



ST. RAPHAEL

— CATHOLIC CHURCH —

MARCH 9, 2025 | THE 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 | 5:00PM-5:30PM (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 at 10AM 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

EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP - RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS Filling the Basket This Lent

Lent calls us into deeper everyday stewardship because it beautifully creates opportunities to be mindful of the call of Christ in even the most mundane moments of our day.

Many of us will participate in the time-honored tradition of doing penance, or “giving something up” for Lent. When we do this, we are mimicking the Israelites who filled their baskets with the first fruits of their harvest, “and having set them before the Lord, your God, (bowing) down in his presence” (Deuteronomy 26:10).

What are we going to bring before the Lord this Lent? What are our first fruits?

If you’re struggling with ideas for how to “fill your basket,” it can help to come at the problem from the opposite side. Take a look at the six characteristics of Everyday Stewardship and think about the moments in your day when you fail to fulfill the virtues to which they call you.

What is keeping you from being mindful of the call of Christ throughout your day? I promise you, if you listen, you’ll hear it more than once.

What is keeping you from being prayerful? When you have set your first fruits before the Lord, what keeps you from bowing down in His presence to finish the offering?

What keeps you from being grateful — especially of the small things that so often go unnoticed?

What keeps you from being gracious, from leaving people smiling as they walk away?

What keeps you from being committed and accountable? Where do your excuses come from and what makes you indulge them?

— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS
©LPi

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday March 8, 2025

5:00PM †Angelo M. Torrens
Req. Wife, Lydia Torrens & Family
6:30PM †Felix Juan Andres
Req. Wife, Teresa Jose de Juan

Sunday March 9, 2025

7:30AM Parishioners
9:00AM †Marlene Aprea
Req. Husband, Antonio Aprea
10:30AM Ami Hall & Family
Req. Parishioner
12:30PM †Jose Antonio Perez
Req. Pedro Ylisastigui
5:30PM Aylin Pulido & LeAnn Smith &
Maribel Albaciete
Req. Parishioner

Monday March 10, 2025

8:00AM †Souls in Purgatory
Req. Parishioner

Tuesday March 11, 2025

8:00AM Marianne & Family
Req. Parishioner

Wednesday March 12, 2025

8:00AM †Mary Goytia
Req. Carmen Padilla

Thursday March 13, 2025

8:00AM †Antonio Ylisastigui
Req. Rosamary Rodriguez

Friday March 14, 2025

8:00AM †Traci Leinemann
Req. Tammy & Brooke

Saturday March 15, 2025

8:00AM Conversion of Sinners
Req. Parishioner
5:00PM †Members of Knowles & Mercurio
Families
Req. Family
6:30PM †Lukenn Sabellano
Req. Parishioner

Sunday March 16, 2025

7:30AM Living & Deceased Members of
Levasseur & Frechette Families
Req. M.J. Levasseur
9:00AM Parishioners
10:30AM Ramona Gonzales
Req. Parishioner
12:30PM Megan & Tanner Spencer
Req. Tammy & Brooke
5:30PM Protection of Life to Save The Unborn
Req. Parishioner

SANCTUARY CANDLE

The sanctuary candle has been donated this week in loving memory of **Edward Rosenstein & James Dulaney** requested by **Dr. Thomas Gaetano Palumbo**.

CHAPEL CANDLE

The chapel candle has been donated this week in loving memory of **Edward Rosenstein & James Dulaney** requested by **Dr. Thomas Gaetano Palumbo**.

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 Community Pregnancy Center offers confidential and compassionate care for women facing unintended pregnancies. Services include: pregnancy testing, medical ultrasounds and other community resources. **The mobile onsite clinic** will be at St. Raphael Parish (in the parking lot near Lee Blvd) every Wednesday from 11AM - 3PM. Walk in patients are welcome. Spanish and English speaking staff are available.

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 for help.



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.

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

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.**



DIOCESE OF VENICE IN FLORIDA

Eucharistic Conference Becoming Eucharistic Missionaries March 29, 2025



Bishop
Frank Dewane




Dr. Scott Hahn

Mrs. Kimberly Hahn




Mrs. Mary Ann
Wiesinger-Puig

Mr. Andrés Arango

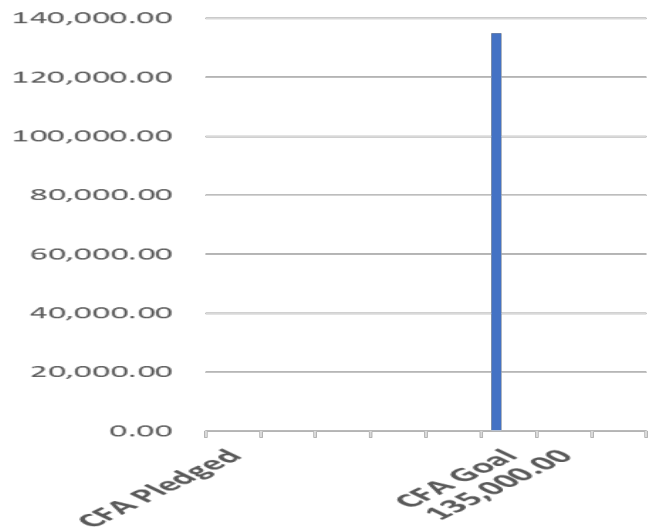


Charlotte Harbor
Event & Conference Center
Punta Gorda, FL

To Register: <https://dioceseofvenice.regfox.com/eucharistic-conference>
For information contact Jim Gontis at:
gontis@dioceseofvenice.org
941-486-4754

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 \$135,000.00. ***Join those in our parish family who have made a gift to the 2025 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 15th & 16th \$14,449.70
Attendance: 2,350

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.



JUBILEE 2025
PILGRIMS OF HOPE

Celebrating the Jubilee Year

WHAT IS THE JUBILEE?

Pope Francis has designated 2025 as a Holy Jubilee Year. The Holy Father asks us to renew ourselves as "Pilgrims of Hope," carrying hope in our hearts, and bringing hope to others. There are many ways to participate in the Jubilee Year, including right here in the Diocese of Venice!

"...a way of discovering the unlimited nature of God's mercy..."
— Pope Francis

Bishop Frank J. Dewane
has designated
5 Jubilee Pilgrimage Sites
in the Diocese of Venice

HOW CAN I PARTICIPATE IN THE JUBILEE?

Catholics in Southwest Florida can celebrate and participate in the Jubilee by engaging in local Jubilee activities right here in the Diocese of Venice, or making a special pilgrimage to Rome or designated shrine in the United States.

By visiting one of the Pilgrimage Sites in the Diocese and participating in its offerings of Mass, Adoration, Confession, or other activities, one can celebrate the Jubilee, and gain the Jubilee Indulgence.

A variety of other special Jubilee celebration opportunities will be offered throughout the year, which will be regularly updated at dioceseofvenice.org/jubilee

Epiphany Cathedral
310 Sarasota Street
Venice

St. John XXIII Parish
15060 Palomino Lane
Fort Myers

St. Paul Parish
1530 East Oak Street
Arcadia

St. John the Evangelist Parish
625 111th Avenue North
Naples

Our Lady of Perpetual Help Retreat Center
3989 South Moon Drive
Venice



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