

ANNOUNCEMENTS

from St. Raphael's
July 31, 2026

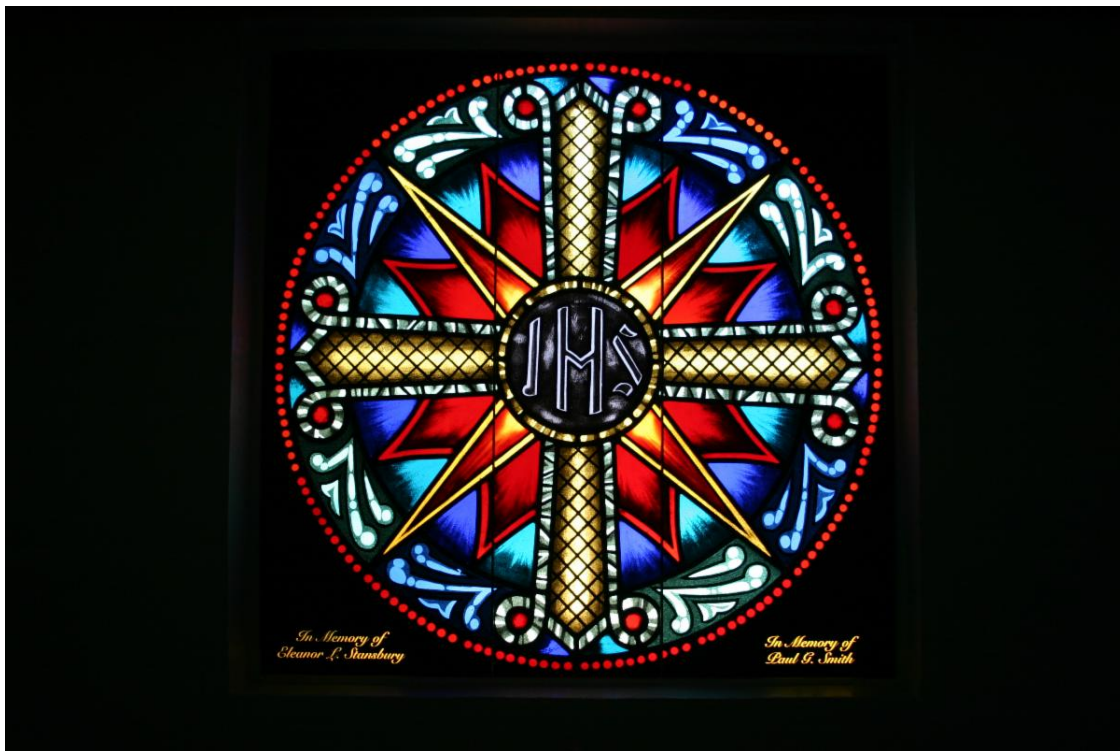
Join Us Every Sunday

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



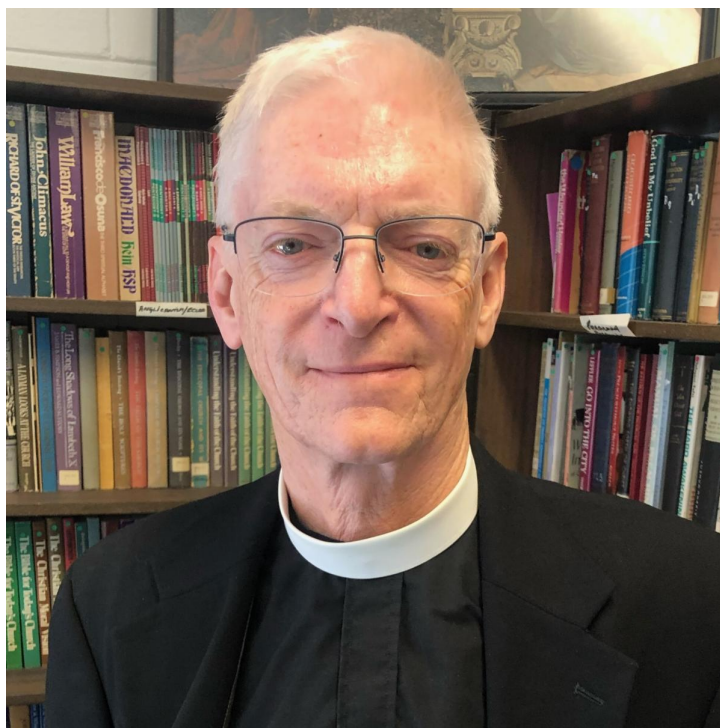
Thank you for your faithfulness and service!

TOGETHER IN WORSHIP, TOGETHER IN CHRIST.





Please join us for coffee hour in the parish hall immediately following the service. Ellie is going to attempt to make bread pudding.



A Message From Father Rowe

Dear members and friends of St. Raphael's,

[This Sunday's scriptures](#) continue the story of Jacob with the strange tale of how, the night before he is to meet his twin brother for the first time in 20 years – the brother he cheated and defrauded – he wrestles with a mysterious man throughout

the night, finally receiving a blessing and a new name – Israel, meaning “God contends” or “he who wrestles with God.”.

In Romans, Paul grieves for his fellow Israelites, inheritors of the promises that Jesus Christ fulfills.

The Gospel according to St. Matthew shifts gears from teaching and parables to the miraculous feeding of the 5000. What do you make of reports such as this one?

This week’s holy days include the [Feast of the Transfiguration](#) on Thursday, the commemoration of [John Mason Neale](#), a leader of the 19th century Anglo-Catholic movement who composed and wrote many hymns in our hymnal, on Friday, and [St. Dominic](#), a contemporary of St. Francis, founder of the Dominican Order and reformer of the Church in his day, on Saturday.

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 Find Our Next Part-Time Priest

If you know of a priest who may be a suitable fit for St. Raphael’s, please let us know. We are seeking someone who embraces our welcoming spirit, values meaningful worship, enjoys pastoral care, and appreciates the unique character of our island community. If you would like to recommend someone or have questions about the search, please contact the senior warden at profbunting@gmail.com.



Comfort Hall Hosted Lion's Club Scholarship Dinner

On Thursday evening, Comfort Hall was filled with excitement and celebration as more guests gathered for the Beach Lion's Club Scholarship Awards Dinner.

According to Lion's Vice President, Drew Yelle, the Lions will be presenting 15 students with scholarships for next year. The Fort Myers Beach Lion's Club has a long history on Fort Myers Beach and is best known for sponsoring the very popular Shrimp Festival each March.

Familiar Faces Return to St. Raphael's



One of the joys of being part of St. Raphael's is welcoming back friends whose lives have helped shape our church's history.

A couple of weeks ago, we had the pleasure of welcoming Ed and Margaret Kohler as they returned to Fort Myers Beach to celebrate their 40th wedding anniversary.

Ed and Margaret were active members of St. Raphael's during the 1990s and were deeply involved in parish life. Many longtime members will remember that it was Ed who launched what would become one of our most beloved traditions—the famous all-you-can-eat shrimp dinners that continue to bring our community together today. Although they now make their home in The Villages, it was a joy to have them back with us.



Then, last Sunday, we received another unexpected and welcome visitor. Beverly Hunt, the widow of the Rev. Don Nicholson, stopped by while visiting Phil and Paula Babcock. Bev was a faithful member of St. Raphael's during Father Don's ministry, and her visit brought back many fond memories for those who worshipped with him.

Father Don served as Vicar of St. Raphael's from September 2010 until his passing in August 2015. He came to the parish during a particularly challenging chapter in its history. Following the departure of Rev. Alice Marcum, the congregation was working to heal and move forward.

Father Don initially came to assist with services, and after meeting with the Bishop's Committee, he accepted the call to become St. Raphael's next vicar.

His life before arriving on Fort Myers Beach was remarkable. Ordained in 1965 after graduating from the Berkeley Divinity School at Yale, he also earned a bachelor's degree in education from George Washington University and a master's degree in theology.

He served both in the United States Marine Corps and the Merchant Marine, later earned a doctorate in Oriental Medicine, and even held an Ocean Master's License—a reflection of his lifelong love of the sea.

Yet those who knew Father Don remember him less for his impressive résumé than for his gentle heart and pastoral spirit. He believed the work of the Church was simple:

"For me, ministry is gathering up people, hearing their stories of joy and sorrow, celebrating and crying, forgiving, feeding, and teaching,

moving them out into the world that God so loves." -Don Nicholson, Beach Observer.

Many longtime parishioners recall Father Don as a calming, healing presence. He helped reunify and stabilize the congregation during a difficult period, placing pastoral care above controversy and strengthening St. Raphael's connection with the Fort Myers Beach community. His quiet leadership helped lay the foundation for the parish we know today.

Father Don passed away on August 10, 2015, while still serving as vicar. He was survived by Beverly, their children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren.

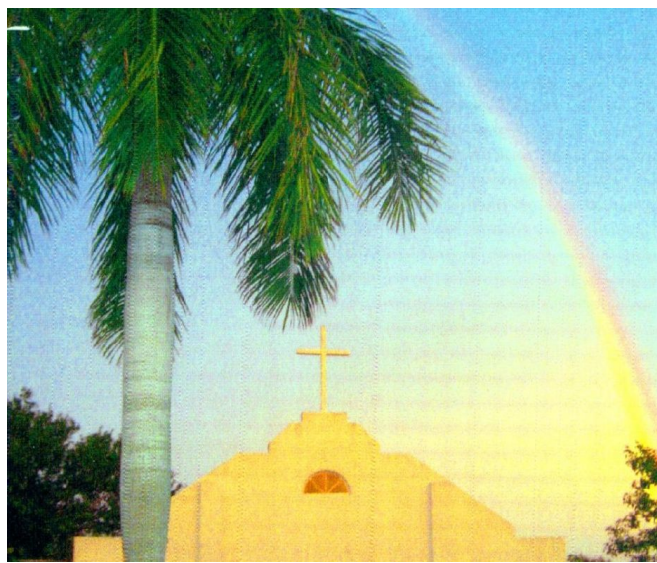
His legacy continues to live on in the life of St. Raphael's, and Beverly's recent visit served as a wonderful reminder of the faithful people who have guided and nurtured this parish through the years.

We are always grateful when former members and friends return to St. Raphael's. Their visits reconnect us with our shared history and remind us that, although people may move away, they will always remain part of the St. Raphael's family.



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.



Parish Profile Sent to Diocese

Canon Norman has received our parish profile and new budget for 2027. He will be reading the profile and making any suggestions for revision before it becomes finalized. He will then meet with the wardens via Zoom to begin planning the search process. Once the profile has been approved, we will post it on our website. Feel free to share it with potential candidates if you hear of anyone who might be interested in this position.

Help Us Increase Our Facebook and YouTube Presence



Our online presence has been increasing recently thanks to our streaming videos and presence on Facebook and YouTube. 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 YouTube 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 YouTube. Presently, we need to stream to Facebook, save the file, and then upload to Father's YouTube 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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