



# ST. RAPHAEL

— CATHOLIC CHURCH —

FEBRUARY 18, 2024 | FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT



## 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.

### First Sunday of Lent

A covenant is a formal agreement between two parties. Assuming both parties enter into the covenant of their own free will, it is a bond that cannot be broken. As time goes on, that covenant will be tested and its validity questioned by skeptics, but it will remain if it is real.

God's covenant with his people is real. It began with a promise made to Noah and was renewed in the person of Jesus Christ. It has been tested by man through sin and by evil through Jesus' trials in the desert. But here in 2015, it still remains as strong as ever.

This Lent, take time to rediscover and reflect on this covenant God has with us. Reclaim your baptism and make it a motivating factor in how you live your life. Take the opportunity this Lenten season provides to increase your devotion and spirituality. You will be tested and you will suffer trials, for life is not always easy. But God has always upheld his part of the agreement. Now is the time to take our part in this covenant more seriously.

## MASS INTENTIONS

### Saturday February 17, 2024

5:00PM †Donette Vesseliza & Michael Crayon  
 Req. Mr. & Mrs. Gerard Vesseliza  
 6:30PM Conversion of Sinners  
 Req. Parishioner

### Sunday February 18, 2024

7:30AM Parishioners  
 9:00AM †Roger John Wood  
 Req. Wife, Joann  
 10:30AM †Mandy Goldenberg  
 Barbara Hartnett  
 12:30PM †Deacon Floyd & Joyce Derr  
 Req. Godson, Christopher Leahy

### Monday February 19, 2024

8:00AM †Louis D'Addona & †Mary Stitzer  
 Req. Geri

### Tuesday February 20, 2024

8:00AM Parcrasio & Gary Garay &  
 Marck David Molina  
 Req. Parishioner

### Wednesday February 21, 2024

8:00AM Kenny Ross  
 Req. Sandi & Gary Jones

### Thursday February 22, 2024

8:00AM Ulrike Kleinfeldt  
 Req. Bernard Mummert

### Friday February 23, 2024

8:00AM †Deceased Parishioners

### Saturday February 24, 2024

8:00AM †Souls in Purgatory  
 Req. Parishioner  
 5:00PM †Maureen Klappholz  
 Req. Tom & Sue Mercurio  
 6:30PM Angelo Gravel  
 Req. Parishioner

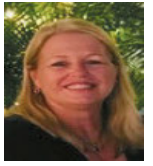
### Sunday February 25, 2024

7:30AM Parishioners  
 9:00AM †Raymond Magallanes, †Edward  
 Lara & †Delbert Choate  
 Req. Jacqueline Lara  
 10:30AM Conversion of Sinners  
 12:30PM †David Maresca  
 Req. Jennifer DeFrank



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.



*Be Blessed and Encouraged* at our next Magnificat breakfast for women, **Saturday, March 9, 9:30 AM – 12:30 PM** at the Crown Plaza Fort Myers Gulf Coast, formerly Holiday Inn Airport.

Kim Rodriguez-Torres is a wife, mother, grandmother and woman of God. She has been involved in Ministry for the past 30 years. She is a Commissioned Lay Ecclesial Minister, Certified Advanced Catechist, Retreat Facilitator, Prayer Group Leader and Evangelist. Worked as a Catholic School Teacher, Representative of Family Life and MOM's Ministry. Assisted on the Board of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal for Orlando and the Archdiocese of Miami. Kim formerly served on the Magnificat Central Service Team, the governing body for this World Wide International Ministry to Catholic Women. The Magnificat ministry was born out of the Charismatic Renewal open to the working of the Holy Spirit in sharing their love, service and good news of salvation. Also, Kim is the founder of "Bella's Blanket of Blessings" a prayer blanket ministry that was started after her four-year-old niece and goddaughter; Bella, became paralyzed and was diagnosed with stage 4 cancer. These prayer blankets are for the sick, suffering and anyone who needs prayer. The blankets have gone around the world and have been sent to hospitals, nursing homes, homeless shelters and seminaries. Bella's Blanket of Blessings helps promotes vocations to the priesthood through prayer and spiritual adoption of seminarians and priest. Kim takes every opportunity to share the power of prayer, the love of God and the mission of Christ. *When you realize what happened on the Cross was done out of love for you, it changes your life forever. God is love...* and she strives to do all in love for the greater glory of God.

**Please send a \$26 check**, payable to *Magnificat Fort Myers*, to Margaret Mengle, 5017 Westminster Dr., Fort Myers, FL 33919. **Your mail request must be postmarked by March 1**, or make reservations online at <https://magnificatfortmyers.com/order-tickets/>.



**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

**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.**



# 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

## 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 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

## 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.**



# Know the facts!

**2024 Florida ballot proposal:  
"Amendment to Limit Government Interference with Abortion"**

## FACT # 9

This proposed amendment could eliminate **all current restrictions** on abortion and prevent Florida legislators from passing laws to **limit abortion at all.**

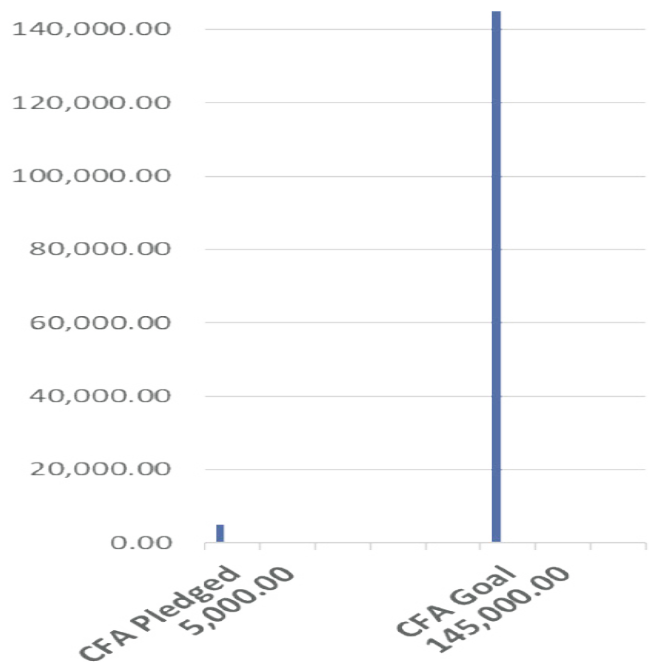
*Is this what we want for our state?*

**DECLINE TO SIGN** the petition for this dangerous pro-abortion amendment!

Questions? Go to [dioceseofvenice.org/respectlife](https://dioceseofvenice.org/respectlife).

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.**



February 3rd & 4th \$11,153.3  
Attendance: 1,671

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.



# Conferencia Eucarística

**16 de marzo de 2024**




[dioceseofvenice.org/eucharistic-conference-2024](https://dioceseofvenice.org/eucharistic-conference-2024)



**Steven Ray, Conferencista principal**  
¡Sesiones en inglés y español!

Bishop Verot High School  
5598 Sunrise Drive  
Fort Myers, Florida

¡Código QR para registrarse!

Para obtener más información, póngase en contacto con:  
Jim Gontis, 941-486-4754  
[gontis@dioceseofvenice.org](mailto:gontis@dioceseofvenice.org)



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-- Servant of God  
Mother Tallon

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