

Guardian Angels (Protectors and Guides)

What are the angels and how are they different than humans?

- They are created beings (persons) less than God but more than human
- They only have a SOUL and are invisible and immortal, if God's allows, angels, both good and bad angels, can take on human form or the form of matter. (satan took on the form of a serpent)
- They have intellect and free will but their intellect and free will far surpasses human intellect and free will. Angels are more knowledgeable than humans and more noble or good than humans. They are also expected to do more; to whom much is given, much is expected.
- They are created in the image of God, but more resemble God than man because they are more perfect in intellect and will.
- They are seen with wings to represent their speed, they can move immediately since they don't have bodies, they can think of a place and immediately be at that place.
- They are seen as babies because they are innocent and content gazing at the face of God and being completely obedient to His care.
- They are seen with harps because they continually give God praise.

They are less than God...and still had to be put to the test

- Angels are not all-knowing. They do not know future events unless they are revealed to them by God. They also do not know the mysteries of Grace, or the secrets of the heart or man or the motivations of man.
- Because they are less than God and given intellect and free will, they like humans, were free to choose God or revolt against Him.
- The Angels knew that God created them and they were happy in the presence of God but before THE TEST and THE FALL they did not see God face to face, the beatific vision!
- Why were they tested? Because all created beings must choose God, God doesn't force us to choose or love Him. So what was the test!
- We do not know the nature of the TEST but the best guess is that God revealed the future to the angels. He showed them that mankind would sin and that God would have to take on flesh (human form) to redeem mankind. Some angels, since they were created greater than man, revolted against the idea of God taking the form of lowly man and even more the fact that angels would not only have to serve man but also worship the God-Man Jesus Christ. Even more revolting than the idea of God made Flesh would have been the revelation that mere matter (bread and wine) would also be turned into (Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity) to be worshiped and even received by mere humans. The angels, out of obedience would have to worship the Eucharist but never be able to receive it.
- The Angel Gabriel is a great example of what the angels were called by God to do, but refused to submit to. He not only honors God, but the God made Flesh and even the Theotokos (God-bearer), when he bows down and honors Mary, saying, "Hail Mary, full of Grace."
- Our first Pope, St. Peter says in 2 Peter 2:4, "For God did not spare the angels when they sinned, but condemned them to the chains of Tartarus and handed them over to be kept for judgment." Some of the angels "sinned". Sin is the deprivation of Good, the angels who were created in goodness, served goodness and contained all goodness were given the opportunity to choose goodness or deprive themselves of goodness (sin).
- "With a free and irrevocable choice they rejected God and his kingdom, thus giving rise to the existence of Hell." (74 Compendium). God did not create hell or sin, but allowed its possibility. The angels choice was eternal because they are immortal and both their intellect and free will are not limited as in human choice. They completely know what they are choosing, make the choice to revolt freely and their choice is immediate and immortal because they have no body to limit sustain the choice, they get NO second chance.
- After the fall – The bad angels are given their punishment which is to be cast from God's presence (hell). Their new GOAL, to associate humans with their revolt against God and the rejection of God's Kingdom. The good angels are given their reward, eternal happiness. They now see God face to face and will be in His presence for eternity. They choose the GOOD, they chose GOD!

What do our Guardian Angels do for us?

- They are an example for us, and inspiration, they passed the test and will do all within their power to help us follow in their footsteps (except they don't have feet) and attain everlasting happiness face to face with God.
- Protect us in danger and temptation (both our body and soul)
- They warn us against evil
- They encourage us to do good, inspire us to do good, put good thoughts in our mind, move our will toward the good.
- They offer our work and prayers, joys and sufferings to God. Remember that during the Holy Mass, the priest bows asking the Angel, the messenger between us and God, to go before God with his hands full of the powerful supplication contained in the Host and offer it to the Father. *"We most humbly beseech Thee, Almighty God, to command that these offerings be borne by the hands of Thy holy Angel to Thine altar on high in the sight of Thy Divine Majesty, than as many of us as at this altar shall partake of and receive the most holy Body and Blood of Thy Son, may be filled with every heavenly blessing and grace. Through the same Christ our Lord Amen."*
- They pray for us and assist us in our works and needs
- They stand by us in the hour of our death.

What can we do for our Guardian Angel?

- Show them reverence for their presence
- Thank them and show gratitude for the many benefits we have received
- Ask for pardon for the many times we have made their job difficult
- Show confidence and love in their protection, guidance and prayers
- Ask them to pray for us and offer our works, prayer, sufferings and joys to God
- Promise fidelity and obedience to them
- Pray the Angel of God prayer: *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. AMEN.*

From Scripture:

- Matthew 18:10 – "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."
- Exodus 23:20-21 – "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."
- Psalm 34:8 – The angel of the Lord, who encamps with the, delivers all who fear God."
- Psalm 91:11 – "For God commands the angels to guard you in all your ways." (this is the verse that satan quoted to Jesus in the desert)
- Job 33:23 – "If then there be for him an angel, one out of a thousand, a mediator, to show him what is right for him and bring the man back to justice.
- Acts 12 – The Angel of the Lord rescues Peter from jail.
- 2 Peter 2:4 – The test and punishment of some of the angels

From Saints:

- Saint Basil the Great (329-379AD) – "Beside each believer stands an angel as a protection and shepherd leading his to life." "As smoke scatters the bees, and offensive smell disperses the doves, so does horrible, lamentable sin turn from us the angel the guardian of life. But if a sinner repents: then there is joy in heaven, as the Savior asserts: There shall be joy before the angels of God upon one sinner doing penance! Luke 15:10"
- Saint Bernard (1090-1153AD) – "Oh what a great favor of God, O what wonderful love! Who has commanded? God Who has he commanded? The angels, those noble spirits who share God's home! What has He commanded them? To protect and guard us poor mortals! O Lord! What is man than Thou are mindful of him!"

