

FOLLOWERS – LESSON PLAN St

Age	Term	Mod.	Module Theme	Module Title	Lesson Number and Title
16	2	4	Celebrations	Modern Saints	68: St Raphael of Brooklyn

Use the syllabus framework to complete above. Infants: 20 minutes; Juniors: 30 minutes; Middles & Seniors: 45 minutes
(Mod. = Module Number, Module Theme - in the heading, Module Title - uppercase in the cell, Lesson Num [NO. column] and Title)

Verbal V <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Logical L <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Spatial S	Kinaesthetic K	Musical M	Intra - personal P1 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Inter - personal P2 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Natural N

Tick the appropriate box(es) above [copy this:] for the modes of learning being used in this session.

Prayer: Rejoice Mary, Mother of God, Virgin, full of grace, the Lord is with thee: blessed art thou among women and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, for thou hast borne the Saviour of our souls.

Starter: The students call out in turn single word descriptors for the qualities of a godly bishop,

Learning objectives: To appreciate the life and work of St Raphael of Brooklyn.

Core Activities and Learning

- ❖ St Raphael hawaweeny was born, on November 8, 1860. He received his primary and secondary education in the parochial schools of Damascus, and his first theological training at the Oecumenical Patriarchate's Theological School at Khalki in the Princes Islands (near Istanbul). He later studied at the Kiev Theological Academy in Imperial Russia.
- ❖ In the last decades of the nineteenth century, America received into her open arms a steady flow of immigrants from the Middle East. Known generically as "Syrians," many of these immigrants, Orthodox in faith and Arab in culture, left their ancestral towns and villages to seek new and brighter horizons for themselves, this community was growing at an increasing rate. A Syrian Orthodox Benevolent Society was organized in New York City and the president, Dr. Ibrahim Arbeely, contacted priest Raphael to come to the New World to be their shepherd and spiritual father.
- ❖ During his lifetime he was neither a wonder-worker nor a clairvoyant elder, St. Raphael did not seek honour for himself, he embraced a life of total abandonment of self, he had submissive attitude to the providence of God: a life of true spiritual asceticism. Whatever the cost, he followed his Master "if anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me" (Matthew 16:24).
- ❖ On March 12, 1904, the solemn rite of the election of St. Raphael as Bishop of Brooklyn was performed by St. Tikhon, who recognised his quality and Bishop Innocent at the Russian St. Nicholas Cathedral in Manhattan after the Vigil.
- ❖ He consecrated the grounds of St. Tikhon's Monastery in South Canaan, Pennsylvania, the first Orthodox monastery in the New World, and also founded The Word Magazine in 1905.
- ❖ After twenty years of service in North America, he founded thirty parish churches with 25,000 faithful, authored or translated fourteen books, including the Small and the Great Euchologion, St Raphael died on February 27, 1915.
- ❖ His sanctity was officially proclaimed by the Holy Synod of the Orthodox Church in America on March 29, 2000.
- ❖ St. Raphael is remembered by historians as a: gifted peacemaker, missionary, defender of the dispossessed and the poor, learned theologian, prolific translator and writer, and the first to be consecrated to the sacred episcopacy in the New World. In popular piety and devotion his memory is cherished as an icon of "**the good shepherd of the lost sheep in North America.**"
- ❖ The scope of his self-sacrificing pastoral ministry is preserved and revealed in his own meticulously kept handwritten missionary journals, which detail his transcontinental travels to countless cities, villages, isolated farms and ranches in the United States, Canada and Mexico.

Discussion

After considering his life, discuss how his example might be followed here in the west in creating new Orthodox parishes. How might we go about this?

Resources: No resources required.

Review: we don't need to be a wonder-worker to become saints; we have to embrace a life of total abandonment of self for the service of others with a true love.

Follow Up: Read Matthew 16:24-28