

## **SAINT RAPHAEL THE ARCHANGEL**

### **MEDITATION**

The name of the Archangel Raphael (Hebrew : “God has healed”) occurs only in the Book of Tobit of the Old Testament, where the travelling companion of the young Tobias makes himself known as the Angel “Raphael, one of the seven Angels who enter and serve before the Glory of the Lord” (Tb 12:15).

It would seem that God has appointed the Angel Raphael His minister for the province of joy. The Book of Tobit shows us unhappiness followed by happiness. It tells us how Raphael appeared to the pious family of Tobit and led them by the hand away from their sadness into the peace and the glory of joy. As Tobias, the son of Tobit, begins his journey with Raphael, his father’s last prayer is that his Angel accompany him. Young Tobias obeys his unknown guide, and because he obeys, his path is made smooth before him. The marriage of the young man offers many dangers, but the Angel Raphael is there, and sadness vanishes. Raphael is called “the Remedy of God”. Tobit had been stricken with blindness, and Sarah had been persecuted by a devil. At the same time, though many miles apart from each other, they asked God to help them. And the Scripture tells us (Tb 3:16-17): "The prayer of these two suppliants was in the glorious presence of Almighty God. So Raphael was sent to heal them both."

Among the Angels, Saint Raphael is a special patron of youth. God has made this known by the beautiful Biblical account of Raphael’s devotedness to the youth Tobias.

The Angel Raphael took Tobias under his special care and protected him from the dangers that beset his journey to a strange country. He preserved Tobias pure in a pagan world and delivered Sarah from the power of the evil spirits.

Saint Raphael is the Angel of happy meetings and a wise choice. Through him the young Tobias was led to his future bride. Today, as in the long ago, Raphael helps people to find peace and happiness.

Raphael’s devotedness to young Tobias shows itself in the ordinary daily things of life. The young man obeys the Angel under all circumstances and in spite of his own inclinations. He is the Angel of everyday life. Raphael is the patron of those who travel. The Church has long sanctioned the practice of praying to Saint Raphael before setting out on a trip.

If we choose Raphael as our Angel Guide and obey him as young Tobias did, he will set the eyes of our soul on the Heavenly City toward which he is guiding us. We should walk with Raphael who directs our steadfast gaze ever toward Him Who is the Light of the world, Jesus Christ.

The feast of Saints Michael, Gabriel and Raphael is celebrated on September 29.

### **THE WORD OF GOD**

“I am Raphael, one of the seven Angels who enter and serve before the Glory of the Lord.” Tb 12:15

“When you.....prayed, it was I who presented and read the record of your prayer before the Glory of the Lord” Tb 12:12

“Raphael.....said to them : ‘Thank God! Give Him the praise and the glory’.” Tb 12:6

### **NOVENA PRAYERS**

#### **Novena Prayer**

Holy Archangel Raphael, standing so close to the throne of God and offering Him our prayers, I venerate you as God’s special Friend and Messenger. I choose you as my Patron and wish to love and obey you as young Tobias did. I consecrate to you my body and soul, all my work, and my whole life. I want you to be my Guide and Counselor in all the dangerous and difficult problems and decisions of my life.

Remember, dearest Saint Raphael, that the grace of God preserved you with the good Angels in heaven when the proud ones were cast into hell. I entreat you, therefore, to help me in my struggle against the world, the spirit of impurity, and the devil. Defend me from all dangers and every occasion of sin. Direct me always in the way of peace, safety and salvation. Offer my prayers to God as you offered those of Tobias, so that through your intercession I may obtain the graces necessary for the salvation of my soul. I ask you to pray that God grant me this favour if it be His holy Will. (*Mention your request*).

Saint Raphael, help me to love and serve my God faithfully, to die in His grace, and finally to merit to join you in seeing and praising God forever in heaven. Amen.

**Litany of Saint Raphael** (*For Private Devotion*)

Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy. Christ, hear us.

Christ, graciously hear us.

God the Father of heaven, have mercy on us.

God the Son, Redeemer of the world, have mercy on us.

God the Holy Spirit, have mercy on us.

Holy Trinity, one God, have mercy on us.

Jesus, King of Angels, have mercy on us.

Mary, Queen of Angels, pray for us.

Saint Raphael the Archangel, pray for us.

Saint Raphael, whose name means "God has healed.", pray for us.

Saint Raphael, preserved with the good angels in God's kingdom, pray for us.

Saint Raphael, one of the seven spirits who stand before the Most High, pray for us.

Saint Raphael, ministering to God in heaven, pray for us.

Saint Raphael, noble and mighty Messenger of God, pray for us.

Saint Raphael, devoted to the Holy Will of God, pray for us.

Saint Raphael, who offered to God the prayers of the father Tobit, pray for us.

Saint Raphael, travelling companion of the young Tobias, pray for us.

Saint Raphael, who guarded your friends from danger, pray for us.

Saint Raphael, who found a worthy wife for Tobias, pray for us.

Saint Raphael, who delivered Sarah from the evil spirits, pray for us.

Saint Raphael, who healed the father Tobit of his blindness, pray for us.

Saint Raphael, guide and protector on our journey through life, pray for us.

Saint Raphael, strong helper in time of need, pray for us.

Saint Raphael, conqueror of evil, pray for us.

Saint Raphael, guide and counselor of your people, pray for us.

Saint Raphael, protector of pure souls, pray for us.

Saint Raphael, patron Angel of youth, pray for us.

Saint Raphael, Angel of joy, pray for us.

Saint Raphael, Angel of happy meetings, pray for us.

Saint Raphael, Angel of chaste courtship, pray for us.

Saint Raphael, Angel of those seeking a marriage partner, pray for us.

Saint Raphael, Angel of a happy marriage, pray for us.

Saint Raphael, Angel of home life, pray for us.

Saint Raphael, Guardian of the Christian family, pray for us.

Saint Raphael, protector of travelers, pray for us.

Saint Raphael, patron of health, pray for us.

Saint Raphael, heavenly physician, pray for us.

Saint Raphael, helper of the blind, pray for us.

Saint Raphael, healer of the sick, pray for us.

Saint Raphael, patron of physicians, pray for us.

Saint Raphael, consoler of the afflicted, pray for us.

Saint Raphael, support of the dying, pray for us.

Saint Raphael, herald of blessings, pray for us.

Saint Raphael, defender of the Church, pray for us.

Lamb of God, You take away the sins of the world; spare us, O Lord.

Lamb of God, You take away the sins of the world; graciously hear us, O Lord.

Lamb of God, You take away the sins of the world; have mercy on us.

V. Pray for us, O glorious Saint Raphael the Archangel,

R. That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

*Let us pray.*

God, You graciously gave the Archangel Raphael as a companion to your servant Tobias on his journey.

Grant us, Your servants, that we may ever enjoy his protection and be strengthened by his help.

We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.