



CATHEDRAL OF CHRIST THE KING

1410 Baxter Avenue, Superior, WI 54880

Office (715) 392-8511 Fax (715) 392-3457

www.superiorcathedral.org

Angels

- Created by God, these spiritual beings have no body
- Each one is unique - its own species – and it has a specific task appointed to it by God
- There are Nine Choirs of Angels

Contemplative

- Seraphim – burning ones, who are filled with the fire of perfect charity
 - “Sanctus, Sanctus, Sanctus...” is what they say before God (Isaiah 6.3)
- Cherubim – ordered toward the knowledge of God, help us seek Christian perfection
 - Mentioned most in the bible; they are part of the Ark of the Covenant
- Thrones – infuse our hearts with a true and sincere spirit of humility
 - They are ordered toward permanence

Governance

- Dominations/Dominions – govern our senses and help us overcome any unruly passions
 - Lordship and dominion, self-mastery, controlling our passions
- Virtues – preserve us from evil and falling into temptation (keep us strong)
 - At the service of martyrs in their time of trial; Guardian Angels look to them
- Powers – protect our souls against the snares of the devil
 - At the service of Dominions and Virtues

Ministerial

- Principalities – fill our souls with a spirit of true obedience
 - Jude 1:6 – the choir with the most defections in the fall; a bridge to Governance
- Archangels – perseverance in faith and good works so that we can attain the glory of Heaven
 - Michael, Raphael, Gabriel (and possibly Uriel)
- Angels – protect us in this mortal life and conduct us to Heaven
 - Messengers; the rank from which the majority of Guardian Angels come
- Interesting points
 - The higher up in the choirs you go, the MORE of them there are
 - There are far more angels than humans
 - They delight in serving and helping, and God works through them; they share from top to bottom
 - Angels have been infused with knowledge and the Goodness of God (downloaded with all the apps they will ever need)
 - Angels have a good idea what is going on, but it is still limited (only God knows all)
 - They have an Intellect which is oriented toward Truth, and a Will which is oriented to the Good
 - Their Intellects and Wills are more intense and powerful than ours
 - If you want to communicate with them (Guardian Angel), you have to want to, and THINK
 - Side point: Angels speak ALL languages – they communicate via THOUGHT

“We unite our hearts to Jesus Christ through study, prayer, and service.”

- Angels are present at every Mass
 - Gloria – the song of the Angels on Earth when Christ was born
 - Sanctus – the song of the Seraphim who gather around God in Heaven
 - Are present with the gathered community
 - They are drawn to the proclamation of Scripture and the Homily (which they judge!)
 - Are present in the Eucharistic Sacrifice – which is mirrored in Heaven
- Key feasts in the life of Christ for the Angels
 - Christmas – the Incarnation (Christ takes on flesh)
 - Easter – the death and resurrection of Christ (which breaks the bond of sin/death)
 - Ascension – when Christ ascends to Heaven in glory, to be received by the angels with awe
- Guardian Angels – they accompany the entire life of a person
 - Three Roles
 - Peace – protect the souls from within/without, calm and comfort
 - Penitence – help us with conversion and protection; induce us to repent
 - Prayer – presents our prayers to God, guide us to ask for what we need
 - Fight the demon that tempts us (so call upon your Guardian Angel for help!)
 - Every person has at least one Guardian Angel; some have more than one
- Assist humanity in the Spiritual life
 - Purification – cleanse our souls from sin
 - Illumination – foster understanding
 - Unification – awaken in the soul a burning desire to be with God
- The Test of the Angels was immediate
 - Created, Infused with knowledge (no development required), complete from their creation
 - Knowing themselves holy – the “why” of their existence – with all knowledge to fulfill their mission
 - They do not reason or think as we do (in a progressive series of steps)...they KNOW
 - Their test followed immediately from their creation – accept/reject God’s mission for them
 - This test was in connection with and understood in the context of the Incarnation of Christ
 - God would take the form of a creature...and not a lofty angel but a lowly human!
 - The rebellion of demons is because this is beneath them and their dignity
 - To worship a lowly creature resulted in JEALOUSY and HATRED
 - According to Revelation 12 about one third of all angels failed the test

NOTES

- New Testament: Angels appear over 20 times
- Much of what we know about Angels comes from:
 - Scripture – see the final pages of the handout
 - Church Fathers - who wrote heavily about angels
 - Danielou, Jean S.J., The Angels and Their Mission, Christian Classics, 1957.
 - St. Thomas Aquinas – the “Angelic Doctor”
 - Summa Theologica

“We unite our hearts to Jesus Christ through study, prayer, and service.”

Demons

- Their sin: They chose not to worship Jesus when they found out that he would become “incarnate” (that is, take on the form and likeness) as a human
 - Angels are higher in creation than humans; the sin of the demons is tied to their pride that God should have taken on their form – this is the primary sin of Satan (Lucifer)
 - Humans are thus the object of demons’ hatred: they want what we have (life in Christ)
- The effect of the rebellion of angels was immediate and irrevocable
 - Immediate: because they were “downloaded” with knowledge they were immediately in opposition with God
 - Irrevocable: because they are pure spirit, they don’t “change their minds” and thus they are locked in the clarity of their own intellect...they know that they are damned
- The damnation of the demons is due to their rejection of the Incarnation of Jesus Christ
 - Enter the role of the Blessed Virgin Mary!
 - The human woman who said yes to God’s plan is now elevated above the angels
 - Mary is “full of Grace” because she has cooperated through her “*fiat*”
 - Point: Mary is the nemesis of all demons
 - Demons are fascinated with matter
 - Jesus “took flesh” and thus demons are drawn to this unique aspect of humanity
 - They seek to harm and destroy
 - They revel in the ruin – St. Paul says our bodies are “the temple of God and the dwelling of the Spirit” – and like to watch us meltdown
- Attitude toward humans
 - Hate – what we have (God became like us)
 - Jealousy – they want to destroy us for what we have (this is their vice toward us)
 - Pride – they believe that they are better than us (this is their vice in their choice about us)
- God strictly governs what they can and cannot do
 - Demons are not all-powerful; they are finite creatures that still retain their angelic nature even if they are now damned
 - Demons are present in specific places; they can’t be everywhere at all times
 - Demons cannot touch your soul (only God can do that)
 - Demons have limited powers to affect our bodies (again, limited by God’s will)
 - Demons affect us primarily through temptation & fear; rarely by oppression and possession
 - Temptation – they show us images or thoughts to lead us astray from the Good/True
 - Fear – they play on our anxieties, fears, worries, stresses, sorrows, preoccupations, etc.
 - Oppression – they can sometimes affect our emotions, material goods (very limited)
 - Possession – they can sometimes inhabit our bodies (very, very limited!)
- Why does God permit demons to cause us harm?
 - So we can grow in moral virtue, develop our human nature, and grow in grace
 - Christ wants a particular virtue to shine in us
 - We strengthen our Will and follow Reason
 - To help us gain a level of virtue, by nature of having to fight a greater battle
 - Help us grow in holiness
 - We gain merit in Heaven
 - It’s part of the punishment of the damned...to see souls choose virtue/Good...God!
 - To help us call upon God’s mercy, grace, and forgiveness (there is none of this for demons)
 - God chooses some – for the Crown and Glory – and strictly limits what demons can/can’t do

“We unite our hearts to Jesus Christ through study, prayer, and service.”

- Demons cannot know the secrets of your mind and heart, because they don't have access to our Will
 - However, because they have an advanced Intellect, they can make pretty good guesses
 - They can work from clues, observations, non-verbal behavior, and hints
 - If you choose to communicate to them through your Will, they will come...
- What language do demons speak?
 - All of them. They are pure spirit. They "think" thoughts.
 - The Church prayer of exorcism is commonly in Latin – for historicity, consistency and power
 - They can speak (fluently and with perfect diction) in whatever language that is given
 - Point: it is the **thought** that they engage

NOTES:

- GOD IS ALWAYS IN CONTROL WHEN IT COMES TO DEMONS
 - The Lord keeps them on a very tight leash...they can only do what they are permitted
 - Their punishment is not yet fixed; their agony can increase as they persecute humans
 - Those who place their lives under the protection of Jesus Christ are safe (and saved!)
- There is often a mixture of different elements present with people who are afflicted with demons
 - Mental illness
 - Past relationship abuses and/or wounds
 - Addictions (drugs, sex, power, gambling, alcohol, etc.)
 - Traumatic experiences (violence, war, rape)
 - Destructive elements in family life (unwanted, rejection, hatred, abuse)
 - Known or unknown connections with satanic/demonic activity (witchcraft, cults, devil pacts)
- Demons will attempt to shock and intimidate, and they will try a variety of tactics
 - Screaming, cursing, growling, "bullying" in their speech, sarcasm, threatening
- There are four classic behaviors that the Church looks for as indicators of possession:
 - Abnormal Strength
 - Ability to speak in languages that they have never studied or heard
 - Knowledge of events outside of their experience
 - Aversion to the sacred (churches, sacramentals, holy pictures, devotionals, rosaries, etc.)

"We unite our hearts to Jesus Christ through study, prayer, and service."

QUESTION: How many times did angels, in the New Testament, directly interact with humans? What was the purpose of each visit?

ANSWER: There are at least twenty distinct interactions between angels and humans in the Gospel accounts and the New Testament as a whole. The below list of angelic appearances is listed in chronological order.

An angel appears to Zacharias, in Jerusalem's temple, announcing his wife Elizabeth will bear a son whose name will be John. He will have the Holy Spirit from his mother's womb and live like a **Nazarite** (Luke 1:11 - 20, 26 - 38).

Gabriel (who is one of a class of angels called **Archangels**) is sent to a virgin named Mary to inform her that she will miraculously conceive of the Savior whom will be named Jesus (Luke 1:26 - 38).

An angel communicates to Joseph, **in a dream**, that he should not fear remaining married to Mary (he should not divorce her, Matthew 1:20).

An angel announces to Bethlehem's shepherds that Jesus has been born. They are also told where to find the newborn King and Savior of mankind. Multiple angels also praise God for the unique miracle of **Christ's birth to a virgin** (Luke 2:9 - 15).

An angel communicates to Joseph, in a dream, warning him to **flee with his family to Egypt**. He is also told to stay in the country until the threat from Herod, to destroy Jesus, has passed (Matthew 2:13).

An angel communicates to Joseph, in a dream, that Herod the Great, who sought to murder his child, is now dead. Joseph is told it is now safe for him and his family to travel back into Israel (Matthew 2:19).

A group of angels minister to Jesus after His temptation by **Satan the devil** (Matthew 4:11).

An angel is sent by God the Father to strengthen Christ while he prays and waits for his arrest in **the Garden of Gethsemane** (Luke 22:43).

An angel appears, at Jesus' tomb, to Jesus' mother, Mary Magdalene and others informing them that the Lord has risen from the dead. He also tells them to let the other disciples know of his resurrection and that he will meet them in **Galilee** (Matthew 28:2 - 7).

Two angels, who look like men, appear to the eleven disciples on **the Mount of Olives** right after Jesus' ascension into heaven. They inform them that Christ will return to the earth in the same way he left (Acts 1:10 - 11).

Jewish religious leaders, in Jerusalem, arrest **the twelve apostles** and put them in prison. God sends **the angel of the Lord** to free them from prison. After the disciples are freed they are encouraged to boldly continue to preach the gospel (Acts 5:17 - 21).

An angelic being appears to Philip the Evangelist and commands him to travel to Gaza. During his travel he runs into an Ethiopian eunuch, explains the gospel to him, and ultimately baptizes him (Acts 8:26 - 38).

An angelic being appears to a Roman Centurion named Cornelius, **in a vision**, informing him to seek out **the Apostle Peter**. Cornelius and his family are baptized, becoming the first non-Jewish converts to Christianity (Acts 10:3 - 7, 30 - 32).

After **Peter** is thrown into prison by Herod Agrippa I God sends an angel to free him and lead him to safety (Acts 12:1 - 10).

“We unite our hearts to Jesus Christ through study, prayer, and service.”

An angel appears to Paul, in a dream, while he is sailing as a prisoner to Rome. He is told that he will not die during the journey but rather will appear before Caesar. The angelic messenger also states that Paul's prayer that all those aboard the ship are saved is granted (Acts 27:23 - 24).

An angel is sent to the Apostle John, who has been exiled to the island of Patmos, to reveal prophecies to him that will ultimately become the book of Revelation (Revelation 1:1).

The Apostle John, in a vision, takes a prophetic little book from the hand of an angel. The spirit being tells him, "Take it and eat it; and it shall make your belly bitter, but in your mouth it shall be sweet as honey" (Revelation 10:8 - 9, HBFV).

An angel tells John to take a reed and measure God's temple (Revelation 11:1 - 2).

An angel reveals to John the true meaning of a woman, riding a scarlet beast, who has on her forehead "**MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF THE HARLOTS AND OF THE ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH**" (Revelation 17).

An angel informs John that all the prophecies he saw are faithful and will come to pass. John is also warned not to worship angelic spirits but only God (Revelation 22:6 - 11).

Demons

How many times do the following show up in the New Testament?

Demons	80
Devil(s)	30+
Satan	50+
Unclean Spirit	16

Key Prayers

Angel of God

Angel of God, my guardian dear, to whom God's love commits me here. Ever this day be at my side, to light and guard, to rule and guide.

St. Michael the Archangel

St. Michael the Archangel, defend us in battle. Be our defense against the wickedness and snares of the Devil. May God rebuke him, we humbly pray. Do thou, O Prince of the Heavenly Host, by the power of God, thrust into hell, Satan, and all the evil spirits who prowl about the world seeking the ruin of souls.

Hail Mary

Our Father

“We unite our hearts to Jesus Christ through study, prayer, and service.”