

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 fifth issue of the St. Raphael Newsletter. Its purpose is to share information on devotion to our patron, St. Raphael the Archangel. Since Vatican II, devotional practices to saints have fallen out of fashion. This newsletter hopes to provoke thought about the modern approach to devotion to the Archangel Raphael.

St. Raphael the Archangel is a central figure in the Old Testament *Book of Tobit*. Perhaps the book's style and some of the events, such as the driving out of a demon, do not sound "modern." But the theme of God's concern for and intervention in the affairs of the just Tobit, reflected by St. Raphael's guidance of Tobiah and intervention on behalf of Sara, should be emphasized and made attractive for today's Christians.

We need your input. Please share with us any devotional items such as artwork (pictures of statues, stained glass windows, etc.), prayers, and hymns.

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A Fiftieth Anniversary Celebration

by Irma C. Godfrey

The Church of St. Raphael the Archangel in St. Louis, Missouri is approaching the end of a year-long celebration of its founding in 1950. Achievements of the past are celebrated as the parish anticipates a future of spiritual growth and accomplishments.

The 50th Anniversary Committee has met since November 2, 1998, planning events involving the entire parish. Brochures inform parishioners of all events. Articles appear in the weekly Parish Bulletin and in community publications.

Major events included the opening celebration at the 9:00 AM Mass on the Feast of the Epiphany of the Lord on January 2. Charter parishioners were honored at a Mass and Breakfast on April 2. On June 25, a Jubilee Mass preceded the blessing and dedication of the new bronze statue of St. Raphael and Tobiah (see p.4). On September 10-14, a Mission "GROWING IN FAITH, HOPE, AND LOVE" led by Father Pete Schavitz, C.S.S.R., achieved full parish attendance following the individual contacts made by members of the Telephone Committee. A Jubilee dinner on October 7 at The Cedars will close the celebration.

(Celebration cont.)

Parish organizations and committees were asked to plan one spiritual and one social event. Sponsored events include Masses of Thanksgiving, adorations of the Blessed Sacrament, special prayers, socials, blessings, renewals, penance services, ministry renewals, and days of recollection. Examples of events include the parish school's special program on January 23, the memorial Mass for St. Raphael's Founding Pastor, Msgr. Arthur G. Behrman on February 14, and a Trivia Night on March 4.

An anniversary book to be published following the closing celebration will feature historical accounts and photos. Its four major themes include 1. We Remember, 2. We Rejoice, 3. We Renew, and 4. We Reflect.

New street and church banners add to community awareness and church processions. Remembrance gifts of books and bookplates, ornaments, and other mementos serve as tributes to St. Raphael's parishioners.

The St. Raphael Archangel Hymn, with music by Melchior Teschner and text by parishioner/lyricist, Carol Krings Hodes, is sung at events.

Beginning in January, 2000, and throughout the anniversary year, the Historical Society's vignettes are published in the Parish Bulletin. The vignettes are based upon historical information filed in the Parish Archives.

We want to hear from you!

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

Walking With St. Raphael

Reviewed by Evelyn Cuba

Walking With St. Raphael is a thirty-one page booklet written by Rev. Lawrence G. Lovasik. The booklet is divided into three parts. Part One is the story of Tobias. Part Two is titled "The Angel Raphael." In this section we see Raphael described in many ways. He is seen as the Angel of Joy, the Angel of Healing, the Angel of Love, and finally the Angel of Everyday Life. Part Three consists of various prayers to St. Raphael, including a novena to our patron saint.

If interested, this booklet is available through Mary's Call, P.O. Box 162, 504 W. US Hwy. 24, Salisbury, MO. 65281. The cost of each booklet is \$2.75.

Tobiah Vs Tobias

The Archangel Raphael is a major character in the *Book of Tobit*. The Archangel guides the pious Tobit's son on his journey and solves his problems. What is the son's name? Most older works call him: "Tobias."

The pamphlet reviewed above refers to the son, the father, and the book itself as "Tobias." The New Catholic Catechism also translates the name as "Tobias" (paragraph # 2361, page 567).

But many other works have translated the name as "Tobiah." The *New American Bible* uses Tobiah and that is now the preferred usage. Normally, this distinction could be ignored. But here in St. Louis, the parish wanted the name "etched in stone," so the question had to be settled definitively! The choice is Tobiah, as can clearly be seen on page 4.

Going to Hawaii?

Visit St. Raphael's Church on the island of Kauai, in the town of Koloa.

Actually there are two St. Raphael Churches at the parish. The original church of 1841 has been restored and is along side the new modern structure that now serves the parish.

News from Napierville

The St. Raphael Parish in Napierville, Illinois, informed us that they used the St. Raphael Hymn, published in our last newsletter, on September 26, 1999, at the dedication of a new sign erected in front of the church. The stone sign - St. Raphael Catholic Church - rests on a brick foundation. Alongside the sign is a large cross and the immediate area is landscaped. The sign was donated by a parish family in memory of a recently deceased parishioner.

The St. Raphael Hymn published in last year's newsletter is available. Please send us your request, if you want a copy.

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

Please send to:

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

A Blessing And Dedication

by Irma C. Godfrey

As the Church of St. Raphael the Archangel in St. Louis, Missouri celebrates its fiftieth anniversary, it proclaims an addition to its premises.

A jubilee Mass was celebrated on June 25 at 4:00 PM by Auxiliary Bishop Michael J. Sheridan and concelebrated by Pastor Msgr. William A. Drennan, Associate Rev. Matthew L. O'Toole, and former parish clergy. The Mass was followed by a blessing and dedication of the new outdoor bronze statue of St. Raphael and Tobiah.

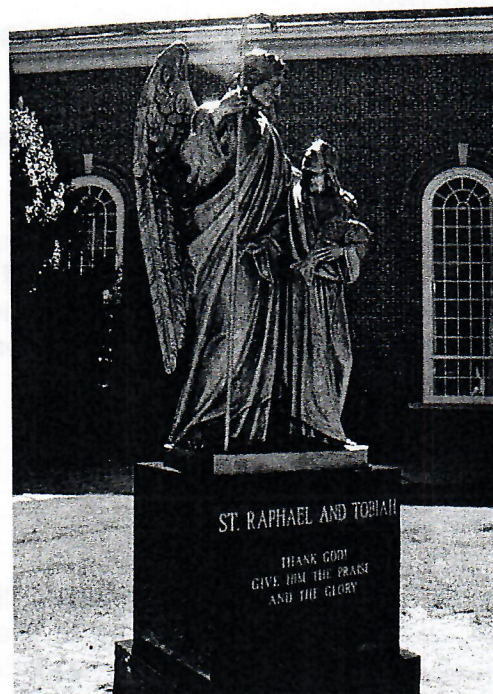
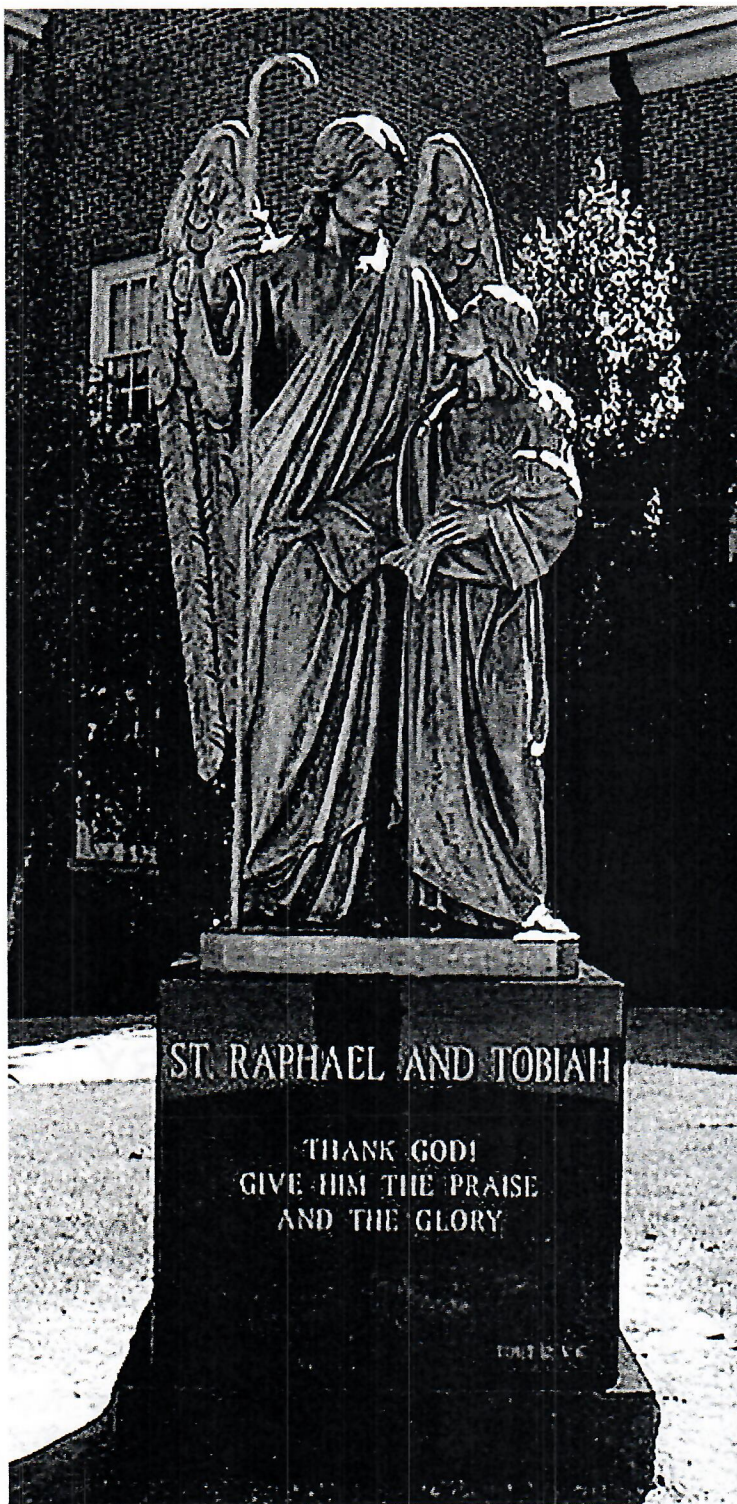
A passage from the *Book of Tobit* in the Old Testament appears on the pedestal in gold lithichrome lettering:

THANK GOD!
GIVE HIM THE PRAISE
AND THE GLORY

Tobit 12v6

The statue required almost two years of study by the parish Statue Committee with guidance from Daniel C. Stutte, President of Catholic Supply of St. Louis, Inc.

With lighting installed by parishioner Tom Gilmore and landscaping by Colors of Spring, the statue is clearly visible from the intersection of Jamieson and Highfield. The statue not only promises to be a source of inspiration for parishioners, visitors, and those living in the vicinity, but also for countless passersby from the entire city and county who travel past St. Raphael's.



The statue by the experienced Liturgist/Artist/Designer, Angelo Gherardi of Chicago, was produced by the DEMETZ Art Studio in Ortisei in northern Italy. The granite for the pedestal originated in Zimbabwe in central Africa. The Rosebrough Monument Company of St. Louis installed the base, pedestal, and statue.