

Patrons of Parishes &

SAINT GABRIEL



God was pleased to select St. Gabriel to announce the mystery of His Incarnation (1) » This means that he was the confidant of the greatest secret of the Most High the ambassador of the most important negotiation in the world, the revealer of the sublime designs inspired by the love of the Ho'y Trinity for our guilty race. Consequently he takes his name from Christ Himself. He is called Gabriel, that is the strength of God, because he announces Christ, the strength of God, who overthrew the pagan world and triumphed over sin, over death and over hell.

Holy writ first shows us St. Gabriel as the interpreter of Daniel's visions respecting the Messiah.

His imposing majesty inspires the prophet with dread.

« I was, he says, (Dan. x, 5 — 19) by the great river Tigris, and lifting up my eyes, I suddenly saw a man clothed in linen and whose loins were girded with the finest gold. His body was like the chrisolite, his face as the appearance of lightning and his eyes as a burning lamp while the voice of his words was like the voice of a multitude.

« I, Daniel, alone saw the vision, for they who were with me saw it not ; but an exceeding great terror fell upon them and they fled and hid themselves. For my part, there remained no strength in me, I fainted away and lay in consternation on my face. And behold a hand touched me and lifted me up and a voice said to me : Fear not, Daniel, for, from the first day of thy penance . . . thy words have been heard and I am come for thy words . . . I am come to teach thee what things shall befall thy people in the latter days. And when he was speaking such words to me, I cast down my countenance to the ground

(1) *Orison of the office of St. Gabriel, 18th March pro. aliq. locis.*