

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 eleventh 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.

Thanks to everyone who has sent Sunday bulletins, newsletters, and parish newspapers in the past. Several parishes have sent us their anniversary books. Many items of interest have come our way, including pictures of various St. Raphael churches and newspaper clippings. Prayers and devotional items along with religious art of all forms remain our main focus, although we do enjoy receiving articles about national and international St. Raphael locations.

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.

St. Raphael Parishes Across the Country

On the last page of this newsletter, you will find our mailing list of parishes. If you know of an existing United States St. Raphael parish missing from the list, please let us know so we can add it.

Perhaps St. Raphael parishioners would enjoy attending Mass at a different St. Raphael church when on vacation. There are St. Raphael parishes across the country, including in tourist spots in Hawaii, California, and Florida.

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St. Raphael Cathedral at Madison, Wisconsin

On March 14, 2005, fire severely damaged the St. Raphael Cathedral in Madison, Wisconsin, the result of arson.

Bishop Robert Morlino is discerning what to do about the fire-damaged cathedral, whether to rebuild or to erect another structure in a different location.

The arsonist was initially diagnosed as incompetent to stand trial. This finding changed, allowing a trial date to be set for July 24. After the lawyers reached a plea agreement, the state dropped several of its charges, permitting the defendant to plead guilty to a charge of arson. He is still to be sentenced.

The St. Raphael Hospital In Baghdad

The St. Raphael Hospital in Baghdad continues in operation. The eighty-six bed hospital is located across the Tigres River from the "Green Zone." The hospital is operated by the sisters of the Dominican order. Despite many difficult days, the facility still offers good care to those in need.

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 New Orleans

As the news reports indicated, Hurricane Katrina struck New Orleans and the Gulf Coast with a devastating force. In the days after the Hurricane, a cardiologist at the St. Raphael Hospital in New Haven, Connecticut, Brian Swirsky, organized a relief expedition. Involved in the effort were six other doctors from his hospital and a neighboring facility who traveled to the Gulf Coast to aid victims.

The team worked in the Louisiana backwoods giving help to survivors who had not received assistance. In addition, it provided care to people in shelters and housing projects in the Gulfport area.

In New Orleans, church authorities still attempt to recover from the devastation of Hurricane Katrina. On February 6, 2006, the Archdiocese announced that St. Raphael would remain a canonical parish. However, Archdiocesan officials temporarily divided the care of its parishioners into three adjoining parishes until it is practical to reopen.

The area north of Prentiss Avenue will be cared for by the pastor of St. Pius X; the area south of Prentiss Avenue and east of Elysian Fields will be tended by the pastor of St. James Major; and the area south of Prentiss Avenue and west of Elysian Fields will be cared for by the pastor of St. Leo the Great.

On the weekend of August 26-27, the American bishops requested a special collection for the churches in the devastated area. These damaged buildings are only covered by insurance to half their value. This gap leaves a huge financial burden on two dioceses whose population bears tremendous expense in attempting to restore its own residences and businesses.

St. Raphael in New Orleans cont.

The first anniversary of the Katrina disaster has engendered a great deal of publicity about New Orleans and its slow rebuilding. Because the area around the St. Raphael Church was completely flooded, it will be difficult to restore the parish buildings. In addition, the people who once lived in the parish have to be able to return and rebuild their homes. This effort will take a long time. Please pray for the New Orleans St. Raphael parishioners and for all the Gulf Coast hurricane victims.

St. Raphael in Opus Sanctorum Angelorum Miracle

The fall 2005 circular of *Opus Sanctorum Angelorum* carried the story of a cure through the intercession of the Archangel Raphael of a new born baby born afflicted with a terrible lung disease. The publication is produced by the Order of the Holy Cross (13800 Gratiot Avenue, Detroit, MI 48205)

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

Please send to:

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

St. Raphael in Pittsburgh

St. Raphael parish in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, sent us a copy of its Sunday Bulletin. The pastor is Fr. Benedetto Vaghetto and the church is located at 1118 Chislett Street. Their parish web site, www.straphaelschurch.org, contains a recent Sunday bulletin.

The parish maintains a preschool, and a school, kindergarten through eighth grade. The projected enrollment for the coming year is 140. The parish has an Italian background and, in early August, celebrated a traditional St. Rocco celebration, which was followed a week later by a St. Raphael parish bazaar.

St. Raphael in Missouri

Small world... The pastor of St. Raphael in St. Louis, Fr. James Grady, attended a small group retreat where he introduced himself as the pastor of St. Raphael parish. The only other priest in attendance, Rev. Alexander Sinclair, responded that he also was the pastor of a St. Raphael parish - in Kansas City, Missouri!

Need Your Input

As you can see, this issue is heavy on "news" and light on devotional material. We need your input for prayers, devotions, and liturgical art connected with St. Raphael the Archangel.

If you do not have these items to contribute, please send us a copy of your parish bulletin so we can use it in next year's edition.

St. Raphael across the Country

The following are the St. Raphael parishes on our mailing list. Are there any that we have missed? If so, please let us know.

St. Raphael Church
1125 Old Steese Hwy North P.O. Box 10508, Fairbanks, AK 99710

St. Raphael Church
1721 West Sunset, Springdale, AR 72762

St. Raphael Church
5504 W. Acoma, Glendale AZ 85306

St. Raphael Church
1104 Fifth Avenue, San Rafael CA 94901

St. Raphael Church
5444 Hollister Ave., Santa Barbara, CA 93111

St. Raphael Church
942 W. 70th Street, Los Angeles CA 90044

St. Raphael Church 1376 Snell Isle Blvd., N.E. St. Petersburg, FL 33704

St. Raphael Church
2514 Lee Blvd., Lehigh Acres, FL 33971

St. Raphael Church
770 Kilbourne Ave., Englewood, FL 34223

St. Raphael Church
3011 Hapa Road, Koloa, HI 96756

St. Raphael Cathedral
231 Bluff Street, Dubuque, IA 52001

St. Raphael Church
416 Gartner, Naperville, IL 60540

St. Raphael Church
5564 St. Raphael Street, Dubois, IN 47527

St. Raphael Church
P.O. Box 731, Syracuse, KS 67878

St. Raphael Church
2141 Lancashire Ave., Louisville, KY 40205

St. Raphael Church
2212 Prentiss Ave., New Orleans, LA 70122

St. Raphael Church
P. O. Drawer 849, Iowa, LA 70647

St. Raphael Church
1592 Kimblewick Road, Rockville, MD 20854

St. Raphael Church
514 High Street, West Medford, MA 02155

St. Raphael Church
31530 Beachwood, Garden City, MI 48135

St. Raphael Church
P.O. Box 13, Mikado, MI 48745

St. Raphael Church
4458 Midway Road, Duluth, MN 55811

St. Raphael Church
7301 Bass Lake Road, Crystal, MN 55428

St. Raphael Church 112 W. Van Dusen Street, Springfield, MN 56087

St. Raphael Church
7952 N.E. 54th St., Kansas City, MO 64119

St. Raphael Church
6047 Bishops Pl., St. Louis, MO 63109

St. Raphael Church 412 Third Ave. N., P.O. 1047, Glasgow, MT 59230

St. Raphael Church 5801 Falls of Neuse Road, Raleigh, NC 27609

St. Raphael Church
103 Walker Street, Manchester, NH 03102

St. Raphael Church
3500 S. Broad St., Trenton, NJ 08610

San Rafael Church
P.O. Box 145, San Rafael, NM 87051

St. Raphael Church 600 Newbridge Road, East Meadow, NY 11554

St. Raphael Church 35-20 Greenpoint Ave., Long Island City, NY 11101

St. Raphael Church
P.O. Box 377, Heuvelton, NY 13654

St. Raphael Church
225 East High Street, Springfield OH 45505

St. Raphael Church
525 Dover Center, Bay Village, OH 44140

St. Raphael Church
1118 Chislett Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15206

St. Raphael Church
22 First Street Box 252, Elred, PA 16731

St. Raphael Church
2301 Zanzibar Road, El Paso, TX 79925

St. Raphael Church
Main Street, Poultney, VT 05764

St. Raphael Cathedral
222 West Main Street, Madison, WI 53703

St. Raphael Church
830 S. Westhaven, Oshkosh, WI 54904

Also, the Hospital of St. Raphael, 1450 Chapel St., New Haven, CT 06511