

# St. Raphael the Archangel

NEWSLETTER FOR PARISHES NAMED FOR ST. RAPHAEL THE ARCHANGEL TO  
EXCHANGE IDEAS ON ENCOURAGING UNDERSTANDING AND DEVOTION

## The Newsletter

By Frederick A. Hodes

This is the twenty-third issue of the *St. Raphael Newsletter*, whose purpose is to share information about devotion to our patron, St. Raphael the Archangel. Immediately after Vatican II, devotional practices to saints fell out of fashion. In recent years, devotion to and prayers requesting the intercession of the saints and angels have become more prevalent. This newsletter hopes to encourage ideas about devotion to the Archangel Raphael.

Contents of this issue are varied. The first item contains the news of a new pastor for St. Raphael parish in St. Louis. The next two stories concern the hurricane that struck Puerto Rico last year causing extensive damage. The San Rafael parish in Quebradillas suffered damage. In particular, one of the several chapels used to serve the large sprawling parish lost part of its roof and suffered interior damage. St. Raphael in St. Louis raised money to help repair the damaged chapel. Page three contains pictures of the parish church and the damaged chapel. The last entry presents a litany to St. Raphael the Archangel.

Thanks to everyone who has sent Sunday bulletins and newsletters in the past years; also, several parishes have sent us their anniversary books. Prayers and devotional items along with religious art of all forms remain our main focus, although we do enjoy receiving and sharing articles about St. Raphael parishes and their news.

We need your input. Please share with us any devotional items such as pictures of statues, stained glass windows, and other forms of artwork. We especially hope for original compositions of prayers or hymns. The *Newsletter* also invites parishes to send copies of their Sunday bulletins so we can learn about the various St. Raphael parishes around the United States.

Please send us the program for your celebration of the feast of St. Raphael or any devotional materials you may have. If your parish is celebrating an anniversary, please let us know so we can share it with other St. Raphael parishes. Email your parish news to [fhodes@msn.com](mailto:fhodes@msn.com).

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## St. Raphael Parish in St. Louis

St. Raphael parish in St. Louis has a new pastor. In June the Archbishop transferred Rev. Robert J. Reiker as pastor to another parish. Our new pastor is Rev. John Mayo, who has taken on his new position with enthusiasm and a sincere interest in his parishioners. The parish continues to be blessed with a priest-in-residence, Msgr. Dennis Stehly, the Vicar General of the Archdiocese.

## St. Raphael in St. Louis Lenten project

As its Lenten project, St. Raphael in St. Louis raised \$15,000 to assist with the repairs in Puerto Rico. The San Jose Chapel lost part of its roof and suffered water damage. Insurance covered part of the repair and the contribution from St. Louis helped cover much of the remaining cost.

Please send St. Raphael prayers, devotions, pictures, sketches of artwork – traditional or modern – so we can share these with other St. Raphael parishes.

Please send to:

Church of  
St. Raphael the Archangel  
6047 Bishops Place  
St. Louis, MO 63109  
(Attention: Historical Society)

## St. Raphael the Archangel in Puerto Rico

On September 20, 2017, Hurricane Maria devastated much of the island of Puerto Rico. It damaged several of the chapels attached to the parish of San Rafael in Quebradillas, a town on the north central coast of the island. The parish has a central church and eight smaller chapels. The San Jose Chapel suffered the most damage, losing part of its roof and suffering water damage to the interior. The parish, which is about three miles long and seven miles wide, holds about 35,000 persons of whom some 70 percent are Catholic. The pastor, Rev. Jorge Virella, faced repairs of \$98,000 to \$110,000, with only some \$66,000 in insurance coverage.

## Newsletter on the WEB

Past issues of this *Newsletter* are now on the web. See them on the St. Louis St. Raphael web site:

[straphaelarchangel.org](http://straphaelarchangel.org)

Hopefully, these may prove helpful to St. Raphael Churches across the country. Many issues have prayers asking the intercession of the Archangel Raphael. Others present various artistic representations of the archangel, statues, stained glass windows, paintings, and various images. In addition, there are articles highlighting different St. Raphael parishes across the U.S.A., plus a few from foreign countries.



**IGLESIA SAN RAFAEL, PUERTO RICO**



PHOTOS COURTESY OF PARROQUIA SAN RAFAEL

*San José Chapel, one of eight chapels under the pastoral care of Parroquia San Rafael in Quebradillas, Puerto Rico, suffered the most extensive damage of all the chapels. Located close to the sea, a hurricane Sept. 20 ripped off material that covered the roof, flooding the inside of the chapel. The chapel's padded chairs were damaged and several doors also needed repair.*

## St. Raphael Litany

Lord, have mercy,      Lord, have mercy.  
 Christ, have mercy,      Christ, have mercy.  
 Lord, have mercy,      Lord, have mercy.  
 Christ, hear us,      Christ hear us.  
 Christ, graciously hear us,  
                                  Christ graciously hear us.  
 God the Father of Heaven, Have mercy on us.  
 God the Son, Redeemer of the world,  
                                  Have mercy on us.  
 God the Holy Spirit,      Have mercy on us.  
 Holy Trinity, One God,      Have mercy on us.  
 Holy Mary, Queen of Angels,  
                                  Pray for us.  
 Saint Raphael,  
                                  Pray for us.  
 Saint Raphael, filled with the mercy of God,  
                                  Pray for us.  
 Saint Raphael, perfect adorer of the Divine  
                                  Word,  
                                  Pray for us.  
 Saint Raphael, health of the sick,  
                                  Pray for us.  
 Saint Raphael, our refuge in all our trials,  
                                  Pray for us.  
 Saint Raphael, guide of travelers,  
                                  Pray for us.  
 Saint Raphael, consoler of prisoners,  
                                  Pray for us.  
 Saint Raphael, joy of the sorrowful,  
                                  Pray for us.  
 Saint Raphael, filled with zeal for the salvation  
                                  of souls,  
                                  Pray for us.  
 Saint Raphael, whose name means  
                                  God heals,  
                                  Pray for us.  
 Saint Raphael, angel of peace and prosperity,  
                                  Pray for us.  
 Saint Raphael, endowed with the grace of  
                                  healing,  
                                  Pray for us.  
 Saint Raphael, sure guide in the paths of  
                                  virtue and sanctification,  
                                  Pray for us.

Saint Raphael, help of all those who implore  
                                  your assistance,  
                                  Pray for us.  
 Saint Raphael, who was the guide and  
                                  consolation of Tobiah on his journey,  
                                  Pray for us.  
 Saint Raphael, whom the Scriptures praise,  
                                  Pray for us.  
 Saint Raphael, our advocate,  
                                  Pray for us.  
 Lamb of God, Who takes away the sins  
                                  of the world,  
                                  Spare us, O Lord.  
 Lamb of God, Who takes away the sins  
                                  of the world,  
                                  Graciously hear us, O Lord.  
 Lamb of God, Who takes away the sins  
                                  of the world,  
                                  Have mercy on us.  
 Christ, hear us,  
                                  Christ, hear us.  
 Christ, graciously hear us,  
                                  Christ graciously hear us.  
 Amen.

## Need Your Input

Our readers are interested in learning  
 about your parish. Please send to the  
*Newsletter* items about your school  
 and/or parish community so that we can  
 spread the good news of St. Raphael  
 across the nation.

If you do not have these items to  
 contribute, please send us a copy of  
 your parish bulletin so that we can use  
 it in next year's edition.