

Our Lady of the Assumption Church
1908-2008



SAINT GABRIEL OF OUR LADY
OF SORROWS

A Child's Booklet



Look at the round painting on the cover. A young man dressed all in black is standing on a cloud. His hands are folded in prayer. There are angels and golden light all around him.

It is the same painting that you can see on the ceiling of Our Lady of the Assumption Church. Do you know who this is?

It is Saint Gabriel, sometimes called Saint Gabriel of Our Lady of Sorrows. The people who built this church came from the place in Italy where Saint Gabriel lived.

Gabriel was born many years ago. He grew up in a big, loving family. Gabriel was good at school, and had many friends. Everyone loved him, and wanted to be with him. They all thought that he would marry and have a big job some day. But God's plan was different.

Gabriel always prayed to Mary, the Mother of Jesus, when he needed help – and one day, Mary spoke to his heart.

She asked him to become a priest. That was what God wanted. Gabriel was so happy that he said “Yes!” right away. He would give up everything he had and become a priest. He kept only a Crucifix – a cross with Jesus on it – so he would always remember that Jesus died because He loved us.

All his life, Gabriel was kind to everyone, especially poor people. And with everyone he met, he reminded them, “Jesus died on the Cross because He loves you.” Gabriel also said, “If you ask Mary for help, she will always help you.”

Gabriel died when he was only 24 years old. After he died, he became famous because of his great love – for Jesus and Mary, and for everyone. People remembered the holy life he had led. Miracles happened when people prayed to him – and he became a saint.

Today, there is a shrine to him at the place where he died, and millions of people visit it every year.

Our Lady of Sorrows is a name given to Mary, because of her great sadness when her Son, Jesus, died on the Cross. Gabriel took this name – *Gabriel of Our Lady of Sorrows* – so that, with Mary’s help, he would always remember that Jesus died on the Cross because He loved us.

Look at the painting again. Saint Gabriel is looking down from heaven at us. The red roses in the arms of the angel mean love. When we look at this painting, it can remind us that Saint Gabriel is a saint of love. We can ask him to help us learn to love as he did.

Saint Gabriel’s feast day is February 27th.



A Prayer to Saint Gabriel

Dear Saint Gabriel,

You were a young child like me.

You loved Jesus, and you loved Mary, the
Mother of Jesus.

Help me to love like you did.

You were kind and loving to everyone –
especially the poor.

Help me to love like you did.

Because of your great love you are now in
heaven.

Help me to love like you did,

So that when my life is done, I can go to heaven
too.

Amen.

Our Lady of the Assumption Church

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