

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 25th issue of the *St. Raphael Newsletter*, - yes, 25 years! - 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 a Prayer for a perfect spouse. There is a brief notice of the 70th anniversary of St. Raphael in St. Louis; the Covid-19 virus prevented the usual celebrations. The back page has a Russian Icon (I assume Russian and not Greek Orthodox! Does anyone know?).

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

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 under the various virus restrictions, please let us know so we can share it with other St. Raphael parishes. Email your parish news items to: fhodes@msn.com.

INSIDE

- ② St. Raphael in St. Louis
- ③ St. Raphael Prayer and Prayer Card Illustration
- ④ St. Raphael Icon

St. Raphael in St. Louis Marks 70th Anniversary

St. Raphael the Archangel in St. Louis, Missouri, marked the 70th anniversary of its founding. Archbishop Joseph Ritter formed the parish in June, 1950, appointing the Reverend Arthur Behrman as the first pastor.

St. Raphael in St. Louis held a very low-key 70th Anniversary celebration. Because the city of St. Louis had imposed numerous health restrictions to help limit the spread of Covid-19, the usual celebrations did not take place. On Sunday, June 28, the pastor, Reverend John Mayo, celebrated an outdoor Mass on the parish parking lot. Parishioners watched from their cars and listened by way of their smart phones.

Today the parish has 469 families, a preschool, and a regular school that is operating both in the classroom and virtually.

Mass Celebrations in the Age of Covid-19

Initially, across the St. Louis area, there could be no parishioners present in church as the priest celebrated Mass, and it was streamed live for parishioners to watch. Then a limited number of people were admitted to the church for Sunday Mass. Now, the number has increased; but masks are still required.

Other parishes have similar stories to tell. Each city/county/state has its own variations to the rules to limit the virus.

**St. Raphael, Healer of the Sick,
intercede for us
and protect us from
the harm of
Covid-19!**

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 Prayer To Find the Perfect Spouse

St. Raphael, loving patron of those seeking a marriage partner, help me in this supreme decision of my life. Find for me, as a helpmate in life, the person whose character may reflect some of the traits of Jesus and Mary. May he (she) be upright, loyal, pure, sincere and noble, so that with united efforts and with chaste and unselfish love, we may both strive to perfect ourselves in soul and body, as well as the children it may please God to entrust to our care. St. Raphael, angel of chaste courtship, bless our friendship and our love that sin may have no part in it. May our mutual love bind us so closely that our future home may ever be most like the home of the Holy Family of Nazareth. Offer your prayers to God for the both of us and obtain the blessings of God upon our marriage, as you were the herald of blessing for the marriage of Tobiah and Sarah.

St. Raphael, friend of the young, be my friend, for I shall always be yours. I desire ever to invoke you in my needs. To your special care I entrust the decision I am to make as to my future husband (wife). Direct me to the person with whom I can best cooperate in doing God's Holy Will, with whom I can live in peace, love and harmony in this life, and attain eternal joy in the next. Amen.

In honor of St. Raphael, pray an Our Father, Hail Mary, and Glory Be.

St. Raphael Prayer Card Illustration



Need Your Input

We need your input for prayers, devotions, and liturgical art connected with St. Raphael The Archangel.

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

St. Raphael the Archangel Icon

Below is an icon from a Russian source.
Note the different portrayal of the Archangel.

Would this representation come from the
Russian Orthodox Church tradition?

