders feature epaulet “showers” of leather braids that fall protectively onto the uppermost part of the arm where it meets the shoulder. Below the cuirass is the Roman “skirt,” a wool tunic fastened at the waist with a belt and overlaid with multiple broad leather strips which extend vertically to the knees. Here the vertical lines give way – to a diagonal pattern of fine leather laces tied at intervals like a tapering diamond-shape lattice from knees to ankles. Finally, the “lattice” joins with a sandal-style boot – a providential combination of form and function which allows the Archangel to be supremely nimble and sure footed at the same time. His forearms are likely shielded by the fairly ubiquitous Roman *manica* (Wikipedia), a thick “sleeve” of overlapping metal plates. Only rarely it seems, do we see a helmet – and the style can vary widely.

### Arms and the Archangel

The gleaming two-edged sword. The fine-honed spear. The imposing shield marvelously emblazoned with his divine battle-cry:

## QUIS UT DEUS

Such are the few weapons St. Michael typically appears with in battle. They are basic; in a sense, simple. Yet, as David once showed with a humble slingshot and stone, in the hands of a divinely appointed warrior, they are more than equal to the battle – for “the battle belongs to the Lord.”

## The Sword

With an indomitable confidence borne of his deep, deep trust in God, St. Michael grips the sword mightily in his right hand. He is often portrayed holding the sword high above his desperately squirming enemy who finds himself helpless as he is thrust ever closer to the fires of Hell. Just as often, the divine warrior levels the sword down toward the Evil One, driving him to the same infernal prison. Regardless of his posture, the magnificent Archangel, knowing that the victory for his God is at hand, *holds back nothing*. And so we can imagine the din and fury of battle fading, yielding at length to a renewed calm and order and ethereal tranquility as “there was no longer any place for [evil]” (Cf. *Rev. 12.8*) in heaven. It was incontrovertible: St. Michael was not about to suffer evil to have *any* quarter in the City of God.

At times the sword point appears virtually engulfed in flames, as if St. Michael were wielding a terrible torch testifying to divine wrath. Many are the searing, vivid images that naturally come to mind in response, including those we find in Scripture:

*the fire that rained down on Sodom and Gomorrah,*  
(Cf. *Gen. 19.24*)

*“the fiery furnace [of hell] where there will be wailing and grinding of teeth,”* and  
(*Matt. 13.42*)

*the “burning pool of fire and sulfur,*  
*which is the second death”*  
(*Rev. 21.8*).

St. Michael's sword is virtually ubiquitous. In contrast, however, the scabbard is often conspicuous by its absence. When we consider that a warrior might retire the sword during a lull in the fighting, or more likely, when the battle is ended, we get the sense that St. Michael *never* calls a truce or leaves a battle unfinished. Rather, with exemplary fortitude, he presses on to the end – the precious grace of final perseverance.

One noteworthy exception, when the scabbard featured prominently, has been recorded as part of the Apparition account of St. Michael in Rome in 600 A.D:

*During a plague which greatly depopulated the city of Rome, Pope Saint Gregory I (Gregory the Great) ordered a penitential procession in which he himself carried a statue of the Blessed Virgin. As the procession reached the bridge across the Tiber, the singing of angels was heard. Suddenly Gregory saw an apparition of a gigantic archangel, Michael, descending upon the mausoleum of Emperor Hadrian. In his right hand, Michael held a sword, which he thrust into its scabbard. Gregory took the vision as an omen that the plague would stop, which it did, and so he renamed the mausoleum the Castel Sant' Angelo (Castle of the Holy Angel) in Michael's honor (Holweck).*

## The Spear

*Fall in, with helmets on; polish your spears . . .*

(Jer. 46. 3)

Whereas the sword is essentially omnipresent in St. Michael's hands, the spear tends to be less so. When it does appear as the sole weapon, he clutches the shaft mightily and holds the point steady against the Devil. His aim is true and sure. At times the Archangel is seen wielding both sword and spear in a complementary fashion, and not surprisingly, he is poised to use them together with equal dexterity.

We see in St. Michael a warrior determined to bring everything he can to bear against the Enemy. Supremely vigilant, and resolute, he takes nothing for granted. He is not about to yield any quarter as he presses home to divine victory. May his example inspire us to make the best use of every grace and blessing bestowed on us, so that, by the power of God, we too might overcome all evil.

### **The Shield**

*The Lord is my life's refuge, of whom should I be afraid?*  
(Ps. 27.1)

*[God's] faithfulness is a protecting shield.*  
(Ps. 91.4)

The shields borne by St. Michael into battle over the centuries have not wanted for variety. They have been rectangles, circles, ovals and triangles; diamond-, almond-, or kite-shaped. Too, as though made in a heavenly forge out of metal, wood, leather, or perhaps a composite alloy, they have been exquisitely ornate or remarkably plain. And yet, notwithstanding all these, the shield most precious by far to St. Michael, the one he clings to most tenaciously – since his life does indeed depend on it – is the faithfulness of his God. Without this, all else – breastplate, sword; spear – is nothing. All that truly matters is the grace of God, “*for nothing will be impossible for God*” (Luke 1.37). He knows of a certainty that his “*help is in the name of the Lord who made heaven and earth*” (Cf. Ps. 124.8).

## Signs and Symbols of Office: Chains, Scales, Book of Life

*Then I saw an angel come down from heaven, holding in his hand . . . a heavy chain.*

*(Rev. 20.1)*

*I saw the dead, the great and the lowly, standing before the throne, and scrolls were opened. Then another scroll was opened, the book of life. The dead were judged according to their deeds.*

*(Rev. 20.12)*

Scripture makes clear that St. Michael is – and frankly, has always been – a towering figure in the course of salvation history. By a prodigy of grace, the Warrior Archangel is inseparable from the overthrow of Satan and the judgment of souls. The Book of Revelation presents the astounding climax of the office assigned to him from eternity. Satan is bound and forever cast into the fiery pool, and the earth is “harvested” (Cf. *Rev. 20.14*). All the dead are gathered “before the throne . . . [and] judged according to their deeds” (*Rev. 20.12*).

The epochal events foretold in the Book of Revelation have long transfixed the popular consciousness and sparked creative genius. In the Middle Ages and Renaissance especially, scenes of apocalyptic drama abounded in seemingly every medium – from painting and sculpture to wood carving and literature: the Last Judgment Portal of Notre Dame de Paris, Dante's *Inferno*, Michelangelo's Last Judgment painting in the Sistine Chapel. Countless masterworks feature St. Michael and Satan, the chains, scales and Book of Life, larger-than-life angels and demons who contend for every soul; the elect and the reprobate. The images are thoroughly engrossing, fantastic, visceral and endlessly, endlessly thought-and-prayer provoking.

## The Enemy

*He was a murderer from the beginning . . . he is a liar and  
the father of lies  
(John 8. 44).*

*Even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light  
(2 Cor. 11.14).*

The antithesis of St. Michael with his tall and majestic figure is Satan who almost universally appears prostrate, writhing desperately beneath the Archangel's trampling foot, his grotesque face mere inches from the fires of Hell. There is nothing redeeming about him.

Biblical references to Satan, his lieutenants and their diabolical schemes abound, the first occurring just three chapters into the Book of Genesis! In this most portentous encounter between mankind and Satan, he appears as the "snake" who "tricked" Eve into eating of the Forbidden Tree (Cf. *Gen. 3.1, 13*). In the ensuing books of Scripture, Satan takes on many forms. The summation of all these is found in the Book of Revelation, and it is here we visualize the Arch Fiend most graphically, most true to form:

*. . . a huge red dragon, with seven heads and ten horns. .  
(Rev. 12.3)*

*. . . the huge dragon, the ancient serpent, who is called  
the Devil and Satan. . .  
(Rev. 12.9)*

Derived from these various allusions to Satan are untold images of St. Michael battling a dragon, serpent, or devil. At times, the enemy is shown as a hideous combination – part devil and part serpent, or a devil with dragon-like wings.

“The father of lies,” Satan is nothing if not a shapeshifter couched in deceit. He is the uncontested master of artifice, guile and forgery, and he comes at us relentlessly in myriad ways that often far exceed our ability to understand, fully recognize – or even imagine. Scripture cautions us to be always vigilant since our *“opponent the devil is prowling around like a roaring lion looking for [someone] to devour”* (1 Pet. 5.8).

And there is the blessed assurance of heavenly aid:

*Because you have the Lord for your refuge and have made the Most High your stronghold, no evil shall befall you . . . For he commands his angels . . . to guard you wherever you go. With their hands they shall support you, lest you strike your foot against a stone. You can tread upon the asp and the viper, trample the lion and the dragon* (Ps. 91.9-13).

*“He commands his angels. . . .”* We can be confident and take great consolation from knowing that Michael, the Prince of the Heavenly Host, stands at the vanguard of the angelic host, arrayed for battle.

### **The Most Fundamental Perspective**

*God looks down from the heavens . . .* (Ps. 53. 3)

Perspective is key to understanding and interpreting a work of art, be it statuary or stained glass; mosaic or music. Scenes of the Last Judgment, for example, underscore the importance of perspective. Our attention is drawn to the central figure of Christ in Majesty. Surrounding Him are angels bearing the instruments of His passion, recalling the salvation He won for us. We recognize His divine kingship and universal sovereignty as he looks down from His throne upon the drama unfolding among angels and demons – and souls. These last are weighed in the balance in the midst of a churning, crowded, even somewhat chaotic panorama. We rejoice to see the blessed join the company of angels and tremble as



the cursed recoil in the claws of devils.

St. Michael is indeed glorious among the Heavenly Host, and we do well to venerate him, ask his intercession and imitate his many virtues. Yet, we must never lose sight of the absolute dominion and sovereignty of the Triune God. It is God alone, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, that we adore. Together with St. Michael, we – and the whole of creation – cry out with one resounding voice:

***Christ Conquers! Christ Reigns!***  
***Christ Commands!***  
*Laudes Regiae*

# VI

## WAYS TO LOVE AND HONOR SAINT MICHAEL



Rome, Italy

*(Castel Sant'Angelo)*

St. Michael the Archangel, Ambassador of Paradise, pray for us.

*Litany of St. Michael*

## WAYS TO LOVE AND HONOR SAINT MICHAEL

### *Believe! And be mindful!*

St. Michael *exists!* Although (generally) invisible, he is fully alive and as real as the fragrance of pine, the glow of sunrise and sparkle of frost – the colossal strength of tungsten steel.

Unfortunately, many people today are skeptical about whether angels exist as anything more than Christmas ornaments and art fixtures. Moreover, they are largely oblivious to them, even as they are to the air they breathe. Angels live and breathe among us, exquisite spiritual beings who “*always look upon the face of [God]*” (Matt 18.10) and lovingly embrace their mission to guard us in all our ways (Cf. Psalm 91.11).

Imagine how hurtful this attitude must be! The holy angels are in our corner from now until eternity and they love us fiercely. So, try to grow in awareness of them, of St. Michael and your dear Guardian Angel especially. Think of them often, with a loving, grateful heart.

### *Be thankful!*

Far from abandoning us to the wiles of the devil, our loving God has raised up for us an invincible champion in St. Michael. By Divine Providence, the Warrior Archangel is singularly capable of defending us from the Evil One who threatens us from every side. St. Michael stands always at the ready, always alert for any evil. He has fought and vanquished Satan before; he knows his strategies and his ploys; he can anticipate and help us withstand any attack, any temptation. His unflinching vigilance calms fear; his stalwart courage inspires bravery even in the most dire circumstance – and his unshakable fidelity teaches trust in, and devotion to, God. How very blessed we are!

### *Ask his help!*

How wonderful it is when someone turns to you with complete confidence and asks your help! They know you are capable, they entrust their need to you, and they give you a chance to shine with your God-given talents!

Recite the Prayer to St. Michael often, and seek his intercession, especially in time of danger, trial and temptation.

Ask him for the gifts of spiritual, moral and civic courage.

Ask his help to know and discern right from wrong and act accordingly.

### *Keep him close by!*

Wear or keep with you a blessed St. Michael medal, carry a prayer card with the Prayer to St. Michael in your wallet, purse and/or backpack. Consider buying a small statue or print of the Warrior Archangel for your home (and be sure to have it blessed).

### *Honor his special prayer request!*

Pray the St. Michael Chaplet to honor the Warrior Archangel and all the heavenly choirs of angels.

### *Imitate him!*

The Warrior Archangel's virtues are too many to recount here, but with his help, we can try to imitate at least some, starting with his selfless wholehearted love for God, trust in God, obedience, faithfulness, humility, courage and holy daring, perseverance, spiritual leadership, going above and beyond....

*Let your love for him be alive in prayer, word and deed!*

Ask his protection for priests and the Holy Father especially; they are on the front line in the endless battle for souls.

Renew your baptismal promises often, and practice your faith by attending Mass whenever possible, praying the Rosary, making a good Confession.

Make a habit of reciting a small prayer or aspiration, for example:

*St. Michael, how I love you, Prince of the Heavenly Host!*

*St. Michael, please be my help now and especially at the hour of death.*

*St. Michael, I entrust all my cares to you.*

*St. Michael, please obtain for me a perfect love for God.*

*St. Michael, Guardian of the Eucharist, please obtain for me a deep reverence for Jesus in the Most Blessed Sacrament.*

Give good example in all you do, and radiate the truth always, especially for youth.

Invite him along with you and your Guardian Angel when performing spiritual and corporal works of mercy.

Encourage devotion to St. Michael in others.

*Mind your manners and be a polite pray-er!*

It is only fitting that a humble, reverent and devout soul add a sincere “please” and “thank you” to all prayers.

## VII

### DID YOU KNOW . . . ?



Romagna, Italy

St. Michael the Archangel, Guardian of the Eucharist,  
pray for us.

*Litany of St. Michael*

St. Francis of Assisi received the Stigmata on September 14, 1224 – the Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross – while observing a month-long fast in honor of St. Michael in anticipation of the Archangel's September 29th feast day (Catholicism.org).

St. Michael was one of three saints (together with Saints Catherine and Margaret) who appeared to St. Joan of Arc as she led the French forces against the English in France during the Hundred Years' War (1337-1453) (Holweck).

St. Michael contended with Satan for the body of Moses (Cf. *Jude 9*) who was then interred in such secrecy that “*to this day no one knows the place of his burial*” (*Deut. 34.6*).

St. Michael speaks four words in Scripture, namely a prayer contained in the Letter of St. Jude: “*May God rebuke you*” (*Jude 9*). Perhaps it is no coincidence that the wording of Pope Leo's Prayer to St. Michael is almost identical: “*May God rebuke him*”?

St. Francis de Sales, Bishop and Doctor of the Church in 17th century France, once wrote, “Veneration of St. Michael is the greatest remedy against despising the rights of God, against insubordination, skepticism and infidelity” (Holweck).

From milliners and haberdashers to military and law enforcement personnel, more than 21 professions revere St. Michael as their special patron (Holweck).

St. Michael and St. George, patron saint of England, are

often mistaken for each other, since they can both appear battling a dragon. Two ways to distinguish them: St. Michael almost never appears on horseback, and St. George does not have *wings*!

In the gripping *Purgatory* volume of his immortal *Divine Comedy*, the great Medieval Italian poet Dante distinctly hears the imprisoned souls “implor[ing] the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary, and immediately after . . . the name of 'Michael'” (*Vatican News*).

Featured in the *Testament of Abraham*, an “apocryphal writing of Jewish origin,” the Archangel Michael is “presented to the reader as God's commander-in-chief . . . one whose intervention is so powerful with God that at his word souls can be rescued even from Hell itself” (*One Hundred Saints . . . 1*).



## CONCLUDING PRAYER TO THE ARCHANGELS

**St. Michael the Archangel**, protect your people from all evil and misfortune and guide us by the power of God. Help us, Holy Michael, in our struggles and strengthen us that we might never fall prey to our enemies.

**St. Gabriel the Archangel**, announce anew the Good News of salvation and peace. You, who revealed God's will to Mary and Joseph, be my companion on life's journey and greet me at last when I am called into the presence of God.

**St. Raphael the Archangel**, healer of bodies and souls, extend your hand from heaven and by the power of the Most High, bring comfort and healing to me that I might work all the more to build the Kingdom of God.

Praise God, all you His angels and archangels now and forever. Amen. (*Father Joseph Veneroso, M.M.*)

## WORKS CITED

- Bourke, Vernon J.**, editor. *Saint Augustine: The City of God*. Abridged. Image Books, 1958.
- Catholicism.org>the-stigmata-of-saint-francis-of-assisi-1224.html
- Donovan, Colin B.**, STL. "Prayer to St. Michael." EWTN.com>expert>answers>st\_...
- Forster, David**, webmaster. "The Chaplet of St. Michael the Archangel." liturgialatina.org, 9/26/2016.
- Holweck, Frederick George**. "St. Michael the Archangel." en.wikisource.org/wiki/Catholic\_Encyclopedia\_(1913)/St.\_Michael\_the\_Archangel.
- Holy Bible: *New American Standard Bible*. The Lockman Foundation, 1995.
- Noah, tosingistoprayer twice.wordpress, 4/27/2017.
- One Hundred Saints: Their Lives and Likenesses* Drawn from Butler's "Lives of the Saints" and Great Works of Western Art. Little, Brown and Company, 1993.
- Puschaver, Carol**. *A Saint Michael Treasury*, self-published, 2017.
- \_\_\_\_\_. "St. Michael to the Front." Church bulletin for the Linked Catholic Communities, Immaculate Heart of Mary Church and St. Joseph the Worker Church. 9/30/2018.
- Roberts, Judy**. "US Bishops Seek Intercession of St. Michael." *National Catholic Register*, 9/29/2018.
- Saint Joseph Edition of the New American Bible: Revised Edition*. Catholic Book Publishing Co., 1986.

“St. Michael, Archangel.” Vatican News.  
vaticannews.va/en/saints/09/29/st--michael--  
archangel.html

Wikipedia: “Manica”

### WORKS CONSULTED

“Archangel Michael in Christian Art.”  
en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Archangel\_Michael\_in\_Christian\_a  
rt

*Catechism of the Catholic Church*. Random House, Inc.,  
1995.

“Feast of St. Michael the Archangel.”  
catholicsun.org/2018/09/29/feast-of-st-michael-the-  
archangel

Parente, Fr. Pascale. *The Angels in Catholic Teaching and  
Tradition*. TAN, 2013.

Reuters (/authors/reuters). “Pope Invokes Protection of St.  
Michael the Archangel.”  
nst.com.my/world/2018/10/419198/pope-invokes-  
protection-st-michael-archangel

St. Michael the Archangel. TAN, 2012. Originally  
published under the title “*Neath St.Michael's Shield*,”  
1962.

“Who's Who in the Last Judgment / The Best Artists.”  
Wordpress.com, 2/12/2009.

**ST. MICHAEL the ARCHANGEL**, defend us in battle! Be our defense against the wickedness and snares of the devil. May God rebuke him we humbly pray, and do thou, O Prince of the Heavenly Host, by the power of God, cast into hell Satan and all the evil spirits prowling around the world, seeking the ruin of souls. Amen.

Pope Leo XIII  
October 13, 1884

## **About the Author**

Carol Puschaver earned her Master's degree in English at Kent State University, Ohio, and lives in Upstate New York. A lifelong scholar, amateur historian and world traveler, she has a deep devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus and St. Michael the Archangel.

QUIS  
UT  
DEUS

Who is Like to God

Though war be waged upon me,  
even then will I trust.

*Cf. Psalm 27*

Make no mistake. Satan is very much alive – and hellbent on revenge. He is waging war against humanity, and indeed against all creation, with the reckless abandon of one who has nothing more to lose. Cast out of heaven; crushed at the foot of the Cross, he is multiplying evil and outrage and scandal to unprecedented effect as he “strikes at [the] heel” (Gen 3.15) of “fallen mankind” (St. Joseph Edition of the New American Bible, Revised Edition, 9).

Without question we are living in a time of increasingly brazen evil. That is to say, a time of extraordinary and abundant grace also. Christ has already won the final victory over Satan. By His grace, we stand strong against the forces of evil. By that same inflexible grace, we stand in the company of holy angels – most especially the glorious Warrior Archangel Michael.

And the high ground belongs to us.



REVIVE Hope and Healing Ministries Inc.  
[www.anne-costa.com](http://www.anne-costa.com)

ISBN

978-1693220548