

**RESOLUTION NUMBER 98**  
**St. Raphael the Archangel Parish 60<sup>th</sup> Church Anniversary**

**WHEREAS**, on June 24, 1950, Archbishop Joseph E. Ritter appointed Fr. Arthur G. Behrman to organize a new parish in the southwest corner of St. Louis and the adjacent area of the county. The official groundbreaking ceremony took place on January 21, 1951, with the school as the first priority. On September 12, 1951, St. Raphael School opened for 340 students with the School Sisters of Notre Dame as the faculty. On August 15, 1951 Fr. Behrman blessed the cornerstone for the church portion of the school complex (now the gym). The church (seating 600) was quickly built, and it was blessed on January 26, 1952 with the first Mass celebrated on January 27. In 1956 the Archdiocese altered the parish boundaries with the area on the west side of River Des Peres becoming part of the newly formed St. Dominic Savio parish. At the time of the division, St. Raphael had about 750 families and 290 children in the school.

**WHEREAS**, in 1965 Fr. Behrman received permission to begin building a new church and attached rectory. Construction for the 750 seat church began in the summer of 1966. The formal laying of the cornerstone occurred on October 23, 1966. The official opening of the church took place on Sunday, November 5, 1967; and Archbishop John J. Carberry officially dedicated the church on April 28, 1968.

**WHEREAS**, following the death of Msgr. Behrman in 1971, Fr. Richard J. Gallagher came to St. Raphael as pastor and served for seventeen years. Msgr. Gallagher oversaw the transition from a religious to a lay faculty for the school.

**WHEREAS**, in 1988 Fr. William A. Drennan became the third pastor of the parish and also served for seventeen years. In 2001 the parish launched a capital campaign to expand the school by four classrooms, install an elevator for handicapped accessibility, and add new office space and new, large restrooms. Construction began in August 2002 and proceeded quickly. On September 14 Archbishop Justin Regali blessed the newly completed additions.

**WHEREAS**, today under the leadership of the new pastor, Msgr. Henry J. Breier, the parish will offer a pre-school program and before and after care, beginning in the fall. The parish boasts 569 families and the projected fall enrollment for the school is 194.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** by the Board of Aldermen of the City of St. Louis that we pause in our deliberations to recognize the 60th Anniversary of St. Raphael the Archangel Parish and we wish the church continued success and achievement and we further direct the Clerk of this Board to spread a copy of this Resolution across the minutes of these proceedings and to prepare a commemorative copy to the end that it may be presented to our honorees at a time and place deemed appropriate by the Sponsor.

Introduced on the 4th day of June, 2010 by:

**Honorable Donna Baringer, Alderwoman 16th Ward**

Adopted this the 4th day of June, 2010 as attested by:

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David W. Sweeney  
Clerk, Board of Aldermen

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Lewis E. Reed  
President, Board of Aldermen