

Synaxis of the Archangel Michael and Bodiless Powers

- Terminology:
 - Synaxis
 - Angel
- Nature of Angels
 - Created
 - Will
 - Incorporeal
- Function of Angels
 - Worship
 - Messengers
 - Intercessors
 - Guardians
- Archangel Michael: Leader of the Bodiless Powers, Physician
 - Daniel 10–12
 - Jude 1:9
 - Revelation 12:7
- Ranks of angels:
 - Scriptural: Colossians 1:16, Ephesians 1:21
 - Early Christian Writers: Clement of Rome, Ambrose of Milan, Jerome etc.
- Dionysius the (Pseudo) Areopagite (5th Century): Acts 17:4
 - Ascribed texts to early Christian saint.
 - Influenced by Neoplatonism:
 - Hierarchy, Triads, Emanation/Return (St. Maximus)
 - Celestial Hierarchies related to Ecclesial Hierarchies: Earthly worship reflects Heavenly.
 - Catechumans, Laity, Clergy (Monks)
 - Purification, Illumination, Perfection
 - Increasing interest in Angelic ranks from Neoplantonism and Eunomium controversy

Seraphim Cherubim Thrones	Dominions Powers Authorities	Principalities Archangels Angels
---------------------------------	------------------------------------	--

“From its beginning until death, human life is surrounded by their watchful care and intercession...beside each believer stands an angel as protector and shepherd leading him to life”

St Basil, *Adv. Eunomium* III: PG 29, 656B