



# ST. RAPHAEL

— CATHOLIC CHURCH —

APRIL 26, 2026 | FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER



## CONTACT US

2514 Lee Boulevard  
Lehigh Acres, FL 33971

Phone (239) 369-1831

Religious Education (239) 369-6424

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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*



## 4TH SUNDAY OF EASTER

"I came so that they might have life and have it more abundantly." John 10:10

"Yo he venido para que tengan vida y la tengan en abundancia". Juan 10,10

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD  
Leccionario II © 1987 Comisión Episcopal de Pastoral Litúrgica de la Conferencia del Episcopado Mexicano.

## 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

### GOSPEL MEDITATION - ENCOURAGE DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF SCRIPTURE

April 26, 2026

4th Sunday of Easter

John 10:1-10

“I am the good shepherd. A good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.” John 10:11 My most boring job was working at an insurance company as a college student. My main task? Filing. Now imagine if I had told my supervisor, “I just want you to know, I’m willing to die for these files.” She would have called a psychiatrist — or at least security.

There is something absurd in Jesus’ words in today’s Gospel: “I am the good shepherd... I lay down my life for the sheep.” (John 10:11) It sounds noble, until you think about it. No one dies for sheep. Not a hired hand. Not even a good shepherd. Sheep are important, sure, but not worth a human life.

And yet, Jesus insists: I will die for them. The crowd understandably responds: “He is out of his mind.”

C.S. Lewis once said that Jesus does not leave us the option of calling him merely a good teacher. If someone speaks like him, he is either lying, crazy, or telling the truth. John’s Gospel won’t let us stay sentimental. Jesus means it. He reveals a love that surpasses logic — a love that measures worth not by strength or success, but by the willingness to suffer unto death.

The Good Shepherd’s madness is mercy. His cross makes no earthly sense and yet it makes divine sense. He lays down his life not for kings or saints but for sheep — for the ordinary, the unworthy, for you and me. Think of someone who may feel unworthy of love. Do something simple and generous for them, not because they deserve it, but because Jesus did the same for you.

— Father John Muir ©LPi

**MASS INTENTIONS**

**Saturday April 25, 2026**

5:00PM †Juanita Molina, †Domingo Molina  
& †Sonia Molina Stofergen  
Req. Mr. & Mrs. Pete & Iris Pena  
6:30PM †Felix Juan Andres  
Req. Wife, Teresa Jose De Juan

**Sunday April 26, 2026**

7:30AM Parishioners  
9:00AM Laura Adwell, Aiden & Raelyn Radford  
Req. Grandpa & Grandma  
10:30AM Margo Preuss & Family  
Req. Parishioner  
12:30PM George & Linda Becker  
Req. Friend  
5:30PM Unborn  
Req. Parishioner

**Monday April 27, 2026**

8AM Fr. Michal Szyszka, Fr. Skip &  
Fr. David Baugh  
Req. Frenny James

**Tuesday April 28, 2026**

8:00AM †Carlos Conejo  
Req. Tammy & Family

**Wednesday April 29, 2026**

8:00AM †William Vesseliza  
Req. Gerard & Eileen Vesseliza

**Thursday April 30, 2026**

8:00AM †Salvatore & †Louis D'Addona &  
Alan Blum  
Req. Family

**Friday May 1, 2026**

8:00AM Alicia Pineiro  
Req. Mother-In-Law

**Saturday May 2, 2026**

8:00AM April Dailey & Family  
Req. Parishioner  
5:00PM †John & Anna Kusak, †John Gallucci &  
†Mary Yasensky  
Req. Steven & Dorothy Raucchi  
6:30PM †Shaun Preuss  
Req. Parishioner

**Sunday May 3, 2026**

7:30AM †Milagros Latta  
Req. Denise Miranda  
9:00AM Parishioners  
10:30AM †Ana Elvira Borja & †Rafael Borja  
Req. Diego Gil  
12:30PM †Bill Rahmes & †Mari Rahmes  
Req. Mary Rahmes  
5:30PM Aguiar Family & Natalie , Birthday

**SANCTUARY CANDLE**

The sanctuary candle has been donated in memory of **Ursula Matteson** requested by **Dr. Thomas Gaetano Palumbo**.

**CHAPEL CANDLE**

The chapel candle has been donated this week for the **Lili Reyes Family**.



**Here I am!** At a whole 5 weeks old I am  $\frac{3}{4}$  of an inch long and the size of a grape, but I move around a lot like a jumping bean. I now have fingers and toes though they are still a little webbed. My skin is paper thin; you can see right through it but check out this awesome blood going through my veins! God's hand at work... *"With skin and flesh you clothed me, with bones and sinews knit me together."* Job 10:11



**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**

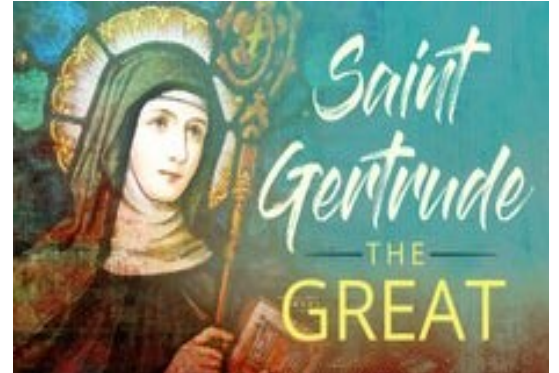
Doors open at 3PM. Games start promptly at 6PM.  
For more information call  
Jose (239) 841-3803 or  
Bill (315) 569-3009

# 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.



## MOTHER'S DAY SPIRITUAL BOUQUET

Beginning Mother's Day  
St. Raphael's will be having  
**A Nine Day Novena of Masses**  
for the intentions of all the names  
submitted on the  
Mother's Day Envelopes.  
The names will be placed on the  
Altar during the Nine Day Novena.

**¡Fortalece tu matrimonio y aprende un método natural para planificar tu familia!**

Un taller diseñado para parejas que desean conocer **métodos naturales de planificación familiar**, fortalecer la comunicación y crecer **juntos en el amor y la fe.**

**Taller de Planificación Familiar Natural**

**Qué aprenderán:**

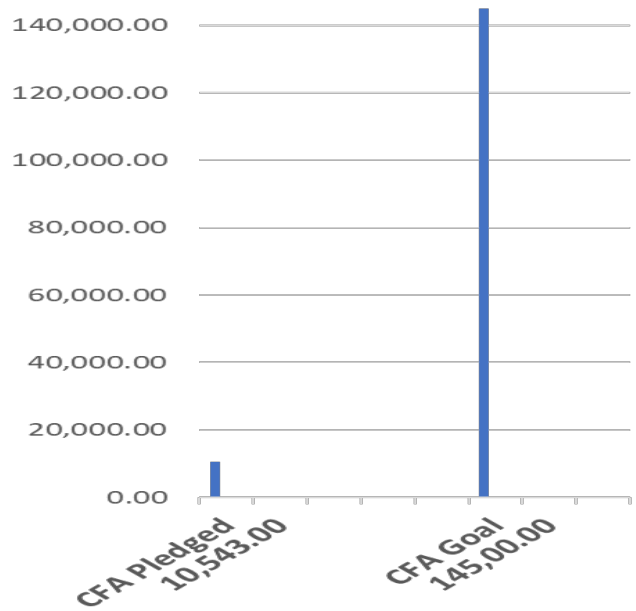
- ✓ Principios de la planificación familiar natural
- ✓ Cómo comprender la fertilidad de manera natural
- ✓ Comunicación y **unidad** en el matrimonio
- ✓ Beneficios para la salud y la relación de pareja

**Para más información:**  
**Diego y Carolina**  
**(571) 247-4956**  
**Sábado,**  
**30 de Mayo, 2026**  
[www.dialogomatrimonial.org](http://www.dialogomatrimonial.org)

**Lugar: Iglesia San Rafael**  
 2514 Lee Blvd, Lehigh Acres,  
 ⌚ **Horario: 8:30 AM - 3:00 PM**  
 💰 **Donación: \$60 por pareja**

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.**



April 11th & 12th \$13,152.00  
Attendance: 2,817

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.