

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 twentieth 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 volume contains news items about the merger and closure of two St. Raphael parishes, the 65th anniversary of St. Raphael in St. Louis, the current status of St. Raphael in Oshkosh, Wisconsin, and a painting of St. Raphael and Tobias from the 15th Century. Also note that the past issues of the *Newsletter* are now posted on the St. Louis St. Raphael web site.

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 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 Garden City, Michigan

St. Raphael Parish in Garden City, Michigan, has been merged out of existence. On July 1, 2014, Saint Raphael Parish and Saint Dustan Parish merged to form the new St. Thomas the Apostle. The new church has the address of the former church so the parish must have retained that building as the place of worship. The school is now referred to as St. Thomas the Apostle School.

Saint Raphael in Springfield, Ohio

As the *Newsletter* reported several issues ago, Saint Raphael Parish in Springfield, Ohio, has joined with Saint Joseph Parish. Both parishes appear to be maintaining their original church buildings, but have the joint name of St. Joseph and St. Raphael. St. Raphael Church, dating from the 1890s, presents an imposing sight with two front towers, one a 135-foot-tall bell tower and the other a 184-foot principal tower. The National Register of Historic Places added the building to its list in June 1976, due to the church's historically significant architecture.

St. Raphael In St. Louis

St. Raphael in St. Louis is marking its 65th anniversary this year. Founded in 1950 in the southwest corner of the city, the parish continues to serve the Catholic community with both an active congregation and a thriving school. The parish is an anchor in this part of St. Louis city, a steadying influence that incorporates Christian witness and values.

Newsletter on the WEB

The past issues of this *Newsletter* are now on the web. See them on the St. Louis St. Raphael web site:

STRAPHAELARCHANGEL.ORG

The *Newsletter* collection has now grown to twenty issues.

Hopefully, these may prove helpful to St. Raphael Churches across the country. Many issues have prayers asking the intercession of the Archangel Raphael, along with various artistic representations of the archangel.

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:

Church of
St. Raphael the Archangel
6047 Bishops Place
St. Louis, MO 63109
(Attention: Historical Society)

St. Raphael in Oshkosh, Wisconsin

St. Raphael Parish in Oshkosh, Wisconsin, sent the *Newsletter* a copy of its attractive, spiral-bound-20-page booklet that gives a detailed description of the church and a short history of the parish.

The parish, officially founded in 1978, built its church in 1986. By 1992 this building proved inadequate for a parish of 1,100 families, so a new church was constructed. The new church, completed in 1994, is of modern design. However, it incorporates traditional elements by using stained glass windows and stations of the cross from older churches. Thus, the church uses both modern design and traditional art work.

A statue of St. Raphael the Archangel stands in the courtyard in front of the church entrance to greet church goers. This statue originally came from a Catholic hospital in Stevens Point, Wisconsin

The church nave is ringed with cathedral windows that alternate between clear glass and twelve stained glass windows depicting each of the twelve apostles. These windows, which came from Germany in 1908, were intended for another Catholic Church.

The church's stations of the cross originally graced the walls of an older church torn down years earlier. These individually plaster-cast and hand-painted stations eventually came to the new church and now occupy spaces between the windows.



This is the logo used by St. Raphael in Oshkosh, Wisconsin. Below is the prayer used in the weekly parish bulletin.

Prayer to St. Raphael

Glorious Archangel Raphael, who enters and serves before the Glory of the Lord, present to God the prayer of our need.

As once you helped young Tobias in his travels, help us on our journey through life.

Grant us healing of body, mind, and spirit that we may be faithful disciples of Jesus who pray, serve, and generously share in response to the needs of the human family.



The depiction of Archangel Raphael shown in the left column is taken from Pietro Perugino's triptych of *Virgin and Child with Archangels Michael and Raphael*. This 15th Century work of art hangs in London's National Gallery.

St. Raphael Article

The June 2015 issue of *The Word Among Us* contains an article featuring the Archangel Raphael. *The Word Among Us* is a monthly magazine that presents short articles and the complete Mass readings along with meditations for the given month.

Kevin Perrotta presents a four-page article giving a synopsis of the *Book of Tobit* in an easy-to-understand style. He includes a reflection on how we should be companions to each other as was Raphael to Tobiah.

The article presents a full page reproduction of the 1880 painting of *Tobias and the Angel* by Jean Charles Cazin (Palais des Beaux Arts, Lille, France).

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.