

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 eighteenth 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 edition contains more news about the rapid completion of the new St. Raphael Church in Illinois that is nearing formal dedication. In addition, this issue includes photos from parishioners who visited Hawaii. Also pictured is an icon that appears on the web site of the St. Raphael Parish in Fairbanks, Alaska.

Thanks to everyone who has sent Sunday bulletins, newsletters, and parish newspapers in the past years; 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.

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St. Raphael the Archangel in Illinois

The church was originally the St. John of God Church located on the south side of Chicago. In a multi-million-dollar project, the limestone brick church was carefully disassembled and rebuilt some forty miles to the north. Much of the interior, including the marble altar and nave, came from another abandoned church building, St. Peter Canisius. Most of the items of the church were gathered from reclaimed materials in shuttered churches around Chicago.

The move of the abandoned Chicago church building to rural Illinois is almost complete. During this summer workers reassembled the two eighty-foot bell-towers on each side of the front entrance and completed a plaza for the front of the church.

The church represents the first new parish in the Chicago Archdiocese in many years and it is located near the Illinois-Wisconsin border, stretching along the interstate between Chicago and Milwaukee. In its first years the parishioners attended Mass in a converted agricultural building adjacent to a farm. Since its founding five years ago, the parish has doubled in size and now has 550 families.

To mark the completion of this unique project of preservation, conservation, and restoration, Francis Cardinal George plans to dedicate the structure on September 28, 2013.

The address of the church is
St. Raphael the Archangel
40000 North U.S. Highway 45
Old Mill Creek, IL 60046-7464

St. Raphael in Kentucky

The St. Raphael Parish in Louisville, Kentucky, is located on the south side of the city and is relatively large. It is staffed by one priest and one deacon, assisted by a lay staff. The parish has a total of 2,531 parishioners, a healthy mix of seniors and young families. The parish supports a large school, with 427 students, according to recent enrollment figures.

Spanish Speaking Masses

Many St. Raphael parishes have Masses or bulletins in Spanish to accommodate their Hispanic parishioners. Here are just three examples:

Houston, Texas, with four of five Sunday Masses in Spanish

Raleigh, North Carolina, with two bulletins, one in English and the other in Spanish

Springdale, Arkansas, with four of seven weekend Masses in Spanish.

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 Montreal

Montreal, Canada, has a very attractive St. Raphael Church. Unfortunately, it does not have a resident priest. Mass is held there only one Sunday a month. The church is listed as English-speaking.

St. Raphael Hospital in Iraq

As the Newsletter has reported over the years, there is a St. Raphael Hospital in Baghdad, Iraq, with the Dominican sisters staffing the facility. It is still heavily guarded due to the on-going violence and unsettled political situation.

In 2010 it handled some 150,000 visits, including surgeries, deliveries, emergency care, obstetrics, X-rays, ultrasounds, and laboratory tests.

St. Raphael in Fairbanks, Alaska

The Diocese of Fairbanks celebrated its 50th anniversary recently.

The adjoining column presents an icon of St. Raphael the Archangel that graces the website of the Fairbanks parish.



Designed by Byron Birdsall, the icon is presented in the traditional Orthodox manner, depicting St. Raphael in his guise as "Azariah" from the *Book of Tobit*. He is armed to protect Tobiah and holds a torn document, the other half held by Gabael, Tobit's friend. To Raphael's right is Tobit pictured as blinded. On the lower left is the fish with which Raphael restores Tobit's sight. The background shows desert mountains and the River Tigris.

St. Raphael in Hawaii

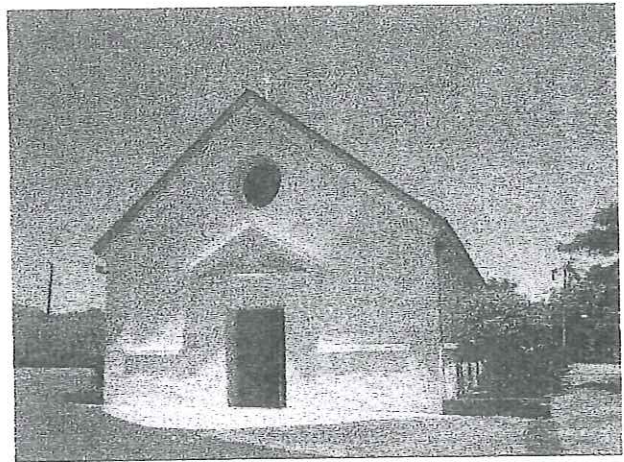
This summer, two parishioners from St. Raphael Parish in St. Louis vacationed in Hawaii and visited the St. Raphael Parish in Koloa-Poipu on the island of Kauai.

A French Catholic missionary, Fr. Arsenius Robert Walsh, founded the parish in 1841. The parish served sugar plantation workers, many of whom were from the Philippines (along with Japanese and Chinese). Today the economy rests on tourism and not sugar.

Pictured here are three of the photos taken in Hawaii.



Modern Church and Rectory



Original Church



Interior of the Original Church