

**Orthodox Church of the
Resurrection of Christ
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**Sunday, November 20, 2022
Divine Liturgy Sundays at 9:00 AM
Confessions 8 - 8:50 AM**

**Monday: St Michael and Holy Angels
Thursday: Thanksgiving**

This Week:

Monday 21 Nov: St Michael & all Heavenly Hosts: Service 9:30 AM

Thursday 24 Nov: Thanksgiving day: Moleben, 11:00 AM



Today, with special, fervent prayers, we turn to the Holy Archangels and Angels, to our Guardian Angel and to spiritual forces. Today, every Orthodox person celebrates the day of his Angel, the Angel that was given to him at the baptismal font, the Guardian Angel.

Why does a person need a guardian angel? So that he can conduct a spiritual struggle. After all, the temporary life of man on earth is a special path, the path of spiritual struggle with evil. If a person does not fight evil, evil conquers him, and the person becomes its slave. And evil weaves a nest in a person's heart, makes a house of evil out of it, and the person spreads this evil to other people. And then they say about such people - "This is a spiritually dead person."

The Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, came into the world in order to free man from slavery to evil, so that a person is not bound by the bonds of sin, so that diabolical pride and

selfishness does not reign in a person's heart, but that the Light of God, faith, hope and love reign in his heart.

Man himself cannot achieve this on his own, and therefore the Holy Church, which was founded on earth by the Savior of the world, the Lord Jesus Christ, leads man along this path of struggle.

But if a person is with God, if a guardian angel leads that person by the hand through his life, then even if a person in his struggle is sometimes defeated by sin, then the guardian angel will raise him up, the Church of Christ will correct him, the Savior of the world, the Lord Jesus Christ Himself, will give strength to such a one, so that peace and love abide in his soul.

We are called to spiritual warfare. Strictly speaking, the concept of "spiritual life" is a spiritual struggle. [But] Can any "spirit" be trusted?

And is every "spiritual" action directed towards good? We have heard in the Holy Gospel how the overjoyed disciples of Christ came to Jesus and began to boast in Him and say: "Lord! Even the demons obey us in Your name." What did the Lord say to them? He said, "I saw Satan fall from heaven." That is, He points out to them that the manifestation of spiritual power in itself does not mean that this spiritual power is directed towards good. "Do not rejoice about this," says the Lord Jesus Christ to His disciples, "that demons obey you. Rejoice that your names are written in heaven."

This is a warning to us, how we should be attentive to all spiritual phenomena that occur in life. After all, the power of evil is also a spiritual power, and evil begins with an action in a person's spiritual life. When a person

begins to feel his superiority over other people, when the thought appears in his heart that he is better, smarter than others, when rigidity and cruelty towards those who suffer appear in a person's heart, this is a manifestation of spiritual evil in a person's heart.

Remember the words of Holy Scripture that not every spirit needs to be believed (*1 John 4:1*). Where is the real power of the Holy Spirit? See what promise the Lord makes that "the gates of hell," that is, the forces of evil, will not prevail against the Church. Why should we look for some special spirituality somewhere, when the Holy Spirit is with us, Who descended on the Holy Church on the day of Pentecost! Here, in the Church of Christ, are the fruits of the Holy Spirit. Here the Lord Himself is with us. No one can defeat a person who lives in unity with God. Nothing can harm the human soul, in which the Holy Spirit dwells.

Therefore, today, having heard this gospel, the word of God, let us firmly follow the Holy Orthodox Church, let us firmly, with confidence in the immutability of the words of the Lord, be faithful daughters and sons of the Church of Christ. Let us ask that the Guardian Angel never retreat from us, but would give us the strength to attack all the power of the enemy. And if we happen to fall or sin, let us remember that there is the Sacrament of Repentance, and the Church of Christ will lift us up and strengthen us, and give us the power to live in faith, hope and love with our Lord Jesus Christ. (*Rev Alexander Ganaba, Podolsk, 2003*).



«Сердце чисто созижди во мне...»

Здоровье, и благополучие, и земные успехи — все это мы оставим на земле, когда придет время перейти в вечность. Но сердце чистое, душу чистую мы возьмем с собой.

Что такое чистое сердце? Чистое сердце — это наше внутреннее богатство, наша духовная красота. Чистое сердце — это та брачная одежда, в которой мы можем стать участниками небесной трапезы в вечной жизни. С чем можно сравнить чистое сердце? Его можно сравнить с садом, в котором расцветают духовные

добродетели: смирение, кротость, милосердие, терпение.

И носители этой духовной красоты — чистого сердца — на лице своем сохраняют пасхальную улыбку любви, как у преподобного Серафима Саровского, который всех приветствовал радостными словами: «Христос воскрес!» Чистое сердце подобно пламенеющему огню, в котором сгорают все греховные искушения и соблазны, а образ Божий в человеке, как золото в горниле, очищается. *«Больше всего хранимого храни сердце твое» (Притч. 4, 23)* — так говорится в Священном Писании.

Христианская жизнь немислима без чистого сердца. Вспомним святых мучеников. Их сердца пламенели крепкой верой, горячей любовью ко Христу. Вспомним преподобных отцов и матерей, пустынников и подвижников, которые подвигами сердечной молитвы умножали в себе жажду любви к Богу и ближним. И все они — чистые сердцем — наследовали ангельское житие на небесах. Всю земную жизнь они трудились над очищением своего сердца и сподобились самой высокой награды от Господа — на них исполнились евангельские слова: *блажени чистии сердцем, яко тии Бога узрят (Мф. 5, 8)*.

Как же обретается чистота сердца и как ее сохранить? Сердце очищается каждодневной молитвой, молитвой покаянной, слезной. Сердце очищается болезнями и скорбями, посылаемыми от Бога. Сердце охраняется постоянной памятью о Господе, исполнением заповедей Божиих. Тогда оно делается сокрушенно, смиренно, а такое сердце *Бог не унижит (Пс. 50, 19)*.

Все эти мысли о чистоте сердечной да будут напоминать нам всегда — и днем и ночью — наши ангелы-хранители, которые есть у всех христиан со дня Крещения. И сегодня, собравшись в храме Божиим в честь торжества небесных сил бесплотных, будем молитвенно взывать к ним всем сердцем: «Вся небесные силы святых ангел и архангел, молите Бога о нас, грешных». Аминь. (*Протоиерея Тихон Пелых*)