

OCTOBER 2, HOLY GUARDIAN ANGELS

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In the prayer for the feast of St. Michael (September 29) we ask that the Holy Angels may fulfill the special office entrusted to them of watching faithfully over us upon earth. This feast included together with St. Michael the whole of the heavenly court. A distinct feast of the Guardian Angels originated only at a later date. The Spaniards observed it in the Sixteenth Century and Paul V (September 27, 1608) declared the feast of the Guardian Angels, a feast of the whole Church, and ordered that it should be kept on the first vacant date after the feast of St. Michael. Clement X (1670) assigned it to October 2nd. Leo XIII raised it to the rank of a greater double.

The guardianship of the faithful is given by God into the hands of the angels, not only for the sake of the unity and harmony which bind together the orders of creation, but also on account of the duty owed by the angels to Christ. It is from Christ that they receive their glory, therefore out of gratitude to Him Who is *caput hominum et angelorum* (the head of men and angels) these blessed spirits watch over the Church, the chosen Bride of the Savior, and over the faithful who are the members of His Mystical Body.

INTROIT Psalms 102: 20

Benedícite Dóminum, omnes Ángeli ejus: potentes virtúte, qui fácitis verbum ejus, ad audiéndam vocem sermónum ejus. (Ps. 102: 1) Bénedic, ánima mea, Dómino: et ómnia, quæ intra me sunt, nómini sancto ejus. Glória Patri et Fílio et Spíritui Sancto, sicut erat in princípío, et nunc, et semper, et in sæcula sæculórum. Amen. Benedícite Dóminum, omnes Ángeli ejus: potentes virtúte, qui fácitis verbum ejus, ad audiéndam vocem sermónum ejus.

COLLECT

Deus, qui ineffábili providéntia sanctos Ángelos tuos ad nostram custódiám mittere dignáris: largíre supplicibus tuis; et eórum semper protectióne deféndi, et ætéRNA societáte gaudére. Per Dóminum nostrum Jesum Christum, Fílium tuum, qui tecum vivit et regnat in unitáte Spíritus Sancti, Deus, per ómnia sæcula sæculórum.

LESSON Exodus 23: 20-23

Hæc dicit Dóminus Deus: Ecce, ego mittam Ángelum meum, qui præcédat te, et custódiat in via, et intróducat in locum, quem parávi. Obsérva eum, et audi vocem ejus, nec contemnéndum putes: quia non dimittet, cum peccáveris, et est nomen meum in illo. Quod si audiéris vocem ejus et féceris ómnia, quæ loquor, inimícus ero inimícis tuis et affligam affligétes te: præcedétque te Ángelus meus.

GRADUAL Psalms 90: 11-12

Ángelis suis Deus mandávit de te, ut custódiat te in ómnibus viis tuis. In mánibus portábunt te, ne umquam offéndas ad lápidem pedem tuum.

LESSER ALLELUIA Psalms 102: 21

Allelúja, allelúja. Benedícite Dómino, omnes virtútes ejus: ministri ejus, qui fácitis voluntátem ejus. Allelúja.

GOSPEL Matthew 18: 1-10

In illo témpore: Accessérunt discipúli ad Jesum, dicétes: Quis, putas, major est in regno cælórum? Et ádvocans Jesus parvulum, statuit eum in médio eórum et dixit: Amen, dico vobis, nisi convérsi fuéritis et efficiámini sicut párvuli, non intrábitis in regnum cælórum. Quicúmque ergo humiliáverit se sicut párvulus iste, hic est major in regno cælórum. Et qui suscéperit unum párvulum talem in nómine meo, me súscipit. Qui autem scandalizáverit unum de pusillis istis, qui in me credunt, expédit ei, ut suspendátur mola asinária in collo ejus, et demergátur in profúndum maris. Væ mundo a scándalis! Necésse est enim, ut véniant scándala: verúmtamen væ hómini illi, per quem scándalum venit! Si autem manus tua vel pes tuus scandalízat te, abscíde eum et prójice abs te: bonum tibi est ad vitam ingredi débilem vel cláudum, quam duas manus vel duos pedes habéntem mitti in ignem ætéRnum. Et si óculus tuus scandalízat te, érue eum et prójice abs te: bonum tibi est cum uno óculo in vitam intráre, quam duos óculos habéntem mitti in gehénnam ignis. Vidéte, ne contemnátis unum ex his pusillis: dico enim vobis, quia Ángeli eórum in cælis semper vident fáciem Patris mei, qui in cælis est.

OFFERTORY Psalms 102: 20-21

Benedícite Dóminum, omnes Ángeli ejus: ministri ejus, qui fácitis verbum ejus, ad audiéndam vocem sermónum ejus.

SECRET

Súscipe, Dómine, múnera, quæ pro sanctórum Angelórum tuórum veneratióne deférimus: et concéde propítius; ut, perpétuis eórum præsídiis, a præséntibus periculis liberémur et ad vitam perveniámus ætéRnam. Per Dóminum nostrum Jesum Christum, Fílium tuum, qui tecum vivit et regnat in unitáte Spíritus Sancti, Deus, per ómnia sæcula sæculórum.

COMMUNION Daniel 3: 58

Benedícite, omnes Ángeli Dómini, Dóminum: hymnum dicite et superexaltáte eum in sæcula.

POSTCOMMUNION

Súmpsimus, Dómine, divína mystéria, sanctórum Angelórum tuórum festivitáte lætántes: quæsumus; ut eórum protectióne ab hóstium júgiter liberémur insídiis, et contra ómnia advérsa muniámur. Per Dóminum nostrum Jesum Christum, Fílium tuum, qui tecum vivit et regnat in unitáte Spíritus Sancti, Deus, per ómnia sæcula sæculórum.

Bless the Lord, all ye His angels: you that are mighty in strength, and execute His word, harkening to the voice of His orders. (Ps. 102: 1) Bless the Lord, O my soul: and let all that is within me bless His holy name. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Bless the Lord, all ye His angels: you that are mighty in strength, and execute His word, harkening to the voice of His orders.

O God, Who in Thine ineffable providence dost vouchsafe to send Thine angels to watch over us, grant to Thy suppliants to be continually defended by their protection and to share their companionship in eternity. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, Thy Son, Who lives and reigns with Thee in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, forever and ever.

Thus saith the Lord God, Behold I will send My angel, who shall go before thee, and keep thee in thy journey, and bring thee into the place that I have prepared. Take notice of him, and hear his voice, and do not think him one to be contemned, for he will not forgive when thou hast sinned, and My name is in him. But if thou wilt hear his voice, and do all that I speak, I will be an enemy to Thy enemies, and will afflict them that afflict thee: and My angel shall go before thee.

God hath given His angels charge over thee, to keep thee in all thy ways. In their hands they shall bear thee up, lest at any time thou dash thy foot against a stone.

Alleluia, alleluia. Bless the Lord, all ye His hosts: you ministers of His who do His will. Alleluia.

At that time the disciples came to Jesus, saying, Who, thinkest Thou, is the greater in the kingdom of Heaven? And Jesus calling unto Him a little child, set him in the midst of them, and said, Amen, I say to you, unless you be converted, and become as little children, you shall not enter into the kingdom of Heaven. Whosoever therefore shall humble himself as this little child he is the greater in the kingdom of Heaven: and he that shall receive one such little child in My name, receiveth Me; but he that shall scandalize one of these little ones that believe in Me, it were better for him that a millstone should be hanged about his neck, and that he should be drowned in the depth of the sea. Woe to the world because of scandals: for it must needs be that scandals come; but nevertheless woe to that man by whom the scandal cometh. And if thy hand, or thy foot, scandalize thee, cut it off, and cast it from thee. It is better for thee to go into life maimed or lame, than having two hands or two feet, to be cast into everlasting fire. And if thy eye scandalize thee, pluck it out, and cast it from thee. It is better for thee having one eye to enter into life, than having two eyes to be cast into hell fire. See that you despise not one of these little ones; for I say to you, that their angels in Heaven always see the face of My Father Who is in Heaven.

Bless the Lord, all ye his angels: you ministers of His who execute His word, harkening to the voice of His orders.

Receive the gifts, O Lord, which we bring in veneration of Thy holy angels, and mercifully grant that we be delivered by their perpetual guard from the perils of this life and at last attain unto life everlasting. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, Thy Son, Who lives and reigns with Thee in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, forever and ever.

All ye angels of the Lord, bless the Lord: sing a hymn, and exalt Him above all forever.

We have received, O Lord, the divine mysteries, rejoicing in the festivity of Thy holy angels; we pray that we be continually delivered by their protection from the snares of our enemies and fortified against all adverse powers. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, Thy Son, Who lives and reigns with Thee in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, forever and ever.