

FACT SHEET
ST. MICHAEL, THE ARCHANGEL STAINED GLASS WINDOW

ST. MICHAEL CATHOLIC CHURCH, CALHAN, CO 80808



Glass Menagerie
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Saint Michael is an Archangel, a spiritual warrior in the battle of good versus evil. He is considered a champion of justice, a healer of the sick, and the guardian of the Church. In art, Saint Michael is depicted with a sword, a shield or scales, and is often shown vanquishing Satan in the form of a dragon.

Biblical and Historical Roots:

St. Michael's presence can be traced back to early Jewish writings, particularly in texts from the 3rd and 2nd centuries BCE. In these ancient texts, he is depicted as the chief among angels and archangels, responsible for guarding and caring for Israel.

Guardian Prince of Israel:

In Jewish tradition, St. Michael is often referred to as the guardian prince of Israel, a protector who stands ready to defend God's chosen people. He appears in the Book of Enoch as one of the seven archangels, alongside: Uriel, Raguel, Raphael, Sariel, Gabriel, and Remiel. These archangels are described as standing before the Glory of the Lord. (NB: The Catholic Church venerates seven archangels: in the Latin Christianity three are invoked by name (Michael, Gabriel, and Raphael) while the Eastern Catholic Churches name seven.)

Defender of the Faith

St. Michael's role as a defender of faith and a warrior against evil is most vividly portrayed in the

New Testament, particularly in the Book of Revelation (Revelation 12:7-12). Here, he engages in a cosmic battle against Satan, casting the adversary out of heaven and preventing him from accusing humanity before God. St. Michael's triumphant role in this battle marks a significant shift from the Old Testament to the New Testament.

The Epistle of Jude

In the Epistle of Jude (St. Paul's letter to Jude), St. Michael is cited as an example of righteous judgment and opposition to evil. He is contrasted with heretics, as he did not hesitate to rebuke Satan over the body of Moses, saying, "The Lord punish you!" This passage underscores St. Michael's unwavering commitment to God's divine justice.

In Our Catholic Tradition

Within our Roman Catholic tradition, St. Michael the Archangel holds a special place. He is often invoked as "Holy Michael, the Archangel" or "Saint Michael" in prayers and liturgies. While not formally canonized as a saint, he is revered as a celestial being with immense significance.

His Four Main Roles in Catholic Teaching

We recognize that St. Michael has four "offices" or roles:

- **Leader of the Army of God:** St. Michael is seen as the commander of heaven's forces, leading the angelic host in their battle against the powers of darkness. He serves as a model of spiritual warfare, reflecting the ongoing struggle between good and evil.
- **Angel of Death:** St. Michael is regarded as the angel of death, accompanying the souls of departed Christians to heaven. At the moment of death, he offers the souls an opportunity for redemption, thwarting the devil's attempts to claim them.
- **Weigher of Souls:** St. Michael is often depicted holding balanced scales, symbolizing his role in weighing souls during the Last Judgment. This signifies his involvement in God's divine judgment of humanity.
- **Guardian of the Church:** St. Michael serves as the guardian of the Church and the Chosen People. Throughout history, he has been revered by military orders of knights.

Prayers and Devotions

Catholics frequently turn to St. Michael for protection and guidance. The "Prayer to Saint Michael" (a truncated version of an original and lengthier general exorcism prayer from Pope Leo XIII, specifically implores his defense against the forces of darkness.

St. Michael the Archangel plays a crucial role in our Roman Catholic tradition as a defender of faith, protector of souls, and a symbol of divine justice. His presence and intercession are sought after in times of spiritual warfare and challenges, making him a revered figure in Catholic devotion and liturgy.

Feast Day: September 29