

Vox Populi

23 September 2026

In Sacred Scripture, we are given the names of three “Archangels”: Michael, Gabriel and Raphael. The trio are honoured with a joint Feast on 29 September.

The Church venerates these angels in much the same way it honours the saints: as servants of God.

In these angels, the Church finds its helpers. The angels are those who serve God and His saving purpose. The Church can therefore ask these angels for their intercession and protection, especially against evil.

Saints Michael, Gabriel and Raphael are all given specific missions and messages in Sacred Scripture.

In 1986, Saint John Paul II said the importance of these angels was not just that they were called by name, but within the names themselves.

“The first is Michael the Archangel. His name synthetically expresses the essential attitude of good spirits. ‘Micah-El’ in fact means: ‘Who is like God?’. This name therefore expresses the saving choice thanks to which the angels ‘see the face of the Father’ who is in heaven,” Saint John Paul II said.

“The second is Gabriel: a figure linked above all to the mystery of the incarnation of the Son of God. His name means: ‘my power is God’ or ‘power of God,’ as if to say that, at the pinnacle of creation, the incarnation is the supreme sign of the almighty Father.

“Finally, the third archangel is called Raphael. ‘Raphael’ means: ‘God heals.’ He is made known to us through the story of Tobit in the Old Testament, so significant regarding the entrustment to the angels of the little children of God, always in need of custody, care and protection.”

Saints Michael, Gabriel, and Raphael, pray for us