



ST. RAPHAEL

— CATHOLIC CHURCH —

MARCH 22, 2026 | FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT



CONTACT US

2514 Lee Boulevard
Lehigh Acres, FL 33971

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MASS TIMES

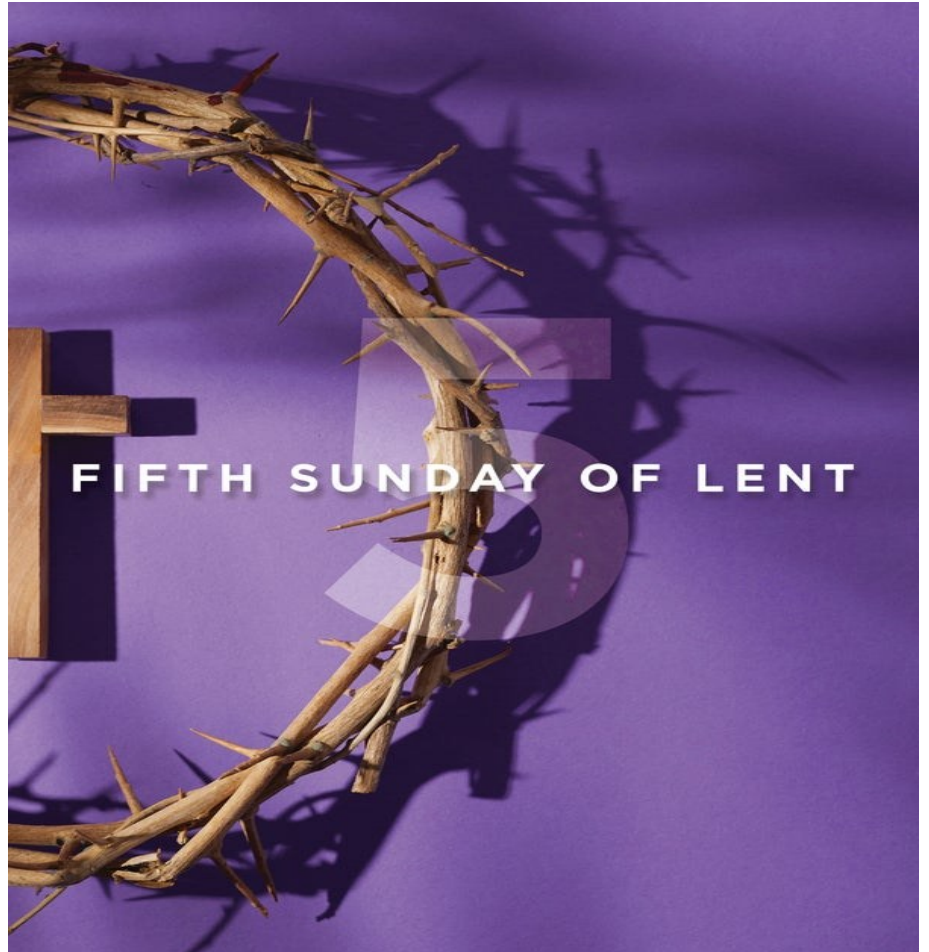
Monday - Friday | 8:00AM (English)
Saturday | 8:00AM, 5:00PM (English)
6:30PM (Español)
Sunday 7:30AM, 9:00AM, 12:30PM
(English)
10:30AM & 5:30PM (Español)

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

EASTER SCHEDULE

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Stations of the Cross are held every Friday during Lent
7:00PM in English &
8:00PM in Spanish

BILINGUAL LENTEN PENANCE SERVICE

Monday, March 30th 5:00PM

HOLY WEEK

Holy Thursday, April 2nd

Mass of The Lord's Supper – 7:00PM (Bilingual)

Good Friday, April 3rd

Sacred Liturgy 3:00PM
The Live Passion of the Lord – 5:30PM

Holy Saturday, April 4th

Blessing of the Food – 11:00AM (English & Polish)

Easter Vigil Mass - 8:15PM Bilingual

EASTER SUNDAY – APRIL 5th

Masses: 7:30AM, 9:00AM & 12:30PM in English
10:30AM & 5:30PM Mass in Spanish

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**

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday March 21, 2026

5:00PM Unborn
 Req. Parishioner
 6:30PM Aguiar Family & Soul in Purgatory

Sunday March 22, 2026

7:30AM Bonny Rogers
 Req. Ericka
 9:00AM †Josef Mummert
 Req. Bernard & Franziska Mummert
 10:30AM †Parishioners
 12:30PM †Philip Tress, 1st Anniversary
 Req. Friend, Dolores C. Handleton
 5:30PM Priests
 Req. Parishioner

Monday March 23, 2026

8:00AM †Leticia Valencia
 Req. Kynan & Gabriella Valencia

Tuesday March 24, 2026

8:00AM †Bob James, †Fr. Dennis Cooney
 & †Fr. Walter Bratus
 Req. Frenny James

Wednesday March 25, 2026

8:00AM †Peter Bai & Maria Hoa
 Req. Daughters

Thursday March 26, 2026

8:00AM Eric, Shannon & Ember Holland
 Req. Family

Friday March 27, 2026

8:00AM †Deceased Parishioners

Saturday March 28, 2026

8:00AM †Nancy Ryan
 Req. Judy & Sam Rossi
 5:00PM †Marcella Knowles
 Req. Sue & Tommy Mercurio
 6:30PM †Souls in Purgatory
 Req. Parishioner

Sunday March 29, 2026

7:30AM †Salvatore & †Louis D'Addona
 & †Alan Blum
 Req. Family
 9:00AM †Renald Audette
 Req. Friends of Canada
 10:30AM Priests
 Req. Parishioner
 12:30PM Parishioners
 5:30PM Conversion of Sinners
 Req. Parishioner

SANCTUARY CANDLE

The sanctuary candle has been donated in memory of **Bob James** requested by his wife, **Frenny James**.

CHAPEL CANDLE

The chapel candle has been donated in memory of **Bob James** requested by his wife, **Frenny James**.



March 7th & 8th \$13,534.00
 Attendance: 2,488

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.



**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 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.



**Every Friday at
 St. Raphael Parish Hall**

Doors open at 3PM. Games start promptly at 6PM.

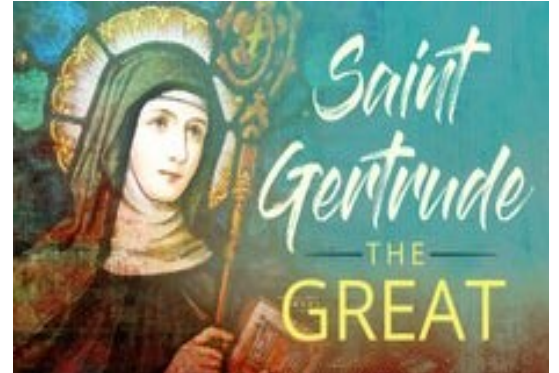
For more information call
 Jose (239) 841-3803 or
 Bill (315) 569-3009

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.



BASKET BLESSING ON HOLY SATURDAY, APRIL 4TH AT 11:00 AM

Święconka – Blessing of the Baskets

Święconka (sh-vee-en-soon-kah) is one of the most enduring and beloved Polish traditions. Baskets containing a sampling of Easter foods are brought to church to be blessed on Holy Saturday. The basket is traditionally lined with a white linen or lace napkin and decorated with sprigs of boxwood (*bukszpan*), the typical Easter evergreen. Poles take special pride in preparing a decorative and tasteful basket with crisp linens, occasionally embroidered for the occasion, and just enough boxwood and ribbon woven through the handle. Observing the beautiful foods and creations of other parishioners is one of the special joys of the event.

Poświęcenie Pokarmów – Blessing of Food

The Blessing of the Food is a festive occasion. The three-part blessing prayers specifically address the various contents of the basket, with special prayers for the meats, eggs, cakes & breads.

The priest then sprinkles the individual baskets with Holy Water. More traditional Polish churches use a straw brush for dispersing the Water; others use the more modern metal Holy Water sprinkling wand. In some parishes, the baskets are lined up on long tables; in others, parishioners process to the front of the altar carrying their baskets, as if in a Communion line. Older generations of Polish Americans, descended from early 19th century immigrants, tend to bless whole meal quantities, often brought to church halls or cafeterias in large hampers & picnic baskets. Newer Polish immigrants at Polish-language parishes along with Poles in urban Poland present the smaller arrangement of select goods described here.

Basket Contents and Symbolism:

Masło – Butter: This dairy product is often shaped into a lamb (*Baranek Wielkanocny*), reminding us of the goodness of Christ that we should have toward all things.

Chleb – Easter Bread: A round rye loaf topped with a cross, symbolic of Jesus, the Bread of Life.

Chrzan – Horseradish: Symbolic of the Passion of Christ still in our minds, but sweetened with some sugar because of the Resurrection.

Jajka or Pisanki – Eggs: Indicate new life and Christ's Resurrection from the Tomb.

Kielbasa – Sausage: A spicy sausage of pork products, indicative of God's favor and generosity.

Szynka – Ham: Symbolic of great joy and abundance. (In addition to the large ham cooked for the Easter Meal, often a special small ham, called the *Szynka Wielkanocna* is purchased specially for *Święconka* basket.)

Ślonina – Smoked Bacon: A symbol of the over abundance of God's mercy and generosity.

Sól – Salt: So necessary an element in our physical life, that Jesus used its symbolism: "You are the salt of the earth."

Ser – Cheese: Shaped into a ball, it is the symbol of the moderation Christians should have.

A candle – often marked like the Paschal Candle lit during the Easter Vigil, is inserted into the basket to represent Christ, Light of the World. A colorful ribbon and sometimes sprigs of greenery are attached. The linen cover is drawn over the top and is ready for the trek to the blessing.

Please note that these are the traditional items used for the basket blessing but any food items may be used.