

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 sixteenth 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 East Meadow, New York, with a photo of its sanctuary and from St. Raphael in Duluth, Minnesota, with photos of its icon and statue of St. Raphael. Many thanks to these parishes for their input. Email your parish news to 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 Duluth, Minnesota

The St. Raphael Church in Duluth, Minnesota, 5779 Seville Drive, sent the *Newsletter* a photo of its statue of St. Raphael.



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

The parish school's new Pre-school program, begun just last year, has proved so popular that it will expand from two to three classrooms this school year. The program provides parents with before and after school care for the benefit of those who need it.

During the summer the Pre-school offered a full schedule of summer camp activities, along with pre-and-after-care service. The children very much enjoyed their days of fun and frolic.

In order to meet the rising costs of providing a quality grade school education, the parish is instituting the "Annual Angel Appeal," a yearly fund raising event to meet the growing financial needs. The parish school had instituted changes this year to improve the level of education in order to attract and retain students from both the parish territorial boundaries and the neighboring areas.

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 Kansas City Closed

On June 29, 2008, the Church of St. Raphael in the Kansas City Diocese closed.

Founded on March 12, 1963, the parish continued until 2008. Unfortunately, the closing of the parish resulted from the on-going lack of priests.

Intended to serve the far northeast corner of the Kansas City metropolitan area, the parish suffered from the removal of extensive acreage used by the Worlds of Fun Amusement Park that could have been utilized for housing. In addition, the interstate highway complicated access to the area. However, despite these problems, the parish continued to thrive until the end.

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.

St. Raphael In East Meadow, New York

In celebration of the feast of St. Raphael in 2010, the parish conducted two prayer services.

At 8:30 a. m. the people held Morning Prayer that followed the structure of the Liturgy of the hours as prayed in the Church throughout the world. Parishioners prayed psalms and canticles and listened to a brief Scripture reading, followed by quiet reflection. The service lasted about twenty minutes.

At 7:30 in the evening, the parish experienced an evening of Taize Prayer. In the dimly lit church, parishioners enjoyed a calm, relaxing service with Taize chants, brief phrases from Scripture, periods of silence, an invitation to reverence the cross and a celebration of the Resurrection of Jesus.

The East Meadow parish observed the feast of St. Raphael in a very prayerful manner.

St. Raphael Litany

The St. Raphael Litany on page four has been taken from the magazine *Inside the Vatican*, the October 2007 issue.

Litany of Saint Raphael

Lord, have mercy on us.
 Christ, have mercy on us.
 Lord, have mercy on us.
 Christ, hear us.
 Christ, graciously hear us.
 God the Father of heaven, have mercy on us.
 God the Son, Redeemer of the world, have mercy on us.
 God the Holy Spirit, have mercy on us.
 Holy Trinity, one God, have mercy on us.
 Jesus, King of Angels, pray for us.
 Mary, Queen of Angels, pray for us.
 St. Raphael the Archangel, pray for us.
 St. Raphael, whose name means "God has healed," pray for us.
 St. Raphael, preserved with the good angels in God's kingdom, pray for us.
 St. Raphael, one of the seven spirits who stand before the Most High, pray for us.
 St. Raphael, ministering to God in heaven, pray for us.
 St. Raphael, noble and mighty Messenger of God, pray for us.
 St. Raphael, devoted to the Holy Will of God, pray for us.
 St. Raphael, who offered to God the prayers of the father Tobit, pray for us.
 St. Raphael, traveling companion of the young Tobiah, pray for us.
 St. Raphael, who guarded your friends from danger, pray for us.
 St. Raphael, who found a worthy wife for Tobiah, pray for us.
 St. Raphael, who healed the father Tobit of his blindness, pray for us.
 St. Raphael, guide and protector on our journey through life, pray for us.
 St. Raphael, strong helper in time of need, pray for us.
 St. Raphael, conqueror of evil, pray for us.
 St. Raphael, guide and counselor of young people, pray for us.
 St. Raphael, protector of pure souls, pray

for us.
 St. Raphael, patron angel of youth, pray for us.
 St. Raphael, angel of joy, pray for us.
 St. Raphael, angel of happy meetings, pray for us.
 St. Raphael, angel of chaste courtship, pray for us.
 St. Raphael, angel of those seeking a marriage partner, pray for us.
 St. Raphael, angel of a happy marriage, pray for us.
 St. Raphael, angel of home life, pray for us.
 St. Raphael, guardian of the Christian family, pray for us.
 St. Raphael, protector of travelers, pray for us.
 St. Raphael, patron of health, pray for us.
 St. Raphael, heavenly physician, pray for us.
 St. Raphael, helper of the blind, pray for us.
 St. Raphael, consoler of the afflicted, pray for us.
 St. Raphael, support of the dying, pray for us.
 St. Raphael, herald of blessings, pray for us.
 St. Raphael, defender of the Church, pray for us.
 Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world, spare us, O Lord.
 Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world, graciously hear us, O Lord.
 Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.
 V. Pray for us, O Glorious Saint Raphael the Archangel,
 R. That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.
 Let us pray,
 O God, who graciously gave the Archangel Raphael as a companion to Your servant Tobiah when on his journey, grant us, Your servants, that we may ever enjoy his protection and be strengthened by his help.
 Through Christ our Lord. Amen.