

The Guild of Health and St. Raphael

Statement of Commitment

The Branch of the Guild of Health and St. Raphael at the Cathedral of St. Michael and All Angels is dedicated to promoting and providing prayerful support for Christ's ministry of healing as an integral part of the life and worship of the Church. Members observe a simple rule of prayer, study and work for this ministry, aiming always to promote Christ's ministry of healing - the healing of the whole person. The Guild is also committed to working towards the healing of communities and of God's creation itself.



This year, the Branch celebrates its third anniversary of formation and Commissioning. In celebration of St. Raphael's Day on October 24th, members have organized a novena prayer to honour St. Raphael, to give thanks for the work of the Guild and the progress which our Branch has made during the past year. Details of the Novena Prayer Activity are attached.

Prayer for healing is at the heart of the Guild's work, as is support for the sacraments of healing - anointing and the sacramental act of the laying on of hands. Our members pledge to remain steadfast to this special call to Ministry within our Church, and will continue to support our Cathedral members and all who seek our help. To this end, the Guild established a *Station for Prayer Requests* through which prayerful support may be given by the members of our Cathedral Branch; as well as by the Prayer Group at Guild Headquarters in the United Kingdom.

During this time of the COVID-19 pandemic our principal witness through prayer intensified and our Branch members continue to participate in virtual/physical group and individual activities. As new protocols permit us to gather for corporate worship, we endeavour to launch the Healthy Healing Hub programme at the Cathedral. The Guild's initiative of Healthy Healing Hubs provide space and opportunities that promote Christ's Ministry of Healing which brings comfort, good health and wellness to all.

The Guild also welcomes and encourages interest and support from the members of our congregation, the Diocese of Barbados and like-minded Christians from other denominations.

With God being our Helper, we commit ourselves to assisting in the process of restoration and healing.

St. Raphael, the Patron Saint of the Guild

Raphael is ranked as one of the seven *chief angels* who stand before the Throne of the Lord and one of the only three - along with Michael and Gabriel, who are mentioned by name in the Bible.

In Hebrew, Rāfā'ēl - Raphael means '***It is God who heals/ 'God Heals'***'. Raphael became a Patron Saint of healing and is venerated a Saint by the Catholic Church in honour of his work helping humanity to heal from physical and emotional conditions.

An Invitation to Pray the Novena

The Cathedral Branch of the Guild of Health and St. Raphael will be hosting a Novena Prayer activity in celebration of St. Raphael's Day - October 24th. The Novena Prayer commences on Saturday, October 24 and concludes on Sunday, November 1, All Saints Day. We invite our Cathedral Family and friends to join in the nine days of prayer - individually or through our guided virtual gatherings via the link below:

Topic: Novena for St. Raphael: Guild of Health and St. Raphael - Branch of the the Cathedral of St. Michael & All Angels, Barbados

Time: This is a reoccurring event – hosted from 8.00 p.m.

Dates: Saturday, October 24th -Sunday, November 1st, 2020

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/71242601005?pwd=WjFKWFgweFRBYVRkL1pHd1l0Z010dz09>

Meeting ID: 712 4260 1005

Passcode: LOB11p



St. Raphael's Novena Prayer

Glorious Archangel St. Raphael, great prince of the heavenly court, you are illustrious for your gifts of wisdom and grace. You are a guide of those who journey by land or sea or air, consoler of the afflicted, and refuge of sinners.

I beg you, assist me in all my needs and in all the sufferings of this life, as once you helped the young Tobias on his travels. Because you are the “medicine of God”, I humbly pray you to heal the many infirmities of my soul and the ills that afflict my body.

I especially ask of you the favor: ***(state your specific request or intention here!)*** and the great grace of purity to prepare me to be the temple of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

*The Members of the Branch of the Guild of Health and St. Raphael
- Cathedral of St. Michael and All Angels
Darwin Clarke - Chairman*

Kurlyne Alleyne - Secretary