

THE CHAPLET OF SAINT MICHAEL



Francesco Botticini, The Assumption of the Virgin, 1475-1476, National Gallery, London.

This is an illustration of the three hierarchies and nine orders of angels, distinguishing each order with different characteristics. The painting also centers around the assumptions of Mary's body.

Saint Michael, appearing one day to Antonia d'Astonac, a most devout Servant of God, told her that he wished to be honored by nine salutations corresponding to the nine Choirs of Angels, which should consist of one Our Father and three Hail Marys in honor of each of the Angelic Choirs.

PROMISES OF SAINT MICHAEL

Whoever would practice this devotion in his honor would have, when approaching the Holy Table, an escort of nine angels chosen from each of the Choirs. In addition, for the daily recital of these nine salutations, he promised his continual assistance and that of all the holy angels during life, and after death deliverance from Purgatory for themselves and all their relations.

HOW TO SAY THIS CHAPLET

The chaplet begins with the invocation on the medal. Then say one Our Father and three Hail Marys after each of the nine salutations in honor of the nine Choir of Angels as follows:

(How to say the Our Father and Hail Mary is located on the last page of this document.)

INVOCATION ON THE MEDAL

O God, come to my assistance! O Lord, make haste to help me! Glory be to the Father, the Son, and Holy Spirit. As it was in the beginning is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen



FIRST SALUTATION

By the intercession of St. Michael and the heavenly Choir of Seraphim, may it please God to make us worthy to receive into our hearts the fire of his perfect charity. Amen.

(say one Our Father and three Hail Marys)

Giotto di Bondone, Stigmatization of St Francis, 1295-1300, Louvre, Paris.

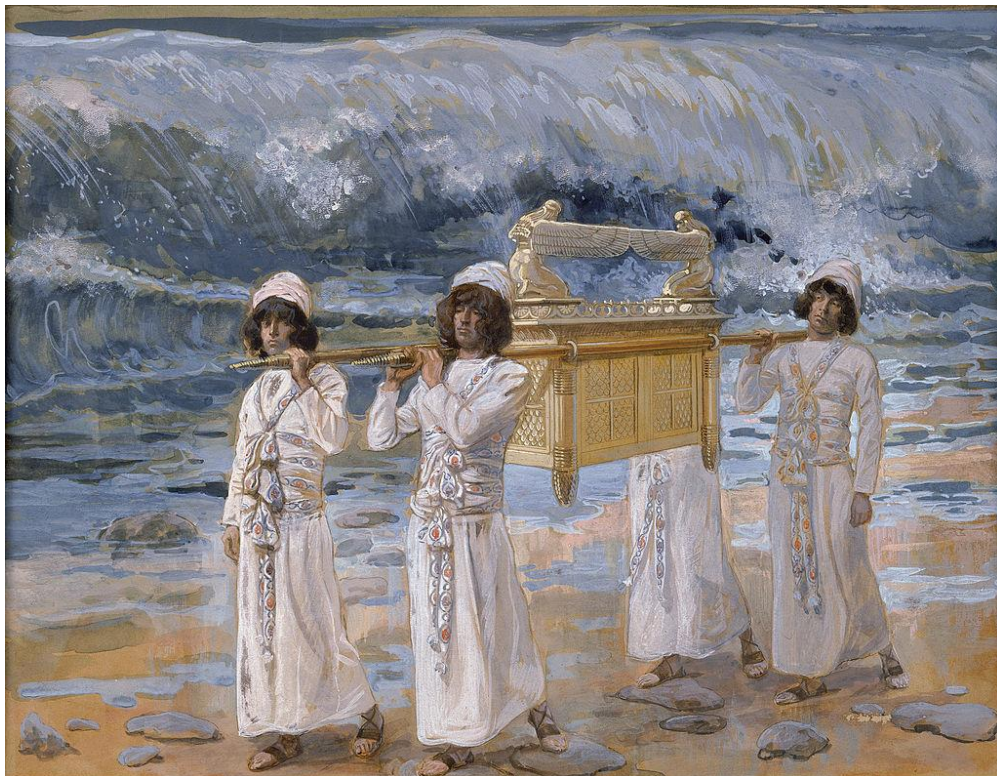
This is an illustration of Saint Francis receiving the stigmata during his prayer on Mount Averno from a flying Christ who appears to Him as a seraph. The Christ like seraphim's wounds emit light rays which strike Francis' body marking the stigmata.

Seraphim mentioned in the bible: "In the year of King Uzziah's death I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, lofty and exalted, with the train of His robe filling the temple. Above him were seraphim, each with six wings: With two wings they covered their faces, with two they covered their feet, and with two they were flying. And one called out to another and said, "Holy, Holy, Holy, is the LORD of hosts, the whole earth is full of His glory." Isaiah 6:1-3

SECOND SALUTATION

By the intercession of St. Michael and the heavenly Choir of Cherubim, may God in his good pleasure, grant us grace to abandon the ways of sin, and follow the path of Christian perfection. Amen.

(say one Our Father and three Hail Marys)



James Jacques Joseph Tissot, The Ark Passes Over the Jordan, 1896-1902, The Jewish Museum, New York.

This image illustrates the Ark of the Covenant which is adorned with Cherubim. Chapter 3 of The Book of Joshua, describes the Jordan River parting similarly to the parting of the Red Sea for the Israelites to cross over. Priests carried the Ark of the Covenant which contained The Ten Commandments, Aaron's rod, and a pot of manna.

Cherubim mentioned in the bible: "Each of the cherubim had four faces: One face was that of a cherub, the second the face of a human being, the third the face of a lion, and the fourth the face of an eagle." Ezekiel 10:14



THIRD SALUTATION

By the intercession of St. Michael and the sacred Choir of Thrones, may it please God to infuse into our hearts the spirit of true and sincere humility. Amen.

(say one Our Father and three Hail Marys)

The Vision of the Prophet Ezekiel on the River Chebar, early 16th century Russian icon

Ophanim is the Hebrew word for wheels and is used to describe “Thrones” in the context of Christian angelology. Galgalim and Gilgul are also Hebrew words meaning “wheel” used on Tree of Life (Kabbalah) to explain reincarnation. Traditionally, Thrones are said to be the placement of God; about where God physically sits in the universe.

Ezekiel’s Vision -- Ezekiel 1:15-20

“As I looked at the living creatures, I saw a wheel on the ground beside each creature with its four faces. This was the appearance and structure of the wheels: They sparkled like topaz, and all four appeared alike. Each appeared to be made like a wheel intersecting a wheel. As they moved, they would go in any one of the four directions the creatures faced; the wheels did not change direction as the creatures went. Their rims were high and awesome, and all four rims were full of eyes all around. When the living creatures moved, the wheels beside them moved; and when the living creatures rose from the ground, the wheels also rose. Wherever the spirit would go, they would go, and the wheels would rise along with them, because the spirit of the living creatures was in the wheels.”

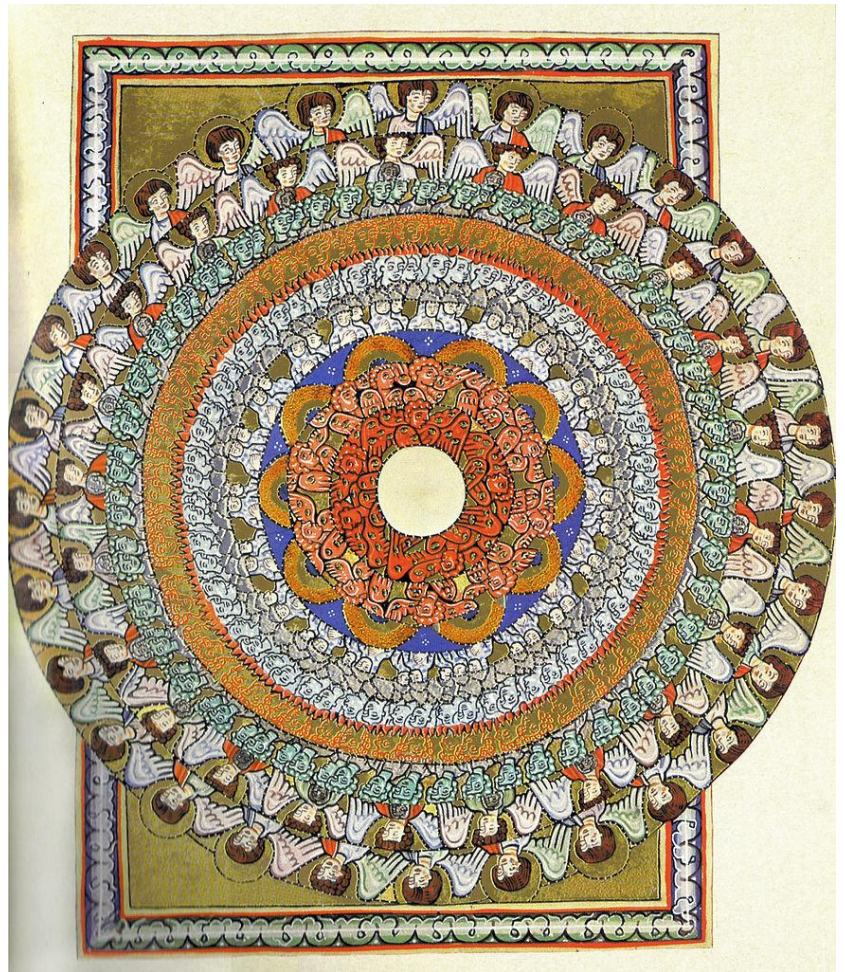
These “wheels” are also found mentioned in Daniel 7:9

“As I looked, thrones were set in place, and the Ancient of Days took his seat. His clothing was as white as snow; the hair of his head was white like wool. His throne was flaming with fire, and its wheels were all ablaze.”

FOURTH SALUTATION

By the intercession of St. Michael and the heavenly Choir of the Dominations, may it please God to grant us grace to have dominion over our senses, and to correct our depraved passions. Amen.

(say one Our Father and three Hail Marys)



Hildegard of Bingen, Vision of Angelic Hierarchy, Scivias

Vision 6:7, Hildegard of Bingen writes, "Those in the fourth army had the faces of people and the feet of people. They had helmets on their heads, and they were clothed with tunics that were the same as those with the white marble. These are the dominations. They show that kind of lord of all things lifted from earth to heaven the rationality of humans which had lain polluted in human dust, when God sent the Word to earth to trample the ancient seducer under foot with righteousness. The faithful on earth should imitate the one who is head of them by placing their hope in heavenly things and by strengthening themselves with a strong desire to do good works."

Not placing desires on Earth is also mentioned in the gospel of Matthew: "Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal." (Matthew 6:18-20)

FIFTH SALUTATION

By the intercession of St. Michael and the heavenly Choir of the Powers, may God vouchsafe to keep our souls from the wiles and temptations of the devil. Amen.

(say one Our Father and three Hail Marys)



Potestates, attributed to Andrea Tafi and Apollonio, and Fra Jacopo. Baptistry of San Giovanni.

Photo Sailko

Potestates, Powers, or Authorities:

The primary duty of the "Powers" is to supervise the movements of the heavenly bodies to ensure that the cosmos remains in order. Being warrior angels, they also oppose evil spirits, especially those that make use of the matter in the universe, and often cast evil spirits to detention places. These angels are usually represented as soldiers wearing full armor and helmet, and having defensive and offensive weapons such as shields and spears or chains respectively.

The Powers are the bearers of conscience and the keepers of history. They are also the warrior angels created to be completely loyal to God. Some believe that no Power has ever fallen from grace, but another theory states that Satan was the Chief of the Powers before he fell. Their duty is to oversee the distribution of power among mankind, hence their name.

(https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Christian_angelology)

SIXTH SALUTATION

By the intercession of St. Michael and the admirable heavenly Choir of the Virtues, may it please God to keep us from falling into temptation, and may He deliver us from evil. Amen.

(say one Our Father and three Hail Marys)



Virtues, attributed to Andrea Tafi and Apollonio, and Fra Jacopo. Baptistry of San Giovanni.

Photo Marie-Lan Nguyen

Acts 27:23-25, St. Paul tells the men on his ship: "Last night an angel of the God to whom I belong and whom I serve stood beside me and said, 'Do not be afraid, Paul. You must stand trial before Caesar; and God has graciously given you the lives of all who sail with you.' So, keep up your courage, men, for I have faith in God that it will happen just as he told me."

The Virtues angels are those through which signs and miracles are made in the world. Virtue angels encourage people to strengthen their faith by trusting God in deeper ways. Virtues try to inspire people in ways that help them grow in holiness.

The main method virtues use to do so is by sending positive thoughts of peace and hope into people's minds. When people are awake, they may perceive such encouraging messages especially during times of stress. When people are asleep, they may receive encouragement from virtue angels in their dreams. (<https://www.thoughtco.com/what-are-virtue-angels-123922>)

SEVENTH SALUTATION

By the intercession of St. Michael and the heavenly Choir of Principalities, may it please God to fill our souls with the spirit of true and sincere obedience. Amen.

(say one Our Father and three Hail Marys)

Seated Angels with Orbs by Guariento tempera on panel Padova Musei Civici Eremitani.



The "Principalities" are the angels that guide and protect nations, or groups of peoples, and institutions such as the Church. The Principalities preside over the bands of angels and charge them with fulfilling the divine ministry. There are some who administer and some who assist.

The Principalities are shown wearing a crown and carrying a sceptre. Their duty also is said to be to carry out the orders given to them by the upper sphere angels and bequeath blessings to the material world. Their task is to oversee groups of people. They are the educators and guardians of the realm of earth. Like beings related to the world of the germinal ideas, they are said to inspire living things to many things such as art or science.

Paul used the term rule and authority in Ephesians 1:21, and rulers and authorities in Ephesians 3:10. (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Christian_angelology)



EIGHTH SALUTATION

By the intercession of St. Michael and the heavenly Choir of Archangels, may it please God to grant us the gift of perseverance in the faith, and in all good works, that we may be thereby enabled to attain the glory of paradise. Amen.

(say one Our Father and three Hail Marys)

Angelic Council, Orthodox icon of the seven archangels

Michael in the Hebrew language means "Who is like God?" or "Who is equal to God?" Michael has been depicted from earliest Christian times as a commander, who holds in his right hand a spear with which he attacks Lucifer/Satan, and in his left hand a green palm branch. At the top of the spear there is a linen ribbon with a red cross. The Archangel Michael is especially considered to be the Guardian of the Orthodox Faith and a fighter against heresies.

Gabriel means "God is my strength" or "Might of God." He is the herald of the mysteries of God, especially the Incarnation of God and all other mysteries related to it. He is depicted as follows: In his right hand, he holds a lantern with a lighted taper inside, and in his left hand, a mirror of green jasper. The mirror signifies the wisdom of God as a hidden mystery.

Raphael means "It is God who heals" or "God Heals" (Tobit 3:17, 12:15). Raphael is depicted leading Tobit (who is carrying a fish caught in the Tigris) with his right hand, and holding a physician's alabaster jar in his left hand.

Uriel means "God is my light," or "Light of God" (II Esdras 4:1, 5:20). He is depicted holding a sword against the Persians in his right hand, and a flame in his left.

Sealtiel means "Intercessor of God." He is depicted with his face and eyes lowered, holding his hands on his bosom in prayer.

Jegudiel means "Glorifier of God." He is depicted bearing a golden wreath in his right hand and a triple-thonged whip in his left hand.

Barachiel means "Blessed by God." He is depicted holding a white rose in his hand against his breast.

Jerahmeel means "God's exaltation." He is venerated as an inspirer and awakener of exalted thoughts that raise a person toward God (II Esdras 4:36). As an *eighth*, he is sometimes included as archangel. (<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Archangel>)



The angelic choirs circling the abode of God, from Dante's Paradiso, illustrated by Gustave Doré.

NINTH SALUTATION

By the intercession of St. Michael and the heavenly Choir of all the Angels, may God vouchsafe to grant us their guardianship through this mortal life, and after death a happy entrance into the everlasting glory of heaven. Amen

(say one Our Father and three Hail Marys)



Three Archangels. 1st half of the 17th c. Georgios Kortezas. The Antivouniotissa museum, Corfu, Greece.

Say an Our Father on each of the four large concluding beads:

The first one in honor of [St. Michael](#),

The second in honor of [St. Gabriel](#),

The third in honor of [St. Raphael](#),

The fourth in honor of our own [Guardian Angel](#).

(A description of the guardian angels is provided on the next page.)

Guardian Angels

On Friday, October 2, 2015, Pope Francis gave a homily regarding listening to our guardian angel.

Here is part of the message:

Pope Francis says God has given everybody a Guardian Angel to accompany us and offer advice and protection, an Angel to whom we should listen with meekness and respect.

The Pope's homily reflected on this divine presence in our lives, describing the Angel as God's ambassador who accompanies each one of us. He noted how the proof of this was illustrated when God chased Adam out of Paradise: He didn't leave Adam on his own or say to him: "fend for yourself as best as you can." The Pope stressed that every person has been given a Guardian Angel by God who stays by our side.

"He is always with us! And this is a reality. It's like having God's ambassador with us. And the Lord advises us: 'Respect his presence!' And when we, for example, commit a sin and believe that we're on our own: No, he is there. Show respect for his presence. Listen to his voice because he gives us advice. When we hear that inspiration: 'But do this ... this is better ... we should not do that.' Listen! Do not go against him."

Pope Francis explained how the Guardian Angel always protects us, especially from evil. Sometimes, he noted, "we believe that we can hide so many things," "bad things" that in the end will always come to light. The Angel, he continued, is there to advise us and "cover for us" just a friend would do. "A friend who we don't see but we hear." "A friend who one day will be with us in the everlasting joy of Heaven." (From Vatican Radio:

http://en.radiovaticana.va/news/2015/10/02/pope_francis_respect_and_listen_to_your_guardian_angel/1176291)

Guardian angel, German postcard, 1900



End this Chaplet with the following Anthem and prayer.

ANTHEM

Michael, glorious prince, chief and champion of the heavenly Host, guardian of the souls of men, conqueror of the rebel angels, steward of the palace of God under Jesus Christ, our worthy leader, endowed with superhuman excellence and virtues: vouchsafe to free us all from every ill, who with full confidence have recourse to thee; and by thy incomparable protection enable us to make progress every day in the faithful service of our God. V. Pray for us, most blessed Michael, Prince of the Church of Jesus Christ. R. That we may be made worthy of his promises.

PRAYER

Almighty and Eternal God, who is thine own marvelous goodness and pity didst, for the common salvation of man, choose the glorious Archangel Michael to be the prince of the Church: make us worthy, we pray Thee, to be delivered by his beneficent protection from all our enemies, that, at the hour of our death, none of them may approach to harm us; rather do Thou vouchsafe unto us that by the same Archangel Michael, we may be introduced into the presence of thy most high and divine majesty. Through the merits of the same Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

OUR FATHER PRAYER

Traditional version:

Our Father, Who art in heaven
Hallowed be Thy Name;
Thy kingdom come,
Thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil. Amen.

Newer version:

Our Father, who is in heaven,
Holy is Your Name;
Your kingdom come,
Your will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
and forgive us our sins,
as we forgive those who sin against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil. Amen.

HAIL MARY PRAYER

Traditional version:

Hail Mary, full of grace.
Our Lord is with thee.
Blessed art thou among women,
and blessed is the fruit of thy womb,
Jesus.
Holy Mary, Mother of God,
pray for us sinners,
now and at the hour of our death.
Amen.

Newer version:

Hail Mary, full of grace.
Our Lord is with you.
Blessed are you among women,
and blessed is the fruit of your womb,
Jesus.
Holy Mary, Mother of God,
pray for us sinners,
now and at the hour of our death.
Amen.