



ST. RAPHAEL

— CATHOLIC CHURCH —

APRIL 11, 2021 | DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY



CONTACT US

2514 Lee Boulevard
Lehigh Acres, FL 33971

(239) 369-1831
parishoffice@saintraphaelccla.org
www.saintraphaelcc.net

MASS TIMES

Monday - Friday | 8AM

Saturday | 8AM, 5PM

Sunday 8AM, 10AM, 12Noon (English)
5:30PM (Español)

CONFESSIONS

Wednesday | 6PM-7PM

Saturday | 4PM-4:45PM

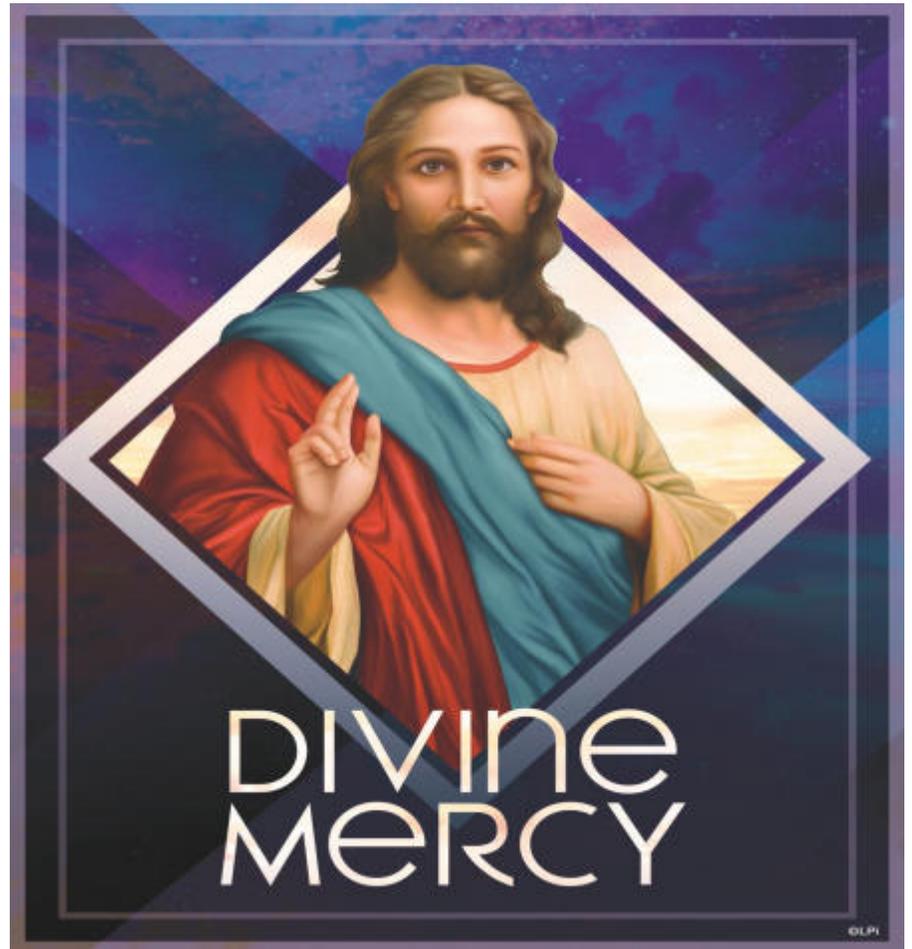
Sunday | 4:30PM-5:15PM (Español)

PASTORAL STAFF

Rev. Michal Szyszka, *Administrator*

Rev. Deacon Joseph W. Allison,
Director of Religious Education

Rev. Deacon Edward J. Gwiazda



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.

Kindergarten-6 Grade Classes - Contact Deacon Joe Allison for online registration.

7th & 8th Grade Classes - Contact Deacon Joe Alison for online registration.

Confirmation Sacramental Prep Classes- Wednesday 6:30-9:00PM

Communion Sacramental Prep Classes - Sunday 1-9PM (time varies according to group).

RCIA - Monday 7-9 PM in Spanish & Tuesday 7-9PM in English

Catholic Charities - 239-337-4193

Prayer Line - Please call 369-3111 and leave your prayer request on the recording or email it to: dorothybress@gmail.com

Perpetual Adoration - The Chapel is open 8:30AM - 4:30PM Monday – Thursday, Saturday & Sunday . On Fridays Adoration is in the Church 8:30AM – 4:30PM (the chapel is closed on Fridays)

Pregnancy Resources - Turn to the pro-life movement for help. Community Pregnancy Clinic 689-1543, Birthright 1-800-550-4900, Carenet/Heartbeat 1-800-395-HELP or Bethany Christian Services 1-800-238-4269.

Knights of Columbus - For more information on St. Raphael's K of C #6265 please call 369-5632 or see the website KofC6265.org.

Knights of Columbus Ladies Auxiliary - 1st Thursday of the month 7:00-8:30PM in the Knights Hall. For more information see the Knights of Columbus website or call Kris Repnyek at 239-691-5301.

Knights of Columbus Maidens of The Blessed Mother - Catholic girls age 10-17. For more information call M.J. at 239-410-7655.

Secular Carmelites Community - 3rd Sunday of the month from 2-5PM in the school building. Please call Pedro Gonzalez at 239-292-3996 for more information.

Legion of Mary - Tuesdays in the school building at 2:00PM.

Altar & Rosary Society - 1st Fridays following Mass September-May.

Cristo Rey (Spanish Charismatic) Prayer Group - Thursdays at 7:00PM in the parish hall.

Emaus: Men's/Women's Groups - Mondays at 7PM in the parish hall.

Haitian Prayer Group - Tuesdays in the school building at 7PM. For more information call 491-6719.

A Walk with St. Monica Prayer Group - 1st Thursday of the month in the Church after 8AM Mass. For more information call Mary at 491-8103.

GOSPEL MEDITATION - ENCOURAGE DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF SCRIPTURE

April 11, 2021 2nd Sunday of Easter (Divine Mercy Sunday)

What a wonderful joy fills us today as we ponder the inexhaustible mercy of God. “Mercy is the heart of God,” Pope Francis tells us. The image of a heart has been used to point to the very life source of a person as it is the organ that allows life to flow through our veins and sustain us. Mercy is the heart of God. Imagine this dynamic, powerful, compassionate, piercing, embracing, loving, propelling, penetrating, absorbing, and enveloping, transforming presence of God flowing into the very depth of our souls. It is God’s mercy that allows blood to flow through our veins. It is God’s mercy that forms every atom of our being and leads us to what is true. God’s mercy reveals all superficiality and falsehood, and lays bare all distortions, empty promises, weakness, and sin.

“Mercy is the force that reawakens us to new life and instills in us the courage to look to the future with hope,” Pope Francis continues. God’s all forgiving, compassionate love is with us. When we finally believe and accept that Christ’s resurrected transfigured presence resides with us, we then find within us a strong confidence to accept life’s imperfections and disappointments and move on. Every day is a new adventure in new life. God leaves the past behind and opens doors to the future. It doesn’t matter how many mistakes we made yesterday. All that matters is what we do tomorrow and what we learn along the way. It is so easy to remain tethered and mired in the past, but there is no need to do so. God is all about tomorrow and the work God has yet to do in our lives.

Mercy gives birth to hope. Hope for the greatest of sinners and hope for the worst of disasters. There is nothing God cannot do and nothing God cannot fashion. After all, everything we know and treasure was once nothing, and look what God did with the nothing God had! The resurrected Christ stands before us with nail marks in his wrists and wounds on his body as a testament that not even injustice, suffering and death can trample over and destroy God’s mercy. What have we to fear? Why do we keep ourselves from peace? Our lack of faith prevents us from going forward and fully receiving the holiness God desires to breathe upon us. Breathe in God’s mercy, allow the wind of God’s presence to kiss all of your sins and caress all of your fears. Exhale peace.

©LPi

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday April 10, 2021

5:00PM †Catherine Sasse
Req. Lynn Rinzel

Sunday April 11, 2021

8:00 AM Parishioners
10:00 AM †Francois Brutus
Req. Guirlande Delva
12Noon †Patricia, Benedict, Maureen & Joseph
Req. Sister Providence

Monday April 12, 2021

8:00 AM †Franklin & Louise Ryan
Req. Whipple Family

Tuesday April 13, 2021

8:00 AM †Rev. Dennis J. Cooney & Rev. Walter
Bratus
Req. Ed, Sharon & Pauline

Wednesday April 14, 2021

8:00 AM †Angel Eisinger, Sr.
Req. Eisinger Family

Thursday April 15, 2021

8:00AM †Souls in Purgatory

Friday April 16, 2021

8:00AM Louise Ryan
Req. Ryan family

Saturday April 17, 2021

8:00 AM Living & Deceased Members of the
Eggleston Family
Req. Mary Jo
5:00PM †Mr. Joseph Beale
Req. M. Barbara Hartnett

Sunday April 18, 2021

8:00 AM Parishioners
10:00 AM †Johnanthony Ardolino
Req. Wife, Nicole Ardolino
12Noon †Rev. Dennis J. Cooney
Req. Victor & Ida Machado

The Salvation Army Lehigh Service Center currently has funds to assist with electric bills for both FPL & LCEC. The funding has guidelines that are required to be met in order to qualify for assistance. Anyone seeking assistance may call 239-491-6071 or come by the office located at 25 Homestead Road North #42 (behind Joe's Café and the Medicine Shop).

ALTAR FLOWERS

The church altar flowers have been donated this week by **St. Raphael's Bingo**.

SANCTUARY CANDLE

The sanctuary candle has been donated this week in loving memory of **Edward P. Rosenstein & James Dulaney** requested by **Dr. Thomas Gaetano Palumbo**.

CHAPEL CANDLE

The chapel candle has been donated this week in loving memory of **Edward P. Rosenstein & James Dulaney** requested by **Dr. Thomas Gaetano Palumbo**.



The Knights of Columbus will be having their breakfast on the 1st & 3rd Sunday of each month. They will be serving scrambled eggs, special scrambled eggs, French toast, sausage patties & links, hash browns, gravy & sausage, coffee, juices and milk.

The National Catholic Bioethics Center (NCBC) provides free consultation services to individuals facing difficult ethical decisions related to health care. In emergency situations an NCBC ethicist is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week by calling 215-877-2660. NCBC ethicists do not provide legal or medical advice.

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**

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 toll free in Florida 1-877-908-1212 or e-mail project.rachel@dioceseofvenice.org for help.

Retrouvaille, hope for troubled marriages, call 1-800-470-2230 or visit

The Jay Carano Gift Shop is open before & after the weekend Masses. 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

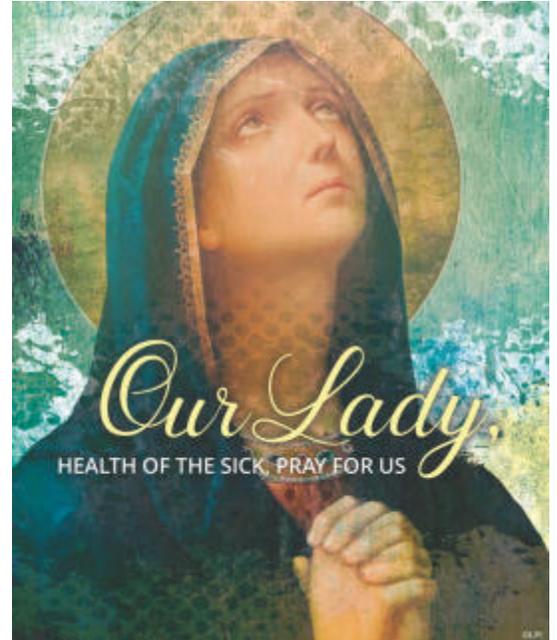
may the gift of Mary, your Mother, to the disciple whom you loved, be your gift to every priest. Grant that she who formed you in her human image, may form them in your divine image, by the power of your Spirit, to the glory of God the Father, Amen.

- SAINT TERESA OF CALCUTTA VOCATION SOCIETY

"Lord, hold our troops in your loving hands. Protect them as they protect us. Bless them and their families for the selfless acts they perform for us in our time of need. I ask this in the name of Jesus, our Lord and Savior. Amen."

Please pray for the following soldiers serving our country. If you would like to add a name please contact the parish office.

Staff Sargent Brandon Suarez, Lt Col William Schrader, SFC Sean Parker, Sgt Donald Bradley, Private Corey Smolinski, Lance Corporal William Melancon, Private Jonathan Colon, Jonathan Hoisington, Lance Corporal Tyler A Cundiff, Christopher Henderson, Christian Guzman, Jesse Newell, Orlando Soto Jr, Army Specialist Casey J Calvert, Sgt Rudy Davoles, Sr. Airman Corey Kelch, Specialist Anthony Joseph Shrader and Airman Brandon Stalnaker



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
www.CatholicPrayerCards.org

JOIN US FOR AN EVENING WITH MATT FRADD

Matt Fradd is the creator and host of the *Pints With Aquinas* podcast. He is the author and coauthor of several books including, *Does God Exist? A Socratic Dialogue on the Five Ways of Thomas Aquinas*. Matt earned his undergraduate and graduate degrees in philosophy from Holy Apostles College & Seminary which also awarded him an honorary doctorate. He lives in Steubenville, Ohio, with his wife Cameron and their four kids.

TUESDAY, MAY 4, 2021

PORN: SEVEN MYTHS EXPOSED

How parents, teens, and everyone else can escape the tyranny of pornography

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399 Sarasota St., Venice, FL 34285



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Know a Young Person with a Drug Problem? Maybe you know of a young friend, neighbor or classmate who suffers from drug addiction and does not know where to turn for help. Drug Addicts Anonymous believes all individuals suffering from addiction have a right to access recovery, be self-sufficient and independent. Yet, today many young people affected by drug addiction are deprived of a sense of self-worth because they cannot pay for proper treatment or access recovery resources and support. DAA provides an opportunity for long term recovery and positive change through a no cost service. Based on a 12-step program, the focus is on the physical, mental and spiritual condition as a whole person; contributing to the individual's social reintegration in a dignified and efficient way. For information please call 561-420-0930 or visit www.daamerica.org.

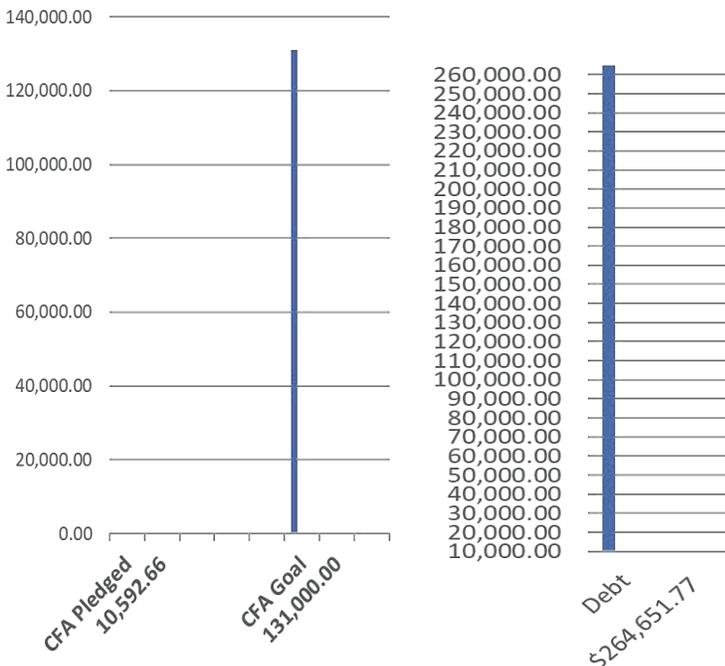


Our parish has been richly blessed by the fidelity of our commissioned Eucharistic Adorers. There are still openings on our schedule. There are a few hours where we could use adorers to preserve our continued presence and prayers. Adoration of Our Blessed Lord in the Eucharist is a privilege.

If you see this as a privilege please answer God's invitation. Please consider Tuesday at 10:30 - 11:30 or 11:30 - 12:30, Wednesday at 12:30 - 1:30, or Saturday 1:30 - 2:30, or whenever you are able. Our Lord welcomes you. Please call Miriam at 239-2504649 to schedule a time.

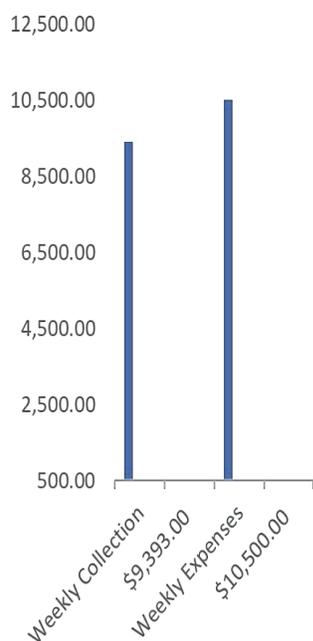
The Catholic Faith Appeal (CFA) contributes to the pastoral, education, and charitable support of those in need in the Diocese of Venice. Our parish also benefits from the CFA if we exceed our goal of \$131,000.00. Join those in our parish family who have made a gift to the 2021 CFA. Your gift will make 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 in the offertory basket. Thank you for your prayerful consideration.



During these challenging times, parishes face increased risk of financial shortfalls due to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) Pandemic and its effects on everyday life. Parishes depend on weekly financial gifts to continue their ministries, especially in this critical time of crisis. Please prayerfully consider a donation to the parish by using your envelopes, mailing your contribution or online giving. Together we will navigate through this pandemic, aid those in need, and secure the road ahead for the parishes within the Diocese of Venice. Please continue to pray for the repose of the souls of those who have died, for the recovery of the sick, for the strength of healthcare workers and caregivers, as well as for an end to this health crisis. Thank you for your generosity.

March 27th & 28th
\$9,393.00
Attendance: 1,178



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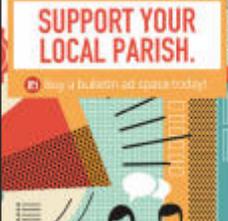
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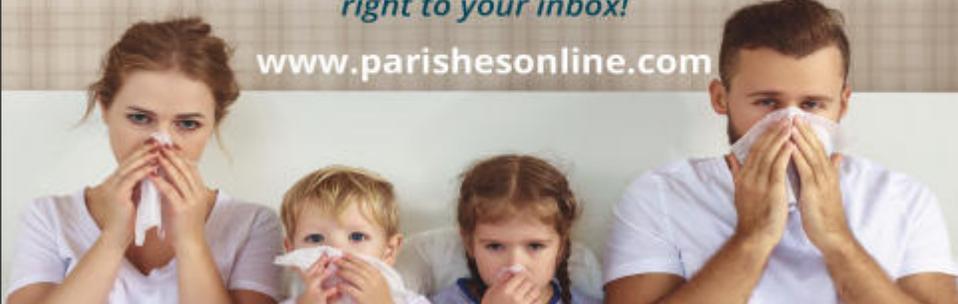
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