

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 fourteenth 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

This past year the *Newsletter* failed to receive any input from the other St. Raphael parishes. This is the first time this has happened. If the newsletter is to be of value to you, it needs your input. Any type of response will be appreciated. The editor's email is fhodes@msn.com.

Please send us copies of your bulletin, the program for your celebration of the feast of St. Raphael, or any other devotional materials you have. If your parish is celebrating an anniversary, please let us know so we can share it with other St. Raphael parishes.

INSIDE

- ② St. Raphael in Wisconsin
St. Raphael in St. Louis
St. Raphael Prayer
- ③ St. Raphael in Baghdad
Another St. Raphael Prayer
- ④ St. Raphael Hymn

St. Raphael Cathedral at Madison, Wisconsin

Last spring the diocese had the steeple of the fire-destroyed St. Raphael Cathedral in Madison dismantled. Plans to build a new Cathedral are on hold. The steeple was carefully taken down in three sections and these are being stored in the hope that may be used in the new cathedral when it is built. In addition, three bells from the steeple, stained glass windows and various mosaics that survived the fire have been saved and, hopefully, will be reused.

St. Raphael in St. Louis

St. Raphael Church in St. Louis is pleased to announce that it has a new pastor, Monsignor Henry J. Breier, Jr. Monsignor Breier was ordained in 1994 and served as an associate pastor in south St. Louis county. He served as Secretary to Archbishop Justin Rigali (now Cardinal archbishop of Philadelphia) and then to Archbishop Raymond Burke (currently in Rome as the head of the Vatican's Supreme Tribunal of Apostolic Signatura) and then briefly to St. Louis's new archbishop, Most Rev. Robert J. Carlson.

Please keep Monsignor Breier in your prayers as he begins his service at St. Raphael in St. Louis.

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 Prayer From the Internet

Blessed Saint Raphael, Archangel,
we beseech you to help us
in all our needs and trials of this life,
as you, through the power of God,
did restore sight
and give guidance to young Tobiah.

We humbly seek your aid and
intercession that our souls may be
healed,

our bodies protected from all ills,
and that, through divine grace,
we may become fit to dwell in the
eternal glory of God in heaven.

Amen.

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 Hospital in Baghdad

Recent articles on the Iraqi health care crisis point to the public system's lack of funds, delays, and repeated power failures. Those able to pay for treatment can go to a private hospital for better care. Saint Raphael Hospital in the Karrade area of Baghdad is specifically mentioned as one such hospital. St. Raphael is a 35-bed hospital; however, the facility can treat as many as 1,000 patients a day. Because threats have been made against the physicians, as many as ten live in the building full time. The streets leading to the hospital have concrete blocks to restrict rapid approach to the facility and Iraqi troops guard the doors.

Please pray for those at St. Raphael Hospital in Baghdad.

Prayer

Dear St. Raphael,
"God's Healer,"
the Lord sent you from heaven to
accompany and guide young Tobiah on
a long journey.
On the way,
you taught him to use ordinary things
to bring healing and sight.
How natural, therefore, for Christians
to pray for your
powerful help
as we seek healing
and companionship
on our journey through life.
Blessed Archangel Raphael,
guide and protect us,
heal and keep us
whether we are at home
or far away.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

(St. Louis St. Raphael Bulletin 9/14/08)

St. Raphael Hymn

(based on *All Glory, Laud, and Honor*)

We received a request to reprint the hymn, *St. Raphael Archangel*, that the newsletter originally published ten years ago. The lyric attempts to condense the *Book of Tobit* into a few stanzas that celebrate the only Biblical reference to the angel Raphael. These special verses were written to commemorate the 50th anniversary of St. Raphael Parish in St. Louis. Feel free to use the hymn; however, please credit the composer.

ST. RAPHAEL ARCHANGEL

Music: Melchior Teschner

Words: Carol Hodes

