



# SAINT RAPHAEL CATHOLIC CHURCH

770 KILBOURNE AVENUE, ENGLEWOOD, FLORIDA 34223

Office: (941) 474-9595 Religious Education:(941) 473-2359 Fax: (941) 475-5697  
Web Site: [www.strapheng.org](http://www.strapheng.org) E-mail: [office@strapheng.org](mailto:office@strapheng.org)

December 31, 2017

**REV. MARK SCHAFFNER,  
O. CARM.**  
Pastor

**JEAN BALMES**  
Office Manager

**CONNIE FLYNN**  
Bookkeeper

**RODI REYES HERNANDEZ**  
Maintenance/Custodial Services

**JEFFREY HERBERT**  
Director of Music

**JUDY STRANDBERG**  
Rel. Education Coordinator

**STEVE VARGA**  
Facilities Coordinator



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## Masses

Saturday Vigil Mass 4:00PM  
Sunday Masses 7:30, 9:00 and 11:00AM  
Weekday Mass 8:30AM

The Rosary is prayed Monday through Saturday morning at 7:50AM, prior to the morning Mass. All are invited to participate.

## Holy Day Masses

Vigil Mass 4:00PM  
Holy Day 8:30AM & 7:00PM  
*unless noted otherwise in bulletin*

## Parish Office

8:30AM—12:30PM Monday thru Friday  
1:30PM— 4:30PM Monday thru Thursday

## Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confessions)

Saturday: 9:00—9:30AM and 2:30—3:00PM

## Sacrament of the Sick

Anointing is available upon request before surgery, serious illness and emergency at any time. Please call the Parish Office.

## Baptism

**Registration** for Baptism will be held on the First Sunday of each month at the Parish Office shortly after the 11:00 AM Mass. Please call the office for an appointment.

**Preparation for Baptism** is required for both parents and sponsors and will be available at the Parish Office on the second Saturday of each month beginning at 10:00 AM. Arrangements for and the scheduling of baptism will not take place until after the required preparations have been completed.

**Rite of Baptism** will be celebrated after the last Mass on the last Sunday of each month.

## Marriage

Couples who are registered parishioners must see a priest or deacon AT LEAST six months before anticipated wedding date. Do not rent a hall for a reception before your wedding is placed in the Parish Calendar.

## Religious Education (September-May)

Please call (941)473-2359 for information

## Parish Bulletin

All articles in the parish Bulletin must be approved by the priest. The deadline is 10:00AM on Friday of the week before the date you wish to have the item run.



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# THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH

December 31, 2017

My eyes have seen your salvation,  
which you prepared in the sight of all the peoples.

—Luke 2:30-31

## READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Nm 6:22-27; Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8; Gal 4:4-7;  
Lk 2:16-21  
Tuesday: 1 Jn 2:22-28; Ps 98:1-4; Jn 1:19-28  
Wednesday: 1 Jn 2:29 — 3:6; Ps 98:1, 3cd-6; Jn 1:29-34  
Thursday: 1 Jn 3:7-10; Ps 98:1, 7-9; Jn 1:35-42  
Friday: 1 Jn 3:11-21; Ps 100:1b-5; Jn 1:43-51  
Saturday: 1 Jn 5:5-13; Ps 147:12-15, 19-20;  
Mk 1:7-11 or Lk 3:23-28 [23, 31-34, 36, 38]  
Sunday: Is 60:1-6; Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-13;  
Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6; Mt 2:1-12

## ST. RAPHAEL TREASURE CHEST

Weekly Offering

Offertory 12/25/2017



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Loose: \$

Env.: \$ Not available at time of print

Total: \$

Christmas: Not available at time of print

### 2017 Catholic Faith Appeal 12/17/2017

GOAL: \$ 158,000 % OF GOAL: 94.07 %

PLEDGED: \$ 148,635.63 RECEIVED: \$ 146,609.73

% of HOUSEHOLDS PARTICIPATING: 46.65 %

## TODAY'S READINGS

**First Reading** — Those who honor their parents will be greatly blessed and will atone for sins (Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14) or *Genesis 15:1-6; 21:1-3.*

**Psalm** — Blessed are those who fear the Lord and walk in his ways (Psalm 128) or *Psalm 105.*

**Second Reading** — Be thankful; do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus (Colossians 3:12-21 [12-17]) or *Hebrews 11:8, 11-12, 17-19.*

**Gospel** — The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom (Luke 2:22-40 [22, 39-40]).

The English translation of the Psalm Responses from *Lectionary for Mass* © 1969, 1981, 1997, International Commission on English in the Liturgy Corporation. All rights reserved.

## SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

Sunday: The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph

Monday: Mary, the Holy Mother of God;  
The Octave Day of the Nativity of the Lord;  
World Day of Prayer for Peace;  
New Year's Day

Tuesday: Ss. Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen

Wednesday: The Most Holy Name of Jesus

Thursday: St. Elizabeth Ann Seton

Friday: St. John Neumann; First Friday

Saturday: St. André Bessette; First Saturday

## TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION

There's no more unusual setting to celebrate today's Feast of the Holy Family than Barcelona, Spain and the towering unfinished sandcastle known officially as the Temple Expiatori de la Sagrada Familia. In 1882, the plan was hatched to build a vast place of worship in reparation for the revolutionary and liberal leanings of the city. The modern artist Antoni Gaudi dedicated his life to the project, living in the building, attending Mass daily, and giving up his personal wealth. When people pressed him to pick up the pace, he responded, "My client is not in a hurry." (Gaudi's cause for beatification is moving along, and he could be the first professional artist and architect to be beatified.) The Spanish Civil War, a disaster for the Catholic Church in which thousands of priests, brothers, and nuns were murdered, halted work in 1935. In the 1950s work began anew, speeded up by computers in the 1980s. Still, the final stage of construction is not due to end until 2026. If the original methods had stayed in place, it would take several hundred more years to complete the plan. So far there are eight towers, with four to go. The highest steeple is three feet shorter than the nearest hill, since the architect didn't want his work to surpass God's artistry. The three faces of the basilica each have three doors, with the faces named Passion, Nativity, and Grace. The interior is crammed with geometric figures that almost seem to spin, crazy-quilt windows, spiral staircases, and jumbles of statues and figures. Although inspired by ancient Gothic cathedrals, the style is called Expressionist, and very little is left unexpressed by the masonry. If you can't afford a visit, Sagrada Familia maintains a web site, and virtual visits are free. —Rev. James Field, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

## BEARERS OF THE WORD

The Church has placed a number of notable feast days immediately after Christmas. The feasts of Stephen, John the Evangelist, and the Holy Innocents form a summary of the life lived in Christ, the Word made flesh. What do these have to do with the feast of the Holy Family, which crowns the Octave of Christmas? These feasts remind us that suffering will occur in fulfilling the mission of Christ, and that we are all called to be bearers of this Word whose birth we celebrate.

We also see this manifested in the lives of Joseph and Mary, both of whom took social and religious risks in obedience to the will of God, and both of whom were open to the word of God sent to them from on high. In these ways they prefigured the life of Jesus himself.

Most likely, few of us found ourselves at Mass this past Tuesday, Wednesday, or Thursday, but the essence of these feasts and the essence of the holiness of Joseph, Mary, and Jesus remain central, a holiness we celebrate today.

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# SOLEMNITY OF MARY MOTHER OF GOD

**JANUARY 1**  
**Mass @ 8:30AM**

From all eternity, God thought of the Virgin of Nazareth as the future mother of His Son. At the Annunciation, Mary became the Mother of God. This is her most exalted title, the source of all her other privileges. On Calvary, Christ gave His Mother to all men to be their spiritual Mother, so that through her they might come to God as through her He came to them.

This feast takes the place of the Maternity of Mary formerly kept on October 11, which was instituted by Pope Pius XI in 1931, as a commemoration of the 15th centenary of the Council of Ephesus in 431.

**PRAYER** *God, through the fruitful virginity of Mary You bestowed the blessings of eternal salvation on mankind. Grant that we may enjoy her intercession for through her we received Your Son, the Author of Life. Amen.* LIVES OF THE SAINTS FOR EVERY DAY OF THE YEAR, Catholic Publishing Co.

**Please Note: This year, because this Feast Day falls on a Monday, the precept to attend Mass is abrogated. The obligation to attend Mass is lifted.**

## OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL HELP RETREAT CENTER

(Located at 3989 S. Moon Drive in Venice.)

**Fashion Show** - Saturday, Jan.13, at Jacaranda Trace in Venice for an afternoon of friendship, fashion and food to benefit the Retreat Center. Registration 11:30 with an opportunity to bid on auction items. Lunch at noon with a fashion show during dessert. The show is hosted by Connie Blum and fashions are provided by Chicos and Patchingtons.

**Operation OLPH Mystery Dinner Theatre** - Saturday Feb.10, Mystery Dinner Theatre. Songs from 40's by the Boogie Woogie Bugle Girls during the cocktail hour.

**Ignatian Preached Retreat** - Ignatian Preached Silent Retreats with conferences each day, Mass, and an opportunity to meet atwith the retreat director. The next opportunity is Thursday, Feb. 22 -Sunday, Feb.25. The conference topics center around Ignatian spirituality, prayer, and discernment.

*For info or to register for the any of these programs, please visit [www.olph-retreat.org](http://www.olph-retreat.org) or call 941-486-0233.*

## 2018 WOMENS CONFERENCE

All women are invited to a faith-filled day at the DOV Women's Conference on Sat., Feb.3, 9am-3pm at Bishop Verot High School, Fort Myers. Cost pre-registration on line \$20,students \$5 Cost at the door is \$30, \$10 for students. Speakers are Kimberly Hahn, Sonja Corbitt, & Rosario Rodriguez. Info/registration at [dioceseofvenice.org/womens](http://dioceseofvenice.org/womens).

## 2018 MENS CONFERENCE

Men who desire to encounter the presence of God are invited to the DOV Men's Conference from 9am-3pm on Sat., Feb. 24 at Bishop Verot High School, Fort Myers. Cost pre-registration on line \$20,students \$5 Cost at the door is \$30, \$10 for students. Speakers are Deacon Harold Burke-Sivers, Patrick Coffin, & Bob Rice. For Conference details and to register go to [dioceseofvenice.org/mens](http://dioceseofvenice.org/mens).

## PERPETUAL ADORATION CHAPEL

*"Nowhere does Jesus hear our prayers more readily than in the Blessed Sacrament."* — Bl. Henry Susa

Epiphany Cathedral Perpetual Adoration Chapel will be opening this fall. The chapel will seat approximately 20 adorers and will be open 24/7. Parishioners from neighboring parishes are invited to participate. To schedule a Holy Hour contact: Jenny Holaday (941) 441-7495.

## FREE ROSARY REPAIR



Send your broken rosaries in a padded envelope to Betty and Dick Holden, 7930 Estero Blvd., #502, Fort Myers Beach, FL 33931. They will be repaired/returned within a week of receipt. Donations of old or broken rosaries are accepted, repaired and sent to missions. Include a note indicating repair, whether to return or donate to a mission. For info. email [holdenbnd@gmail.com](mailto:holdenbnd@gmail.com) or 239-463-3993.

## Church Hours (Parish Center Building)

Monday thru Saturday Morning  
Saturday Afternoon  
Sunday

doors open at 7:45AM  
doors open at 2:30PM  
doors open at 6:30AM

doors close at 9:30AM  
doors close at 5:00PM  
doors close at 12:00PM

**Please note:** For security purposes, access to the church area will be restricted to the times listed above. Thank you for your patience and understanding.

## PLEASE NOTE:

### BEGINNING NEXT SATURDAY, JANUARY 6

We will be adding the 5:30PM Saturday Vigil Mass. Just a reminder, this is *in addition* to the 4 PM Saturday Vigil Mass. We will continue the 5:30pm Mass through March 24.

## CONCERT

The Ladies Auxiliary of Knights of Columbus is having their annual concert on Friday January 12, 2018 at 7:00. Doors open at 6:30 pm. At the Lemon Bay Women's Club 51 N. Maple St. Englewood . Donation \$15 All profits go to local charities. Tickets at church office or contact Sue Salveggio 508 308-1380.

## CORNERSTONE BIBLE STUDY

The Cornerstone Catholic Scripture Study continues to be held each Monday beginning at 9:45am. Classes resume January 8 and continue thru April 18. By reading and discussing the Scriptures we are better able to understand God's love for us. For info call Rita at (941)412-8650 or go to [thecornerstonescripturestudy.org](http://thecornerstonescripturestudy.org).

## CCW NEWS

The Council of Catholic Women will hold its monthly meeting on Wednesday, January 10 at 9:30 am. All are invited to attend the 8:30am Mass and then join us at 9:30 for the meeting. Our guest speaker will be Joe Rowland, the topic will be Seniors vs. Crime (Florida State Attorney General's Office. Guests and new members are welcome to attend.

## CURSILLO – VENICE AREA ULTREYA

meets the first Tuesday evening of every month. We begin with a short School of Leaders talk at 6:30pm and follow with the regular Ultreya at 7:15pm. We are on an alternating schedule with St. Frances Cabrini parish in Parrish. The next meeting is Jan 9 due to the holiday schedule. It will be held at EPIPHANY in the Soy Bldg. Room 109 in Venice.

We welcome back Cursillistas from all around the U S and look forward to seeing you all at the Ultreya. For more information please call Weulcia Wilkins at 941-484-3076 or Irene Bauer at 941-726-0368.



## THANK YOU!!!

We are excited to announce that through your generosity we were able to provide 249 gift cards to the children of St. Michael's parish in Wauchula for a total amount

of \$ 6,970.00 This would not have been possible without the giving, caring hearts of all who participated.

*Give and gifts will be given to you; a good measure, packed together, shaken down, and overflowing, will be poured into your lap. For the measure with which you measure will in return be measured out to you (Luke 6:38).*

Thank you for sharing your blessings, and for helping extend the joy of Christmas to those in need.

## The Little Ones

Jim Burrows



And over all these put on love

Col 3:14





**“YOUR OWN QUIET, PATIENT PRESENCE** can provide important support as your loved one prepares emotionally and spiritually for his or her passing.” —USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities “Caring for Loved Ones at Life’s End.”

**CCW CLUB OPPORTUNITIES**

**PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY:** Anyone who is experiencing physical or emotional distress & needs to feel the touch of God & His love may receive a blessed shawl. Call Jackie 474-7828 or Anne 460-2733.

**CRAFT CLUB** is looking for members. Fridays 9:30am-11am in the parish center. Info call Marianne 474-1329.

**WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES**

Couples who wishes to celebrate their wedding anniversary are invited to participate in the renewal of their wedding vows at the 11AM Mass on the last Sunday of their anniversary month. Please call the parish office to register.

**OUR PARISH IS A SAFE ENVIRONMENT**

**committed to protecting children, youth and vulnerable adults.** Report all abuse to the Florida Department of Children and Families at (800)-962-2873. To report abuse by Diocesan personnel or volunteers, call the Diocesan Victims Assistance Coordinator at (941)416-6114. For further information visit <http://www.dioceseofvenice.org>.

**SAFE ENVIRONMENT TRAINING**

Any group or club that has members who have not complied with the requirements of safe environment will no longer be able to hold meetings, advertise and hold fund raisers, etc. on parish property until such time when all club/group members have complied and completed the Safe Environment requirements of the Diocese of Venice. **Please note: This includes all ministries that are affiliated with St. Raphael Church, including those who meet offsite.** If there are individuals who require Safe Environment training, contact the office for a schedule of training sessions.



**WITNESSING FAITH**

Join Bishop Frank J. Dewane for his monthly radio program "Witnessing Faith with Bishop Dewane" on the last Friday of each month at 10:30am online at [RelevantRadio.com](http://RelevantRadio.com).



**PRAYER CHAIN**

Please call Dorothy Seymour at 474-8904 if prayers are needed. Prayer intentions are passed on only to those who are part of the prayer chain. All information is confidential.

**PROJECT RACHEL**

**Post-Abortion Reconciliation & Healing**

If you are suffering after an abortion, give yourself the gift of a Project Rachel Healing Retreat. For info, call Fonda at 239-719-7210 or [project.rachel@dioceseofvenice.org](mailto:project.rachel@dioceseofvenice.org)

**ST. RAPHAEL ACTIVITY CORNER**

**Monday January 1 through January 7**

Monday		
Tuesday		
Wednesday	6:15PM	Rel. Ed
Thursday	7:00PM	K of C Business Mtg
	7:00PM	Ladies Aux. Business Mtg
Friday	9:30AM	CCW Craft Group
Saturday		
Sunday		

**CATHOLIC CHARITIES**

The annual Christmas Appeal will be held December 2017 & January 2018. The goal is to raise \$560,000 and your gifts are much appreciated! The Catholic Charities Christmas Appeal is the agency's largest fundraiser and critical to operating the social service organization. Your donation will benefit Catholic Charities programs and services available throughout Southwest Florida that assist individuals, families, and seniors all year long. Thank you for your giving spirit! Please visit [www.catholiccharitiesdov.org](http://www.catholiccharitiesdov.org) or mail a donation to Catholic Charities, Diocese of Venice, Inc., 5824 Bee Ridge Road PMB 409, Sarasota, FL 34233-5065.

**EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES**

For employment opportunities in the Diocese of Venice, go to [www.dioceseofvenice.org/employment](http://www.dioceseofvenice.org/employment)

**TIME**

Do not squander time, for that is the stuff life is made of.  
—Benjamin Franklin

**MASS INTENTIONS**

**Monday Jan 1 through Sunday Jan 7**

Mon	8:30AM	People of the Parish
Tues	8:30AM	Patsy St. Thomas Req. by Roland & Geri Poitras
Wed	8:30AM	Intentions of Florence Wallace Req. by Pauline
Thur	8:30AM	Mark David Muczyk Req. by parents, Jan & Jennie Muczyk
Fri	8:30AM	Giovanna Roy Req. by her son Nicholas
Sat	8:30AM	Purgatorial Society
	4:00PM	Eileen & Mary Lou Visser Req. by Eileen & Walter Vollmuth
	5:30PM	People of the Parish
Sun	7:30AM	Very Rev. Justin Biase O.F.M. Conv. Req. by Phil & Judy Carlucci
	9:00 AM	Joe Solt Req. by Mike & Judy Murphy
	11:00 AM	Rene Lamontangne Req. by the family

Please remember in your prayers the sick of the parish and all who have gone before us in the faith.