



# THE SCAPULAR OF ST MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL

What is the Scapular of St. Michael the Archangel?

This Scapular is an outward sign of entrusting oneself to St. Michael the Archangel and of belonging to the Michaelite family and also signifies renewed reverence to St. Michael. The type of scapular (cloth or medal) is a personal choice.

When was the first Scapular introduced?

The scapular was first introduced in the nineteenth century at St Eustace Church in Rome by the Confraternity of St. Michael the Archangel. The scapular was in the shape of a shield (buckler) and not rectangular like other scapulars. One petal of the scapular was navy blue and the other black. The ribbons connecting the 2 pieces of fabric are similarly coloured. On both fabric petals of the scapular was the image of St. Archangel Michael slaying the dragon and the inscription "Quis ut Deus" (Who is like God).

How does the Scapular look today?

The scapular of St. Michael consists of two petals in the shape of a shield made of woolen fabric. The fabric has a dual color scheme: black and dark blue. On the black wool is the image of St. Michael the Archangel from the sanctuary on Mount Gargano (Monte Sant 'Angelo) and on the blue the image of Our Lady of the Shrine of St

Michael the Archangel in Miejsce Piastowe, Poland – the Motherhouse of the Michaelites. One of the ribbons connecting the two petals is black and the other blue.

### Does the Church approve of the Scapular?

The first St Michael scapular was approved by Pope Leo XIII in the nineteenth century. On 1 March 2013, by the decree of Fr Kazimierz Radzik the Superior General of the Congregation of St. Michael at the time, approval was granted to the current form of the scapular. Pope Benedict XVI in the "Letter to Michaelites" wrote that the investment of the scapular in its present form serves as a reminder of the invaluable assistance of the mighty Defender; discovering in oneself the majesty, goodness and love of God; and realizing that there is no greater value, or any other equally great good outside of God, the Creator and Lord of all.

### What does the Scapular symbolize?

The scapular petal falling on the back represents the attitude of submission to the will of God while encountering trials, enduring difficulties, and carrying one's cross. The part falling on the chest is a reminder that the human heart beats for love of God and neighbour; of detachment from the world and; through the intercession of St. Michael, of the need to strive for eternal goods.

### What should the wearing of the Scapular remind us of?

Wearing the scapular should remind us of our Christian responsibilities as well as the certainty that St. Michael will intercede for us. It is an expression of faith in the Christian

encounter with God through the intercession and protection of St. Michael the Archangel.

### What is the role of the Scapular?

1. Wearing the scapular shows we have chosen St. Michael the Archangel as a special defender against temptation and sin.
2. The scapular is the uniform of the angelic army. Those belonging to the Confraternity of the Scapular can be recognized by this sign.
3. The scapular is a garment that protects our spiritual life, helping us overcome obstacles on the road to salvation: the flesh, Satan and the world.
4. Wearing the scapular is a source of grace which helps us bear the sacrifices and austerities that are required in our struggle with sin and in imitating Christ.

### What is the purpose of wearing the Scapular?

The scapular is a sign of the devotion to St. Michael the Archangel in order to obtain through his intercession:

1. The protection and flowering of the Holy Catholic Church.
2. The grace of a good confession for oneself and others; the strength in the fight against addiction and vices; defense against heresies, errors and false teachings; cessation of profanity, blasphemy and other offenses; and the conversion of all sinners.
3. The spirit of gentleness and humility of heart and an increase of faith, hope and love.

4. Affirmation of the Kingdom of God in the world through the powerful intercession of Our Lady Queen of Angels and of the holy angels.
5. The deliverance of souls from purgatory with prayers and indulgences.
6. The grace of a good and saintly death.

### What are the benefits of investment with the Scapular?

Those who have had the scapular invested become members of the Michaelite Family and share in the spiritual fruits of the Congregation of St Michael the Archangel which include: gaining indulgences; benefiting from the merits of the saints and blessed; graces derived from Holy Masses celebrated by the priests of the congregation and graces derived from prayer, fasting and mortification of the members.

### What are the conditions associated with the Scapular?

1. The scapular must be invested by a priest or deacon.
2. It must be kept on your person or in a dedicated space.
3. The simple exorcism prayer of Pope Leo XIII must be recited daily.
4. The act of consecration to St Michael must be made on the first Tuesday of the month during communal devotion or individually.
5. Give honour to your Choir of Angels in the month dedicated to them.

### Which holy days should be honoured?

Those who have had the scapular, cultivate a spiritual connection with the Congregation of St. Michael by celebrating the following:

- a) Feast of the Holy Archangels: Michael, Gabriel and Raphael (September 29)
- b) Feast of the Holy Guardian Angels (October 2)
- c) Memorial of Blessed Bronislaw Markiewicz, Founder of the Congregation (30 January)
- d) Revelation of St. Michael on Mount Gargano (8 May)
- e) Attend the prayer meetings in the month dedicated to your Choir of Angels

### Where can I get the Scapular?

To purchase scapulars, please contact:  
St Michael's Catholic Church, Hurstville NSW 2220  
email:office@stmichaelhurst.org.au  
ph: 02 9587 2166

### Should the Scapular be received personally?

Yes, scapulars should be received personally. It is demanded by the seriousness of the symbolism of the Scapular itself as well as the desire to establish a personal relationship with St. Michael.

### When can I be invested with the Scapular?

The scapular can be invested at any time. However, it acquires particular significance if the investment occurs on one of the feast days dedicated to St. Michael and the Holy Angels.

### How do I prepare for the investment with the Scapular?

Those who are being invested should be in a state of grace, hence, it is highly recommended that the Sacrament of Reconciliation be

receive prior to the investment. This allows the grace of God to touch those who are entrusted to the care of St. Michael the Archangel.

### Can someone living in an irregular/non-sacramental relationship receive the Scapular?

In this circumstance the scapular can be received with a desire to persevere in doing good with the help of St. Michael the Archangel and with the intention to regularise the relationship as soon as it is feasible.

### Can children receive the Scapular?

Children may receive the scapular. However, it is recommended that they are of an age when they can understand the basic Truths of the Faith (preferably after the First Holy Communion).

### Where can I find the rite of the investiture of the Scapular?

The text of the ceremony can be found on the website [www.michalici.pl](http://www.michalici.pl). It is also in the Angelic Prayer book, which can be ordered at the Secretariat by writing to the following address: ..., or by calling ph:

### Is it necessary to undergo the rite of investiture of the Scapular?

To partake of the graces associated with the scapular requires investment according to an approved Rite. Of course, the scapular medal may be worn with the hope that St Michael the Archangel will accompany the wearer in life. The Rite of Investiture of the Scapular

originates from the Shrine of St. Michael the Archangel on Mount Gargano, where it is celebrated it as a form of sacramentalia.

### Can the Scapular be received more than once?

Investment with the scapular takes place only once. The first scapular must be made of fabric. It may subsequently be replaced with the scapular medal which may be purchased privately and worn straightaway. The same process should be followed when one decides to resume the use of the scapular after a period (no matter how long) of non-use provided that the reason for ceasing the use of the scapular was anything other than contempt. In case of contempt then the person should go through the Rite of Investiture again.

### Should the Scapular be blessed?

Yes, and it must be done in accordance with the approved Rite of blessing and before wearing.

### Who can bless the Scapular?

The scapular can be blessed by a priest or deacon.

### Who can validly invest the Scapular?

Any religious, deacon or diocesan priest can validly invest the faithful with the scapular, using the rite approved by the Superior General of the Congregation of St. Michael the Archangel. The investment cannot validly be performed by a layperson. He may put on the scapular on someone who is frail, aged or ill, but this is not recognised as a formal investment with the Scapular. When

possible, the person should go to a priest for a formal investiture. If not, a priest should be requested to visit and perform the Rite of Investiture.

### Is it a sin to cease wearing the Scapular once it is invested?

It is not a sin to discontinue wearing the scapular, but in doing so he ceases to benefit from the promised graces.

### Where can the Scapular be kept?

The scapular should be worn around the neck. The abundance of graces obtained through the intercession of St. Michael demands the wearing of the scapular in a dignified manner. But it can also be hidden discreetly under clothes or in a wallet. If it is kept at home it should be placed in a dedicated place of honour.

### What must be done with a worn-out Scapular?

If the worn-out Scapular is made of cloth it should be burned. It should not be disposed of in garbage out of respect to the character of the scapular.

### What is the Scapular medal?

On 1 March 2013, the scapular medal was approved by the Superior General of the Congregation of St. Michael as a substitute for the cloth scapular. The faithful wearing the medal scapular participate in all the spiritual privileges resulting from wearing the cloth scapular. However, cloth scapulars are used for the Rite of Investiture.

## How does the Scapular medal look like?

It is a silver medal in the shape of a buckler. One side shows the statue of St. Michael the Archangel from the Italian shrine on Mount Gargano with the inscription: "St. Michael defend us in battle", and the other side shows the coat of arms of the Congregation of St. Michael the Archangel with the inscription on the rim, "Who is like God" and "Moderation and Work".



## Should the reception of the Scapular be periodically renewed?

The Rite of Investiture of the Scapular is not repeated. There is, however a beautiful custom of renewal of consecration to St. Michael the Archangel each year on the feast of St. Michael (29 September) and on the anniversary of receiving the scapular. This custom does not have a specific form. Most often it is expressed by a visit to the church and renewal in the heart of the act of consecration to St. Michael the Archangel.

## What is the Book of the Scapular of St Michael the Archangel?

The Book of the Scapular of St. Michael the Archangel contains the list of persons that have received the Scapular.

## Do I have to be enrolled in the Book of the Scapular?

Everyone receiving the scapular is encouraged to provide the basic information: name, age, place of residence. Entry in the Book of the Scapular is recommended but not necessary for the investment of the Scapular.

### How do I enrol in the Book of the Scapular?

The enrolment into the Book of the Scapular is done by filling in the declaration received with the purchase of the Scapular and returning it after the act of investiture to the following address: Confraternity of the Scapular or St Michael, 10 Croydon Road, Hurstville 2220 NSW. Alternatively the following information: a) name, b) address, c) the place and date of receiving the Scapular, d) age of the person receiving the scapular may be emailed to: [office@stmichaelhurst.org.au](mailto:office@stmichaelhurst.org.au)

### Where is the centre of promotion of devotion to St. Michael the Archangel?

The centre of promotion of devotion is located at St Michael Catholic Church in Hurstville, NSW Australia.

### What did Fr. Markiewicz – founder of Michaelites - wrote about the Scapular of St. Michael?

July 20, 1880

The Holy Father. Leo XIII approved the Confraternity of the Scapular of St. Michael, founded in Rome on August 30, 1878. This scapular consists of two flakes of wool in the form of a shield. One part of the

image of St. Michael is blue in color and the other one brown. the scapular doesn't have any special prayers.

The purpose of this Confraternity is the promotion of devotion to the angels, especially to their commander in chief St. Michael and to obtain, through his intercession:

1. the freedom and honour of The Catholic Church;
2. the eradication of heresies, errors and perverse teachings;
3. the cessation of offenses/blasphemies and the conversion of all sinners;
4. the spirit of gentleness and humility of heart combined with great multiplication of faith, hope and love;
5. Strengthening of the kingdom of God in our souls by the powerful intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary (the Immaculate Conception) and the angels;
6. salvation of righteous souls from purgatory;
7. the grace of a good and saintly death.

Reasons to establish this Confraternity are great, because we live in extremely sad times. Never before has the powers of hell been demonstrated with such ferocity, boldness and cunning against the Lord and his Church, as now. The anger of the hostile powers has reached such a peak that the fight they are waging bears the clear hallmarks of superhuman battle. Secret devilish societies has ensnared the entire globe and has planted people in the most influential positions to overturn the altars and thrones. Images of the Prince of Hell are sometimes openly paraded in processions through the streets of the cities, and the songs in their honour arrange by men learned and baptized in the Catholic Church. All

nations are weathering the storm; people are plotting and revolting; dukes gather and kings of the earth rise against God and against Christ, whose yoke is sweet but it still crushes them. So they would like to lose it, tear their ties with the Creator and make humanity un-Christian.

In poignant moments such as this we must secure help in the fight against mighty powers from more than one light and one supernatural power.

It is fitting, therefore, at the present time to draw closer with special devotion and in a very special way to St. Michael, commander of the army of heaven and slayer of evil angels, who, in Heaven after the Blessed Virgin Mary, occupies the first place and also has greatest influence on the fate of the world second to the Virgin. Our final victory rests in their hands. St. Michael is, after the Blessed Virgin Mary, the first/greatest power in heaven and on earth.

Ks. Bronislaw Markiewicz  
PIP 1902: R. V, No. 6, p. 47



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