

All About ANGELS



A Little About Angels...



To understand angels better, take a look at your hands.

That's right. You can clap your hands, pet your dog, hold a baseball bat or color a picture. You can use your hands to pray and

thank God. You use your mind and heart for these things, too, which shows that God created you as both a physical and spiritual person.

Angels, on the other hand, don't have physical bodies. Apart from specially chosen people like Mary, Moses and a few others, no one has really seen angels. Unlike human beings, angels are pure spirit beings. But like humans, angels were created by God. And just like us, angels have some important jobs to do.

Angels exist to praise, worship and serve God. They can also help us by being God's messengers to us. Others guide and protect us. All of God's angels are powerful, intelligent, good and holy.

Imagine how much God loves us if he created these wonderful beings to help us!



And What They're Not...

Sometimes people say angels are the spirits of people who have died. While it makes a nice story, it just isn't true. **Angels were created by God to be angels.** Period. Besides, when we humans die, and our souls rejoice with God in heaven, we know that someday our souls and our bodies will be together again. Angels will always be angels.

Of course, it's hard to imagine such incredible beings, so it helps us to think of angels in human form. And that's just fine. So go ahead and draw angels with halos and wings and wearing beautiful white robes. Or dress up like an angel for your school or church play. And feel free to think about angels often. Pray to them for help too!



We can't see angels, but they're there, especially on the altar at every Mass.

did you
KNOW?

Angels Long Ago



Angels have been around for a long time

—not forever, like God, but certainly since before God created humans. You can read about angels in the Bible, starting with the book of Genesis, in which angels guard the tree of knowledge in the Garden of Eden.

Whenever angels appear in the Bible, you know something big is happening. For instance, one hot day as Abraham sat at the door of his tent, three angelic men appeared and told him that his wife Sarah would have a son. This was amazing news because Sarah was past the age for having babies. But a year later, Abraham and Sarah had a baby boy, Isaac—just as God had promised.

Then there's Moses, tending his father-in-law's flocks on a mountain. The "angel of the LORD appeared to him in fire flaming out of a bush" (Exodus 3:2). God called out to Moses from the bush, telling him to lead the Israelites out of slavery in Egypt. From that day on, Moses' life changed. And it all started with the presence of an angel.



Angels get things done.

Another Bible story tells of the archangel **Raphael**,

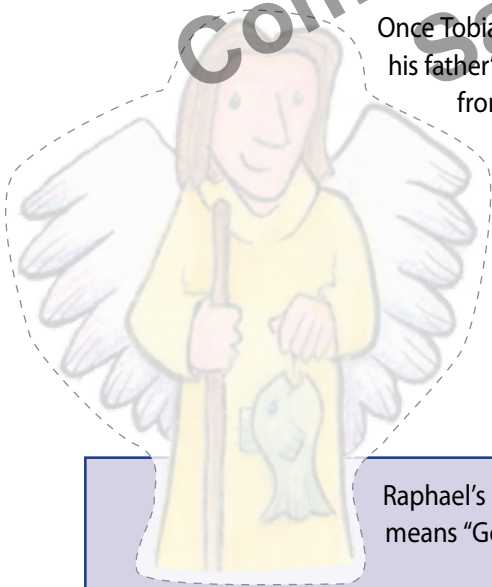
"one of the seven angels who enter and serve before the Glory of the Lord" (Tobit 12:15).

A man named Tobit falls on hard times, loses his money and is blinded. But he remembers he set aside some money in a far-off land called Media. So he sends his son Tobias to get it. Raphael disguises himself as one of Tobias' relatives and goes with him on the dangerous journey. Along the way, he saves Tobias from a huge attacking fish in the Tigris River. Raphael shows Tobias how to use the fish as medicine. He even finds a wife for Tobias. She's a brokenhearted girl named Sarah who has been praying to God for a long time.

Once Tobias and Sarah return home happily with his father's money, Raphael uses the medicine from the fish to heal Tobit of his blindness. He reveals himself as God's angel and returns to heaven. Tobit is so happy he sings a song of praise: "Blessed be God who lives forever" (Tobit 13:1).

Raphael's name means "God heals."

did you
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Angels announce good news!

Has anyone ever called you a “little angel”? It’s

usually when you’re being good or quiet, right? But acting like an angel means much more. And you can do it!

Gabriel is one of God’s most important and powerful angels. But when he was sent to Mary, he wasn’t too big to see that his greeting troubled her. So Gabriel gently told Mary not to be afraid. Then he gave her some amazing news. Mary was going to have a baby, the Son of God. “Of his kingdom there will be no end,” Gabriel said (Luke 1:33).

Wow! That’s a lot to take in! Gabriel also said that Mary’s cousin Elizabeth would have a baby, too, even though Elizabeth had never been able to have children; “for nothing will be impossible for God,” Gabriel said (Luke 1:37).

Gabriel shows us that sometimes our most important job is to be gentle and kind, especially when someone seems afraid or worried. He also shows us that “being an angel” means loving Mary and praising God. So how can you be an angel today?



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Did you know that an angel once saved a man named Tobias from a gigantic killer fish? Did you know that an angel guards you 24/7? Have you ever wondered if angels really have wings and halos? Want to know more? Take a look inside this book and use the fun stickers to learn more about these amazing and powerful beings who love God—and you—more than you can even imagine!

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