

Saintly Notes

Archangels Michael, Gabriel, and Raphael and All the Bodiless Powers of Heaven (November 8)

The angels of God were celebrated by men from earliest times but this celebration was often turned into the divinization of angels (II Kings 23:5). The heretics wove all sorts of fables concerning the angels. Some of them looked upon angels as gods; others, although they did not consider them gods, called them the creators of the whole visible world.

The local Council of Laodicea (four or five years before the First Ecumenical Council) rejected the worship of angels as gods and established the proper veneration of angels in its Thirty-fifth Canon. In the fourth century, during the time of Sylvester, Pope of Rome, and Alexander, Patriarch of Alexandria, the present Feast of Archangel Michael and all the other heavenly powers was instituted for celebration in the month of November. Why precisely in November? Because November is the ninth month after March, and March is considered to be the month in which the world was created. Also, as the ninth month after March, November was chosen for the nine orders of angels who were created first. St. Dionysius the Areopagite, a disciple of the Apostle Paul (who was taken up into the third heaven), described these nine orders of angels in his book, *On the Celestial Hierarchies*, as follows: six-winged Seraphim, many-eyed Cherubim, God-bearing Thrones, Dominions, Powers, Virtues, Principalities, Archangels, and Angels.

The leader of all the angelic hosts is the Archangel Michael. When Satan, Lucifer, fell away from God and drew a part of the angels with him to destruction, then Michael stood up and cried out before the faithful angels: "Let us attend! Let us stand aright! Let us stand with fear!" and all of the faithful angelic heavenly hosts cried out: "Holy! Holy! Holy! Lord God of Sabaoth! Heaven and earth are full of Thy glory!" Concerning the Archangel Michael, see Joshua 5:13-15 and Jude 1:9.

Among the angels there reign perfect oneness of mind, oneness of soul, and love. The lower orders also show complete obedience to the higher orders, and all of them together to the holy will of God.

Every nation has its guardian angel, as does every Christian. We must always remember that whatever we do, in open or in secret, we do in the presence of our guardian angel. On the day of the Dread Judgment, the multitude of the hosts of the holy angels of heaven will gather around the throne of Christ, and the deeds, words, and thoughts of every man will be revealed before all. May God have mercy on us and save us by the prayers of the Archangel Michael and all the bodiless heavenly powers. Amen.

(*The Prologue from Ochrid*, Birmingham, 1985, Lazarica Press)

Synaxis of the Archangels Michael, Gabriel, & Raphael and All the Bodiless Powers of Heaven

November 8, 2009



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All Saints Orthodox Church, Raleigh NC
(www.allsaintsnc.org)
919-859-1332

The V. Rev. Nicholas R. A. Sorensen, Archpriest
The Rev. Philip Pelikan, Priest
The Rev. David Keim, Deacon

November 8, 2009

This Week's Schedule

Today: 8:00a Orthros; 9:00a Church School; 10:00a Divine Liturgy
Monday: Church Office Closed; 9:00a Baklawa Baking (Parish Hall and Kitchen)
Tuesday: 7:00p Parish Council Meeting (Parish Hall)
Wednesday: 9:00a Baklawa baking (Parish Hall and Kitchen)
Friday: 9:00a Baklawa baking (Parish Hall and Kitchen)
Saturday: 5:30p Great Vespers
Sunday: 8:00a Orthros; 9:00a Church School; 10:00a Divine Liturgy

Third Antiphon

Troparion of the Resurrection
Tone 5

Let us believers praise and worship the Word; coeternal with the Father and the Spirit, born of the Virgin for our salvation. For He took pleasure in ascending the Cross in the flesh to suffer death; and to raise the dead by His glorious Resurrection.

Entrance Hymn

Come, let us worship . . . Alleluia.

Troparion

for the Resurrection—Tone 5

See above.

Troparion

for the Archangels—Tone 7

O ye foremost of the heavenly hosts, we who are unworthy, beseech you that by your petitions ye encompass us with the shadow of your immaterial glory, preserving us who kneel and cry ceaselessly: Deliver us from oppressions, since ye art the princes of the ranks of dominions on high.

Troparion

of All Saints—Tone 4

As with fine porphyry and royal purple Thy Church has been adorned with Thy martyr's blood shed throughout all the world. She cries to Thee, O Christ God, send down Thy bounties on Thy people, grant peace to Thy habitation and great mercy to our souls.

Kontakion

for Entrance of the Theotokos
Tone 2

The all-pure temple of the Savior, the most precious bridal chamber and Virgin, the treasure-house of the glory of God, today enters the Temple of the Lord, bringing with her the grace which is in the divine Spirit: whom also the angels of God do celebrate in song; for she is the heavenly tabernacle.

The Trisagion

Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal . . .

Scripture

for today and next Sunday

Today: (See insert)

Next Sunday:

Epistle: Eph. 2:4–10

Gospel: Luke 10:25–37

Megalynarion—Tone 8

It is truly meet and right . . .

Communion Hymn

Tone 8

Praise the Lord . . . Alleluia.

Post-Communion Hymn

We have seen the true light . . .

Parish Notes

Altar Servers Today

Matthew Wynne, Del Dillard, Noah Keim, Micah Keim, Johannes Kibret, Nicholas Kliewer, Roger Jones.

Special Attention

- **Annual Meeting Date.** Our annual voters' meeting will be held on November 15th following the Divine Liturgy. Please all voters need to attend. Building updates will be presented as well as reports for the year. The 2010 budget will be

presented and voted on. Two new members of the Parish Council will be voted into office. The meeting will last no longer than one hour. We need all voters to be in attendance. Please read your annual report thoroughly so that we will be able to approve all reports with one vote after a short period of time that will be reserved for questions. Limited child care will be provided in the parish hall.

- **Ladies of All Saints.** Don't forget we will be baking Mon., Wed., and Fri. this week (9:00a–2:30p). Please, remember to bring your brown bag lunch and join in making this pastry. Hope to have a nice turn-out. Thank you, *Mary Elizabeth*
- **Special Ground Breaking Offering.** The special offering for the ground breaking last Sunday was almost \$2,200.00. This will be used to purchased the small domes on the east end of our new temple. May God bless all of you who gave so generously.
- **Weekday Worship Services This Week Are Cancelled.** All weekday services this week will be cancelled to allow workmen to install a new HVAC unit for our nave. Saturday and Sunday services will be served as usual. Activities in the Parish Hall will continue as scheduled.
- **Thank You for a Job Well Done.** The weekend with our Bishop and the Groundbreaking Activities were well planned and executed by our dedicated and very capable members. I was extremely proud of everyone and thank God for all of you. Bishop Antoun was especially pleased, and is looking forward to returning next year to bless our new temple and education wing. All Saints is indeed a loving, peaceful, and enthusiastic parish. *Fr. Nicholas*

Today's Epistle and Gospel Readings

Prokeimenon:

He makes His angels spirits, and His ministers flames of fire.

Bless the Lord, O my soul.

†Epistle: Heb. 2:2–10 (RSV)

Brethren, if the message declared by angels was valid and every transgression or disobedience received a just retribution, how shall we escape if we neglect such a great salvation? It was declared at first by the Lord, and it was attested to us by those who heard Him, while God also bore witness by signs and wonders and various miracles and by gifts of the Holy Spirit distributed according to His own Will. For it was not to angels that God subjected the world to come, of which we are speaking. It has been testified somewhere, "What is man that Thou art mindful of him, or the Son of man, that Thou carest for Him? Thou didst make Him for a little while lower than the angels; Thou hast crowned Him with glory and honor, putting everything in subjection under His feet." Now in putting everything in subjection to Him, He left nothing outside His control. As it is, we do not yet see everything in subjection to Him. But we see Jesus, Who for a little while was made lower than the angels, crowned with glory and honor because of the suffering of death, so that by the grace of God He might taste death for everyone. For it was fitting that He, for whom and by whom all things exist, in bringing many sons to glory, should make the Pioneer of their salvation perfect through suffering.

†Gospel: Luke 8:41–56 (RSV)

At that time, there came to Jesus a man named Jairus, who was a ruler of the synagogue; and falling at Jesus' feet he besought Him to come to his house, for he had an only daughter, about twelve

years of age, and she was dying. As Jesus went, the people pressed round Him. And a woman, who had had a flow of blood for twelve years, and had spent all her living upon physicians, and could not be healed by anyone, came up behind Him, and touched the fringe of His garment; and immediately her flow of blood ceased. And Jesus said, "Who was it that touched Me?" When all denied it, Peter said, "Master, the multitudes surround Thee and press upon Thee! And Thou sayest, 'Who touched Me?'" But Jesus said, "Someone touched Me; for I perceive that power has gone forth from Me." And when the woman saw that she was not hidden, she came trembling, and falling down before Him declared in the presence of all the people why she had touched Him, and how she had been immediately healed. And Jesus said to her, "Daughter, your faith has made you well; go in peace." While Jesus was still speaking, a man from the ruler's house came and said, "Your daughter is dead; do not trouble the Teacher any more." But Jesus on hearing this answered him, "Do not fear; only believe, and she shall be well." And when Jesus came to the house, He permitted no one to enter with Him, except Peter and James and John, and the father and mother of the child. And all were weeping and bewailing her; but Jesus said, "Do not weep; for she is not dead but sleeping." And they laughed at him, knowing that she was dead. But taking her by the hand Jesus called, saying, "Child, arise." And her spirit returned, and she got up at once; and Jesus directed that something should be given her to eat. And her parents were amazed; but He charged them to tell no one what had happened.

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A Word from Our Fathers

“In Christ-like love there is no false humility, no inferiority complex. It is holy, perfect. The Kingdom belongs to it. It is pure Light in which there is no darkness. It embraces all created beings in joy over their salvation. It is saddened by *anyone*'s downfall. The presence in our heart of Christ-like humility lifts the spirit into the sphere of Uncreated Light, where there is no death. It is felt as God living within us. The Scriptures declare that God is love. We might say that God is humility.”

(Archimandrite Sophrony, from His Life Is Mine)

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