

My Beloved Children,

May the love and peace of the Holy Nativity Season be with you.

Angels in the Holy Bible are spiritual beings that are of a much higher order than humans. They have a very close relationship with God and can see God face to face because they always stand in His Holy presence.



Archangel Michael

Angels participated in many great events of both the Old and New Testaments.

The first **Mighty Angels** to be mentioned in the Holy Bible are the Cherubim who were placed on guard at the Garden of Eden (Genesis 3:24).

It is in the Holy Book of Daniel in the Old Testament that angels are first given names: The Archangel Gabriel and Archangel Michael.

Angels serve most often as messengers in the Holy Bible, delivering important messages from God.

Archangel Gabriel brought a special message to Zacharias while he was raising incense in the temple of Jerusalem, announcing the coming birth of St John the Baptist. "I am

Gabriel," the Archangel tells Zacharias, "who stand in the presence of God; and I was sent to speak to you, and to bring you this good news (Luke 1:19)."

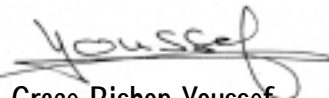
Our beloved St Mary in Nazareth also received a very special message from the Archangel Gabriel announcing the coming birth of the baby Lord Jesus Christ. The Archangel Gabriel told the Virgin Mary that she was to conceive and bear a Son by the Holy Spirit (Luke 1:26-38).

Nine months later, an angel appeared before the country shepherds living out in the fields, keeping watch over their sheep. The brilliant glory of the Lord surrounded this angel as the angel proclaimed this message, "For there is born to you this day in the city of David, a Savior who is Christ our Lord. And this will be a sign to you, you will find the Babe wrapped in swaddling cloths, lying in a manger."



Archangel Gabriel

Let us all praise as did the angel and the Heavenly Hosts, this Holy Feast of the Nativity saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, goodwill toward men."


His Grace Bishop Youssef