

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 seventh issue of the St. Raphael Newsletter, whose purpose is to share information about 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 ideas about devotion to the Archangel Raphael.

In the last issue we inquired if any parish had a liturgical vestment with St. Raphael as its motif. No one responded to that, but St. Raphael Parish in Arizona sent a picture, included in its 25th Anniversary directory, of a tapestry hanging behind the altar.

The Newsletter always wants prayers invoking the archangel's intercession. At Seton Hall the Campus ministry produced a prayer for help in choosing one's spouse. One of St. Raphael's many titles is that of patron of those in love, so such a prayer for guidance is particularly appropriate.

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.

Book Review

By Irma C. Godfrey

Have you seen ?

The Holy Way: Meditations on the Sunday and Weekday Masses for Ordinary Time. by Emeric Anthony Lawrence, OSB. The Liturgical Press, Collegeville, Minnesota, 1990. 459 pp. ISBN 0-8146-1821-9.

The St. Raphael Historical Society of the Church of St. Raphael the Archangel in St. Louis, Missouri promotes devotion to St. Raphael by sharing publications and information with the readers of its Newsletter.

The Book of Tobit is included in Father Lawrence's meditations on the Scripture texts of the Sunday and weekday Masses celebrated during Ordinary Time. His meditations on the Book of Tobit cover the first readings for Monday through Saturday of the Ninth Week in Ordinary Time.

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Book Review continued.

By studying Father Lawrence's meditations on the Book of Tobit, we enhance our own personal meditations and reflections.

By sharing with one another, we encourage devotion to St. Raphael the Archangel!

St. Raphael in East Meadow, New York

There are plans for a new St. Raphael Church for the St. Raphael parish at East Meadow, New York. The Knights of Columbus magazine Columbia, March, 2002, announced that the council of the local Knights has pledged \$100,000 to fund the altar for the new church.

St. Raphael Hospital

There is a St. Raphael Hospital in New Haven, Connecticut. The hospital is currently expanding its children's psychiatric emergency services from six to ten beds. The hospital is one of only five hospitals in that state which provide child inpatient psychiatric care.

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 Booklet by Angela Carol

The 53 page booklet St. Raphael, Angel of Marriage, of Healing, of Happy Meetings, of Joy and of Travel by Angela Carol has been reissued by Tan Books. This booklet, which was originally released in 1955, contains a variety of explanations and reflections on the Book of Tobit and the Archangel Raphael.

Although the booklet contains some pre-Vatican II terminology and thinking, which may displease some readers, the author presents many worthwhile points.

The author briefly discusses angels and then retells the Book of Tobit. She examines Raphael under the titles of the Angel of Health, the Angel of Love, the Angel of Joy, and the Angel of Light. Of special interest are questions concerning a happy married life and the necessity of seeking God's help in the vocation of marriage.

The final section contains a litany of Saint Raphael, a novena prayer, and several devotional prayers.

The front cover of the pamphlet displays an attractive depiction of St. Raphael by Brother Simeon, which dates from 1986.

For further information and prices for this booklet, contact the publisher:

Tan Books and Publishers, Inc.
P. O. Box 424
Rockford, Illinois, 61105

A Prayer to St. Raphael



Seton Hall

The Campus Ministry of Seton Hall University has issued a St. Raphael the Archangel prayer card with prayers intended to help young persons as they search for marriage partners.

Prayer

Archangel Raphael, loving patron of those seeking a marriage partner, help me in this supreme decision of my life. Find for me as a help-mate 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 chaste and unselfish love we may strive to perfect ourselves in soul and body, as well as the children it may please God to entrust to our care.

Saint 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 in Nazareth. Offer your prayers to God for the both of us and obtain the blessing of God upon our marriage, as you were the herald of blessing for the marriage of Tobiah and Sara.

Saint 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 spouse. 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 to eternal joy in the next. Amen.



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)

“Angel Burst”

The St. Raphael Church in Glendale, Arizona has a sanctuary tapestry entitled “Angel Burst.” The two-fold symbolic motif is that of the Archangel Raphael adoring the eternal presence of Almighty God and hovering above the Eucharistic worship of the parish. The design is done in earth-tone colors of the southwest and reflects the native culture of the Arizona Indians. This creative, dramatic tapestry was designed by liturgical artist Maureen McGuire and woven by women of the parish community. The colors are exquisite: a gold center, with gold, red, and black wings.