



ST. RAPHAEL

— CATHOLIC CHURCH —

MARCH 24, 2024 | PALM SUNDAY



CONTACT US

2514 Lee Boulevard
Lehigh Acres, FL 33971

Phone (239) 369-1831

Religious Education (239) 369-6424

Fax (239) 369-1039

parishoffice@saintraphaelccla.org

www.saintraphaelcc.net

MASS TIMES

Monday - Friday | 8:00AM (English)

Saturday | 8:00AM, 5:00PM (English)

6:30PM (Español)

Sunday 7:30AM, 9:00AM, 12:30PM

(English)

10:30AM & 5:30PM (Español)

CONFESSIONS

Wednesday | 6:00PM-7:00PM

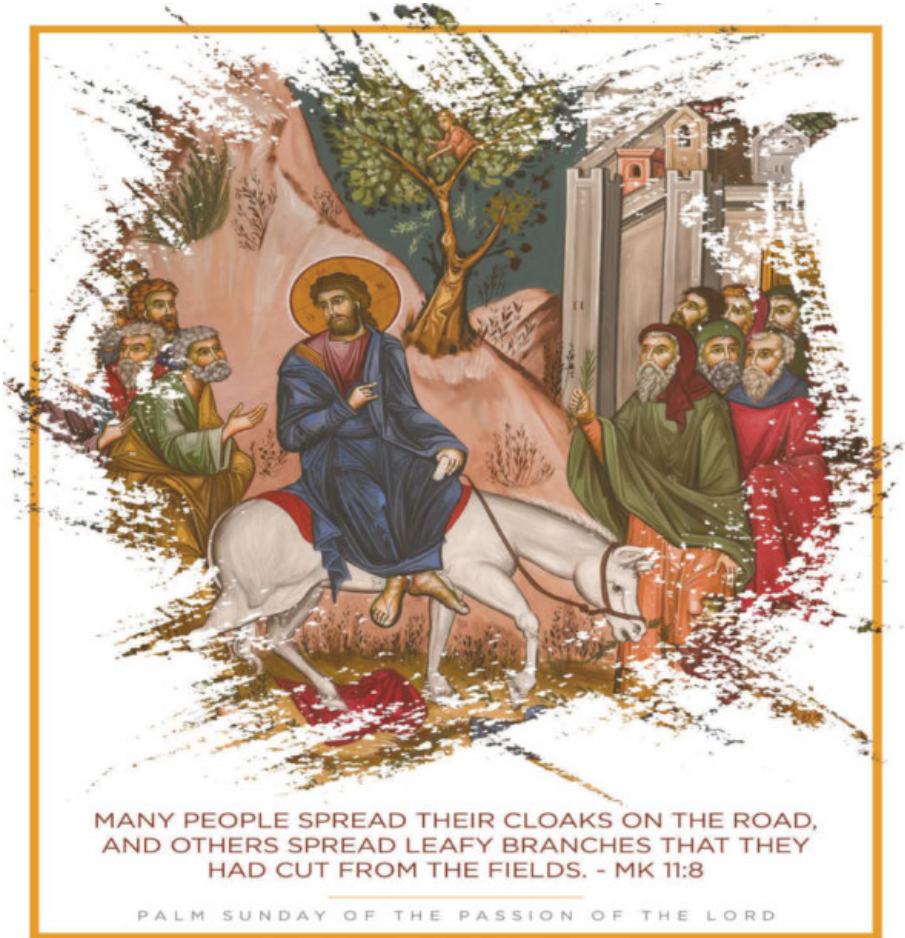
Saturday | 4:00PM-4:45PM

Sunday | 4:30PM-5:15PM (Español)

PASTORAL STAFF

Rev. Michal Szyszka, *Pastor*

Andy Mora,
Coordinator of Religious Education



PRAYER TO ST. RAPHAEL THE ARCHANGEL

Glorious Archangel St. 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 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 Tobias 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 you the favour (name it) and the great grace of purity to prepare me to be the temple of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

SCHEDULE AND RESOURCES

Baptisms - Parents must be registered parishioners. Call the parish office for more information.

Marriages - Please contact a priest at least six months prior to the date.

For information on other sacraments or sick calls please call the rectory.

First - Sixth Grade
Sunday 8:30AM – 9:45AM

First - Eighth Grade
Sunday 10:30AM – 11:45AM

Confirmation Class
Tuesday 6:00PM – 7:30PM

Youth Group meets every Sunday from 1:30PM-3:30PM in the parish hall.

RCIA (school building)
Monday evening 7:00PM–9:00PM Spanish & Tuesday evening 7:00PM–9:00PM English

Catholic Charities - 239-337-4193
Prayer Line - Call 369-1831 to leave your prayer request or email it to: ParishOffice@saintraphaelccla.org

Perpetual Adoration Chapel is open every day from 7:00AM - 4:30PM . Call Joann 508-278-6167 for more information.

Pregnancy Resources -Turn to the pro-life movement for help. Community Pregnancy Clinic 689-1543, Birthright 1-800-550-4900, Heartbeat 1-800-395-HELP or Bethany Christian Services 1-800-238-4269.

Knights of Columbus - For more information please call 369-5632 or see the website KofC6265.org.

Knights of Columbus Ladies Auxiliary - 1st Thursday of the month 7:00-8:30PM in the school building. For information see the knights website or call Nancy at 636-208-8806.

Spanish Knights of Columbus- Meets the 2nd Thursday of each month in the school building.

Altar & Rosary Society - 1st Fridays following Mass September-May.

Cristo Rey (Spanish Charismatic) Prayer Group - Thursdays at 7:00PM in the parish hall.

Divine Mercy Prayer Group (Spanish)- meets in the school building the 1st & 3rd Fridays at 10:30AM.

Emaus: Men's/Women's Groups - Mondays at 7:00PM in the parish hall.

Haitian Prayer Group - Fridays in the school building from 6:00-8:00PM. For more information call 491-6719.

St. John XXIII Prayer Group meets every Tuesday at 7PM in the school building.

(PRACTICING) CATHOLIC - RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS

By Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

The Whole Story

The Bible is a strange book.

It's one of the only books that most people never read in its entirety, even those who claim it as one of their favorites. It's also one of the only books that we feel comfortable chopping up and sectioning out. There's nothing wrong with that, really, until people start making wholesale judgments of divine revelation based on one tiny part of it. You can't base your belief system on a few lines from Leviticus and ignore the Gospels, just like you can't embrace the teachings of Jesus and ignore the Old Testament. You need to accept the whole story, in its entirety, or none of it means anything.

But it's hard, because accepting the whole story means patience. It means critical thinking. It requires endurance. It's easier just to throw a line from Leviticus at a problem and be done with it.

Holy Week reminds us that salvation history is a tapestry, not a collection of threads. As beautiful as the individual stitches might be, you won't appreciate the message unless you back up and look at the complete product. If we didn't have the whole story, Holy Thursday and Good Friday would be neither holy nor good. And without Holy Week, Easter morning means nothing — it's just a guy waking up.

How often in life do we find ourselves confused to the point of hopelessness, unable to make sense of it all? Overwhelmed by the pain and suffering that exists in this world, and for seemingly no reason. Some of us become so frustrated we throw up our hands and despair.

We need Easter. We need the whole story. We need to be patient.

“His disciples did not understand this at first, but when Jesus had been glorified they remembered that these things were written about him and that they had done this for him.” — John 12:16

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MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday March 23, 2024

5:00PM †Bob James, †Fr. Cooney
& †Fr. Bratus
Req. Frenny James
6:30PM †Souls in Purgatory
Req. Parishioner

Sunday March 24, 2024

7:30AM Parishioners
9:00AM †Maureen Klappholz
Req. Bob Beaulieu
10:30AM †Norma Linda Carrillo
Req. Family
12:30PM †Jailen Wilson
Req. Tom & Sue Mercurio

Monday March 25, 2024

8:00AM †Donald O'Grady
Req. Nieces, Rita Healey & Linda Zastrow

Tuesday March 26, 2024

8:00AM Eric, Shannon & Ember Holland
Req. Mom & Dad

Wednesday March 27, 2024

8:00AM †Dorothy O'Grady
Req. Niece, Diana Decker

Thursday March 28, 2024

7:00PM †Stephen Avilla
Req. Wife, Donna

Friday March 29, 2024

3:00PM Sacred Scripture

Saturday March 30, 2024

8:00AM †Sam & Genevieve, † Orlando &
‡Millie & Philip Rossi
Req. Sam & Judy Rossi

Sunday March 31, 2024

7:30AM Parishioners
9:00AM †Theresa Honsaker
Req. Fran LaScala & Family
10:30AM Evangelina Edwards
Req. Alba
12:30PM Gemma Samuel
Req. Sister, Greta Smith

Retrouvaille, hope for troubled marriages, call 1-800-470-2230 or visit www.HelpOurMarriage.com.

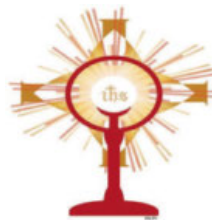
Know a Young Person with a Drug Problem?

Maybe you know of a young friend, neighbor or classmate who suffers from drug addiction and does not know where to turn for help. Drug Addicts Anonymous believes all individuals suffering from addiction have a right to access recovery, be self-sufficient and independent. Yet, today many young people affected by drug addiction are deprived of a sense of self-worth because they cannot pay for proper treatment or access recovery resources and support. DAA provides an opportunity for long term recovery and positive change through a no cost service. Based on a 12-step program, the focus is on the physical, mental and spiritual condition as a whole person; contributing to the individual's social reintegration in a dignified and efficient way. For program information and services available, please call 561-420-0930 or visit www.daamerica.org.

The National Catholic Bioethics Center (NCBC) provides free consultation services to individuals facing difficult ethical decisions related to health care. In emergency situations an **NCBC** ethicist is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week by calling 215-877-2660. **NCBC** ethicists do not provide legal or medical advice.

The Diocesan Spanish Marriage Dialogue Retreat will be on April 26th, 27th & 28th in Lake Placid. Please contact the parish office for more information.

Project Rachel is a confidential healing ministry for women and men who have been touched by abortion. If you are struggling after an abortion, don't struggle alone. Call toll free in Florida 1-877-908-1212 or e-mail project.rachel@dioceseofvenice.org for help.



There will be a Holy Hour on the 1st Wednesday of each month in English from 7PM-8PM.

On the 3rd Wednesday of each month The Holy Hour will be in Spanish from 7PM-8PM.

The Jay Carano Gift Shop is open from 3:30PM-5PM on Saturday and after the 5PM Mass. On Sundays from 8AM-2PM . We have a large selection of gifts.



Every Friday at St. Raphael Parish Hall

Doors open at 3PM. Games start promptly at 6PM.

For more information call
Jose (239) 841-3803 or
Bill (315) 569-3009

Prayer and Worship

The Prayer or Blessing Against Storms

Please pray this prayer against storms. Bless yourself with the sign of the Cross when you see the †

Jesus Christ a King of Glory has come in Peace. † God became man, † And the Word was made flesh. † Christ was born of a Virgin. † Christ suffered. † Christ was crucified. † Christ died. † Christ rose from the dead. † Christ ascended into Heaven. † Christ conquers. † Christ reigns. † Christ orders. † May Christ protect us from all storms and lightning. † Christ went through their midst in Peace, † And the Word was made flesh. † Christ is with us in Mary. † Flee you enemy spirits because the Lion of the Generation of Juda, the root David, has won. † Holy God! † Holy Powerful God! † Holy Immortal God! † Have mercy on us. Amen!



A PRAYER FOR PRIESTS

Lord Jesus, you have chosen your priests from among us and sent them out to proclaim your word and act in your name. For so great a gift to your Church, we give you praise and thanksgiving. We ask you to fill them with the fire of your love, that their ministry may reveal your presence in the Church. Since they are earthen vessels, we pray that your power shines out through their weakness. In their afflictions let them never be crushed, in their doubts never despair, in temptation never be destroyed, and in persecution never abandoned. Inspire them through prayer to live each day

the mystery of your dying and rising. In times of weakness send them your Spirit and help them to praise your Heavenly Father and pray for poor sinners. By your same Holy Spirit put your word on their lips and your love in their hearts, to bring good news to the poor and healing to the brokenhearted. And may the gift of Mary, your Mother, to the disciple whom you loved, be your gift to every priest. Grant that she who formed you in her human image, may form them in your divine image, by the power of your Spirit, to the glory of God the Father, Amen.

- SAINT TERESA OF CALCUTTA
VOCATION SOCIETY

PRAYER AGAINST CORONAVIRUS

Lord Jesus Christ, our Divine Physician, we ask you to guard and protect us from Coronavirus COVID-19 and all serious illness. For all that have died from it, bring healing. For those searching for a remedy, enlighten them; for medical caregivers helping the sick, strengthen and shield them. For those working to contain the spread, grant them success; for those afraid, grant peace. May your precious blood be our defense and salvation. By your grace, may you turn the evil of disease into moments of consolation and hope. May we always fear the contagion of sin more than any illness. We abandon ourselves to your infinite mercy. Amen.

- PEDRO DE LA CRUZ

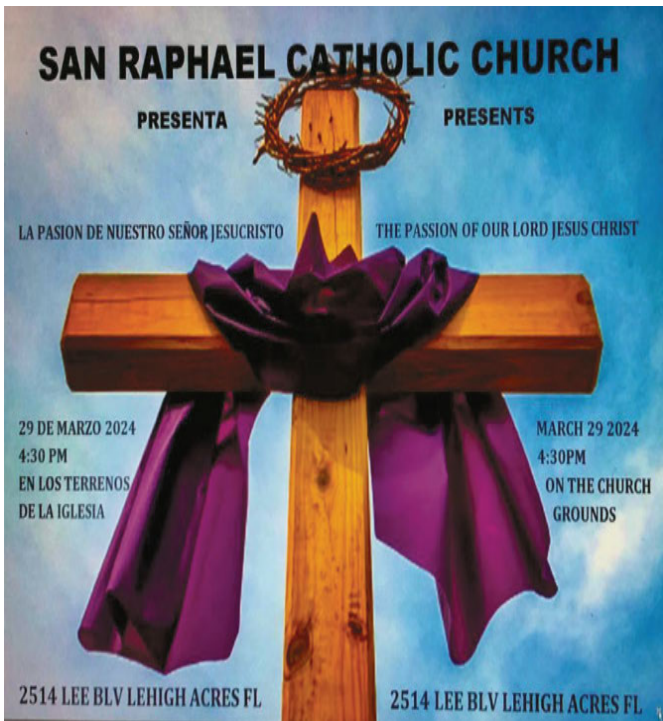
A PRAYER FOR GRANDPARENTS

Dear St. Ann you were truly twice blessed to have our blessed mother as your daughter and Jesus our Savior as your grandson. I know that every period of our lives has its responsibilities as well as its joys. Today, it seems that grandparents have either too little use or too much; either we are shunted aside to do nothing, or we are called upon to do everything. Help me to know just where my duties lie in my particular situation and to carry them out as best I can. Take care of my family, my children, and their children. Inspire them all to follow your grandson and lead truly Christian lives. Keep all of us in your loving care, never let us turn away from Jesus, and help us in the end to receive the joy of entering into your grandson's glorious presence forever. Good St. Ann pray for us grandparents. Amen.

Merciful Lord, your heart is full of loving kindness. Our hearts are full of praise to you. You are worthy of our full devotion. Lord, today we lift up our Church to you. We pray for the sick, for the grieving, for the lonely, for the broken, for the confused, and for *all* those who are needy this day. We pray that you would bring your strength, your healing, your comfort, your wisdom, your restoration, your protection, and your provision. Thank you for giving us a church family to belong to and to love. Amen.

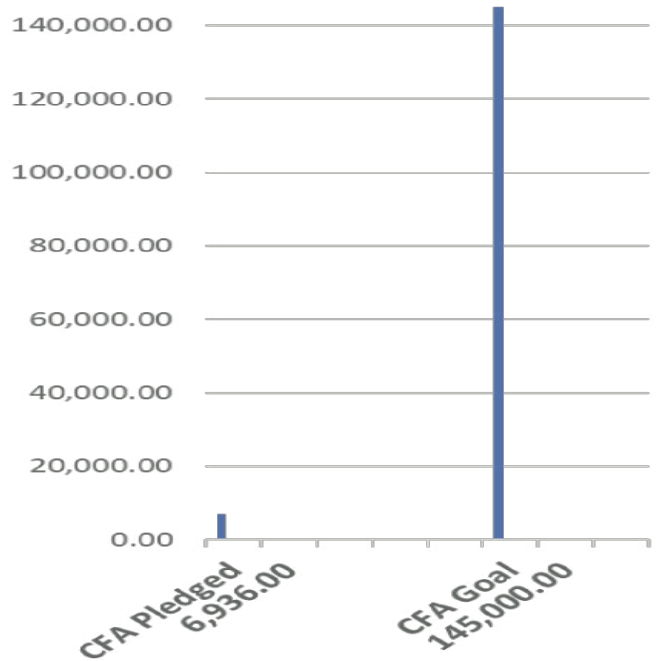
PRAYER FOR MARRIAGE & FAMILY

Lord God, we pray for the institution of marriage and the family which is on the verge of ruin in the world today. The strong waves of the evil one are hitting hard the foundations of marriage and many unions are breaking up very fast. God, we need You to send down the Holy Spirit so that He can teach us Your values and tenets that can guide us to strengthen our marriages. Inspire us with Your knowledge that it is You who gave us the institution of marriage and that You require us to respect it and remain solidly in it. Dear God, we know that we are sinners and we sometimes give in to sin and evil temptations that ruin our marriages. Give us the strength and support to resist all temptations that ruin our marriage. May our children grow up in families that are steady and strong so that they can learn Your good values and become productive people in Your vineyard. **Amen.**



The **Catholic Faith Appeal (CFA)** contributes to the pastoral, education, and charitable support of those in need in the Diocese of Venice. Our parish also benefits from the CFA if we exceed our goal of \$145,000.00. **Join those in our parish family who have made a gift to the 2024 CFA.** Your gift will make a difference in the lives of those who are assisted by the programs and ministries funded through the CFA.

To make a gift, visit <https://dioceseofvenice.org/ways-to-give/cfa/> or complete a pledge envelope located at the back of the church and submit it either to the Parish office or the offertory basket. **Thank you for your prayerful consideration.**



March 9th & 10th \$12,405.00
Attendance: 2,050

During these challenging times, parishes face increased risk of financial shortfalls due to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) Pandemic and its effects on everyday life. Parishes depend on weekly financial gifts to continue their ministries, especially in this critical time of crisis. Please prayerfully consider a donation to the parish by using your envelopes, mailing your contribution or online giving. Together we will navigate through this pandemic, aid those in need, and secure the road ahead for the parishes within the Diocese of Venice. Please continue to pray for the repose of the souls of those who have died, for the recovery of the sick, for the strength of healthcare workers and caregivers, as well as for an end to this health crisis. Thank you for your generosity.

Join the Easter Celebration

By The Knights of Columbus at Saint Raphael's Catholic Church



Breakfast will be served after
7:30, 9:00 & 10:30 am MASS
BREAKFAST IS FREE

ANY DONATION GIVEN WILL GO TOWARDS THE CFA 2024

Please bring your baskets Egg Hunt is free for the kids which will begin at 10:00am

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