



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 E-mail: office@strapheng.org

March 11, 2018

REV. MARK SCHAFFNER,
O. CARM.
Pastor

JEAN BALMES
Office Manager

CONNIE FLYNN
Bookkeeper

JEFFREY HERBERT
Director of Music

RODI REYES HERNANDEZ
Maintenance/Custodial Services

JUDY STRANDBERG
Rel. Education Coordinator

STEVE VARGA
Facilities Coordinator



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Masses

Saturday Vigil Mass 4:00PM and 5:30PM
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 be-

Fourth Sunday of Lent

March 11, 2018

God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him.

— John 3:17



READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Is 65:17-21; Ps 30:2, 4-6, 11-13b; Jn 4:43-54
Tuesday: Ez 47:1-9, 12; Ps 46:2-3, 5-6, 8-9; Jn 5:1-16
Wednesday: Is 49:8-15; Ps 145:8-9, 13cd-14, 17-18; Jn 5:17-30
Thursday: Ex 32:7-14; Ps 106:19-23; Jn 5:31-47
Friday: Wis 2:1a, 12-22; Ps 34:17-21, 23; Jn 7:1-2, 10, 25-30
Saturday: Jer 11:18-20; Ps 7:2-3, 9bc-12; Jn 7:40-53
Sunday: Jer 31:31-34; Ps 51:3-4, 12-15; Heb 5:7-9; Jn 12:20-33
Alternate readings (Year A):
Ez 37:12-14; Ps 130:1-8; Rom 8:8-11;
Jn 11:1-45 [3-7, 17, 20-27, 33b-45]

TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION

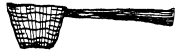
Year B of the Lectionary has the Letter to the Ephesians today. Ephesus, today in Turkey, was in the first century a great Greek city, the center for the worship of Diana, the goddess of the hunt. It was a vast city even by modern standards, having nearly half a million people in the time of Paul. Yet that was a time of economic recession and moral decay. No wonder Saint Paul stayed here the longest. It gave him an enormous and religiously curious audience. His preaching stirred up the artisans who depended on the pilgrims who came to honor (and buy mementos of) seventeen gods and goddesses enshrined in the city's temples. You can still see the open-air theater where Paul's homily triggered a riot. Paul did have success here, and many conversions among Jews and Gentiles. They seem to have struggled with hope, perhaps because of their suffering from economic woes and isolation.

Some old traditions say that the Apostle John lived out his days here, and that the Blessed Mother was cared for by him. There's no biblical basis for this, but it is certain that a small house just outside the city has been treasured by Christians and Muslims for centuries as the last dwelling of Mary. Long ago, the harbor silted up and the city was nearly abandoned, becoming a small village. As is so often the case, that accident of history preserved the ancient city, so that archeologists have been very successful in revealing ancient Christian sites. One such site is the Church of Mary, probably the first church to be dedicated to the Blessed Virgin, and the site of the Council of Ephesus in 431. Today, a visit to Ephesus is one of the most rewarding journeys for any pilgrim.

—Rev. James Field, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

ST. RAPHAEL TREASURE CHEST

Weekly Offering



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Offertory 03/04/2018

Loose: \$ 8464.50

Env.: \$ 8953.00

Total: \$ 17407.50

2018 Catholic Faith Appeal

GOAL: \$ 159,000 % OF GOAL: 17.44 %

PLEDGED: \$ 71,894.79 RECEIVED: \$35,306.29

% of HOUSEHOLDS PARTICIPATING: 17.44

TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading — The wrath and the mercy of the LORD are revealed in the exile and liberation of the Chosen People (2 Chronicles 36:14-16, 19-23) or 1 Samuel 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a.

Psalm — Let my tongue be silenced, if I ever forget you! (Psalm 137) or Psalm 23.

Second Reading — God, who is rich in mercy, brought us to life with Christ (Ephesians 2:4-10) or Ephesians 5:8-14.

Gospel — The Son of Man must be lifted up, so that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life (John 3:14-21) or John 9:1-41 [1, 6-9, 13-17, 34-38].

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: Fourth Sunday of Lent; Second Scrutiny;
Daylight Saving Time begins; Girl Scout Sunday

Friday: Abstinence

Saturday: Saint Patrick

NOT ENOUGH

It is not enough for me to love God, if my neighbor does not love God. —St. Vincent de Paul

COMMUNAL RESPONSIBILITY

The people of God forgot the covenant and flouted God's laws. They did not listen to the prophets among them, who spoke for God in warning them. Prophets are sent from God to remind us why we are here, but they are often, even in our own time, mocked, disregarded, and mistreated rather than thanked and listened to.

The book of Chronicles tells the results of these sins: the destruction of the temple and all of Jerusalem, murder, mayhem, and finally exile to a foreign land. Why are these stories in the Bible? Just to inform us of what happened to our ancient forebears? What good would that be unless there were a message and a warning for us as well? Are we people who follow the teachings of God, who obey the words of Christ in the second covenant in his blood? Or do we continue to wreak works of darkness and violence? We are reminded by these readings that we will be judged as a people, not just as individuals.

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DIOCESE OF VENICE IN FLORIDA
OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

February 2018

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,
Soon the Diocese of Venice will participate in the Collection for Catholic Relief Services, (CRS). Your support of this collection serves Jesus present in the midst of some of the most marginalized communities in our world. Proceeds from this collection provide services for aid in the wake of natural disasters, advocacy for peace and justice around the world and the flight of refugees.

In Central America, there are more than 1 million young people out of school and unemployed. Throughout the region, crime and violence run rampant with very high murder rates. The escalating violence stifles investment and economic growth, further limiting opportunities for jobs. These factors push young people, already discouraged by a lack of possibilities, to emigrate in record numbers due to limited economic opportunities.

With your support, CRS makes it possible for thousands of young people to participate in programs that provide necessary life skills and opportunities. International networks are provided; job skills and entrepreneurship training is given; school re-entry occurs; there is job placement; and social services affords opportunities to these young people. Each year the numbers increase for those finding work and going back to school.

The CRS Collection will take place in the Diocese of Venice the weekend of March 10 and 11, 2018. Your support of this collection makes a difference for so many around the world. This is one more opportunity for each of us to express compassion and generosity. Thank you!

I take this opportunity to extend to you my continued consideration as well as my prayers throughout this Lenten Season.

Sincerely yours in Christ,
+ Frank J. Dewane
Bishop of the Diocese of Venice in Florida

FRIDAY LENTEN FISH FRY

Epiphany Cathedral Feb. 23-Mar. 23, 5-7PM. Catered by Sharky's. Fish & Chips plate \$12 or Baked Salmon \$15. Includes choice of boiled red potatoes or fries, coleslaw, roll, drink and dessert. Takeout available. Purchase tickets at the door or on line at www.epiphanycathedral.org. For info call 416-2244. Proceeds benefit Catholic Education.

SCRIPTURE CONFERENCE

Our Lady of Lourdes (Venice) 10AM-3PM on Friday, March 16. Speaker is Dr. John Bergsma, professor of Biblical Theology from Franciscan University of Steubenville, Topics include: Confession as Spiritual Warfare, the Cross and Jesus the Bridegroom, and the Universal Call to Holiness. Cost: \$15 Go to <http://dioceseofvenice.org/offices/evangelization/conferences/scripture-conference/>.



REGULATIONS ON FASTING AND ABSTINENCE

Ash Wednesday, Feb. 14 and Good Friday March 30 are days of fast and abstinence. All Fridays of Lent are also days of abstinence from meat.

Fasting is to be observed on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday by all Catholics between the ages of 18 and 59 years (inclusive). On a fast day, one full meal is allowed. Two smaller meals, sufficient to maintain strength, may be taken according to each one's needs, but together they should not equal another full meal. Eating between meals is not permitted, but liquids are allowed.

Abstinence from meat is to be observed by all Catholics who are 14 years of age and older. Ash Wednesday, all the Fridays of Lent, and Good Friday are all days of abstinence.

Note: If a person is unable to observe the above regulations due to ill health or other serious reasons, they are urged to practice other forms of self denial that are suitable to their condition.

Fasting, almsgiving and prayer are the three traditional disciplines of Lent. The faithful and catechumens should undertake these practices seriously in a spirit of penance and of preparation for baptism or of renewal of baptism at Easter.

EASTER TRIDUUM RETREAT

Easter Triduum Retreat, Thursday, March 29 to Sunday April 1, at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Retreat Center in Venice. Begins with supper on Holy Thursday and ends with breakfast on Easter Sunday. Cost includes accommodations and meals. The Liturgies of the Lord's supper, Way of the Cross, celebration of the Lord's Passion, Easter Vigil and Sunrise Liturgy will be celebrated. To register go to <https://olph-retreat-org.sites.ecatholic.com/triduum-retreat>.

FLU PRECAUTIONS

All parishes/missions/chapels in the Diocese of Venice in Florida are being asked to take the following precautions to help mitigate the spread and effects of the flu.



- The faithful should be encouraged to share the Sign of Peace without touching hands. This can be done with meaningful eye contact, smiles and a bow if the head in reverence to one another.
- Priests, deacons and extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion should be especially reminded of the need to practice good hygiene.
- Ushers should not shake hands to greet people. They can extend a verbal greeting and welcome.
- The faithful should be encouraged not to hold hands during the recitation of the Our Father.
- Parishioners should not come to church if they are not feeling well. If you are sick Center for Disease Control recommends that you stay home to limit contact with others to keep from infecting them.

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 6:30PM
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.

**DON'T BE AFRAID
TO GO TO THE
SACRAMENT OF
CONFESSION,
WHERE YOU
WILL MEET
JESUS WHO
FORGIVES YOU.**

Pope Francis



LENTEN CONFESSIONS

Diocese-wide Opportunity for Sacrament of Reconciliation
This Lent the Diocese of Venice will have the Sacrament of Reconciliation available at the same time at **ALL PARISHES** to

allow the faithful ample opportunity to receive God's Mercy. The Sacrament of Confession will be available from 4-8PM on Friday, March 23 and from 9am-12noon on Saturday, March 24. The precept of confessing grave sins and receiving Holy Communion at least once during the Lenten Season merits a reminder to the faithful to take advantage of this opportunity. In addition St. Raphael Church will have the regular weekend confession times (Saturday mornings 9-9:30am and Saturday afternoon 2:30-3pm). Please note there is no confession schedule on Saturday, March 31.

MARY FRAN CARROLL Scholarship

The Catholic Community Foundation is offering ten \$3,000 Mary Fran Carroll Scholarships to residents of Sarasota County for tuition, books and fees at an accredited college, university or vocational program (housing and living expenses not eligible). **Traditional Scholarship:** Seven academic scholarships of \$3,000 each are available. Open to graduating seniors and recent high school graduates (within the last 2 years) from Catholic, private or public high schools in Sarasota County who wish to pursue an undergraduate degree in any accredited college or university. **Non-traditional Scholarship:** Three academic scholarships of \$3,000 each are available. Open to adult learners who are returning to school to obtain a college degree or vocational certification after being out of high school for three or more years Apply: www.cfdioceseofvenice.org. Deadline: All applications and supporting documents must be submitted electronically by April 6, 2018 at 5pm Renewable up to a total of five academic years for students maintaining a minimum GPA of 3.2 on a 4.0 (unweighted) scale.

OPERATION RICE BOWL

At the request of the Diocese of Venice St. Raphael Church is participating in Operation Rice Bowl as a means of almsgiving during the Lenten Season. You will find materials on tables by the doors. These "bowls" are to be taken home, assembled and used for your donations. They will be collected at Easter. All donations will go to the diocese for Catholic Relief Services. CRS carries out the commitment of the Bishops of the United States to assist the poor and vulnerable.



**STATIONS
OF THE CROSS**
will take place
every Friday morning
during the Lenten Season

CCW NEWS

The Council of Catholic Women will hold its monthly meeting on Wed., March 14, in the Parish Center at 9:30am. All are invited to attend Mass at 8:30 in the Parish Center and then join us at 9:30 for the meeting. Our Presentation for March will be Mary's Way of the Cross. Guests and new members are welcome. For information call Judie Bull-941-374-5690, or Lorraine Fitting 609-457-0702.

The Little Ones

Jim Burrows



But whoever lives the truth comes to the light, so that his works
may be clearly seen as done in God. Jn 3:21



“WHEN I VOICED MY OBJECTION to do abortion-related services, I was terminated. It’s against my conscience. I became a nurse to protect lives, not to take lives.” – Sandra Mendoza, L.P.N. Take Action: Video: www.bit.ly/StandWithSandra

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.

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.

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

If you are suffering after an abortion, give yourself the gift of a Project Rachel Healing Retreat. To register for the March 24 retreat or for info. call Fonda at 239-719-7210 or project.rachel@dioceseofvenice.org

PERPETUAL ADORATION CHAPEL

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

Grand opening on Sunday, April 8th. The Epiphany Cathedral Perpetual Adoration Chapel will seat approximately 20 adorers. Parishioners from all parishes are invited to participate. To schedule a Holy Hour call Jenny (941) 441-7495.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

For employment opportunities in the Diocese of Venice, go to www.dioceseofvenice.org/employment

EPIPHANY SCHOOL DRAWING

The February winners were Jack & Debbie Mason of Bradenton with ticket # 1776.

EPIPHANY SUMMER STREAM CAMP

June 4-July27. Grades Pre-k thru 5. Full or half days. For info contact Nicole at (941)488-2215.

ST. RAPHAEL ACTIVITY CORNER		
Monday Mar. 12 through Sunday Mar. 18		
Monday	9:30AM	Cornerstone Bible Study
	1:00PM	Prayer Shawl Group
Tuesday	9:30AM	CCW Board Mtg
Wednesday	9:30AM	CCW Business Mtg
Thursday	7:00PM	K of C Officers Mtg
Friday	9:30AM	CCW Craft Group
Saturday/Sunday		

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.

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>.

MASS INTENTIONS

Monday Mar. 12 through Sunday Mar. 18		
Mon	8:30AM	Aldona Stanton Req. by the Marian Prayer group
Tues	8:30AM	Intentions of Helen & Tom Van-Wormer Req. by Ron & Wanda Cicilian
Wed	8:30AM	Joe Giambo Req. by his wife Mary Anne
Thur	8:30AM	Mark David Muczyk Req. by parents Jan & Jennie Muczyk
Fri	8:30AM	Elissa Sullivan Req. by residents of Gasparilla Condos.
Sat	8:30AM	Purgatorial Society
	4:00PM	Edward J. Wallace Req. by his wife Florence
	5:30PM	People of the Parish
Sun	7:30AM	Rose Saccomando Req. by her husband
	9:00 AM	Ronald Knox Req. by the Agan family
	11:00 AM	Kathleen Conway Req. by Jim & Annie Conway
Please remember in your prayers the sick of the parish and all who have gone before us in the faith.		