



ST. RAPHAEL

— CATHOLIC CHURCH —

APRIL 20, 2025 | EASTER SUNDAY



CONTACT US

2514 Lee Boulevard
Lehigh Acres, FL 33971

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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 - Thursdays in the school building 4-8PM. 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

Discernment

Question:

How do I discern if a call to do something big is really from God?

Answer:

Each day we face plenty of decisions about following God: whether or not to pray, how to treat people, and how to prioritize our time. Sometimes there can be something much more significant we discern: a vocational call, a promotion at work that requires a move, or a new ministry position at church. In addition to a pro-con list or a cost-benefit analysis, here are a few things to prayerfully consider and to talk over with trusted individuals.

Does it conform to God's will revealed in the Church? God doesn't call us to do something that contradicts the moral law. *Will it encourage spiritual growth?* Sometimes we need to choose between multiple good options. Consider the personal impact on you and others you are responsible for, like family. Other times we might be invited to do good for others, but when we assess our other life commitments, we see that saying yes to this would actually impede our prior responsibilities in the long run. *Does the call seem consistent?* This isn't to say that God won't do something new. Even so, consider if the call is consistent with your gifts and abilities. Can you see a "through-line" so to speak, with how your experiences have led you to this point? *Do others confirm it?* Share your reflections with trusted, insightful confidantes. Have they seen the same things you have, or are they bringing up new points to consider? Humbly add their relevant points to your considerations. *Don't forget your gut.* After you've carefully considered everything in your mind, don't neglect your instincts. Does your heart say yes or no?

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MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday April 19, 2025

8:00PM †Evens D. Antoine
Req. Robert & Eveline Antoine & Family

Sunday April 20, 2025

7:30AM Ed Smith
9:00AM Isoline Litchmore & Family
10:30AM Conversion of Sinners
Req. Parishioner
12:30PM Parishioners
5:30PM Protection of Life- Save the Unborn
Req. Parishioner

Monday April 21, 2025

8:00AM †John & †Dorothy Bress
Req. Bress Family

Tuesday April 22, 2025

8:00AM †Souls in Purgatory
Req. Parishioner

Wednesday April 23, 2025

8:00AM Wilson & Najarro Families
Req. Family

Thursday April 24, 2025

8:00AM †Joseph Tittiger
Req. Frenny James

Friday April 25, 2025

8:00AM †Deceased Parishioners

Saturday April 26, 2025

8:00AM For The Unborn
Req. Frenny James
5:00PM Parishioners
6:30PM †Felix Juan Andres
Req. Daughter, Carmen Juan Andres

Sunday April 27, 2025

7:30AM †Souls in Purgatory
Req. Parishioner
9:00AM †Linda Stabenow
Req. Family
10:30AM †Jose Torrens
Req. Lydia Torrens & Family
12:30PM Carlton Snyder, Jr. & Family
Req. Parishioner
5:30PM MDS, Soul in Purgatory & Aguiar Family

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



Hi! It's me your spiritually adopted baby. I'm so excited about all that's happened this last week! Already I've grown to be about ¼ inch long! Guess

what, my heart, which is only about the size of a poppy seed, began beating this week when I was only 18 days old! Now it is starting to pump blood through my circulatory system! Pretty exciting stuff don't you think? I still look a little weird, more like a tadpole than a human; but that will be changing because I'm going to have a major growth spurt this coming week. My upper and lower limbs, which are going to later develop into my arms and legs, are going to sprout. My facial features are already forming; my nostril is becoming distinct and the earliest versions of my eyes' retinas are forming! **"Your hands formed and shaped me" Job 10:8**

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.**



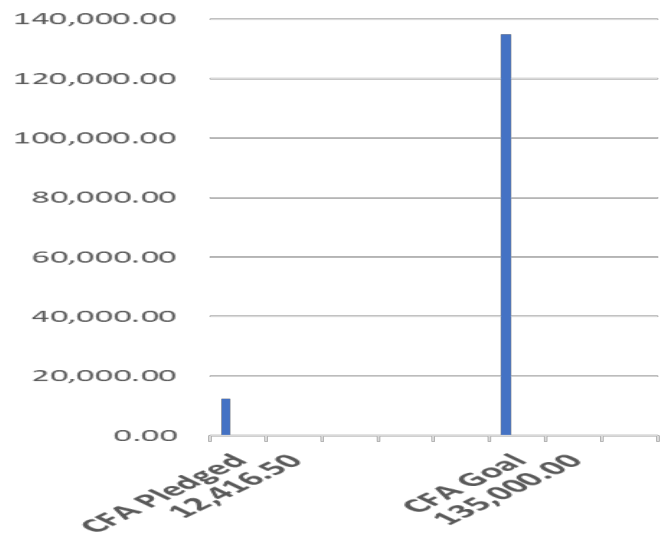
The Feast of Divine Mercy will be celebrated on April 27th at 3:00 pm in the Church. All parishioners and friends are invited and encouraged to attend. (This is not a Mass)

The Feast of Divine Mercy celebrates the “greatest attribute of God” by which undeserving sinners receive the unearned, undeserved love of Christ which is greater and more powerful than sin and death. In His Mercy is our hope and salvation.

We are called not only to be recipients of the Divine Mercy but also the instruments and agents of that Mercy. We are called to practice and live the works of mercy, both corporal and spiritual. The Corporal Works of Mercy are: to feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty, clothe the naked, shelter the homeless, care for the sick, visit the imprisoned, and bury the dead. The Spiritual Works of Mercy are: to admonish the sinner, instruct the ignorant, counsel the doubtful, comfort the sorrowful, bear wrongs patiently, forgive all injuries, and pray for the living and the dead. Divine Mercy pictures and statues may be brought to the Church to be blessed during this service.

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.**



March 29th & 30th \$12,572.73
Attendance: 2,747

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.