

Archangel Michael is one of the main archangels in the Christian tradition, described in the canonical books of the Bible as a powerful warrior angel who leads the heavenly host in spiritual battles against the forces of evil. The word “archangel” means “angel of the highest rank,” and “commander-in-chief.” Believers revere Michael as one of the most honored biblical figures, who symbolizes intercession for those who fight for righteous causes and protection against evil. This is why the archangel is frequently depicted wielding a sword and bearing a shield.

Since the times of Kyiv Rus, St. Michael has been considered the heavenly guardian of the city of Kyiv, and his veneration as the city’s protector has become a long-standing tradition. In honor of the archangel, Prince Sviatopolk (whose Christian name was Michael) built St. Michael’s Golden-Domed Monastery between 1108 and 1113, with St. Michael’s Golden-Domed Cathedral serving as its primary place of worship.

The earliest depictions of Archangel Michael in Kyiv date back to the 11th and 12th centuries, when his image first appeared on princely seals. From then on, he became the heraldic symbol of the Principality of Kyiv, embodying divine protection. In the Cossack



period, a coat of arms depicting the archangel was placed next to the family coats of arms of hetmans and on Cossack flags. During the Ukrainian Revolution of 1917–1921, Archangel Michael retained his special significance in the heraldic tradition. The combination of his image with a golden lion symbolized the unity of Ukrainian lands. In 1995, the figure of St. Michael was returned to the Kyiv coat of arms. The symbolic patronage of Archangel Michael extends to key state institutions: the facade of the main building of the National Bank of Ukraine in Kyiv features the archangel clad in the armor of a Roman commander, holding a flaming sword and shield.

The issuing of this commemorative coin, dedicated to the heavenly protector, embodies the hope for the triumph of good and symbolizes support for Ukraine’s defenders. Ukrainians sincerely believe in their defenders and know that “...THE SOULS OF THE RIGHTEOUS AND THE POWER OF ARCHANGEL MICHAEL ARE WITH US.”

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ARCHANGEL MICHAEL

NATIONAL BANK OF UKRAINE



Issue date

29 December 2025

Metal

gold

Diameter

20.0 mm

Quality

special uncirculated

Edge

smooth

Mintage

up to 10,000

COMMEMORATIVE COIN • 2025