

mary queen of the angels

Published: September 3, 2026 | Index ID: #-

Quick Takeaways

- **Theological Origin:** The title 'Regina Angelorum' (Queen of the Angels) is rooted in the Davidic 'Gebirah' tradition and the dogma of the Assumption.
- **Celestial Hierarchy:** Mary is uniquely positioned above all nine choirs of angels, including the Seraphim and Cherubim.
- **Franciscan Heart:** St. Francis of Assisi's love for the Portiuncula (St. Mary of the Angels) popularized this specific title.
- **Artistic Iconography:** Traditionally depicted with a crown and surrounded by the heavenly host, symbolizing her role as mediatrix.
- **Practical Devotion:** The title is invoked for protection, guidance, and intercession through the Litany of Loreto and the Portiuncula indulgence.

Introduction: The Sovereignty of the Mother of God

In the vast expanse of Christian tradition, few titles carry the weight of both majesty and intimacy like **Mary Queen of the Angels**. Known in Latin as *Regina Angelorum*, this title is not merely a poetic accolade but a profound theological statement regarding the position of the Virgin Mary in the economy of salvation. While Mary remains a human creature, her unique relationship with the Triune God—as Daughter of the Father, Mother of the Son, and Spouse of the Holy Spirit—elevates her above all other created beings, including the celestial hierarchies of angels.

This masterclass explores the multifaceted nature of this title. We will delve into its scriptural foundations, its historical evolution through the early Church Fathers and the Middle Ages, the specific role of the Franciscan order in its promotion, and how the Nine Choirs of Angels are said to serve their Queen. For the practitioner of spirituality, this guide provides a roadmap for integrating this ancient devotion into modern life, offering a deeper understanding of the cosmic order and the role of the feminine in the divine plan.

Theological and Scriptural Foundations

The Old Testament Prototype: The Gebirah

To understand why Mary is called Queen, one must look to the Davidic Kingdom of the Old Testament. Unlike modern Western monarchies where the king's wife is queen, in the Kingdom of Judah, the **Gebirah**(or Queen Mother) held the primary royal office alongside the king. This is famously illustrated in 1 Kings 2:19, where King Solomon rises to meet his mother, Bathsheba, bows to her, and places a throne for her at his right hand. As the mother of the 'King of Kings' (Jesus, the heir to the throne of David), Mary naturally inherits this royal status in the New Covenant. The angels, being the King's messengers and court, acknowledge her as their sovereign.

New Testament Indications

While the New Testament does not use the explicit phrase 'Queen of the Angels,' the foundations are present. In Luke 1:28, the Archangel Gabriel—a prince of the celestial court—approaches Mary with the greeting 'Hail, Full of Grace' (*Kaire Kecharitomene*). Theologically, this greeting signifies a level of respect that an angel, a higher being by nature, pays to a human who is higher by grace. Furthermore, Revelation 12 depicts a 'woman clothed with the

sun, with the moon under her feet, and on her head a crown of twelve stars.' Traditional exegesis identifies this woman as Mary, exercising cosmic dominion over the heavens and the stars (often associated with angels).

The Nine Choirs: How the Angels Serve Their Queen

Theology, following the writings of Pseudo-Dionysius the Areopagite, identifies nine distinct choirs of angels. To understand Mary's title, we must examine her relationship with each of these orders. As Queen, she does not merely rule them; she reflects the perfections that each choir possesses in a concentrated human form.

The First Hierarchy: The Councilors of God

- Seraphim: The 'burning ones' who stand closest to God. Mary, whose heart burned with the highest charity, is said to possess a love that exceeds that of the Seraphim.
- Cherubim: Known for their fullness of knowledge. Mary, as the *Sedes Sapientiae* (Seat of Wisdom), contained the Logos himself, the source of all knowledge.
- Thrones: Representing God's justice and stability. Mary's womb was the first throne of the incarnate Christ.

The Second Hierarchy: The Governors of the Universe

- Dominions: They regulate the duties of lower angels. Mary, in her queenly office, directs the celestial forces for the benefit of humanity.
- Virtues: Associated with miracles and strength. Mary is the vessel through which the greatest miracle—the Incarnation—occurred.
- Powers: Warriors who protect against evil spirits. Mary is the 'Scourge of Demons,' whose name alone causes the powers of darkness to tremble.

The Third Hierarchy: The Messengers and Guardians

- Principalities: Protectors of nations and the Church. Mary is the Mother of the Church and the patroness of countless nations.
- Archangels: Special messengers for great tasks. Mary was the recipient of the greatest Archangelic message delivered by Gabriel.
- Angels: Personal guardians. Mary is the universal guardian who assists every soul in its journey toward her Son.

Historical Evolution: From Ephesus to Assisi

The Council of Ephesus (431 AD)

The formal recognition of Mary as *Theotokos* (God-bearer) was the catalyst for all her royal titles. Once it was dogma that she was the mother of God, her superiority over the angels became a logical theological necessity. If she gave flesh to the one whom the angels worship, they must, in turn, honor her.

St. Francis and the Portiuncula

The title 'Mary Queen of the Angels' is inextricably linked to St. Francis of Assisi. In the early 13th century, Francis repaired a small, abandoned chapel in the valley below Assisi known as *Santa Maria degli Angeli* (St. Mary of the Angels). It was here that he founded the Franciscan order and where he spent much of his life. Legend says that angels were frequently seen descending to this chapel, honoring their Queen. Francis's deep devotion to this site popularized the title throughout Europe, moving it from high theology into the hearts of the common people.

Comparative Analysis: Marian Titles and Functions

To better understand the specific nuance of 'Queen of the Angels,' let us compare it to other prominent titles of the

Virgin Mary.

Title	Theological Focus	Spiritual Domain	Primary Association
Theotokos	Divine Motherhood	Foundational / Dogmatic	The Council of Ephesus
Queen of Heaven	Cosmic Sovereignty	Universal Dominion	The Coronation
Queen of the Angels	Mediation and Hierarchy	Celestial / Intercessory	The Franciscan Tradition
Queen of Peace	Inter-human harmony	Societal / Global	Post-WWI Devotions
Queen of Apostles	Evangelization	Ecclesial / Missionary	Pentecost

Iconography and Artistic Representation

In art, the representation of Mary Queen of the Angels has evolved to emphasize her command over the celestial realm. Key elements found in this iconography include:

1. The Crown: Often held by two angels above her head, signifying that her queenship is a gift from God.
2. The Mandorla: An almond-shaped light surrounding her, representing the transition between the divine and human worlds.
3. Angelic Choirs: In Renaissance masterpieces, Mary is often shown surrounded by various types of angels—musician angels (playing lutes or harps) represent the harmony of the spheres, while warrior angels represent her power.
4. Blue and Gold: The use of Lapis Lazuli blue for her mantle (representing the heavens) and gold leaf (representing the divine light) are standard in 'Regina Angelorum' depictions.

Notable works include the *Regina Angelorum* by William-Adolphe Bouguereau, which depicts Mary holding the Christ child while being adored by a vast multitude of angels, showcasing her role as the bridge between the angelic and the human.

A Masterclass Methodology for Devotion

How does one practically honor Mary Queen of the Angels today? This methodology outlines a structured approach for spiritual practitioners.

Step 1: Daily Invocation

Incorporate the *Angelus* or the *Regina Caeli*(during Eastertide) into your routine. These prayers acknowledge the interaction between Mary and the angelic messengers. Specifically, use the invocation: "Mary, Queen of the Angels, pray for us."

Step 2: Meditative Study of the Choirs

Dedicate time to study one of the Nine Choirs of Angels each week. Meditate on how Mary exemplifies the virtues of that choir. For example, when studying the 'Powers,' ask for Mary's intercession to overcome personal temptations or spiritual blockages.

Step 3: The Portiuncula Practice

Observe August 2nd as a special feast. Even if not at a Franciscan chapel, perform acts of charity and go to confession, honoring the spirit of the 'Pardon of Assisi.' This fosters a spirit of humility and renewal, mirroring the 'little portion' (Portiuncula) that Francis loved.

Common Pitfalls and Troubleshooting

Misunderstanding 'Worship' (Latria vs. Dulia)

A common pitfall is the confusion between worship and veneration. Theology is clear: **Latria** (adoration) is reserved for God alone. **Dulia** (veneration) is for the saints, and **Hyperdulia** is the special veneration given to Mary. Calling her 'Queen of the Angels' does not make her a goddess; it recognizes her as the highest of God's creatures who, by her 'Yes' (Fiat), allowed the Creator to enter His creation.

Over-Sentimentality vs. Dogmatic Truth

Another pitfall is reducing the title to mere sentiment. To 'troubleshoot' this, always ground your devotion in the scriptural and dogmatic reality of the Incarnation. Her queenship exists only because of her Son's kingship.

Frequently Asked Questions

In conclusion, the title **Mary Queen of the Angels** serves as a reminder of the incredible dignity of the human vocation. That a human woman should be elevated above the highest spirits of heaven is a testament to the power of grace and the humility of a God who chose to be born of her. By understanding her sovereignty, we better understand our own place in the cosmic hierarchy and the protective care offered by the Queen who has the hosts of heaven at her command.

Tags: [#mariology](#) [#regina angelorum](#) [#spirituality](#) [#catholicism](#) [#religious history](#) [#angels](#)

