



LET US RESPECT AND LISTEN TO OUR GUARDIAN ANGEL

IN THE NEW TESTAMENT, “angel” translates the Greek word *angelos*, a messenger who represents the one sending him and who enjoys the protection of the divine. The Septuagint, the Greek translation of the Hebrew Bible, uses *angelos* for *mal’ak* when it refers to a divine messenger, i.e., an angel.

Ancient kingdoms often had “guardians” placed on the gates of their cities or temples. These took the form of winged beasts, with the head of bearded sphinx.



Fr. Gil Alinsangan, SSP

For believers, angels are “ministering spirits sent to serve those who are to inherit salvation” (Heb 1:4). They watch over “little ones” and enjoy access to God. Children and angels have something in common. Angels are not concerned with their status but only with fulfilling the will of God. Children in Jewish society have no legal status or rights; thus, they are virtually invisible in that social setting.

In the Gospel reading, the disciples are taken aback when Jesus holds up a little child before them. But he tells them to go against culturally accepted norms that do not give importance to children. He contends that children are well represented in heaven; their guardian angels are the most influential intercessors who behold the face of God himself.

Children are “little” and are welcomed and blessed by Jesus. They behold him who is God’s faithful image in human form. Having no claim to salvation which is God’s gift freely given and received, children are the fitting symbol of those who

enter the kingdom inaugurated by Jesus. But the humble are exalted by God and are given powerful intercessors before the divine throne.

On the feast of the Guardian Angels in 2015, Pope Francis reflected on this divine presence in our lives, describing the angel as God’s ambassador who accompanies each one of us. He stressed that every person has been given a Guardian Angel by God who stays by our side. It’s like having God’s ambassador with us. We have to show respect for his presence, and listen to his voice because he gives us advice.

This respect and listening to this companion on our journey is called meekness. The Christian must be meek when it comes to the Holy Spirit. Meekness towards the Holy Spirit begins with this yielding to the advice given by this companion on our journey.

The Pope went on to explain that in order to be meek, we need to become small like children and our Guardian Angel is a companion who teaches us this humility and just like children we should listen to him.

The Pope ended: “May we ask the Lord for the grace of this meekness, to listen to the voice of this companion, to this ambassador from God who accompanies us in his name and may we be supported by his help.”

THE INTRODUCTORY RITES

Entrance Antiphon

(Dn 3:58)

(Recited when there is no opening song.)

Angels of the Lord, bless the Lord, praise and exalt him above all forever.

Greeting

(The sign of the cross is made here.)

P—The Lord be with you.

All—**And with your spirit.**

Introduction

(These [or similar words] may be used to address the assembly.)

P—Today, the Church celebrates the **Memorial of the Holy Guardian Angels**. In God's loving providence, each of us has been entrusted to the care of a guardian angel to guide, protect, and inspire us to walk in the ways of holiness. Let us thank God for this precious gift and pray that, attentive to the promptings of our guardian angels, we may remain faithful to Christ and safely reach our heavenly home.

Penitential Act

P—Brethren (brothers and sisters), let us acknowledge our sins, and so prepare ourselves to celebrate the sacred mysteries. *(Pause)*

P—You were sent to heal the contrite of heart: Lord, have mercy.

All—**Lord, have mercy.**

P—You came to call sinners: Christ, have mercy.

All—**Christ, have mercy.**

P—You are seated at the right hand of the Father to intercede for us: Lord, have mercy.

All—**Lord, have mercy.**

P—May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and bring us to everlasting life.

All—**Amen.**

Collect

P—Let us pray. *(Pause)*

O God, who in your unfathomable providence are pleased to send your holy Angels to guard us, hear our supplication as we cry to you, that we may always be defended by their protection and rejoice eternally in their company.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever.

All—**Amen.**

LITURGY OF THE WORD



Reading (Ex 23:20-23) *(Sit)*

As the Lord sent an angel to lead his people to the Promised Land, so we have guardian angels to protect us and lead us to heaven, our final destination.

A reading from the Book of Exodus

THUS SAYS THE LORD: "See I am sending an angel before you, to guard you on the way and bring you to the place I have prepared. Be attentive to him and heed his voice. Do not rebel against him, for he will not forgive your sin. My authority resides in him. If you heed his voice and carry all I tell you, I will be an enemy to your enemies and a foe to your foes.

"My angel will go before you and bring you to the Amorites, Hittites, Perizzites, Canaanites, Hivites, and Jebusites, and I will wipe them out.

—The word of the Lord.

All—**Thanks be to God.**

Responsorial Psalm (Ps 16)

R—**You are my inheritance,**
O LORD.

1. Keep me safe, O God, for in you I take refuge; I say to the LORD, "My God you are." O

LORD, my allotted portion and my cup, you it is who hold fast my lot. **(R)**

2. I bless the LORD who counsels me; even in the night my heart exhorts me; with him at my right hand I shall not be disturbed. **(R)**

3. You will show me the path to life, fullness of joys in your presence, the delights of your right hand forever. **(R)**

Alleluia (Mt 11:25) *(Stand)*

All—**Alleluia, alleluia. Blessed are you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth; you have revealed to the little ones the mysteries of the Kingdom. Alleluia, alleluia.**

Gospel (Mt 18:1-5, 10)

P—A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew
All—**Glory to you, O Lord.**

THE DISCIPLES approached Jesus and said, "Who is the greatest in the Kingdom of heaven?" He called a child over, placed it in their midst, and said, "Amen, I say to you, unless you turn and become like children, you will not enter the Kingdom of heaven. Whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the Kingdom of heaven. And whoever receives one child such as this in my name receives me.

"See that you do not despise one of these little ones, for I say to you that their angels in heaven always look upon the face of my heavenly Father."

—The Gospel of the Lord.

All—**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Homily *(Sit)*

Prayer of the Faithful

P—The Lord sends angels before us to guard us in all our ways. May we listen to them and not rebel against them for they are powerful before God.

R—**Lord, send your holy angels to guard us.**

C—May the Guardian Angel of our nation protect our people from all harm and lead us to honor God and love one another. We pray. **(R)**

C—May we not despise the little ones, the humble, and the powerless because they have powerful intercessors in heaven. We pray. **(R)**

C—May the powerful on earth learn from the humility of angels who despite their great dignity and splendor are not concerned with their status but only with fulfilling the will of God. We pray. **(R)**

C—May we ask the Lord for the grace of meekness and humility to listen to the voice of our Guardian Angel who accompanies us and support us with his help. We pray. **(R)**

C—May the holy Angels keep safe those who travel today and those who do delicate work. May they protect all from the snare of the devil. We pray. **(R)**

C—Let us pray for the urgent concerns of our community and our personal intentions *(pause)*. We pray: **(R)**

P—Lord God, you send Holy Angels to guard and direct the destiny of humankind. May we listen to their voice so as to live in peace and harmony with one another.

All—Amen.

LITURGY OF
THE EUCHARIST

Presentation of the Gifts

P—Pray, brethren...

All—May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands for the praise and glory of his name, for our good and the good of all his holy Church.

Prayer over the Offerings
(Stand)

P—Receive, O Lord, the offerings we bring before you as we venerate your holy Angels,

and graciously grant that under their constant protection, we may be delivered from present dangers and brought happily to life eternal.

Through Christ our Lord.
All—Amen.

Preface: God glorified through the Angels

P—The Lord be with you.

All—And with your spirit.

P—Lift up your hearts.

All—We lift them up to the Lord.

P—Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All—It is right and just.

P—It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation, always and everywhere to give you thanks, Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God, and to praise you without end in your Archangels and Angels.

For the honor we pay the angelic creatures in whom you delight redounds to your own surpassing glory, and by their great dignity and splendor, you show how infinitely great you are, to be exalted above all things, through Christ our Lord.

Through him the multitude of Angels extols your majesty, and we are united with them in exultant adoration, as with one voice we acclaim:

All—Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest. (Kneel)

Acclamation *(Stand)*

All—We proclaim your Death, O Lord, and profess your Resurrection until you come again.

THE COMMUNION RITE

The Lord's Prayer

All—Our Father...

P—Deliver us...

All—For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours now and for ever.

Invitation to Peace

Invitation to Communion
(Kneel)

P—Behold the Lamb of God, behold him who takes away the sins of the world. Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

All—Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.

Communion Antiphon
(Cf. Ps 138:1)

In the presence of the Angels I will praise you, my God.

Prayer after Communion
(Stand)

P—Let us pray. *(Pause)*

As you are pleased to nourish us for eternal life with so great a Sacrament, O Lord, direct us by the ministry of angels in the way of salvation and peace.

Through Christ our Lord.

All—Amen.

THE CONCLUDING RITES

P—The Lord be with you.

All—And with your spirit.

Prayer over the People

P—Bow down for the blessing. *(Pause)*

May the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son, our Lord Jesus Christ.

All—Amen.

P—And may the blessing of almighty God, the Father, and the Son, (†) and the Holy Spirit, come down on you and remain with you for ever.

All—Amen.

Dismissal

P—The Mass is ended. Go in peace, glorifying the Lord by your life.

All—Thanks be to God.



PRAYER TO THE SACRED HEART OF JESUS

Divine Jesus, you have said, "Ask, and you shall receive; seek, and you shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you," behold me kneeling at your feet, filled with a lively faith and confidence in the promises dictated by your Sacred Heart and pronounced by your adorable lips. I come to ask this favor: *(Here silently mention your petitions.)*

To whom can I turn if not to you whose Heart is the source of all graces and merits? Where should I seek if not in the treasure which contains all the riches of your kindness and mercy? Where should I knock if not at the door through which God gives himself to us and through which we go to God? I have recourse to you, Heart of Jesus. In you I find consolation when afflicted, protection when

persecuted, strength when burdened with trials, and light in doubt and darkness.

Dear Jesus, I firmly believe that you can grant me the grace I implore, even though it should require a miracle. You have only to will it, and my prayer will be granted. I admit that I am most unworthy of your favors, but this is not a reason for me to be discouraged. You are the God of mercy and you will not refuse a contrite heart. Cast upon me a look of mercy, I beg of you, and your kind Heart will find in my miseries and weaknesses a reason for granting my prayers.

O Sacred Heart, whatever may be your decision with regard to my request, I will never stop adoring, loving, praising, and serving you. My Jesus, be pleased to accept this my act of perfect resignation to the decrees of your adorable Heart which I sincerely desire may be fulfilled by me and by all your creatures forever.

Sacred Heart of Jesus, I know that there is but one thing impossible to you: to be without pity for those who are suffering or in distress. Look upon me, I beg of you, dear Jesus, and grant me the grace for which I humbly implore you through the Immaculate Heart of your most sorrowful Mother. You have entrusted me to her as her child, and her prayers are all-powerful with you. Amen.

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