

**SAINT MICHAEL
THE ARCHANGEL**
Through the Ages

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For Dad
May the holy standard-bearer Michael
lead him into the holy light
and for Mom

FS

For all the confreres of Saint Michael's Abbey

PF

A large, dark silhouette of Saint Michael the Archangel is the background of the page. He is shown from the waist up, facing left, with a large, simple circular halo around his head. His right arm is raised, with his hand open and palm facing forward. The background is a gradient of dark blue and purple.

This is the story of the great
**SAINT MICHAEL
THE ARCHANGEL**

and his many wonderful deeds
in heaven and on earth,
for the Church,
for the saints,
and for us.

PART I

*Defender of Heaven
Protector of Earth*

IN THE BEGINNING,
GOD MADE THE WORLD:

the sun, the moon, and stars that
fill the sky; the earth's green forests,
wild deserts, majestic oceans; and
all the creatures of the air, land, and
sea. God made all these marvelous
things for our eyes to see.







God also made a whole world
that our eyes *cannot* see.

It is a vast and wonderful world,
filled with mighty and noble
spirits known as *ANGELS*.

God made each angel unique,
but they all work together in
perfect harmony, like a grand
orchestra or a vast chorus
of singers.

God arranged the angels into nine splendid ranks called *choirs*.







But one angel, Lucifer, brighter than all the rest,
did not want to sing in harmony with the others.
He shrieked: *I will not serve!* and shattered the
angelic choirs' beautiful melody.

God then summoned SAINT MICHAEL THE
ARCHANGEL forward.

Michael rose and unsheathed his sword.
“*Who is like God?*” he bellowed at Lucifer.



Swords clashed as the two angels began the battle.

Saint Michael was stronger. Lucifer was defeated.

The brightness Lucifer had before was now gone. He became dark and angry. He became *Satan*.

He fell like lightning and came crashing to the earth, and like a roaring lion, he prowls about the world looking to devour souls.

We have nothing to fear, though!

God has sent Saint Michael from heaven to watch
over us on earth.

Saint Michael's first
mission was to be
the guardian angel of
God's chosen people,
the Israelites.



ISRAEL



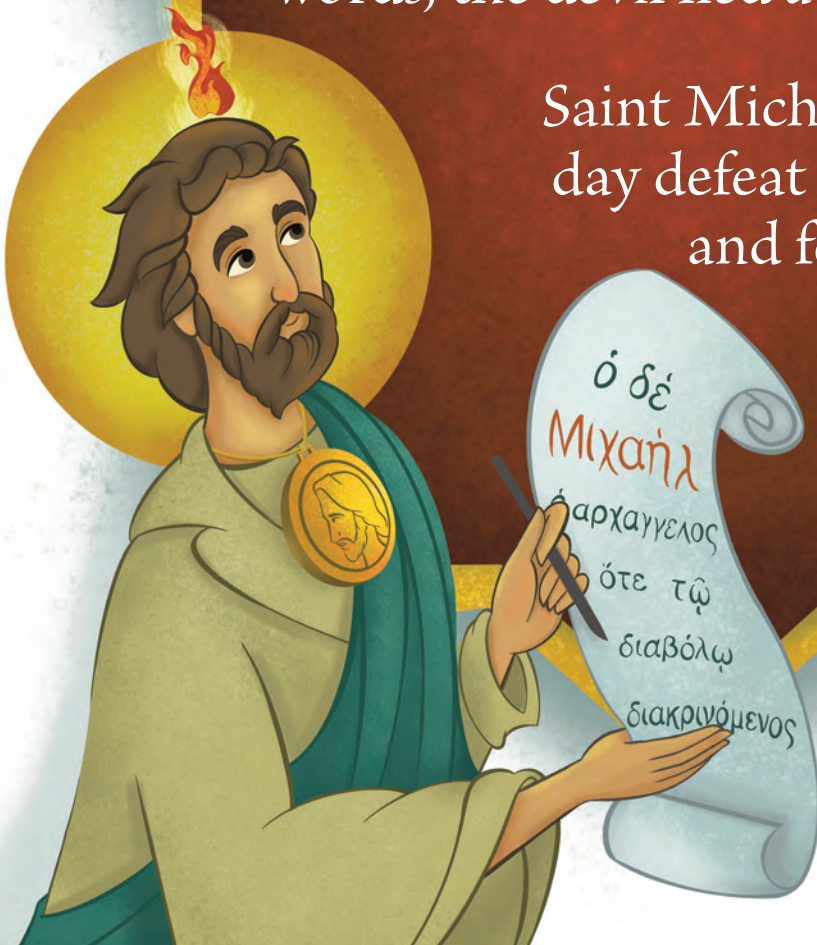
When the Israelites were tired and hungry, traveling through the dry, hot desert, Saint Michael showed them the way to the rich and green promised land:

By day in a pillar of cloud, and by night in a pillar of fire.

The Israelites buried their leader, Moses, in a cave when he died. But Satan was sneaking around to make trouble by stealing his body.

Saint Jude writes in the Bible about what happened next. Saint Michael swooped in and shouted, *"The Lord rebuke you!"* At these words, the devil fled away in fear.

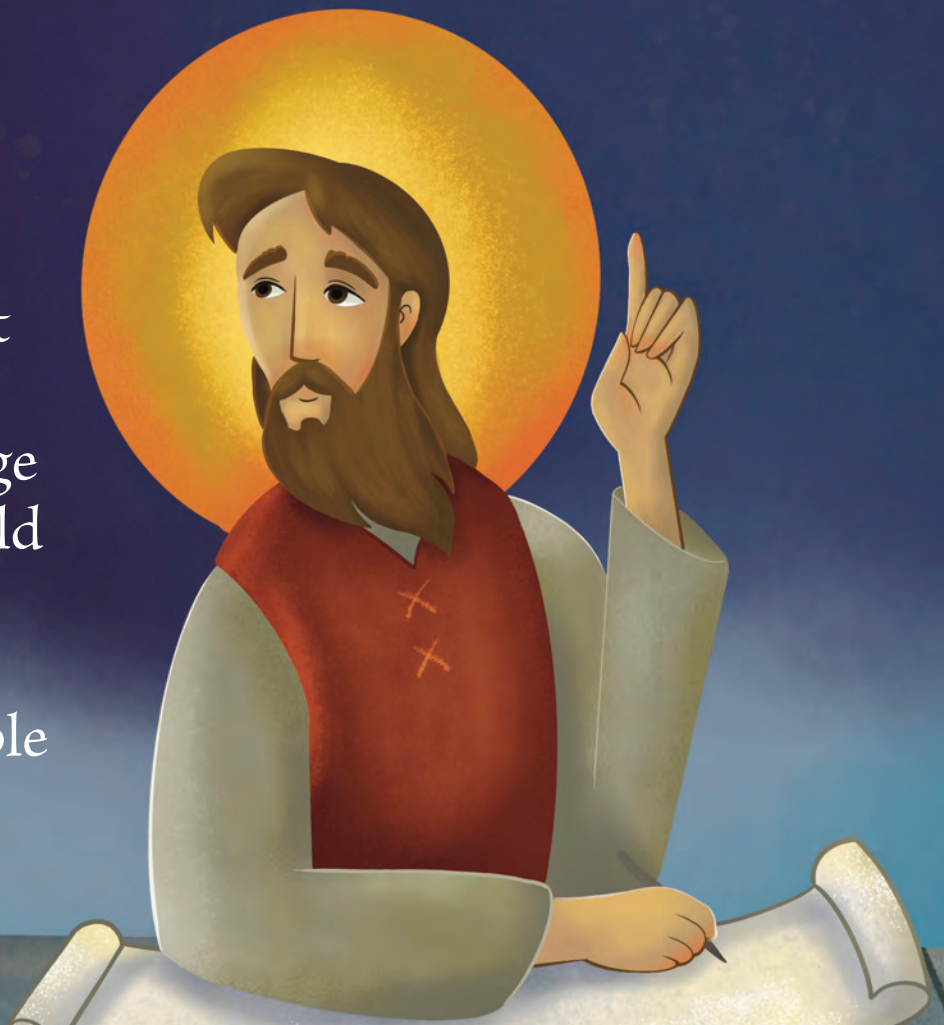
Saint Michael will one day defeat Satan once and for all.

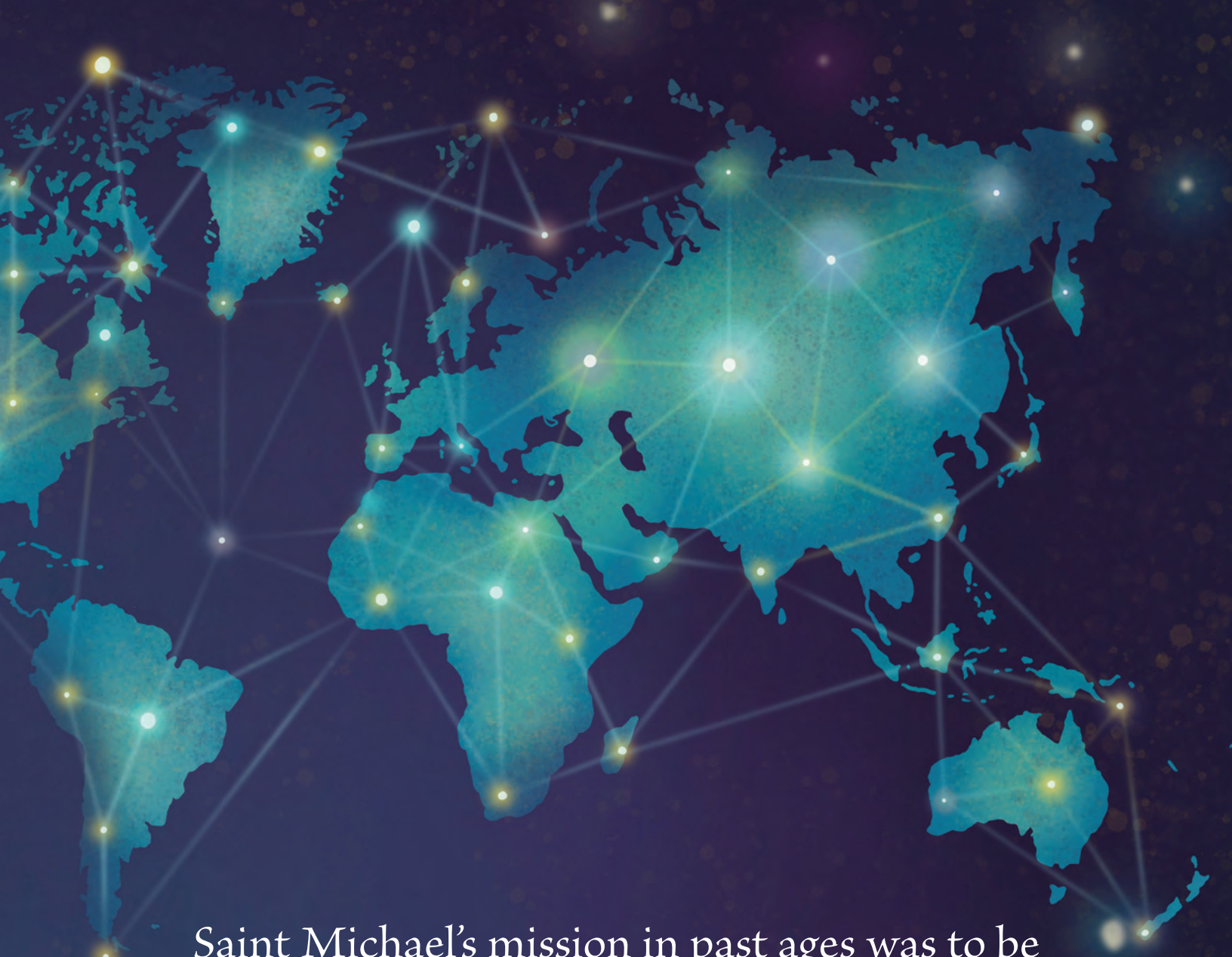






When the Israelites
were exiled to
Babylon, far away
from their homes,
the prophet Daniel
reassured them that
Michael, the great
prince who has charge
of God's people, would
come to their aid.
Not long after this
prophecy, God's people
were home again!





Saint Michael's mission in past ages was to be the guardian angel of the Israelites. But his next mission would be even greater.

God's special people were soon to become more numerous than the stars in the sky—growing into a worldwide family, the New Israel, the Holy Catholic Church.

And there is no stronger protector to watch over the Church than the mighty Archangel Michael.