

**Dear Friends in Christ,**

*My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior...*  
—Luke 1:46–47

These words of Mary, spoken as she bore the Savior into the world, capture the heart of Christian joy and gratitude—for the gift of Jesus, the incarnate Son of God, and for the new life and countless blessings that flow from him.

As individuals and as the family of St. Raphael's Church, we too have welcomed Christ into our lives and sought to bring him into the world around us. Through times of deep loss and seasons of restoration, Jesus has remained our hope and our strength. Because he is the foundation on which we build, we look to the future with confidence.

One way you have "rejoiced in God our Savior" is through your faithful and generous financial support. Your gifts have sustained the daily ministry of St. Raphael's and enabled the restoration of the buildings where we worship, gather, and serve our community.

Thanks to your generosity:

- The rectory has been restored and is now rented.
- The Parish Hall is virtually complete and ready for use.
- And, God willing, we will once again proclaim the greatness of the Lord in our church on St. Raphael's Sunday, October 26.

While much work remains—completing the sacristy and chapel, and furnishing the church—we rejoice to return to the House of the Lord.

Looking ahead to 2026, we are embracing two key goals:

- 1. To deepen our life of worship and prayer, and to extend our outreach to the Fort Myers Beach community.**
- 2. To complete the restoration of the church building, creating a sacred space that reflects God's glory and welcomes all.**

I invite you to prayerfully consider your financial support for St. Raphael's in 2026. Please return the enclosed pledge card, indicating what you hope to give. Your pledge is both an offering of thanksgiving and a vital part of how we "magnify the Lord" together.

Thank you for your faithfulness, generosity, and love for this church. May God continue to bless you, your household, and the mission we share at St. Raphael's.

Yours in Christ's service,

**(The Rev.) Michael Rowe**  
Priest in Charge