

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 Fifteenth 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 St. Raphael parishes and their anniversaries and news.

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* received a Sunday Bulletin from St. Raphael in Pittsburgh that contained preliminary plans for the parish's 100th anniversary. The newsletter 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.

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St. Raphael the Archangel in St. Louis

This year St. Raphael the Archangel in St. Louis celebrated its sixtieth anniversary. The parish celebration included a gathering at a downtown restaurant, on the 40th floor, with a commanding view of the famous Gateway Arch and the Mississippi riverfront. For the occasion, the state of Missouri issued a proclamation in honor of the anniversary. The city of St. Louis also issued a similar document.

This year our parish school inaugurated a preschool program that includes before and after care. By renovating two existing classrooms and establishing an outdoor, child-friendly playground, the preschool has been able to attract a significant number of children. In addition, the school has welcomed thirty students from a nearby parish that had to close its school.

This summer, our new pastor, Msgr. Henry Breier, led the CYC members and some of their parents on a pilgrimage to Rome, to participate in the Holy Father's World Youth Day.

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 St. Louis Coat of Arms

Designed by Msgr. Breier, the parish adopted a coat of arms or crest to replace its previous logo.

The upper left quarter contains the cross that is the symbol of the Archdiocese of St. Louis. The upper right quarter gives the parish initials. The rope in the center symbolizes the interconnectedness of the parishioners with each other. The lower portion contains an open book and a lighted candle to symbolize the parish dedication to learning, through the school and through adult education. The left half has a black background; the right half, gold.



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 Illinois

The Archdiocese of Chicago created a new parish, St. Raphael the Archangel, in May 2007. This was the first new parish for the archdiocese since 1999. Located on the Illinois-Wisconsin state line, with Interstate 94 as its eastern boundary, the church is in Antioch, Illinois. The parish, in the expanding Chicago-Milwaukee corridor, will retain its agricultural setting since the current temporary church is on farm property.

The pastor is the Rev. John A. Jamnicky and the senior priest is Fr. Ronald Lewandowski.

The address is:
2101 East IL Route 173
Antioch, IL 60002
The telephone:
(847) 395-FISH (3474)
Email: rectory@straphaelcatholic.org

Prayer to St. Raphael

All-loving God, I praise, glorify and bless you for all the graces and privileges you have bestowed upon your messenger and servant, St. Raphael. By the merits of your angels, grant me your grace, and through the intercession of your Archangel Raphael, help me in all my needs. At the hour of my death, be with me until that time when I can join the angels and saints in heaven to praise you forever and ever, through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Prayer For Travelers

St. Raphael the Archangel, as you protected young Tobiah on his journey to a distant land, protect all those who travel today, especially (insert your intention here). Safeguard all fathers and mothers whose work requires them to travel; protect all children who travel to and from school, to be with a parent or guardian or visit a relative. Watch over those who journey to preach the Gospel. Guide those responsible for operating transport vehicles and inspire the owners of transportation systems to provide dependable and affordable means. Encourage those who maintain these systems to be trustworthy in providing safe and reliable means so that all who travel will reach their destinations in comfort and safety.

Amen

(The Prayer to St. Raphael and the Prayer for Travelers: both contributed by St. Raphael Parish in Antioch, Illinois.)

St. Raphael Cathedral in Dubuque, Iowa

The St. Raphael Cathedral in Dubuque, Iowa, became linked with a neighboring parish, St. Patrick. Originally founded in 1852 as a mission of the Cathedral for Irish settlers, St. Patrick now serves Hispanic residents of the city.

The Dubuque Deanery anticipated that by 2015 the deanery parishes would have only seven or eight priests so it wanted to begin planning now. Both parishes will continue as separate communities; however, they will share the same priests. The former pastor of the St. Raphael Cathedral, Msgr. Wayne Ressler, retired this summer. The new pastor of the linked parishes is Fr. Dan Knepper.

St. Raphael in Springfield, Ohio

The St. Raphael Church in Springfield, Ohio, is also a linked church. The parish, founded in 1849, has been unified with nearby St. Joseph Church, founded in 1883. Both churches are open and have their own communities; however, they are served by the same two priests. The pastor is Fr. Dennis Caylor and he is assisted by Fr. Marvin Hackman (retired).

Their mission statement proclaims that they are a diverse community dedicated to living their baptismal commitments: providing for the spiritual growth of their members and reaching out to others through worship and action.

St. Raphael In Pittsburgh

St. Raphael in Pittsburgh will celebrate its 100th anniversary in 2011. Plans are now underway for the celebration. The pastor is Rev. Benedetto Vaghetto who was kind enough to supply us with the parish bulletin.

The motto for the anniversary is "100 Years of Lives Rooted in Love."

Subcommittees have been established for the Liturgy, Banquet, Public Relations and History. As part of their fund raising, a custom-designed Christmas ornament will be sold for ten dollars.

The parish maintains an elementary school, begun in 1915 and originally staffed by the Sisters of St. Joseph of Baden. Today the school has a lay staff and "offers a challenging curriculum in a Christ-centered environment."

Need Your Input

Our readers are interested in learning about your parish. Please send to the Newsletter items about your school and/or parish community so that we can spread the good news of St. Raphael across the nation.

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.