



ANGELS

The Armenian Church celebrates the feast of the Holy Archangels, St. Gabriel and St. Michael, and of all the Heavenly Hosts.

There are many passages in the Bible about angels. For example, it was an angel who announced the birth of St. John the Baptist. Angels gave the good news of the Birth of the Savior to the shepherds. They sang the first Christian hymn, “Glory to God in the highest (Luke 2:14). Our Lord often spoke about angels. They were the first and joyous witnesses of His glorious Resurrection.

SO WHO ARE ANGELS?

They are spiritual beings created by God at the beginning of the creation of the world. They are gifted, like men, with intelligence and free will, but they are distinctly different from men in the fact that they do not possess physical bodies.

They are by nature invisible to men, but they can show themselves, if God so wills. The word “Angel” is a Greek word meaning “messenger”. The Armenian word for Angel, “hreshdag”, has the same meaning. This gives a clue to the nature of their function. St. Paul said that, “They are ministering spirits sent to minister to them who shall receive the inheritance of salvation” (Heb. 1:14). In other words, they are God’s servants who carry out His orders.

All Christians, or at least all children, have their guardian Angels as Jesus says; “See that you despise not one of these little ones,” said Christ, “for I say to you that their angels in heaven always see the face of my Father who is in heaven” (Matt. 18:10).

There are several angels who are mentioned by name in the Bible; Gabriel is one of them. His name means “fortitude of God”. Gabriel appears under his own name twice in the New Testament, first to Zachary, father of John the Baptist, announcing the birth of a child to him (Luke 1:19), and second to Mary, mother of Jesus, announcing the birth of Christ (Luke 1:26). “I am Gabriel who stands before God”, said he about himself.

The next Archangel mentioned by name is Michael, which means “who is like God”. According to tradition, “who is like God?” was the war-cry of the good angels who fought against those angels rebelled against the authority of God.

In Christian art St. Michael is represented as an angelic warrior fully armed with helmet, sword, and shield, standing over a dragon with his lance pierced through the monster.



Bishop S. Kaloustian
“Saints and Sacraments of the Armenian Church”

Hebrews: Angels

Hebrews 1:4 – Angels

Scripture reference: “having become so much better than the angels...”

Objectives:

1. Children should know that angels are the messengers of God.
2. Children should be able to name at least the 2 archangels, Michael and Gabriel.
3. Children should be able to remember some instances where angels have appeared in the Bible.

Possible Lesson Plan:

1. Open with prayer.
2. Show a picture or icon of an angel (the Annunciation will do nicely). Do you know who this is? Tell the students that angels are the messengers of God. Do they know what a messenger does? Illustrate by whispering a message to one student and have him tell another student. The second student can tell the class the message. Who was the messenger? Repeat for each student.
3. Who is Gabriel? To whom did he take what message? (He told Mary that she would be the mother of Jesus and Zachariah to name his son John.) Show this in the icon of the Annunciation. Who is Michael? What is his role? (He is the leader of God’s army.)
4. God gave each of us a guardian angel. He watches over us and protects us, even though we cannot see him. He is with us at all times. Let each child say hello to his guardian angel.
5. During Liturgy we speak of certain types of angels: seraphim and cherubim. Can you think of any such times? (e.g. Cherubic Hymn, Megalynarion) Listen closely in church next week.
6. Angels and people are alike in some ways, and different in others. Fill in the blanks below with “Angels”, “People”, or “Angels and people”:

_____ were created by God.	_____ never die.
_____ have bodies.	_____ have names.
_____ have spirits.	_____ think and do things.
7. Most angels are good, but some sinned and were cast out of heaven. The greatest of these was Lucifer, who thought he was equal to God. He is now known as Satan and the other fallen angels are called demons.

Fun Facts about the Angels

1. Angels have two roles: the first is in Heaven to glorify God, and the second on earth to carry out God's orders concerning men.
2. The word "angel" itself means herald or messenger.
3. There are nine ranks of angels. Thrones, dominions, principalities, seraphim's, cherubim's, powers, sovereignties, archangels, and angels.
4. The names of Archangels? Michael, Gabriel, Raphael, Uriel, Salathiel, Barachiel, Jeremiel, Jegudiel.
5. Angels are different than us because they are bodiless and invisible. They don't need to eat or drink, nor do they need clothes or shelter. They don't get married and they have no worries about the future, or fear of death. God created them good and holy.
6. Angels are like us because they have names and personalities. They are individuals with intelligence, emotions, free will and the capacity to act.
7. In the Bible and Holy Tradition, angels have done many marvelous things! Archangel Michael guarded Paradise, an angel of the Lord appeared to Moses in a flame of fire, Three Angels appeared to Abraham giving us an image of the Holy Trinity, an Angel saved the three youths in Babylon from death in the midst of the burning fiery furnace, Archangel Gabriel nourished Panagia as a child living in the Holy of Holies and later brought to her the news of Christ's incarnation, Archangel Gabriel appeared to Zacharias (the father of St. John the Baptist) to announce the coming of his son, an angel appeared at Christ's tomb to announce His Resurrection, an angel of the Lord opened the jail cells of the Apostles, the angels will create a throne for our Lord Jesus Christ at His second coming.
8. Our Orthodox Church has dedicated Monday to the holy angels. Therefore, every Monday in the church services we are reminded of the holy angels with praise and prayer: We say "Holy Archangels and Angels, pray to God for us."
9. Everyone Orthodox Christian receives a guardian angel at the time of Baptism and asks for its intercession before God with the following prayer,



Angel Word Quiz & Scramble

1. What does the word "Angel" mean? _____
S E G M E R N S E

2. How many ranks of angels are there? _____
I N E N

3. Which day of the week do we dedicate to the angels? _____
N Y O M D A

4. Which angel has six wings? _____
R S E H A P M I

5. When do Orthodox Christians receive a guardian angel? _____
T S P A B M I

6. Can you say their names? Michael, Gabriel, Raphael, Uriel, Salathiel,
Barachiel, Jeremiel, Jegudiel

7. When do we celebrate the Feast or Synaxis of the Archangels? _____
M O V E N B R E

8. Write an example of something an angel did or said: _____

Guardian
Angel



Guardian
Angel

