

# 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 seventeenth 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.

This issue contains two articles about church architecture. The new St. Raphael Church in Illinois is building its church utilizing substantial portions of an abandoned church in Chicago. The new church incorporates other items that were dismantled from another church and an organ donated from an abandoned hall. The other article highlights the St. Raphael in Rome, Italy (built in 1967), a copy of the old-style Roman basilica.

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.

Please send us the program for your celebration of the feast of St. Raphael, or any other devotional materials you may have. If your parish is celebrating an anniversary, please let us know so that we can share it with other St. Raphael parishes. Email your parish news to [fhodes@msn.com](mailto:fhodes@msn.com).

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## St. Raphael the Archangel in St. Louis

Below is the image used by St. Raphael in St. Louis on a prayer card for its Annual Angel Appeal fund-raising campaign.



## St. Raphael in Springdale, Arkansas

The St. Raphael Parish in Springdale, Arkansas is the largest parish in the Diocese of Little Rock with some 20,500 members. Founded in December 1949, it began as a mission church and slowly grew. It became an official parish in 1965 with the construction of its church. With the growth of the Catholic population, plans began to build a new church with a capacity of 850 to 1250. This new church was completed in May 1995. By 1999 the parish included some 400 Hispanic families.

In August 2007 the parish opened a school, encompassing grades pre-school to third, with a view to adding one new grade a year. Currently the school educates students up to seventh grade. To care for the children who cannot attend the school, there is a Parish Religious Education program to serve between 1,400 and 1,500 students.

On the weekend there are seven Masses, three in English and four in Spanish. The parish has a pastor, two assistants, a deacon, and a large lay staff.

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 St. Raphael Parish is erecting a church at its new location at Old Mill Creek, Illinois. The parish, located on the Wisconsin border, was founded in 2007 and was originally located at nearby Antioch, Illinois with a temporary church in a converted barn. The parish has embarked on a multimillion dollar church building project. Parishioners are taking an abandoned church in the city of Chicago, having it dismantled and moved and reassembled at the new location, sixty miles to the north.

The former St. John of God church, located near Sherman Park, has been disassembled and its limestone facade and the two 134 foot bell towers carefully numbered and transported to the new location. The old church had been built in 1920 and then closed in 1992.

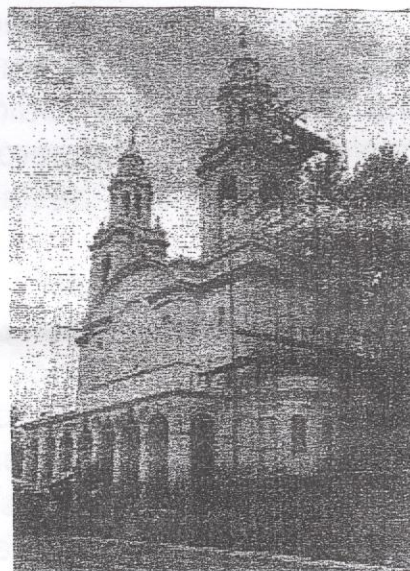
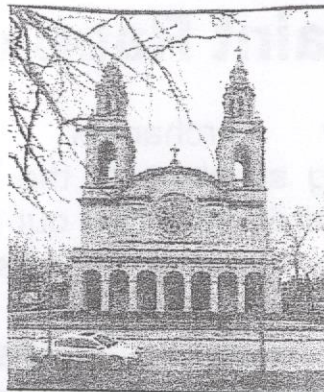
The altar and nave of the new church will be taken from the former St. Peter Canisius Church, another closed church. Mayor Richard Daley donated the old Chicago Merinah Temple organ to the church, an instrument that has been in storage for eight years.

A parishioner said to the pastor, Fr. John Jamnicky, "Everyone wanted a church that looked like a church."

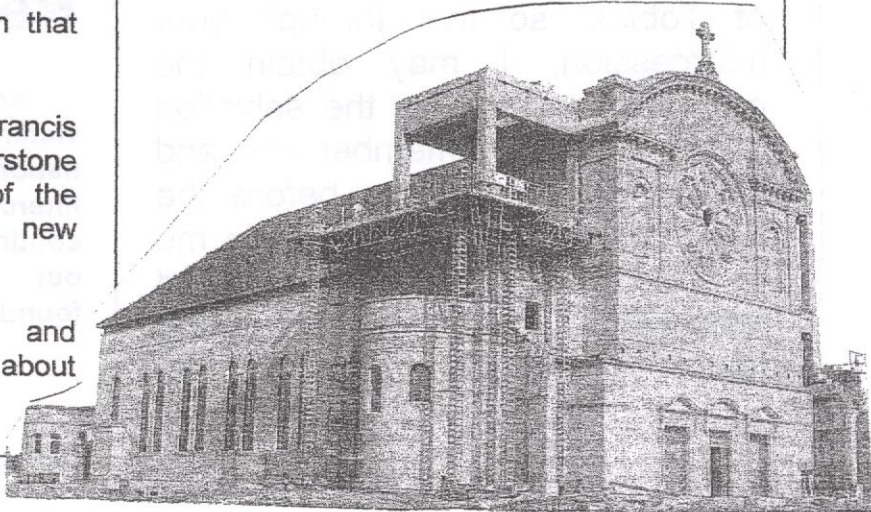
On June 27, 2010, Cardinal Francis George conducted the cornerstone ceremony, placing the cornerstone of the original church first, and then the new cornerstone with the date placed on top.

The total cost of moving and reconstructing the new church will be about 10 million dollars.

The church in the original location



The church under construction in the new location





## Consecration to Saint Raphael

Holy Archangel Raphael, standing so close to the throne of God and offering Him our prayers, I venerate you as God's special Friend and Messenger. I choose you as my Patron and wish to love and obey you as young Tobias did. I consecrate to you my body and soul, all my work, and my whole life. I want you to be my Guide and Counselor in all the dangerous and difficult problems and decisions of my life.

Remember, dearest Saint Raphael, that the grace of God preserved you with the good angels in heaven when the proud ones were cast into Hell. I entreat you, therefore, to help me in my struggle against the world, the flesh, and the devil. Defend me from all dangers and every occasion of sin. Direct me always in the way of peace, safety, and salvation. Offer my prayers to God as you offered those of Tobias, so that through your intercession, I may obtain the graces necessary for the salvation of my soul. Remember me and always entreat for me before the Face of the Son of God. Help me to love and to serve my God faithfully, to die in His grace, and finally to join you in seeing and

praising God forever in heaven. Amen.

(from *Inside the Vatican*, Oct. 2007, p. 60.)

## St. Raphael in Rome

There is a St. Raphael Church in Rome, Italy. However, it is not an ancient nor a historic structure, but rather a modern parish church.

Built in 1957 in the suburb of Trullo, the parish is served by the "Priestly Fraternity of the Sons of the Cross." Instead of a modernistic design, the brick church is in the neo-Romanesque style, a faithful copy of the classical Roman basilica. It is located on Via di San Raffaele. As the Bishop of Rome, Pope John Paul visited the church in 1979.

For an aerial look at the church, go to <http://www.gcatholic.com/churches/rome/106.htm>. and enter Church of St. Raphael the Archangel. Increase the magnification to full. The result is a good view of the church along with its front courtyard plaza. As a bonus, one can then tour Rome with these aerial images.

## A Prayer for Religious Freedom

Archangel Raphael, who aided Tobit, a victim of religious oppression, aid this nation and protect its religious liberty. Intercede for us to Almighty God to continue to grant us this blessed gift that our nation has enjoyed since its foundation.

Amen.