

**Orthodox Church of the
Resurrection of Christ
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**Sunday, 19 November, 2023
Divine Liturgy Sundays at 9:00 AM
Confessions 8:30 – 9:00 AM**

**St Paul the Confessor of Constantinople
Свя. Павла, Архиеп. Константинопольского
Thursday 23 Nov – Thanksgiving Day**

Feast Day this week:

**St Michael the Archangel and all Heavenly Hosts
Tuesday, 21 Nov – Service 9 AM**



Не случается ли, что среди недоумения или некоторого бездействия ума, вдруг, как молния, просияет чистая, святая и спасительная мысль, что в обуреваемом или хладном сердце мгновенно водворяется тишина или возгорается небесный пламень любви к Богу? Если всякое явление по роду своему свидетельствует о присутствии действующей силы, то сии внутренние явления души нашей не свидетельствуют ли о присутствии Небесных Сил, но человеколюбию бросающих лучи свои в наш ум и искры в наше сердце? Не суть ли это действия Ангелов, по изречению пророка Захарии, глаголющих в нас? Как достойно сожаления, если мы не замечаем сей Ангельской помощи! Ибо, не примечая, не приемлем ее как должно и не пользуемся ею; не пользуясь, остаемся неблагодарными и виновными, не приготавливаем себя к другим подобным посещениям и таким образом даже удаляем от себя хранителей наших. *(Свт. Филарет Московский)*

К каждому из верных приставлен Ангел, достойный того, чтобы видеть Отца Небесного... Что с каждым из верных есть

Ангел, который как воспитатель и пастырь управляет его жизнью, против этого никто не будет спорить, помня слова Господа: Не презирайте ни одного из малых сих; ибо говорю вам, что Ангелы их на небесах всегда видят лице Отца Моего Небесного (Мф. 18,10) ... Ангел не отступит от всех уверовавших в Господа, если только не отгоним его сами плохими делами. Как пчел отгоняет дым и голубей смрад, так и хранителя нашей жизни, Ангела, отдаляет прискорбный и смердящий грех... Грехи могут стать причиной бедствия: нас перестанет закрывать стена, то есть святые силы, которые делают людей непобедимыми, пока пребывают с нами. *(Свт. Василий Великий)*



On November 8/21 we celebrate the Synaxis (Meeting) of Archangels Michael, Gabriel, and all the Heavenly Hosts.

The Church teaches us that there is another realm of reality, just as substantial as anything we see, hear, touch, taste or smell in this world. There are legions of angels, “a heavenly host,” helping us, for which the world has no counter-measure *(Heb. 1:14)*.

The Scriptures do not mention exactly when the angels were created; but Holy Tradition, as told in the writings of the Fathers, especially St. John Damascus, tells us that they were created out of nothing before the material world and humans were created.

However, we do find that angels are mentioned in the Bible more than 300 times

and in each case, they are said to be sent by God to perform a service. The word *angelos*, which is Greek means “*who is sent*”, or “*messenger*”, is the name given to them by God because as we are told in *Hebrews 1:14*: “Are they not all ministering spirits sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation?”

Angels have a tremendous authority; however, it is limited to doing only the will of God. They never deviate from God’s message, nor dilute it, nor change His plan.

Angels are present around us at all times, whether we are aware of them or not. They are given to us to help us in our earthly struggles and, at the time of our death, an angel will be there to comfort us, and give us peace at that critical hour.

The psalmist David referred to them as a force of thousands of thousands of chariots (*Psalms 68:17*). We cannot see God nor His angels with our natural eyes, but they are there, whether we see them or not.

Faith is the means by which we are able to “see” this invisible world. This is belief’s true function. Faith is to the spiritual realm what the five senses are to the natural realm. The writer of Hebrews says that faith is “*the evidence of things not seen*” (*Heb. 11:1*). By faith we recognize the existence of the spiritual world and learn to depend on the Lord for His help in our daily life.

“The angel of the Lord encamps all around those who fear Him, and delivers them.” (Psalm 34)

We each have a guardian angel, for as we read in *Psalms 91:11*, “*He shall give His angels charge over you, to keep you in all your ways.*” We must remember that whatever we do, openly or in private, we do in the presence of our guardian angel, and that, on the Day of Judgment, the great hosts of the heavenly angels will be gathered around the throne of Christ, and the thoughts, words and deeds of every one of us will be laid bare before them.

May God have mercy on us and save us through the prayers of the holy Archangel Michael and all the bodiless powers of heaven. (*from the Orthodox Herald*)

Many people divide their lives into compartments. Among them are work, hobbies, family life, leisure, business, and religion. Unfortunately, religion is last. Little, if any, attempt is made to relate matters of faith to everyday issues of life.

Some think that the spiritual part of their lives can be taken care of by church attendance or doing good. Then, they are free to run their businesses, choose their entertainment, or relate to people in whatever way pleases them. But Christianity cannot be confined to just one area of our lives. It should permeate the whole of our lives.

In reading Colossians 1:1-11, when St. Paul prayed for the believers in Colosse, he asked God to fill them with “the knowledge of His will (1:9). He asked that they would know His will in every aspect of their experience – what they thought and what they did – so that they would live a life worthy of the Lord and please Him in every way (1:10).

Our relationship with Christ must affect all areas of life. There is no way we can live a life that is pleasing to God if we keep our faith limited to only the religious section. “Give Christ the key to every room in your life.”

Thanksgiving Day this year is this Thursday, November 23:

For all the blessings we have received this year, whether they be seen or unseen, recognized or disguised, let us offer a prayer of Thanksgiving to the Lord, for He knows what we need even before we ask or are aware of it:

“O Lord our God, Thou have called us by a holy calling to lift up our hands and to render homage to Thy mercy. Accept our prayers, devotions, requests and adoration. Grant us, O God, an invincible faith, an unshakeable hope, and love sincere. Bless our coming and our goings, our deeds and works, our words and desires. Grant that we may praise, sing, and bless the lavishness of Thy bounty which is beyond description, for blessed is Thy holy Name and glorified is Thy kingdom of Father, Son and Holy Spirit, now and ever and to ages of ages. Amen.”