

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 sixth issue of the St. Raphael Newsletter, whose 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 encourage thought about devotion to the Archangel Raphael.

A few months ago, a call came to the Newsletter from St. Raphael Parish in Crystal, Minnesota, asking if anyone had a liturgical vestment with a depiction of The Archangel Raphael as its design. Our parish does not own such an item and no one had mentioned such a vestment in any of our previous communications. Do you have such a vestment with our patron as the motif? If you do, the Newsletter would appreciate hearing from you and would like a picture or a sketch of the design. This is one area of liturgical art that the Newsletter has not previously considered.

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.

Modern Devotion to St. Raphael

As the years have passed since Vatican II, some pre-Vatican II practices have reappeared in more modern forms. The need exists to encourage devotion to and request the intercession of the saints and angels, and to do this in the spirit of the reforms of the Vatican Council.

One traditional Catholic devotion or practice that does not seem to be discussed or perhaps encouraged is the naming of children with saints' names.

A variety of prayers asking the intercession of the Archangel Raphael exists. What is the proper approach for these prayers?

Give some thought to the modern approaches to express devotion to our patron.

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Raleigh, North Carolina

Last year St. Raphael Parish in Raleigh, North Carolina, sent the Newsletter a description of their celebration of the feast day. They planned a large celebration and arranged to recognize twelve hundred parishioners for their parish ministries. They expected to fill the church to capacity with a liturgy celebrated in both English and Spanish because they have a large Hispanic population.

Four Jesuit priests and two permanent deacons staff this large parish of 4,000 families. There are more than 250 children in the parish school and a large Religious Ed. program. The parish has some 3,000 Spanish-speaking members. The newsletter observed that the parish "continues the example of its patron by welcoming and accompanying a new group of Catholics which finds itself in a strange land..."

Their Director of Administration was kind enough to send us a copy of their Parish Bulletin and a copy of their bi-monthly newsletter, *The Companion*.

How many parishes publish a separate newsletter or newspaper in addition to their Sunday bulletin? In addition to the parish in Raleigh, the St. Raphael Parish in Santa Barbara, California, has sent its newspaper. If you have a newsletter or newspaper, please send us a copy!

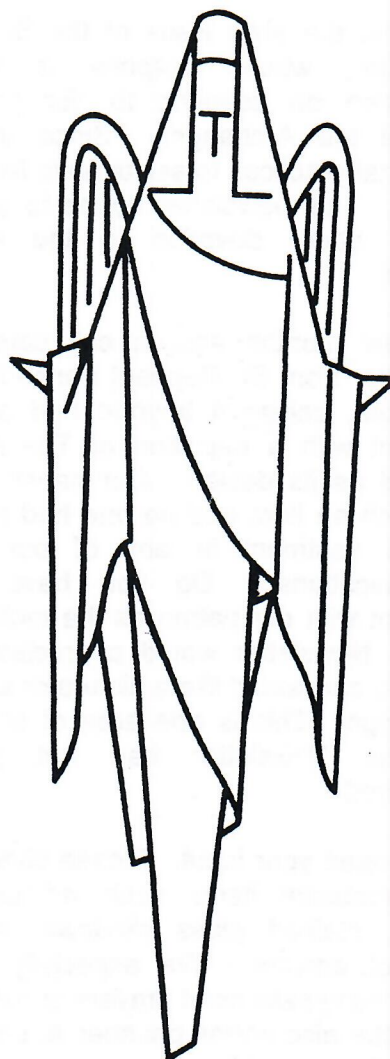
We want to hear from you!

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

St. Raphael in Crystal, Minnesota

St. Raphael Parish in Crystal, Minnesota, celebrates its fiftieth anniversary this year. The parish is located in suburban Minneapolis.

Their website features the following St. Raphael design:



Going to Spain ?

Intrepid travelers of the world, take note! When touring Spain, be sure to visit the city of Cordoba. St. Raphael the Archangel is its patron. Tradition states that the city was spared the plague through Raphael's intercession. The city has a shrine to the Archangel on the bridge crossing the Guadalquivir River. In the city itself there is a statue of St. Raphael mounted on a column near the cathedral.

Travelers' Prayers

The following prayers are taken from a prayer card issued by the Holy Spirit Adoration Sisters:

Prayers for Travelers

He has given his angels charge over you to guard you in all your ways. (Ps. 91:11)

Almighty and merciful Lord, direct us on the way of peace and prosperity and let your holy Archangel Raphael accompany us on our way, so that we may return to our home in peace, health and joy. Amen.

Holy Archangel Raphael, appointed by God to be the guardian of Tobiah on his journey, be with us also. Guard us, defend us, and keep us from all harm. Amen.

O God, grant us, we beg you, a safe journey and pleasant weather so that in the company of your holy angels we may arrive safely, not only at our present destination, but finally at the haven of eternal salvation. Amen.

Long Island, N. Y.

In an earlier edition the Newsletter printed a logo designed by St. Raphael Parish in East Meadow, New York, on Long Island. A recent Sunday Bulletin has a different version of the sandals and pilgrim staff logo which we have printed below.

The parish mission statement describes the parishioners as:

"...Stewards of His Gospel and as companions on a common journey to God ... so that like our patron, St. Raphael, we might be messengers of healing in a broken world."



New Prayer Card

St. Raphael in St. Louis will distribute the prayer card in the right hand column on the weekend of the feast of St. Raphael as part of our parish celebration. Rev. Matthew L. O'Toole, our talented former associate, designed the St. Raphael sketch. The prayer comes from the Raccolta, which is a collection of Indulgences.

This is the fourth prayer card issued by the parish in ten years as part of the annual celebration.

As a bonus for this year's issue, we include a separate copy of the prayer card and a copy of the Jubilee Celebration booklet for our 50th anniversary. The booklet is a reflection of the grace-filled year we experienced. Many parishes have been kind enough to send us their anniversary celebration books, so we hope you will find ours interesting.

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)



designed by Rev. Matthew L. O'Toole

*Vouchsafe, O Lord God,
to send unto our assistance
Saint Raphael the Archangel;
and may he, who, we believe,
evermore stands before the
throne of your Majesty, offer
unto You our humble petitions
to be blessed by You. Amen.*

(Raccolta)

Feast of St. Raphael the Archangel

Church of St. Raphael the Archangel
St Louis, Missouri

September 29, 2001