

BIOGRAPHY

St. Raphael is one of seven Archangels who stand before the throne of the Lord. He was sent by God to help Tobias, Tobias (the younger) and Sara. At the time, Tobias (the elder) was blind and Tobias's betrothed, Sara, had had seven bridegrooms perish on the night of their weddings. Raphael accompanied Tobias into Media disguised as a man named Azarias. Raphael helped him through his difficulties and taught him how to safely enter marriage with Sara's. Tobias said that Raphael caused him to have his wife and that he gave joy to Sara's parents for driving out the evil spirit in her. He also gave Raphael credit for his father's seeing the light of heaven and for receiving all good things through his intercession. Besides Raphael, Michael and Gabriel are the only Archangels mentioned by name in the bible. Raphael's name means "God heals." This identity came about because of the biblical story which claims that he "healed" the earth when it was defiled by the sins of the fallen angels in the apocryphal book of Enoch. Raphael is also identified as the angel who moved the waters of the healing sheep pool. He is also the patron of the blind, of happy meetings, of nurses, of physicians and of travellers.



ST. RAPHAEL THE ARCHANGEL

FEAST DAY:
24 OCTOBER

COLLECT

O God, Who didst give blessed Raphael the Archangel to Thy servant Tobias, as a companion on his journey: grant to us, Thy servants, that we may always be guarded by his care and strengthened by his help. Through Our Lord Jesus Christ, Thy Son, Who Liveth and Reigneth with Thee, in the Unity of the Holy Ghost, God, world without end. Amen

NOVENA TO ST. RAPHAEL

Glorious Archangel Saint Raphael, great Prince of the Heavenly Court, thou art illustrious for thy gifts of wisdom and grace. Thou art a guide of those who journey by land or sea or air, consoler of the afflicted, and refuge of sinners. I beg thee, assist me in all my needs and in all the sufferings of this life, as once thou helpst the young Tobias on his travels. Because thou art the Medicine of God, I humbly pray thee to heal the many infirmities of my soul and the ills that afflict my body. I especially ask of thee the favour **(Make your request here...)** and the great grace of purity to prepare me to be the Temple of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

St. Raphael, of the glorious Seven who stand before the Throne of Him Who Liveth and Reigneth, Angel of health, the Lord has filled thy hand with balm from Heaven to soothe or cure our pains. Heal or cure the victim of disease. And guide our steps when doubtful of our ways.