



ST. RAPHAEL

— CATHOLIC CHURCH —

DECEMBER 8, 2024 | SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT



CONTACT US

2514 Lee Boulevard
Lehigh Acres, FL 33971

Phone (239) 369-1831

Religious Education (239) 369-6424

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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 | 4:30PM-5:15PM (Español)

PASTORAL STAFF

Rev. Michal Szyszka, *Pastor*

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@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.

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 Thursday 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 from 6:00-8:00PM. 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

God's Personal Assistants

If you have ever planned a large-scale event, whether it's a musical performance or a religious conference, you may have dealt with someone's personal assistant. Possibly this person would be a representative of the keynote speaker or the master of ceremonies for the local bishop; perhaps it's even the staffer of a local politician or the lackey of a well-known musical act.

Personal assistants are masters of stewardship — overseeing things in their boss' absence. They prepare the way. This person's job is to get everything ready for the person in charge, so that when he or she shows up — whoever he or she is — it's smooth sailing for them to do whatever it is they need to do: sing, speak, pray, mingle, what-have-you. It's usually a big job full of little things, a gig where attention to detail is key.

God is the guest of honor in our life, the keynote speaker, the main event. And what He wants — what He needs — to do is to change our hearts. Constantly, over, and over, and over again.

We are all His personal assistants in this endeavor. We need to prepare the way of the Lord, to make straight His paths. We need to make everything ready so that when He shows up — however He shows up, whether it's in the form of a neighbor in need or a burning bush right in front of us — everything is ready for Him to do His job.

— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

©LPi

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday December 7, 2024

5:00PM †Bill Stephenson
 Req. Marty & Sue Collins & Family
 6:30PM Protection of Life- Save the Unborn
 Req. Parishioner

Sunday December 8, 2024

7:30AM Parishioners
 9:00AM †Bill Rahmes & †Fr. Dennis Cooney
 Req. Daughter, Mary
 10:30AM Heidy Bumgarner
 12:30PM Isoline Litchmore & Family

Monday December 9, 2024

8:00AM Joan Williams
 Req. Daughter, Donna

Tuesday December 10, 2024

8:00AM †Ana S. Brazil & Family
 Req. Tina Silva

Wednesday December 11, 2024

8:00AM †Theresa Honsaker
 Req. Duh Family

Thursday December 12, 2024

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

Friday December 13, 2024

8:00AM †Souls in Purgatory
 Req. Parishioner

Saturday December 14, 2024

8:00AM Conversion of Sinners
 Req. Parishioner
 5:00PM Ena Dennis & Robert
 Req. Tammy & Brooke
 6:30PM Wilberto Anos
 Req. Parishioner

Sunday December 15, 2024

7:30AM Parishioners
 9:00AM Sharon Tice
 10:30AM †Margarita Cabrera
 Req. Family
 12:30PM †Jailen Wilson
 Req. Grandparents Paul & Jenna Clark
 & Family

The Rotary Club will be serving Christmas Dinner on December 25th. Dinner will be served from 11AM-1PM. You may eat dinner in the parish hall or you may get your meal to go. *All are welcome!* No reservations are needed— just show up and enjoy.

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



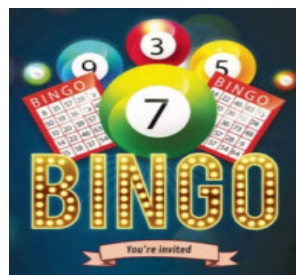
Hi, it's me, your spiritually adopted baby. It's getting a bit crowded in here! That's OK with me because I'm nestled in here so safely and secure with my mom. It's actually kind of cozy! Whenever I'm awake, I'm soothed by the constant beating of her heart and I love to listen to her voice. Sometimes I give her a little nudge and she sends a little love pat my way. **"Children are a gift from the Lord; They are a real blessing." Psalm 127:3.** This blessing plans on spending some time pondering how great our God really is! Then I'm going to thank Him for the gift of life! Will you join me?



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 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.

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

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 AGAINST CORONAVIRUS

Lord Jesus Christ, our Divine Physician, we ask you to guard and protect us from Coronavirus COVID-19 and all serious illness. For all that have died from it, bring healing. For those searching for a remedy, enlighten them; for medical caregivers helping the sick, strengthen and shield them. For those working to contain the spread, grant them success; for those afraid, grant peace. May your precious blood be our defense and salvation. By your grace, may you turn the evil of disease into moments of consolation and hope. May we always fear the contagion of sin more than any illness. We abandon ourselves to your infinite mercy. Amen.

- PEDRO DE LA CRUZ

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.**



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

– Missionaries of the Blessed Sacrament, June 2003 Newsletter

CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

BILINGUAL PENANCE SERVICE

MONDAY, DECEMBER 16TH AT 5:30PM

**TUESDAY, DECEMBER 24TH
CHRISTMAS VIGIL**

5:00PM - ENGLISH
7:00PM - *SPANISH*
MIDNIGHT - ENGLISH

**WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 25TH
CHRISTMAS DAY**

8:00AM - ENGLISH
10:00AM - *SPANISH*
12:00PM - ENGLISH

**WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 1ST
MARY MOTHER OF GOD**

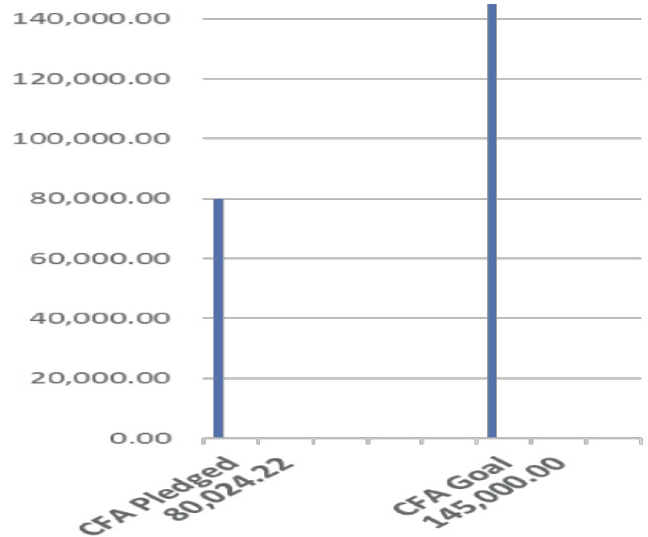
8:00AM– ENGLISH
10:00PM - *SPANISH*
12:00PM - ENGLISH

NO CONFESSIONS:

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 18TH
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 25TH
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 1ST
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 8TH

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.**



November 16th & 17th \$11,706.50
Attendance: 2,294

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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December 3rd 2024

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