



✦ **Saint Gabriel the Archangel Parish** This is the name selected by Bishop Morlino for our merged parish. In his letter, the Bishop said: “As you mention, St. Gabriel announces the good news to Mary and through her to all of humanity. I pray that this new parish will likewise

proclaim and witness to that good news, the news that God is with us and invites each of us personally to know and be changed by Him.”

Patron Saints These are saints who are recognized as the protectors and intercessors for persons, churches, and dioceses. The name taken at Baptism and Confirmation is frequently that of a patron. Parishes, churches, and cathedrals are usually named after a patron saint. Mary is patroness of the United States and St. Raphael the Archangel is patron of the Madison Diocese.

Angels (summary of Catechism of the Catholic Church #327-336, 392) Scripture and Tradition are both clear on the existence of these spiritual beings. They are personal and immortal. They have intelligence and will. All of them were created good, although some rebelled and became fallen angels. The good angels function as servants of God and of God’s saving plan. They surrounded, adored, and served Christ all through his earthly life. They are with the Church in her liturgy, and they continually help the Church and its members in mysterious and powerful ways. From the stories of scripture, we know that angels can at least sometimes be seen, heard, and touched by earthly people. At times they are recognized as angels, and at other times they appear to be human.

Archangels These are “chief angels.” Only three are named in scripture: Michael, Gabriel, and Raphael. Michael is a warrior, Gabriel a messenger, and Raphael a healer and guide. The feast day for the three archangels is September 29.

Gabriel What we know of Gabriel comes from his four appearances in scripture. In the Book of Daniel, he comes twice to the young man, each time with a revelation from God (Dan 8:16-26 and 9:21-27). In the Gospel of Luke he comes to announce miraculous pregnancies—first to Elizabeth (1:10-20) and then to Mary (1:26-38). The latter scene is that of the Annunciation, where Gabriel utters the famous greeting, “Hail, full of grace. The Lord is with you.” He is patron saint of Argentina, messengers, telecommunications, diplomats, postal employees, and stamp collectors.

Through the intercession of our Blessed Mother Mary and Saints Gabriel and Raphael the Archangels, may God help our two parishes in the merging process.