

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. Immediately after Vatican II, devotional practices to saints fell out of fashion. In recent years, devotion to and prayers requesting the intercession of the saints (and angels) have become more prevalent. This newsletter hopes to encourage ideas about devotion to the Archangel Raphael.

This issue includes a report on note cards with a St. Raphael icon being offered by the St. Raphael parish in Fairbanks, Alaska.

The Newsletter always seeks prayers invoking the archangel's intercession. This issue includes the prayer distributed to visitors to St. Raphael parish in Englewood, Florida.

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.

Thanks for Your Past Help

Thanks to everyone who has sent Sunday bulletins, newsletters, and parish newspapers. Several parishes have sent us their Anniversary books. Many items of interest have come our way, including pictures of various St. Raphael Churches. Also, there have been newspaper clippings, especially those outlining activities of the St. Raphael Hospital in New Haven, Connecticut. Prayers and devotional items along with religious art (of all forms) remain our main focus.

Does anyone have a Biblical commentary on the Book of Tobit? This certainly would be worth reporting on and reviewing in future issues.

We are very grateful for your responses. Please continue to help us. Your input this fall will be next year's issue.

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Order of St. Raphael

Saint Raphael Church in New Orleans, Louisiana, celebrates the feast of St. Raphael with a special Mass on the feast day. As a part of the celebration, several parish members are recognized for their service to the parish.

The award is entitled: "The Order of St. Raphael."

The certificate is an attractive award with a color picture of St. Raphael.

Criteria for the award:

1. Longevity and service to the parish.
2. Active participation in parish groups and organizations.
3. Embodiment of spiritual, moral and ethical ideals.
4. Significant contribution to the accomplishment of the parish mission and welfare.
5. Commitment to the Catholic faith.

THE ORDER OF ST. RAPHAEL



It is Hereby Conferred Upon

The Order of St. Raphael

*In Recognition of Your Long Dedicated
Service to St. Raphael the Archangel
Parish, New Orleans, Louisiana*

Given this Date _____

Pastor _____

Note Cards from St. Raphael Parish in Fairbanks, Alaska

St. Raphael Parish in Fairbanks, Alaska offers note cards with a striking portrayal of St. Raphael. The image, by the artist Byron Bisdral, is in the manner of a traditional Orthodox icon. Order cards from:

St. Raphael Parish

1125 Old Steese Hwy. North

P. O. Box 10508

Fairbanks, Alaska 00710



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 Florida

St. Raphael Catholic Church in Englewood, Florida, contributed several interesting ideas and items.

The front page of their Sunday Bulletin presents a color photo of a wall hanging which depicts St. Raphael.

The parish has the practice of recognizing first-time visitors to Mass by presenting them with a St. Raphael medal and accompanying prayer.

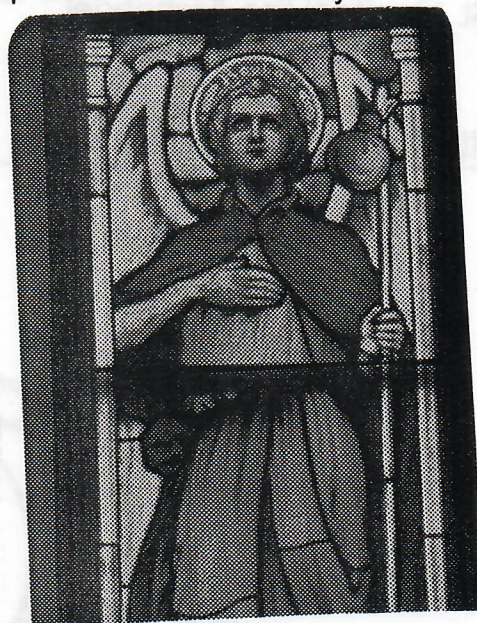
The medal is the same design as used by the San Rafael Mission Church in California with "Pray for Us" on the reverse. The medals are made in Italy.

The Prayer:

Dear St. Raphael, your lovely name means "God heals." The Lord sent you to young Tobiah to guide him throughout a long journey. Upon his return you taught him how to cure his father's blindness. How natural, therefore, for Christians to pray for your powerful help for safe travel and a happy return. This is what we ask for ourselves as well as for all who are far from home.

St. Raphael in Vermont

St. Raphael the Archangel Catholic Church in Poultney, Vermont, celebrated its centennial in 2002. The pastor forwarded to us a copy of the centennial booklet. The church's stained glass window shows St. Raphael in the traditional style.



"Jewish Archangel"

The August 2003 issue of *Catholic Digest* contained a story by Sean Patrick about a Jewish doctor and his service in a Catholic New York neighborhood. The story began and ended with the doctor's awareness and devotion to St. Raphael and his ownership of a medallion of the saint. The story reminds us that, as a part of the Old Testament, the Book of Tobit and Raphael the Archangel are part of Jewish religious tradition. The story of Tobit is well known to those of Jewish background, unlike the Catholic saints of the New Testament and later.

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)

St. Raphael Logo

St. Raphael in St. Louis has a new logo, designed by parishioner Andrew Crews. The school colors of black and gold decorate the design.

The first use of the new logo will concentrate on the school sports programs, for sweatshirts and gym shorts. Next will come golf shirts.

Below is a black and white version.

