



# ST. RAPHAEL

— CATHOLIC CHURCH —

**JANUARY 12, 2025 | BAPTISM OF THE LORD**



## CONTACT US

2514 Lee Boulevard  
Lehigh Acres, FL 33971

Phone (239) 369-1831

Religious Education (239) 369-6424

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[parishoffice@saintraphaelcccla.org](mailto:parishoffice@saintraphaelcccla.org)

[www.saintraphaelcc.net](http://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)

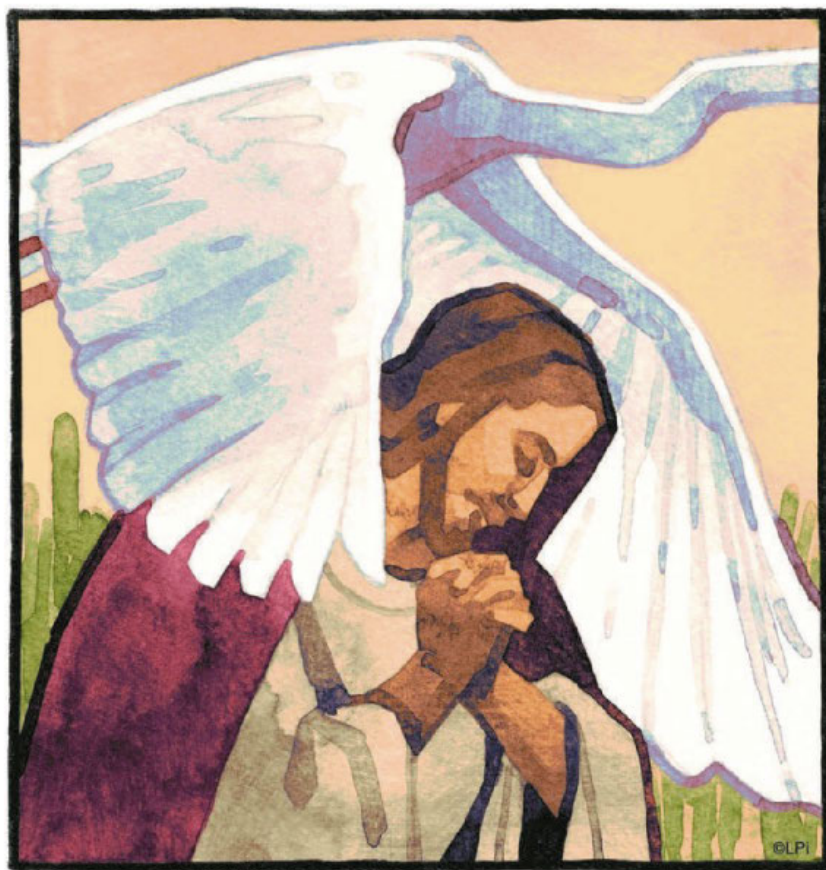
## PASTORAL STAFF

Rev. Michal Szyszka, *Pastor*

Rev. Rodolfo French, *Parochial Vicar*

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 5:30PM – 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@saintraphaelcccla.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** - Meets the 1st Thursday of the month at 7PM in the school building. Call George at 315-794-5452 for more information.

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

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

**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 6-8PM. For more information call 491-6719.

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

**Marriage Dialogue & Follow Up (MDS)** Friday at 7:30PM in the school building. For all couples in Spanish. For more information call Braulio & Lupita 239-529-0974

### (PRACTICING) CATHOLIC – BENEATH THE SURFACE By Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

**Mini Reflection:** It makes perfect sense that everyone thought John the Baptist was the Messiah. He was the guy pouring the water. But the Messiah was the man who came to be baptized. He was the one who descended into the waters, submerging himself in our experience of death and pain and sorrow.

#### **Beneath the Surface**

When I was seventeen, I wasn't sure that I wanted to be confirmed. It was a rough period in my life, and I was having some intense questions and doubts. It upset my mother, understandably. She knew that, at such a pivotal and difficult moment, I needed the grace of the sacrament more than ever. So, she called our priest and asked him to talk to me.

After that meeting, I made the decision to be confirmed.

To be honest, I can't remember anything he said to me. All I remember is that he sat with me. He listened to me. He let me talk and talk and talk (and cry). And when he said whatever he said, whatever it is that I cannot remember, it was obvious that he had listened to me.

Reading today's Gospel, it makes perfect sense that everyone thought John the Baptist was the Messiah. He was the guy pouring the water. Of course it seemed natural that he would be "the one." The one they were all waiting for.

But instead, the Messiah was the man who came to be baptized. He was the one who descended into the waters, submerging himself in our experience of death and pain and sorrow — and in doing so, he sanctified it. He made it a means of redemption.

Jesus is our Savior, yes. When we dig ourselves a hole of sin and confusion and we can't climb out, he is the one who brings us back to the surface. But he doesn't pull us out; he lifts us. He jumps down into the pit. He looks around. He offers his hand, gives us a leg up, and by his strength and not our own, we are brought back into the light.

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## MASS INTENTIONS

### Saturday January 11, 2025

5:00PM †Members of Mercurio &  
Knowles Families  
6:30PM Ines Zayas  
Req. Sandra Coffman

### Sunday January 12, 2025

7:30AM Parishioners  
9:00AM Protection of The Unborn  
Req. Parishioners  
10:30AM †Souls in Purgatory  
Req. Parishioner  
12:30PM †Mary Goytia  
Req. Carmen Padilla  
5:30PM Pedro & Gloria Burgos

### Monday January 13, 2025

8:00AM Conversion of Sinners  
Req. Parishioner

### Tuesday January 14, 2025

8:00AM †Perla Kaamino, †Juliet Garay &  
†Juanito Garay  
Req. Parishioner

### Wednesday January 15, 2025

8:00AM Carlton Snyder, Jr.  
Req. Parishioner

### Thursday January 16, 2025

8:00AM †Jose Carrion  
Req. Martha & Sean

### Friday January 17, 2025

8:00AM †Souls in Purgatory  
Req. Parishioner

### Saturday January 18, 2025

8:00AM †John & †Dorothy Bress  
Req. Bress Family  
5:00PM †John McGrady  
Req. Richard & Ruth Starr  
6:30PM Conversion of Sinners  
Req. Parishioner

### Sunday January 19, 2025

7:30AM Robert Micaletti  
Req. Janet Collins  
9:00AM Parishioners  
10:30AM †Felix Juan Andres  
Req. Daughter, Carmen Juan Andres  
12:0PM †Alberto Acosta  
Req. Rosamary Rodriguez  
5:30PM MDS, Soul in Purgatory & Aguiar  
Family

*Will you not spend one hour with me?* “The Church draws her life from the Eucharist. This truth does not simply express a daily experience of faith, but recapitulates the heart of the mystery of the Church. In a variety of ways she joyfully experiences the constant fulfillment of the promise: “Lo, I am with you always, to the close of the age” (Mt 28:20), but in the Holy Eucharist, through the changing of bread and wine into the body and blood of the Lord, she rejoices in this presence with unique intensity. Ever since Pentecost, when the Church, the People of the New Covenant, began her pilgrim journey towards her heavenly homeland, the Divine Sacrament has continued to mark the passing of her days, filling them with confident hope. –Missionaries of the Blessed Sacrament, June 2003 Newsletter

### Attention All Volunteers

In order to be in compliance with the standards of conduct as outlined by the Diocese of Venice, and in order for the parish to receive the seal of approval from outside inspectors/auditors, Safe Environment Training is required for ALL volunteers of the parish.

All ministries, all groups, all clubs, all organizations, all teachers and anyone who volunteers in any capacity on the Church property, as well as those who volunteer off the property (i.e. hospitals, nursing homes, private homes, etc.) **MUST** be certified in Safe Environment. The Safe Environment Training session will be provided at no cost to our volunteers. Call the parish office for details in registering for the online class.



There will be a Holy Hour on the 2nd 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.

**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 941-412-5860 or e-mail [project.rachel@dioceseofvenice.org](mailto:project.rachel@dioceseofvenice.org) for help.**



### 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

*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.

**Retrouvaille**, hope for troubled marriages, call 1-800-470-2230 or visit [www.HelpOurMarriage.com](http://www.HelpOurMarriage.com).



# 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

Our Lord told St. Gertrude the Great that the following prayer would release 1,000 souls from Purgatory each time it is said:

***“Eternal Father, I offer Thee the most precious blood of Thy Divine Son, Jesus, in union with the Masses said throughout the world today, for all the holy souls in Purgatory, for sinners everywhere, for sinners in the universal church, those in my own home and within my family. Amen.”*** Approval and Recommendation (sqd.) M. Cardinal Pahiarcia, Lisbon, Portugal, March 4, 1936

## 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.**

**COUPLES WEDDING  
ANNIVERSARY MASS**  
**February 1 and March 8, 2025**

All couples celebrating 25, 30, 35, 40, 45, 50, or more than 50 years of marriage are invited by Bishop Frank J. Dewane to an Anniversary Mass in their honor. The Anniversary Masses will be celebrated in two locations:

February 1st at St. Leo the Great Parish in Bonita Springs at 11am, and March 8th at St. Thomas More Parish in Sarasota, at 11am.

**Please contact your local parish office for reservations no later than one week before the event you choose to attend.**

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.**



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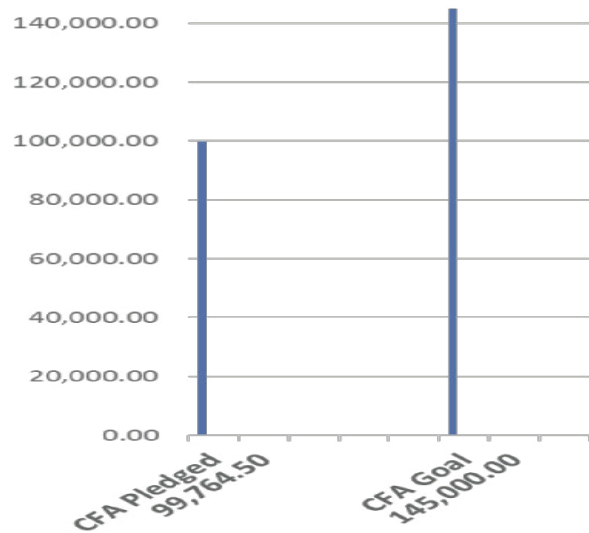
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December 22nd & 23rd \$13,677.00  
Attendance: 1,892

The Sunday Mass on Television is an outreach of the Diocese of Venice Department of Communications and is supported by the donations of viewers. This outreach serves those who, for reasons outside of their control, are unable to attend Sunday Mass in one of the parishes of the Diocese. For many homebound individuals, this outreach reminds them that they are loved by their brothers and sisters in Christ throughout the Diocese of Venice, and that they remain a vibrant and loved part of our faith community.

For those who are interested in viewing the televised Mass you may find it on WFTX-TV FOX 4- Sundays at 10:30AM.



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