



Fr. Matt's Musings

September 29, 2020

"el"

In the liturgical cycle of the Church, today is the Feast of the Archangels: Michael, Gabriel, and Rafael. This Friday is the Feast of the Guardian Angels. Angel, Michael, Gabriel, and Rafael all end in "el." In Hebrew, those two letters are part of one of the names for God: Eloi.

Whenever we celebrate a saint or an angel or any feast, it is not solely to remember that person or those angels. It is also a celebration for the Church to remember our calling. St. Francis de Sales reminds us of our call to be humble and gentle. St. Francis of Assisi calls us to simplicity and a love for and care of the created world. St. Teresa of Calcutta is a model of our responsibility to care for the poor and suffering.

The angels, by their "el," tell us that their purpose, meaning, and identity point to God. They are God's agents and messengers – to Mary (Luke) and to Joseph (Matthew), to name just two examples. They are so closely linked to God and related to God that they have part of His holy name in their title and the archangels' names.

How do we live out our "el?" It is our call to be God's agents and messengers to others. The words and welcome, generosity, and care we give to others is our message that we are God's messengers. Our time, loving actions, and the gift of our presence to one another show that we are God's agents when we seek to imitate the actions and the words of Christ. Please live your "el" today and each day with great care and especially with great love.

Live Jesus!

Fr. Matt

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