

ST. RAPHAEL THE ARCHANGEL

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

Vol. 1 #1

Spring 1996

Devotion to a Patron Saint

by Irma C. Godfrey

The St. Raphael Historical Society of the Church of St. Raphael the Archangel in St. Louis, Missouri promotes parish awareness of its patron saint. The Society supports liturgies and instructions which encourage devotion to St. Raphael. It promotes scriptural studies, research, devotional materials, works of art, and collections of artifacts. The Society cooperates with other parish organizations in many activities, including annual feast day celebrations and receptions.

In 1991, a bas-relief was placed in the parish school, with a smaller rendition in the rectory. As part of the feast day celebration on September 24, parishioners were offered copies of Jonah, Tobit, Judith (Collegeville Bible Commentary; Old Testament; 25). A Prayer of Petition Bookmark was distributed to encourage parishioners to present their needs to Him, through St. Raphael.

In 1992, chaplets and medals honoring St. Raphael were added to the Archives. The feast day celebration was held on October 4. The feast day celebration for 1993 was held on September 24.

In 1994, the feast day celebration on October 2 included distribution of a Prayer of Meditation Card to encourage prayerful reflection on the messages in the Book of Tobit.

The feast day celebration on October 1,

(Devotion, continued on p.2)

The Newsletter

by Frederick A. Hodes

In January 1995, St. Raphael Church in St. Louis, Missouri asked other churches dedicated to St. Raphael to send us a copy of their bulletin. As we explained, this was to be the first step in an effort to share information about devotional practices, literature, and art work dedicated to St. Raphael. The response was excellent! Thank you. We sent 46 requests and received 30 responses. The St. Raphael parishes are a diverse group ranging from large urban and suburban to small town and very rural parishes. In addition to bulletins, some churches sent copies of their anniversary booklets, various St. Raphael prayers and prayer cards. In this first newsletter some of what we received has been included and all those who responded are mentioned. Please help us continue this project by sending us items of interest about your parish and especially information on your devotional practices, your own prayers, prayer cards, and pictures/sketches of artwork relating to St. Raphael the Archangel.

MAIL TO THE RECTORY:

ST. RAPHAEL THE ARCHANGEL
6047 BISHOPS PLACE
ST. LOUIS, MO 63109

(Devotion, from pg. 1)

1995, included distribution of a Remembrance Card calling attention to the Book of Tobit and parish ministries. Hope for spiritual growth was expressed, as the parish implements Paragraph 2179 of the Catechism of the Catholic Church.

The January 17, 1995 letter from the President of The St. Raphael Historical Society to "St. Raphael" parishes throughout the United States promises to continue dialogue, activity exchanges, and sharing of a common bond — devotion to St. Raphael the Archangel.

Some Parishes celebrated anniversaries:

**THE CHURCH OF ST. RAPHAEL IN
BLISSVILLE**

celebrated its
125th Anniversary in 1993
1868-1993

35-20 Greenpoint Avenue
Long Island City, NY 11101

They sent a copy of their 125th year booklet.

ST. RAPHAEL PARISH

2301 Zanzibar
El Paso, TX 79925

celebrated their 25th Anniversary in 1992
and sent their Anniversary Booklet.

THE SMALL CHURCH OF ST. RAPHAEL

in Mikado, Michigan celebrated their
centennial in 1994.

They have 75 families.

They included their Centennial Booklet and
Prayer Cards.

SAINT RAPHAEL'S CHURCH

103 Walker Street
Manchester, NH 03102

"The Benedictine Parish in Manchester"
sent us their Centennial Year Booklet
1888-1988.

Among the interesting items noted:

St. Raphael Parish
600 Newbridge Road
East Meadow, NY 11554
uses this logo:



ST. RAPHAEL CATHOLIC PARISH

213 South Thompson
Iowa, LA 70647-0849

Their parish bulletin includes a cartoon!
This will guarantee everyone looks at the
bulletin.

SAINT RAPHAEL'S CHURCH AND

MISSION SAN RAFAEL ARCHANGEL

1104 Fifth Avenue
San Rafael, CA 94901

The parish has Masses in 3 languages:
English, Spanish, and Vietnamese.

SAINT RAPHAEL CHURCH

1118 Chislett Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15206

The parish has a food bank in conjunction with
the local Lutheran Church. It also has a grade
school.

ST. RAPHAEL CHURCH

Box 731
Syracuse, KS 67878

The parish celebrates the Feast of St. Raphael
on the nearest Sunday with a mass in the local
parish, followed by a cookout.

IN SANTA BARBARA, CALIFORNIA...

St. Raphael Church
prints a newspaper called *Spirit*.
It appears 5 times a year. Most of the
stories are written by the parishioners.

THERE IS A ST. RAPHAEL CHURCH IN HAWAII!

Kolou has a St. Raphael Church!
St. Raphael Church
3011 Hapa Road
Koloa, HI 96756

Did you know:

There are two cathedrals in the United States
dedicated to St. Raphael?

St. Raphael Cathedral
222 West Main St.
Madison, WI 53703

St. Raphael Church
231 Bluff Street
DuBuque, IA 52001

ST. RAPHAEL CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

1592 Kimblewick Road
Rockville, MD 20854

The parish co-sponsors a grade school.
New parishioners are given welcome packets.

AMONG THOSE WHO RESPONDED:

San Rafael Church
P.O. Box 145
San Rafael, NM 87051

St. Raphael

31530 Beechwood
Garden City, MI 48135

The parish community supplied the
following prayer:

Prayer to St. Raphael

Thank you, Raphael,
Companion Angel,
for being messenger to us
of the beautiful friendship we
have in Jesus...the constant
companionship we have in
the Spirit...and the tender care
we have in the Father.

Thank you, Raphael,
Healing Angel,
for blessing us with the healing
touch of God, as individuals,
as families, and as the parish
community that bears your name.

Thank you, Raphael,
Patron Angel,
for accompanying us into the
kingdom of God, where we will
thank Him with you and with
all the angels and saints
forever and ever. *Amen.*

St. Raphael Parish
514 High Street
West Medford, MA 02155

St. Raphael the Archangel Church
2212 Prentiss Avenue
New Orleans, LA 70122

St. Raphael's Church
770 Kilbourne Ave.
Englewood, FL 34223

St. Raphael's Church
5779 Seville Road
Duluth, MN 55811

St. Raphael Church
1215 Modaff
Naperville, IL 60540

St. Raphael Catholic Church
2514 Lee Boulevard
Lehigh Acres, FL 33971

St. Raphael Church
525 Dover Center
Bay Village, OH 44140

Did you know:

The new Catechism of the Catholic Church cites the Book of Tobit 11 times:

- More than several other books of the Old Testament
- Under the title "Love of Husband and Wife," the Catechism quotes Tobit 8:4-9 in Paragraph 2361.
- The Book of Tobit is used as a citation under such topics as: respect of children to parents (2214); the burial of the dead as a corporal work of mercy (2300); alms giving to the poor (2447); and prayer (2585)

St. Raphael the Archangel Church
5401 North Syracuse
Kansas City, MO 64119

St. Raphael Church
225 East High Street
Springfield, OH 45505

St. Raphael's
3 Clinton P.O. Box 377
Heuvelton, NY 13654

St. Raphael's Church
1721 West Sunset
Springdale, AR 72762

Saint Raphael's Parish
1376 Snell Isle Blvd. NE
St. Petersburg, FL 33704

St. Raphael Church
2450 W. 9th Avenue
Green Bay, WI 54904

St. Raphael (in Crystal)
7301 Bass Lake Road
Crystal, MN 55428

sent us the St. Paul Books and Media's
The Archangel Raphael - Sent By God.
They also sent the following prayer by
Sr. Dorothy Wenzel, FPSA, one of their
Pastoral Ministers:

St. Raphael

Creator of all angels,
you gave Archangel Raphael
as a companion to Tobias
when on his journey.

Guide us, your followers,
to ever enjoy his protection
and to be strengthened by
our Guardian Angel on our
life's journey to our heavenly
home with you, our creator.
We humbly ask this through
Jesus the Christ.

Amen.

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SOCIETY
Church of St. Raphael the Archangel
6040 Jamieson Ave at Highfield Road
St. Louis, MO 63109

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