

# St. Raphael the Archangel

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

## PURPOSE OF THE NEWSLETTER

### The Newsletter

**T**his is our second newsletter to parishes dedicated to St. Raphael the Archangel. The purpose of the newsletter is to encourage thought about devotion to your parish's patron saint.

Since Vatican II, actual devotion to saints (and archangels) has fallen out of popular favor. In the light of the experience of the last 30 years, it is worth asking how should we approach such a devotion. Recently, there has been a popular interest in angels (see article on page 2). There are a variety of prayers, devotions, and artwork to St. Raphael before Vatican II. There are some prayers and artwork since Vatican II. We are very grateful to the various parishes for sharing these items. We printed several in our first issue and reprint several here. The producers of this newsletter do not have any answers as to the question of devotion and art in light of Vatican II. We do want to share ideas as to how to properly foster devotion to St. Raphael the Archangel.

Please help us by sending any prayers, copies of artwork or descriptions of devotional practices to us so we can incorporate them in our next newsletter.

### Tobit and the Catechism

**T**he new *Catechism of the Catholic Church* has eleven citations from the Book of Tobit. Paragraph 2361 actually quotes a section of the Book of Tobit, where Tobias and Sarah pray together on their wedding night. The section of the Catechism is "The Love of Husband and Wife." The Book of Tobit is one of the few books of the Bible which focuses on domestic life. For the most part, it is the story of rather ordinary people and their very real daily problems and how they lead their lives according to Faith. The divine intervention to solve their problems is the Archangel Raphael, an answer to their prayers. Their edifying lives reflected by practices of the corporal works of mercy and faith-filled approach to marriage and sex are held up to us as examples to be followed.

## INSIDE

- ② Blessed by an Angel
- ③ San Rafael
- ④ St. Raphael in Hawaii



## Blessed by an Angel

by Irma C. Godfrey

**W**e are witnessing an extraordinary boom of interest in angels. Angels are everywhere! The terms "angelology" and "angelologist" are commonplace. Why are we experiencing the greatest resurgence of interest in angels since the Renaissance? Does this indicate angelmania, or positive trends?

Nearly 70% of Americans believe in angels; nearly 33% claim to have felt an angel's presence. Angel sites have surfaced on the internet and three national magazines are devoted exclusively to angels. Since 1995, many nonfiction books about angels have appeared on best-seller lists. A growing number of movies including *Michael* and *The Preacher's Wife* feature angels. The television series *Touched by an Angel* has high ratings.

Flooding the market are collectible figurines, jewelry, candles, paper products, Christmas ornaments, and tree-top decorations. Personalized angel poems celebrate birthdays. In a 1997 eight-disc series of classical music, angels are presented in sound and music by Angel Records. Inner peace is experienced through "timeless music and the realm of angels."

These developments in our culture give cause for us to reevaluate and revitalize our devotion to our Patron, St. Raphael the Archangel. St. Raphael parishioners throughout the world who share a common bond...let us take time to review and fine-tune our devotion!

Of course, we consider angels only in the light of Church teachings. We know that angels appear nearly 300 times in the Bible. The New Testament's Book of Tobit and its account of St. Raphael are our sources of inspiration, instruction, and hope as we prepare for the 21st century.

St. Raphael is a special messenger from God, who takes away our fears, who empowers us in our ministries, and who enriches our lives. All St. Raphael parishes are indeed blessed by an angel!



Taken from Bulletin  
St. Raphael Church  
1215 Modeff  
Naperville, Illinois 60540



## San Rafael

**O**ne St. Raphael parish hand delivered materials to us in St. Louis! Mr. Paul Coddington who is in charge of the gift shop at the San Rafael Mission in San Rafael, California was to visit St. Louis anyway, so he made a short detour to drop off items and see our church building.

The modern St. Raphael parish church in San Rafael is at the site of the old mission. Alongside the church is a restored copy of the original Franciscan mission of San Rafael. The original Mission of *San Rafael Arcangel* was founded in 1817 as a hospital mission to aid the Mission Dolores in San Francisco. It was dedicated to the Archangel Raphael as the angel of bodily healing. It was the second-last of the missions built between 1769 and 1823. The mission soon grew to support an Indian community of more than 1000. The mission was the first to be secularized by Mexican civil authorities in 1833. The mission was disbanded and the building disappeared. In 1949, a replica of the original mission was built alongside the current parish church of St. Raphael.

**S**t. Raphael in St. Louis will be celebrating the feast day with a Buffet Dinner. This is the second year for the dinner which will be held on Saturday evening, September 27, in our parish auditorium.

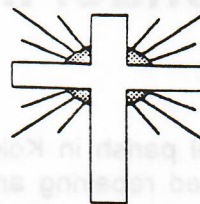
### ST. RAPHAEL ON THE WORLD WIDE WEB

St. Raphael's Parish in Manchester, NH, has a website dedicated to their parish:

<http://members.aol.com/Raph103/parish.html>

So, too does the Church of St. Raphael in Verona, ND:

<http://www.massintransit.com/browse/parishes/nd/borromeo1-nd/index.html>



### Prayer To St. Raphael The Archangel

*St. Raphael . . . our source of wisdom,  
inspiration, direction, and transformation  
in daily living . . . God's servant, mediator,  
messenger . . . travel guide, pilot,  
companion . . . healer of the sick . . .  
our refuge from worldliness . . .*

*In prayer . . . we praise you for inspiring  
us to grow spiritually . . . to evangelize  
and serve in His name . . . to develop  
willing hands and generous hearts for  
those in need . . . to live true and  
committed Christian lives . . .*

*In prayer . . . we praise you for leading us  
to greater heights . . . giving promise and  
hope of brighter days . . . as we soar where  
eagles go . . .*

*Amen . . .*

*"I am Raphael, one of the seven angels  
who enter and serve before the Glory of  
the Lord."*

*Tobit 12:15*

**Feast of St. Raphael  
the Archangel  
Church of St. Raphael  
the Archangel  
St. Louis, Missouri**

**September 29, 1994**



## St. Raphael in Hawaii

**S**t. Raphael parish in Koloa, Hawaii, has just finished repairing and rebuilding its parish plant after the devastation of hurricane Iniki in 1992. The parish was founded in 1841, long before Hawaii became part of the United States. Today, the parish has about 150 families.

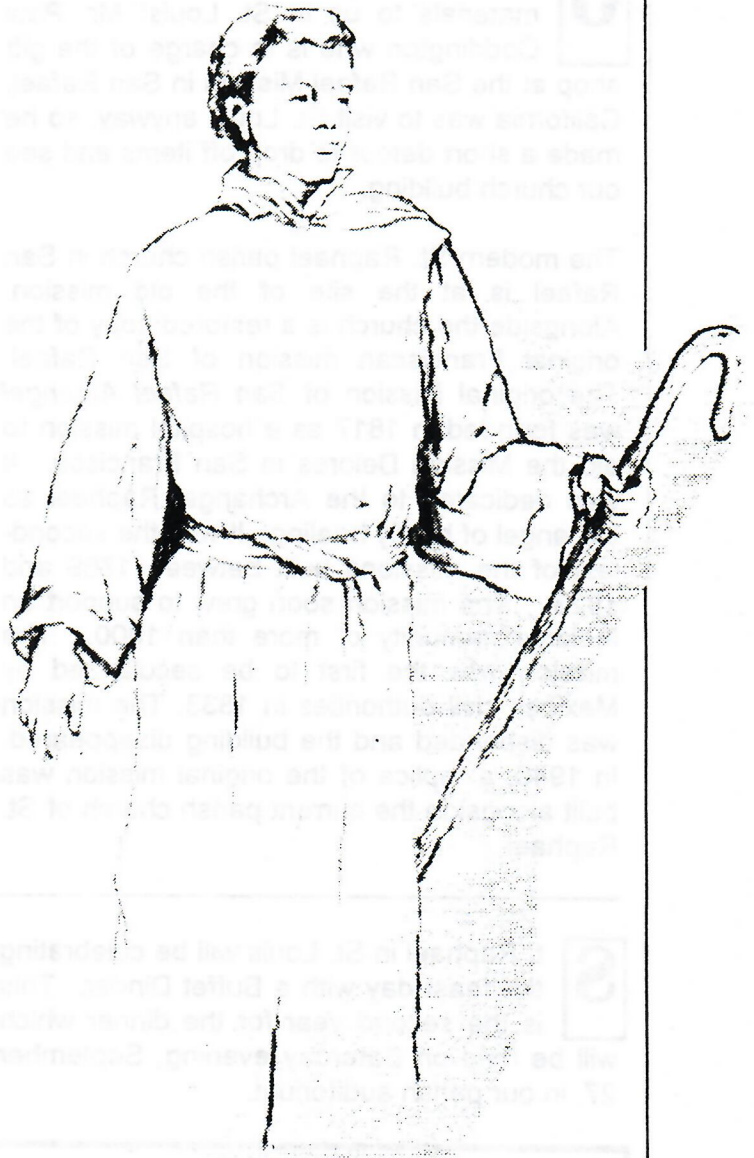
When in Hawaii and touring the island of Kauai, be sure to visit St. Raphael in Koloa (3011 Hapa Rd., Koloa, Kauai, Hawaii 96756).

**I**t is a small world. We were able to gather items from another St. Raphael parish - in Cleveland, Ohio. One of the St. Louis St. Raphael parish families has family members who are parishioners of St. Raphael in Cleveland!

Please send St. Raphael prayers, devotions, pictures, sketches of art work - traditional or modern, so we can share these with other St. Raphael parishes. Also, describe any parish celebrations for the Feast of St. Raphael. (Send your Bulletin announcement describing the event.)

Please send to us at:

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



Taken from Bulletin  
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El Paso, Texas 79925