

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 24th 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.

This year's issue contains an article on the San Rafael parish in Puerto Rico and the town of Quebradillas. Also, there is a commentary on Google and its ability to search for St. Raphael. There is a litany to the Archangel and, finally, a sketch of St. Raphael, our patron.

Thanks to everyone over the years who has sent Sunday bulletins, newsletters, and parish newspapers. Several parishes have sent us their anniversary books. Many items of interest have come our way, including pictures of various St. Raphael churches and newspaper clippings. Prayers and devotional items, along with religious art (of all forms), remain our main focus, although we do enjoy receiving articles about national and international St. Raphael locations.

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 material you may have. If your parish is celebrating its anniversary, please let us know so we can share it with other St. Raphael parishes. Email your parish news items to: fhodes@msn.com.

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St. Raphael In Puerto Rico

The Reverend Jorge Virella of San Rafael parish in Quebradillas, Puerto Rico, thanked St. Raphael parishioners in St. Louis for their contribution of \$15,000 to repair storm damage from Hurricane Maria that occurred on September 20, 2017. The money was used for the San Jose Chapel, part of San Raphael parish.

One can get an interesting view of San Raphael in Quebradillas by using the web and converting the location map to satellite imagery and raising it to the maximum scale. One can then tour the large town and get a feel for the location. Many of the local businesses, including restaurants and local landmarks, are flagged. The view is mildly amazing, seeing the American franchises and chain stores that are flagged in the town: Pizza Hut, Burger King, Subway, Church's Chicken, the AT&T Store, and a huge Walgreens. Obviously, Quebradillas is very much a part of the United States.

As this issue was being produced, another hurricane passed close by Puerto Rico. Let us pray that San Rafael parish and the rest of Puerto Rico will be spared this hurricane season!

**St. Raphael,
intercede for us
and protect us from
harm!**

St. Raphael and Google

One might wonder how powerful the Google search engine is. When unsuccessfully attempting to find news about the St. Raphael hospital in Baghdad, Iraq, one Google entry came as a surprise. The search brought up an early entry that included the St. Raphael *Newsletter* of 2004! That issue contained our description of the Iraqi hospital. The Google search found our *Newsletter*!

Do you have a parish celebration for the feast of St. Raphael? Send us your bulletin announcement describing the event.

We want to hear from you!

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:

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

St. Raphael Litany

Lord, have mercy on us.
 Christ, have mercy on us.
 Lord, have mercy on us.
 Christ, hear us.
 Christ, graciously hear us.
 God the Father, Creator of every person,
 have mercy on us.
 God the Son, Redeemer of the world,
 have mercy on us.
 Saint Raphael, Angel of health, pray for
 us.
 Saint Raphael, one of the seven spirits
 who stand before the throne of God,
 pray for us.
 Saint Raphael, faithful conductor of
 Tobiah, pray for us.
 Saint Raphael, who compelled the devil
 to flee, pray for us.
 Saint Raphael, offerer of our prayers
 before the throne of God, pray for us.
 Saint Raphael, curer of blindness, pray for
 us.
 Saint Raphael, helper in tribulations, pray
 for us.
 Saint Raphael, consoler in necessities,
 pray for us.
 Saint Raphael, making joyful your devoted
 clients, pray for us.
 Saint Raphael, pray for us.
 Christ Jesus, beatitude of the Angels,
 spare us.
 Christ Jesus, glory of the heavenly spirits,
 hear us.
 Christ Jesus, splendor of the celestial
 armies, have mercy on us.

Let Us Pray

O God, who in Your ineffable goodness
 has rendered blessed Raphael the
 conductor for Your faithful in their
 journeys, we humbly implore You that we
 may be conducted by him in the ways of
 salvation, and experience his help in the
 difficulties of our lives, through Jesus
 Christ, our Lord.

Amen.





Newsletter on

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

Straphaelarchangel.org

Hopefully, these may prove helpful to St. Raphael churches across the country. Many issues have prayers asking the

the WEB

intercession of the Archangel Raphael. Others present various representations of the archangel, as seen above. St. Raphael, staff in hand; is Tobiah's guide, with the captured fish that provided the cure for Tobit's blindness.