

# 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 twenty-first 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 "San Rafael" parish in a remote section of Costa Rica. This year St. Raphael in Rockford, Maryland, celebrates the parish's 50th anniversary. St. Raphael in St. Louis is celebrating the 50th anniversary of its new church building. There is a prayer to St. Raphael. The back page contains a Nineteenth Century painting of St. Raphael and Tobiah.

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 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 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 Costa Rica

In his report to the St. Louis Society for the Propagation of the Faith, Msgr. Francis X. Blood highlighted missionary work in a remote section of Costa Rica. The parish is "San Rafael." A Franciscan Missionary from El Salvador, Fr. Jose Celedonio Martinez Argueta, presides over a parish that holds more than 40 small villages within the parish boundaries. Each village has its own little chapel. The parishioners are migrants from Nicaragua, mostly farmers who are very poor. Because of dangerous roads during the rainy season and the high price of gasoline, Fr. Jose often travels by mule to his remote villages.

## St. Raphael In Rockford, Maryland

Last year St. Raphael in Rockford, Maryland, celebrated its 50th anniversary as a parish. The parish continues its celebration this year with a parish picnic on September 25. Rev. James P. Meyers, an associate pastor, a retired Monsignor, and four deacons serve the parish. The parish provides its Hispanic population with a 1:00 p.m. Sunday Mass in Spanish.

In 2006 the parish opened the newest school in the Archdiocese of Washington, D. C., completing the building in 2011. By adding a grade each year, the school was able to hold its first graduation in 2014.

## 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](http://STRAPHAELARCHANGEL.ORG)

The *Newsletter* collection will soon contain all twenty-one issues.

Hopefully, these may prove helpful to St. Raphael Churches across the country. Many issues have prayers asking the intercession of the Archangel Raphael, one has a hymn to St. Raphael, and others present 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 the Archangel in St. Louis

St. Raphael in St. Louis has a new pastor, the Reverend Robert J. Reiker. He replaced Monsignor Henry Breier.

The parish celebrated the 50th anniversary of its founding in 2000. However, beginning this year, the parish will celebrate the 50th anniversary of the new Church building, by marking the various dates in its construction: the cornerstone laying, the transfer from the temporary church to the new building, and the archbishop's formal dedication.

In connection with this anniversary, the parish will begin a campaign to fund various necessary repairs and updates to ready the church building for the next fifty years. Merging with the St. Louis Archdiocesan *Beyond Sunday* campaign that funds Catholic schools, the parish will raise money to replace the church roof, to repaint the interior, and to address other needed repairs.

## 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.

## Prayer to St. Raphael

*Glorious Archangel Saint Raphael,  
great prince of the heavenly court,  
you are illustrious  
for your gifts of wisdom and grace.  
You are a guide of those who journey  
by land or sea or air,  
consoler of the afflicted,  
and refuge of sinners.  
I beg you,  
assist me in all my needs  
and in all the sufferings of this life,  
as once you helped  
the young Tobiah on his travels  
Because you are the medicine of God.  
I humbly pray you to heal the  
many infirmities of my soul and  
the ills that afflict my body.  
I especially ask of you the favor  
(Make your request here...)  
and the grace of purity  
to prepare me to be the temple of  
the Holy Spirit.  
Amen*



### St. Raphael in Art



The above is a reproduction of the 1880 painting of *Tobias and the Angel* (Palais des Beaux Arts, Lille, France) by Jean Charles Cazin (1841-1901). The artist favored landscape settings and religious subjects.

The painting is in the style of the French Art Academy of the time that emphasized realism and almost photographic presentation. Most modern painting evolved as a reaction against this approach.