

SAINT RAPHAEL



Saint Raphael is one of the four named Archangels in scripture (Tobit 3:17). The name means "Healing of God". Tradition holds that Raphael was given the task of restoring the earth after the downfall of Lucifer and his angels. The Archangel is shown hard at work, planting an angelica bush. Behind him are the potter kilns from Stoke-on-Trent, symbolizing the earth laid waste. Raphael carries an angelic staff and his other attribute, the wayfarer's bag. He is flanked by a Seraph and by Great Martyr George, subduing the dragon.

* (excerpted from: www.saintraphael.webhero.com)

PRAYER FOR HEALING

Glorious Archangel St. Raphael,
great prince of the heavenly court,
you are illustrious for your gifts of wisdom and grace.
You are a guide of those who journey by land or sea or air,
consoler of the afflicted, and refuge of sinners.

I beg you, assist me in all my needs
and in all the sufferings of this life,
as once you helped the young Tobias on his travels.

Because you are the "medicine of God"

I humbly pray you to heal the many infirmities
of my soul and the ills that afflict my body.

I especially ask of you the favor (**here mention your special intention**),

and the great grace of purity
to prepare me to be the temple of the Holy Spirit.

Amen

God, with great wisdom You direct the ministry of Angels and men.

Grant that those who always minister to You in heaven
may defend us during our life on earth. Amen

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Saint Raphael the Archangel

Feast Day: October 24



Saint Raphael the Archangel

by Bartolomé Esteban Murillo

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RAPHAEL

*Raphael means 'God's healing' or 'God the Healer'. The word 'angel' denotes a function rather than a nature. The holy spirits of heaven can only be called angels when they deliver some message. Those who deliver messages of lesser importance are called angels; and those who proclaim messages of supreme importance are called archangels. God created angels to perform various services for Him. One of those services was to watch over (or guard) human beings. Those angels are called 'guardians'. Belief is that each human is assigned to the protection of one guardian angel at all times but many angels may come to protect or guide one human as it is necessary.

ANGELS ARE PURE SPIRITS

Angels are not born therefore they never die. Contrary to popular belief people do not become angels when they die. People must become 'saints' in order to enter into heaven. Belief is that when a person dies and their soul is not worthy of entering heaven the soul is then cleansed in purgatory, something like one bathing and preparing his best before he is granted audience with the kind... in this case with the Lord God Almighty.

ST. RAPHAEL THE ARCHANGEL

St. Raphael is one of seven Archangels who stand before the Lord. According to the Old Testament St. Raphael was sent by God to aid, Tobit, Tobiah and Sarah. Tobit was blind and Sarah, Tobiah's betrothed, had already suffered the deaths of seven bridegrooms the night of their weddings (at the hands of a demon serial killer named Asmodeus). Disguised as a man named Azariah, Raphael accompanied Tobiah to Media and through difficulties and taught him how to safely enter marriage with Sarah (from: Tobias Chap. 5: 11).

BOOK OF ENOCH

According to the Book of Enoch (210:5-7) Raphael bound Azazel under a desert called Dudael *"And again the Lord said to Raphael: 'Bind Azazel hand and foot, and cast him into the darkness: and make an opening in the desert, which is in Dudael, and cast him therein. And place upon him rough and jagged rocks, and cover him with darkness, and let him abide there for ever and cover his face that he may not see light. And on the day of the great judgment he shall be cast into the fire."*

Through healing Tobit of blindness and the saving waters at Bethesda, Archangel Raphael's image as 'the healer' becomes evident. He is also patron of the blind, of happy meetings, of nurses, of physicians and of travelers.

THE ARCHANGELS MICHAEL, GABRIEL AND RAPHAEL

In John 5: 1-4, we read of a great multitude of sick, blind, lame, and of withered; waiting for the moving of the water. An angel of the Lord descends at certain times into the pond; and the water was moved. The unnamed angel is assumed to be Saint Raphael. The Archangel Saint Raphael along with Archangels Michael and Gabriel share the feast day of Sept. 29th.

According to the Book of Enoch (cf. xxi) the other angels named are Uriel, Raguel, Sariel, and Jerahmeel.

Raphael is said to be responsible for signaling the coming of Judgment Day by blowing a horn, thus sending out a "Blast of Truth".