

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 thirteenth 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; also 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

The St. Raphael in Rockville, Maryland, sent the *Newsletter* a photo of the altar in its renovated church. The archangels are the base. The St. Raphael in Garden City, Michigan, sent the Bulletin for its 75th anniversary last year. The *Newsletter* needs items such as this.

One of our St. Louis parishioners moved to Arkansas recently and noted that the neighboring parish is St. Raphael in Springdale. Another parishioner supplied the photo from Hawaii.

There is no additional news from the St. Raphael Hospital in Baghdad, so perhaps no news is good news. Please keep all these people in your prayers.

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St. Raphael Cathedral at Madison, Wisconsin

On April 4, 2008, Bishop Robert Morlino put on hold the plans to reconstruct the St. Raphael Cathedral in Madison, Wisconsin. The capital campaign to raise the necessary money had been delayed a year because of the indecision as to how to proceed.

Pressure mounted about the safety of the remaining walls and the free-standing steeple that had been renovated for one million dollars. After much consideration the diocese ordered the walls and steeple leveled in order to build a completely new structure.

Reports indicate that insurance on the old structure will provide \$6,125,000 that can be used for the new building.

St. Raphael in Hawaii

The *Newsletter* received this wonderful picture of the St. Raphael Church in Hawaii. It is the oldest church on the island of Kauai.

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

St. Raphael Parish in New Orleans no longer exists. On April 10, 2008, New Orleans Archbishop Alfred Hughes announced a sweeping reorganization that closed twenty-five parishes, nineteen of which have been closed since the Katrina hurricane disaster. Included in the list is St. Raphael that has been inoperative since the flood. Effective December 31, 2008, St. Raphael will be merged with St. Francis of Cabrini Parish. What a sad ending to a very active parish!



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 The Archangel in Arkansas

The St. Raphael Parish in Springdale, Arkansas, is growing. It has a \$4,000,000 building program to provide a grade school for the parish. At this point the school provides Pre-school through Third Grade. With the start of the 2008-2009 year, there will be a Fourth Grade. In each following year the parish plans to add an additional grade.

Springdale is located in the northwest corner of the state, close to Fayetteville, Arkansas.

75th Anniversary for St. Raphael in Garden City, Michigan

St. Raphael in Garden City, Michigan, a suburb of Detroit, celebrated its 75th anniversary last year. The thriving parish has both a school and a religious education program.

The parish anniversary bulletin contained the following prayer to St. Raphael:

Thank you, Raphael, Companion Angel, for being messenger to us of the beautiful friendship we have in Jesus...the constant companionship we have in the Spirit...and the tender care we have in the Father.

Thank you, Raphael, Healing Angel, for blessing us with the healing touch of God, as individuals, as families, and as the parish community that bears your name.

Thank you, Raphael, Patron Angel, for accompanying us into the Kingdom of God, where we will thank Him with you and with the angels and saints forever and ever. Amen.

New Altar for St. Raphael in Maryland

The newly renovated St. Raphael Church in Rockville, Maryland, has a new altar featuring St. Michael, St Raphael, and St. Gabriel as center pieces.

The parish was founded in 1966 with 900 families and now has 3,300 families. The recently renovated church with the altar and its angels is shown in the photo below.

The Maryland parish has a newly formed school that currently provides classes from early childhood through Third Grade. One grade will be added each year until the Eighth Grade has been established.

Each year the parish holds a picnic on the Sunday nearest the feast of St. Raphael to celebrate the patron saint with fun activities for the parishioners of all ages.

Need Your Input

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 that we can use it in next year's edition.

