

ANNOUNCEMENTS

from St. Raphael's
August 23, 2026

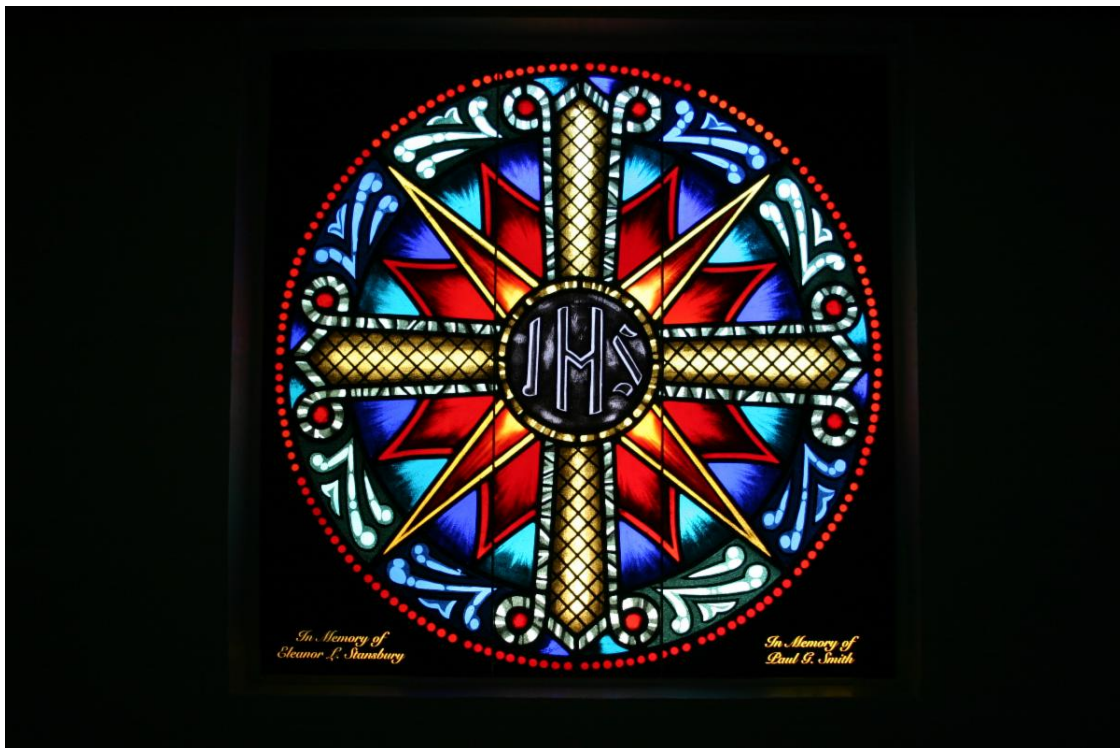
Join Us Every Sunday

Holy Eucharist

10:00 am at

5607 Williams Drive

All are invited - All are welcome!



Rooted in the teachings of Jesus Christ, we are committed to nurturing spiritual growth, fostering a sense of belonging, and serving our community with compassion.



ST. RAPHAEL'S

— EPISCOPAL CHURCH —

✠
August

WORSHIP SCHEDULE



DATE	CHALICE BEARER	READER
Sunday, August 2	Judy	Ellie
Sunday, August 9	Judy	Charles
Sunday, August 16	Judy	Ross
Sunday, August 23	Bob	Charles
Sunday, August 30	Bob	Ellie



Thank you for your faithfulness and service!

TOGETHER IN WORSHIP, TOGETHER IN CHRIST.



FROM THE HOLY GROUNDS KITCHEN

Coffee • Treats • Fellowship • Recipes

This Sunday's Menu-Pasta, Meatballs, and a Mystery

Joanne's Pasta Salad • Ellie's Cranberry BBQ Meatballs • A

Surprise Sweet from the Kitchen

Ellie's Almost-Too-Easy Apple Dump Cake

Dump it. Bake it. Eat it. No one needs to know how easy it was.

Ingredients

- 2 cans (21 oz. each) apple pie filling
- 1 box yellow cake mix
- 1 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- ½ teaspoon nutmeg—optional
- ¾ cup chopped pecans or walnuts—optional
- 1 cup (2 sticks) butter, melted

Directions

1. Heat oven to 350°F.
 2. Lightly grease a 9 × 13-inch baking dish.
 3. Spread the apple pie filling evenly over the bottom.
 4. Sprinkle cinnamon and nutmeg over the apples.
 5. Sprinkle the dry cake mix evenly over the apples. Do not stir.
 6. Add chopped nuts, if using.
 7. Slowly drizzle the melted butter over the cake mix, trying to cover as much of the surface as possible.
 8. Bake for 45–55 minutes, until the top is golden brown and the apple filling is bubbling around the edges.
 9. Let it sit for about 15 minutes before serving.
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A Message From Father Rowe

Dear members and friends of St. Raphael's,

Within [this Sunday's scriptures](#), the Old Testament reading begins the story of Moses and the deliverance of the people of Israel.

In Romans, Paul moves from his intense theological reflection to practical guidance for Christian living. Would you read this over on your own and consider what you might put into practice—or deeper practice?

The Gospel according to St. Matthew is the climactic moment when, as far away from Israel and Galilee as Jesus ever gets, in the middle of a pagan holy place, Simon Peter recognizes and proclaims who Jesus really is.

I have put together a booklet called *Reading the Bible: Why and How?* that may help your reading of scripture, especially passages like these. Copies are available at the back of the church and online.

And I encourage you to try out our regular weekly Bible study on Zoom.

Next Monday celebrates St. Bartholomew, one of the apostles. Lesser observances next week include [St. Louis](#), King of France on Tuesday and [St. Augustine of Hippo](#), one of the greatest leaders and theologians in the history of the church, on Friday. St. John the Baptist's [beheading](#) is commemorated on Saturday.

We are very sorry to report that our beloved music director, Kathleen Pignato, is seriously ill and in the hospital. She will know more about what comes next in a few days. Please pray for her and for her husband Mike.

Charles White will lead our singing for the next few weeks. The Wardens and I are exploring interim options. If you know of a musician who might fill in, please let Ellie know.

May God bless us and the saints pray for us,

(The Rev.) Michael Rowe
St. Raphael's Church, Fort Myers Beach
mgr3334@gmail.com
239-297-7245



Help Us Spread the Word

As you know, Father Michael will “re-retire” at the end of January, and we are working with Canon Norman and the Diocese as we prepare to search for our next priest.

Finding a priest today is somewhat different than it was in the past. There are fewer clergy seeking new positions, and some churches discover that a traditional search does not produce many applicants. Increasingly, parishioners themselves play an important role by spreading the word and helping identify clergy who might be a good fit for their congregation.

That's where you can help.

Think about the priests you have known over the years. Do you know someone who might enjoy serving a small, welcoming parish on Fort Myers Beach?

Perhaps you know a retired or semi-retired priest who would be interested in part-time ministry. If someone comes to mind, please let us know.

The same principle applies as we look for someone to help with our music ministry while Kathleen recovers. We are seeking an interim music director, and your friends and acquaintances may help us find the right person.

So please keep your eyes and ears open and help us spread the word. You never know where the connection that leads us to our next priest—or our interim music director—might come from.

If you would like to recommend someone or have questions about either search, please contact the Senior Warden at profbunting@gmail.com.

Sometimes the best connections begin with a simple conversation.

WHERE ARE YOU WORSHIPPING THIS SUMMER?



A few months ago, we asked people to send us photos of the churches they were attending over the summer. This is from Jack and Kathy Leson. [Click here for a link to their website where you can find an article on Kathy in their newsletter.](#)



Building and Grounds Update

Church & Sacristy Improvements

- We received a \$1,000 grant from Iona Hope, designated for improvements to the sacristy and church interior. Bob installed four new handrails and has ordered a cabinet and drawer base for the sacristy. We also moved a dresser into the sacristy to provide additional storage for linens, and the bulletin board is now up. The area is looking much better.
- The Jesus statue has been repaired, thanks to Judy Haataja.

Grounds & Columbarium

- The grass is growing with the recent rain, although much of what is growing appears to be weeds. The grounds committee is looking into using a weed-and-feed treatment to see if we can improve the lawn before the season begins.
- We are going to test the irrigation system this week to ensure that all of the sprinklers are working properly.
- We have funds available in the Columbarium account that can be used to improve that area. We are investigating ways to clean and brighten the granite, restore lettering that has become difficult to read, and reset pavers that have shifted. The landscaping around the Columbarium will also be addressed when the new landscaping is installed this fall.
- Phil and I have continued working on his idea for a memorial walkway for people who worshipped at St. Raphael's but will not be interred in the Columbarium. We have developed a preliminary plan, and Phil is gathering additional information about costs and construction options.

Hopefully, we will have something more specific to present to the committee this fall.

- Kathy Leson and her landscaping committee are planning to have the first phase of the project begin on October 5. We hope to have the new railing at the front of the church fixed before October 1.

Comfort Hall

- Comfort Hall is getting quite a bit of use, particularly by local nonprofit organizations and for special events. The Lions Club and Beach Kids Foundation held scholarship dinners there last month. The Woman's Club has a wine event scheduled for September, and Kiwanis will use the Hall for its volunteer dinner in October.
- Kevin would like to have a formal inspection completed before we begin actively advertising Comfort Hall as an event venue.
- We are continuing to explore ideas for occasional "pop-up" community events such as game nights, bingo, pancake breakfasts, lunch-and-learn programs, and similar activities. Kevin also has some ideas for events that could bring more people into the Hall and introduce them to St. Raphael's.

Sign on Estero Boulevard

- Phil is working on getting a St. Raphael's sign on Estero Boulevard. The owners of the condominium property have agreed to let us place the sign on their property. They now need to provide a plot plan. Once we have that, Sabal Signs can design the sign, obtain the necessary permit, and install it. Our goal is to have the sign in place by October.

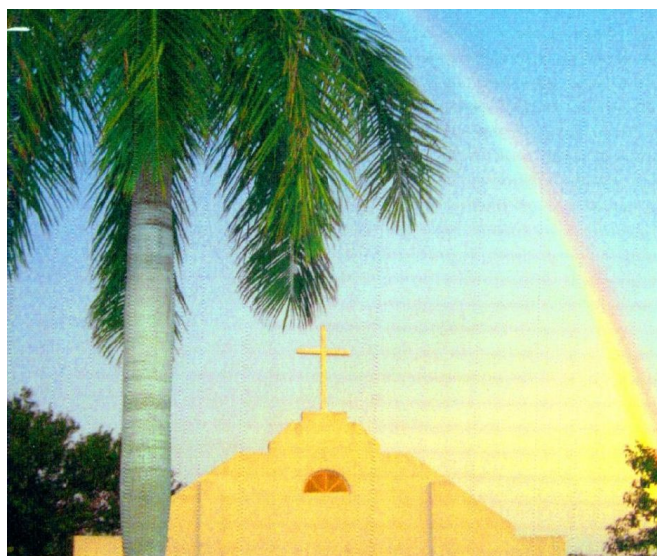
Fall Events

- Our first major event of the new season will be the Blessing of the Pets on October 3. Ann Fossum and Kathy Leson are working on the details, including finding a speaker, and we are exploring options for refreshments.
- St. Raphael's Day is also in October. We hope to have a brunch following the service.



Bible Study Continues

Kathy Leson has reminded us the the Bible Study will continue through the summer. Many are gathering for one hour of Bible Study on Wednesdays at 10:00 am eastern time via zoom. It is a wonderful way to continue our community family bonds while we are away for the summer. We invite others who have not experienced this fellowship and reflection to join us. Let Kathy Leson know at kathleenleson@gmail.com if you would like the zoom invite.



Help Us Increase Our Facebook and You

Tube Presence



Our online presence has been increasing recently thanks to our streaming videos and presence on Facebook and You Tube. You can help us out by visiting [St. Raphael's Facebook Page](#) and clicking Like/Follow. You can also help by subscribing to [Father Michael's YouTube channel](#). By liking us on FB and subscribing to Father's You Tube channel you will be helping our online presence which has advantages. For example, we need to have a certain number of subscribers to live stream on You Tube. Presently, we need to stream to Facebook, save the file, and then upload to Father's You Tube page. If we could stream live directly to Facebook, we could deliver faster to viewers and increase our audience.

St. Raphael's Episcopal Church

our mission

Healing, Hope & Hospitality

on Ft. Myers Beach

THANK YOU!

for your continuing financial contributions to St. Raphael's.

Your financial pledges and donations keep our ministries vital and enable us to rebuild for the future.

You can send your donations to

St. Raphael's Church
5601 Williams Drive
Fort Myers Beach, FL 33931

or you can donate by visiting [St. Raphael's Website](#)



St. Raphael's Episcopal Church | 5607 Williams Drive | Fort Myers Beach, FL 33931 US

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