

God Communicating with Creation **Sts. Michael, Gabriel, and Raphael**, archangels
Friday, September 29, 2017 8:15 AM Dn 7:9-10, 13-14; **Jn 1:47-51** (Gradually the message became incarnate, and this is who we call the Christ.)

“You will see heaven opened and the angels of God ascending and descending on the Son of Man.”

Now I’m not going to explain what that means because I don’t know. But the whole talk of angels, and today is the feast of the three holy archangels: Raphael, Michael, and Gabriel; and the idea of **angels** is something we should keep in mind because they **are part of the context of the coming of Christ**, as this gospel reading shows.

Now **we live in a marvelous universe**. When we go out at night if you go away from Naperville, if you go out to sea or to some mountain and there’s no lights around, you see a marvelous sight, if there are no clouds of course, billions of lights, trillions of lights, and this shows a vast universe. Now we have pretty good evidence that it is about 13 1/2 billion years old and it’s expanding and has been for the entire time and it will continue to, so that future millennia when they look up will see fewer stars, fewer galaxies, because as things expand these galaxies move away and eventually are out of sight. So as the universe gets bigger our part of it will get smaller, odd. There are many odd things about the universe, many mysteries of how it came about and surely the biggest mystery of all, why it came about, which it doesn’t tell us anything. **The universe tells us nothing about why it came about**. And there are many people that look at it and they simply think well it’s just an accident, it just happened.

But sometimes there is a message that comes through, you may say, from the heart of the universe. And this has happened at various times. Not everyone gets the message. Not everyone listens. But there is a message; **there is a communication**. And that’s the very idea of an angel. **An angel is a communication between the heart of the universe, the ground of being,**

and the creation itself. And the only beings who are capable of hearing a message are human beings. So we have a message and we have **those who can receive the message, the human race.** But not every human being actually has ears to hear, as Jesus pointed out, or eyes to see. Some people are more or less deaf and more or less blind when it comes to the message emanating from the heart of the universe.

But **there was a people who listened and we call this the people of Israel.** And **gradually the message became incarnate, and this is who we call the Christ.** So the coming of Jesus incarnate is really part of a larger picture of the message from the heart of universe, from God that is, into the hearts of human beings through all time. And we actually have no complete record of any of this, of either the giving of the message or the receiving of the message, but we do know that it was received in the people of Israel. And they maintained it long enough for the Word of God to become incarnate, and that is our tradition; that is our heritage; that is our faith.

So somehow we have to keep in mind that there is this communication and Christian tradition believes and Jesus himself said that **every child has an angel guardian that is some sort of spiritual connection with God, so that in some way God is watching over everybody, and not only watching over, but guiding.** And at certain major moments of life there are **great turns within the history of the world and they are announced by the archangels,** in particular Gabriel and Michael. So this what we celebrate today is the mystery of **God communicating with his creation in various ways, which eventually, of course, culminates in the gift of Christ.**