



# ST. RAPHAEL

— CATHOLIC CHURCH —

MAY 17, 2026 | THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD



## 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.org

## 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

Saturday | 3:30PM-4:45PM

Saturday | 6:00PM-6:30PM (Español)

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 2:00PM-4:00PM 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** - 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** Monday at 7:00PM in parish hall.

**Haitian Prayer Group** - meets Thursdays in the school building 4-6PM. Haitian Mass is the 3rd Sunday each month at 7:00PM.

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

**Marriage Dialogue & Follow Up (MDS)** Friday at 7:30PM in school building. For all couples in Spanish. For information call Diego & Carolina Diaz 571-247-4956

## THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD

Where did he go? Many times when we think of those who have died, we imagine escape from this world to a purely spiritual place. Jesus' Ascension can leave us in a place of confusion. What happens to Jesus? And why does this matter to us?

The Ascension has been confirmed in the Creed for two millennia. In Jesus' Ascension, we're invited to consider our own ultimate end. Regardless of death's reality now, we believe in the resurrection of the body and the reunification of body and soul. One day, earth and heaven will meet perfectly and without end. We anticipate this "new heaven and a new earth" at every Mass and throughout the beauty, truth, and love of the Church and her members. Today, celebrate a foreshadowing of the fullness we all await!

MASS INTENTIONS

**Saturday May 16, 2026**

8:00AM †Mary Stitzer, Louis Daddona & George Daddona  
 Req. Family  
 5:00PM Mercurio Family  
 Req. Sue & Tom Mercurio  
 6:30PM †Souls in Purgatory  
 Req. Parishioner

**Sunday May 17, 2026**

7:30AM †Bob James, Birthday  
 Req. Wife, Frenny  
 9:00AM †John & †Dorothy Bress  
 Req. Bress Family  
 10:30AM †Felix Juan Andres  
 Req. Esposa, Teresa Jose De Juan  
 12:30PM Parishioners  
 5:30PM †George Recio  
 Req. Family

**Monday May 18, 2026**

8AM †Patricia Crayon  
 Req. Gerard & Eileen Vesseliza

**Tuesday May 19, 2026**

8:00AM Ivy Sullivan

**Wednesday May 20, 2026**

8:00AM Fr. Baugh  
 Req. Alba Pineiro

**Thursday May 21, 2026**

8:00AM †Edward Hermann  
 Req. Sharon

**Friday May 22, 2026**

8:00AM †Gerard Worrell  
 Req. Sister, Gwen Worrell

**Saturday May 23, 2026**

8:00AM †Milagros Latta  
 Req. Theresa & Henry Scira  
 5:00PM †Robert Eckenfels  
 Req. Anonymous  
 6:30PM †Maria Lucia Vasco & †Luis Angel Gil  
 Req. Oscar Gil

**Sunday May 24, 2026**

7:30AM †Peter Madorma  
 Req. Judy Parker  
 9:00AM Elizabeth in Thanksgiving  
 Req. Mireille  
 10:30AM †Guillermo Zapata  
 Req. Edilma Zapata  
 12:30PM †Luc Richmond, †Polynyce Francoise & Fanilia Michel  
 Req. Valentine Francois  
 5:30PM Parishioners

SANCTUARY CANDLE

The sanctuary candle has been donated for **The Aguiar Family** requested by a **Friend**.

CHAPEL CANDLE

The chapel candle has been donated for **The Aguiar Family** requested by a **Friend**.

**Hi, it's me again, your spiritually adopted baby.** This 8-week-old "little one" is already 1 ½ inches long and weighing in at 1/3 of an ounce! By the end of this week, my inner ears will be completely formed. But, you know, I sure can't take credit for any of this... **"God created human beings, making them to be like Himself. He created them male and female..." Genesis 1:27**



**JOIN THE ST. RAPHAEL YOUTH GROUP! EVERY SUNDAY AT 2PM**

**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.**

*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.

*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.

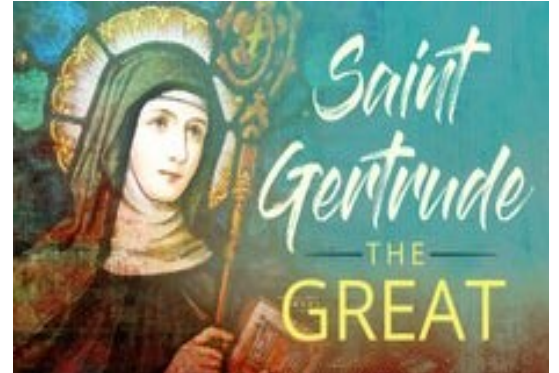
For more information call Jose (239) 841-3803 or Bill (315) 569-3009

# 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!



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 Pahiarca, Lisbon, Portugal, March 4, 1936

## 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 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.

*To the good and Godly people of St. Raphael. I can't express enough thanks for the many hugs, gifts and cake that you provided me this last Sunday. Good memories are also a great recipe when I am away from you.*

*Always in my prayers and thoughts. As ever in His Name,*

*Fr. Skip*

The committed adorers for the Adoration Chapel are a continuous chain that surrounds Our Lord with love, adoration and comfort continuously from 7:00AM to 4:30pm every day.

Sadly, our chain has a few missing links. Is Our Lord calling you to replace a link in that chain either permanently or ad a need arises?

If you are interested in spending a specific hour each day or week with Our Lord, please fill out the form below and put it in the Offertory basket at Mass.

Print NAME \_\_\_\_\_

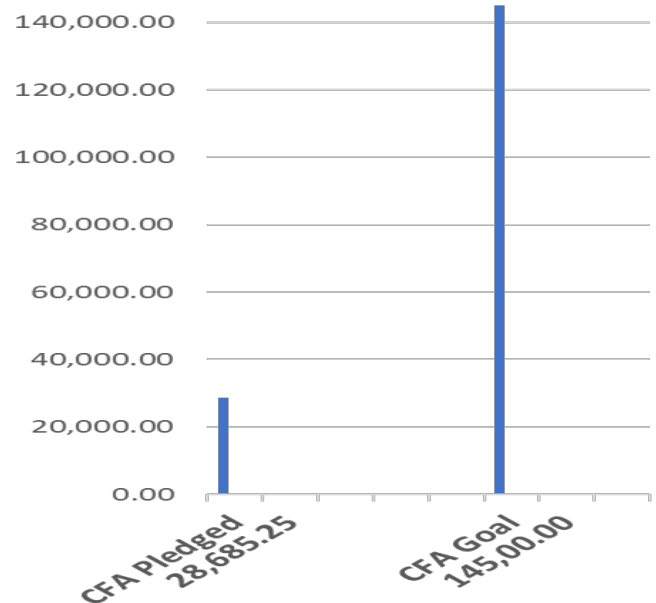
Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Text YES or NO  
English/Spanish

Registration is the official way we join a parish community. Many people think that because they attend a particular parish they automatically belong. At times, young adults who have moved away for years think they are still signed up under their parents. But membership requires signing up, formally enrolling yourself in a parish. Registration is a commitment to a community, a way to be included in the religious, social, and ministerial activities of your parish. Registration shows you belong. It is also necessary for certain benefits, like scheduling sacraments, obtaining sponsor certificates, and getting donation statements for taxes. Most importantly, it lets the parish count on you, to call on you to assist in its mission. Registering in your parish is a statement of faith & confidence in the life and work of your parish.

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 2026 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.**



May 2nd & 3rd \$11,032.00  
Attendance: 2,528

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 8:30AM.