

Orthodox Christian Council of Greater Toledo...News

On the eve of the leave-taking of the Great Feast of our Lord's Transfiguration, and in the Holy Season of the Fast of the Dormition of the Mother of God, our Orthodox Christian Council of Greater Toledo, Ohio, formally met and adopted a Patron Saint for our organization.

Guided by the Holy Spirit, Who has united us all in the One, Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic Church, we joyfully affirm that our Orthodox Christian Council of Greater Toledo is under the blessing and protection of our Holy Father among the Saints, RAPHAEL of Brooklyn.

St. Raphael of Brooklyn (Nov. 8, 1860-Feb. 27, 1915) faithfully and tirelessly served the faithful of all backgrounds, establishing churches throughout North America. The last church St. Raphael established was here in Toledo in 1914.

In May of 2000, St. Raphael of Brooklyn was recognized as a saint of the Orthodox Church. The glorification service took place at St. Tikhon's Monastery. St. Raphael was originally buried in Mt. Olivet Cemetery in Brooklyn, NY. On August 15, 1989, his relics were translated from Mt. Olivet Cemetery to Holy Resurrection Cemetery at the Antiochian Village. His relics remain with other bishops and clergy who were also translated at the same time as St. Raphael. Relics of St. Raphael of Brooklyn are located at St. Ignatius Church at the Antiochian Village near Ligonier, PA, for veneration by the faithful. A shrine with an icon written by the hand of Fr. Paul Albert is located at the gravesite on the northeast side of St. Ignatius Church.



Icon blessed at Canonization of St. Raphael



St. Raphael anticipated in his own person the possibility for the future unity of the Orthodox Christians in America.

Saint Raphael is a self-proclaimed **“Syro-Arab by birth, a Greek by primary education, an American by residence, a Russian at heart, and a Slav in soul.”**

We pray that St. Raphael will bless our united ministry, our witness, and our future growth.

More information on our new Patron Saint may be accessed here:
<http://www.antiochianvillage.org/camp/liturgical/patron/straphael.html>