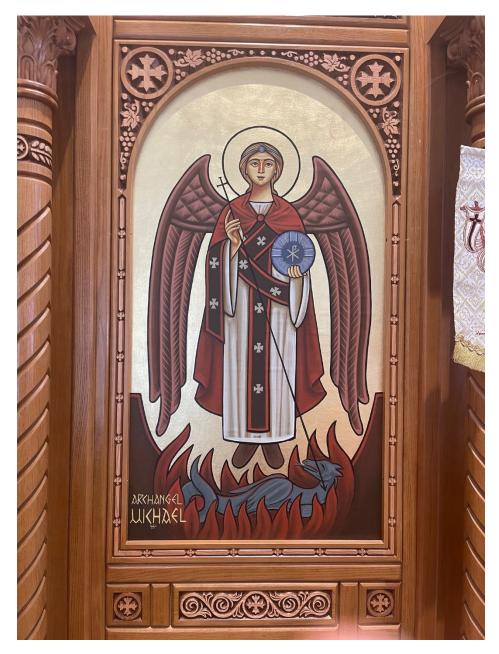
## **Archangel Michael**



Archangel Michael is God's top angel, leading all of the angels in heaven. He is also known as Saint Michael. Michael means "Who is like God?"

Archangel Michael's main characteristics are exceptional strength and courage. Michael fights for good to prevail over evil (often seen in art wielding a sword or spear) and empowers believers to set their faith in God ablaze with passion. He protects and defends people who love God.

People sometimes ask for Michael's help to gain the courage they need to overcome their fears, obtain strength to resist temptations to sin and instead do what's right and stay safe in dangerous situations. The place of Michael in the <u>Coptic Orthodox Church of Alexandria</u> is as a <u>saintly intercessor</u>. He is the one who presents to God the prayers of the just, who accompanies the souls of the dead to heaven, who defeats the devil. He is celebrated liturgically on the 12th of each <u>Coptic month</u>.

In <u>Alexandria</u>, a church was dedicated to him in the early fourth century on the 12th of the month of <u>Paoni</u>. The 12th of the month of <u>Hathor</u> is the celebration of Michael's appointment in heaven, where Michael became the chief of the angels.