

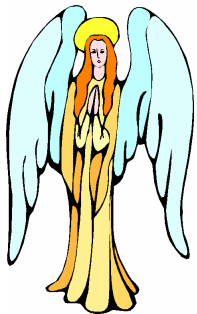
Closing Prayer:

Prayer to
Our Holy Guardian Angels

Heavenly God, Your infinite love for us has chosen a blessed angel in heaven and appointed this being our guide during this earthly pilgrimage. Accept our thanks for so great a blessing. Grant that we may experience the assistance of our holy protector in all our necessities.

And you, holy, loving angel and guide, watch over us with all the tenderness of your angelic heart. Keep us always on the way that leads to heaven. Especially be a faithful and watchful protector of our children. Lighten, O you perfect servants of God, our heavy task. Guide our children, that they may become like unto Jesus, may imitate Him faithfully, and persevere until they attain eternal life. Amen.

-Source Unknown



Suggested Closing Song:
"Angel" by Sarah McLachlan

Our closing meditation is a song challenging us to put our trust in angels, the messengers of God around us. Who are these messengers of God for us?

- A crying child
- A wise old friend
- A kind stranger
- A suffering person
- Your beloved
- An unknown face on television

Angel of God, my guarding dear
To whom God's love commits me here.
Ever this day be at my side
To light and guard, to rule and guide.
All: Amen.

Compiled by Les Miller and Melinda Rapallo
York Catholic District School Board

**Angels...
our heavenly
companions**



*"Angels descending,
bringing from above,
Echoes of mercy,
whispers of love..."*

-Fanny J. Crosby

Angels...a liturgy



Introduction

Today's liturgy focuses on the angels that we encounter in our lives. When most people think about angels, they imagine heavenly beings, illuminated, weightless, and always peaceful. However, angels are Messengers, who come to us in many different forms. It is up to us to ensure that we are open to receive these messages.

Opening Prayer:

Angels Before Me



Leader: Angels before me

All: Guide and direct me

Leader: Angels behind me

All: Guard and protect me

Leader: Angels above me

All: Guide and direct me

Leader: Angels beside me

All: Care for and comfort me. Amen.

-Traditional prayer

Scripture Reading: Luke 1:26-38

A reading from the Gospel of Luke.

In the sixth month, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendent of David. The Virgin's name was Mary. The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favoured! The Lord is with you."

Mary was greatly troubled at his words, and wondered what kind of greeting this might be.

But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, you have found favour with God. You will be with child and give birth to a son, and you are to give him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever; his kingdom will never end."

"How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?"

The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the Holy One to be born will be called the Son of God. Even Elizabeth, your relative, is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be barren is in her sixth month. For nothing is impossible with God".

"I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered.

"May it be to me as you have said."



Then the angel left her. The Word of the Lord.

All: Praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ.

Reflection



Reader 1: Angels have been with us since the beginning of our journey here on earth. Scripture often speaks of angels, although the time of their creation is not indicated in the bible.

Reader 2: In the bible, angels display great wisdom, acceptance and freedom, and there are passages throughout the bible demonstrating these heavenly gifts.

Reader 3: These celestial beings are known as God's messengers, as they often have missions given to them by God. According to the Bible, their missions are sometimes of great importance, for example, the Annunciation.

Reader 4: "Like us, the angels are the objects of God's grace and love. But because, unlike us they are non-bodily creatures, their response to God's love did not require time and reflection to grow and mature. Perhaps the most significant continuing activity of the good angels is to be the agents of God's particular providence for humankind. Thus, the Church teaches that everyone has a guardian angel...".