

ANNOUNCEMENTS
from St. Raphael's
May 22, 2026

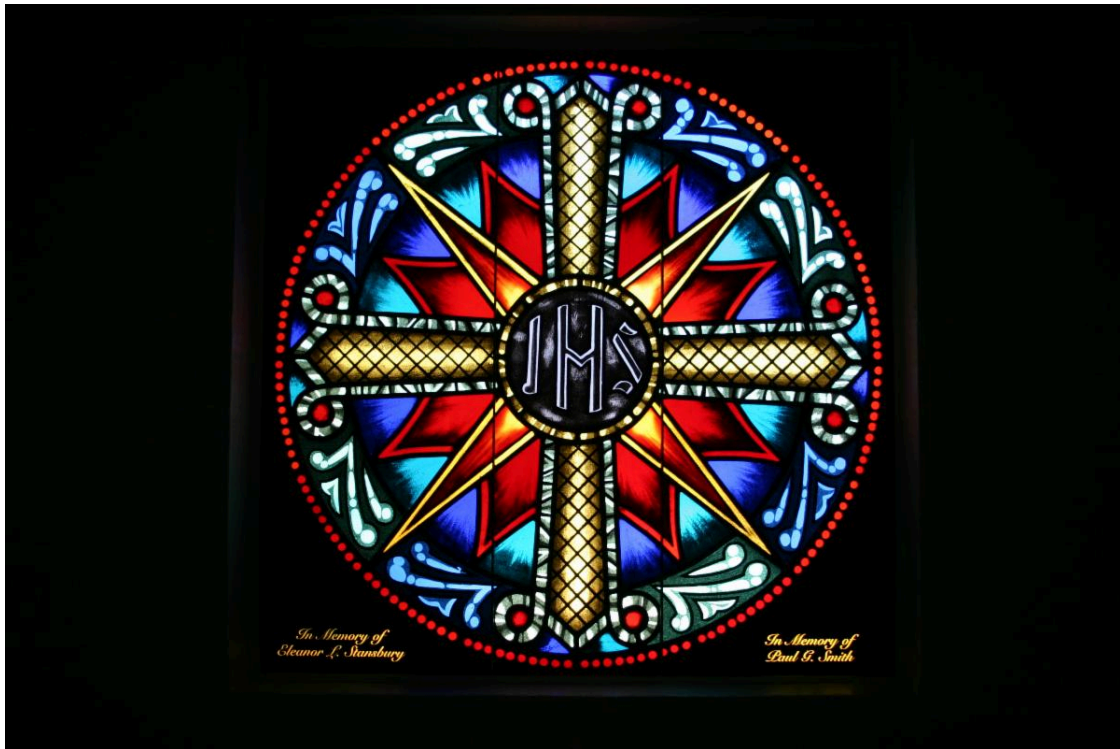
Join Us Every Sunday

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.



A Message From Father Rowe

Dear members and friends of St. Raphael's,

Alleluia, The Spirit of the Lord renews the face of the earth!
Come let us adore him. Alleluia!

As we approach the Feast of Pentecost, celebrating the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the first disciples and the birth of the Church, please continue to pray for our church and the whole Church in our time:

Come Holy Spirit,
refresh and transform the church;
Renew and restore the world;
Give to all people the mind of Christ
to love God completely and one another generously
to God's glory and our salvation. Amen

Here are the [propers](#) for Pentecost

.
Monday is Memorial Day, when we remember, give thanks for and pray for those who gave their lives in service of our country. You might use this prayer.

ALMIGHTY God, we remember before you the men and women of our country who in the day of decision ventured much for the liberties we now enjoy. Grant your mercy and the light of your presence to those men and women who have laid down their lives in the service of our country, especially those we name now .

. And give, O Lord, to the people of our nation a zeal for justice and the strength of forbearance, that we may use our liberty in accordance with your gracious will. This we ask through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Our Church invites us to give thanks for the Book of Common Prayer sometime during the week after Pentecost, using these propers . The Pentecost Ember Days are on Wednesday, Friday and Saturday. These are days of prayer for the ministry of the Church (see page 256 of the Book of Common Prayer.)

God bless you.
(The Rev.) Michael Rowe
St. Raphael's Church, Fort Myers Beach

Notes from the Bishop's Committee



The Bishop's Committee met on Wednesday for their regular monthly meeting. We will be meeting by Zoom until October when everyone returns. Kathy Leson presented a report on the clean up of the yard in preparation for planting in the fall.

All Native Nursery did not need as much time to complete the clean up as anticipated so we ended up with money left over to purchase plants when the time comes.

Ellie Bunting gave an update on the Columbarium Agreement that was approved last year. We have added information on the process to follow if anyone wishes to remove ashes from the Columbarium. This document, along with the approved Hurricane Plan will be posted on the St. Raphael's website under a new page called Church Operating Procedures.

Kathy Leson and Ross Miler have been working with the Diocese to apply for extra FEMA money that may be available for contents that we lost in Hurricane Ian. If funded, the remaining proceeds may help us purchase needed church furnishing including the altar rail, altar, and lectern.

We have also applied for two other grants from the Episcopal Church Charities and Iona Hope.

At our last meeting, the BC came up with dates for the shrimp dinners and other annual events. These are now posted on the website.

Ellie and Kathy had a Zoom meeting with Canon Norman last week. We discussed Father Rowe's departure and the process for getting a new priest. As we had heard before, there is a shortage of priests at this time. Many of the retired priests who used to fill in as supply or take part time positions has decreased since COVID.






Canon Norman suggested the official search should start sometime in the fall. The Diocese will do the advertising and will most likely make an appointment by the Bishop once someone suitable is found. He did state we should be prepared to fill in with supply priests from January 31 until someone is hired.

One solution to the priest shortage that the Canon mentioned is hiring a newly retired priest who would like to spend the winters in Florida with housing provided. For example, a church in Boca Grande hired a retired priest for October through April and will use supply priests and Morning Prayer in the slower months.

The Bishop will want to see a newly revised budget for 2027 that includes housing allowances (rent, utilities, etc) and other expenses we will incur once the new person is on board.



St. Raphael's MAY SCHEDULE

DATE	READER	CHALICE
 May 3, 2026	Kathy L	Jackie
 May 10, 2026	Charles	Morey
 May 17, 2026	Ellie	Morey
 May 24, 2026	Jackie	Bob
 May 31, 2026	Ellie	Bob



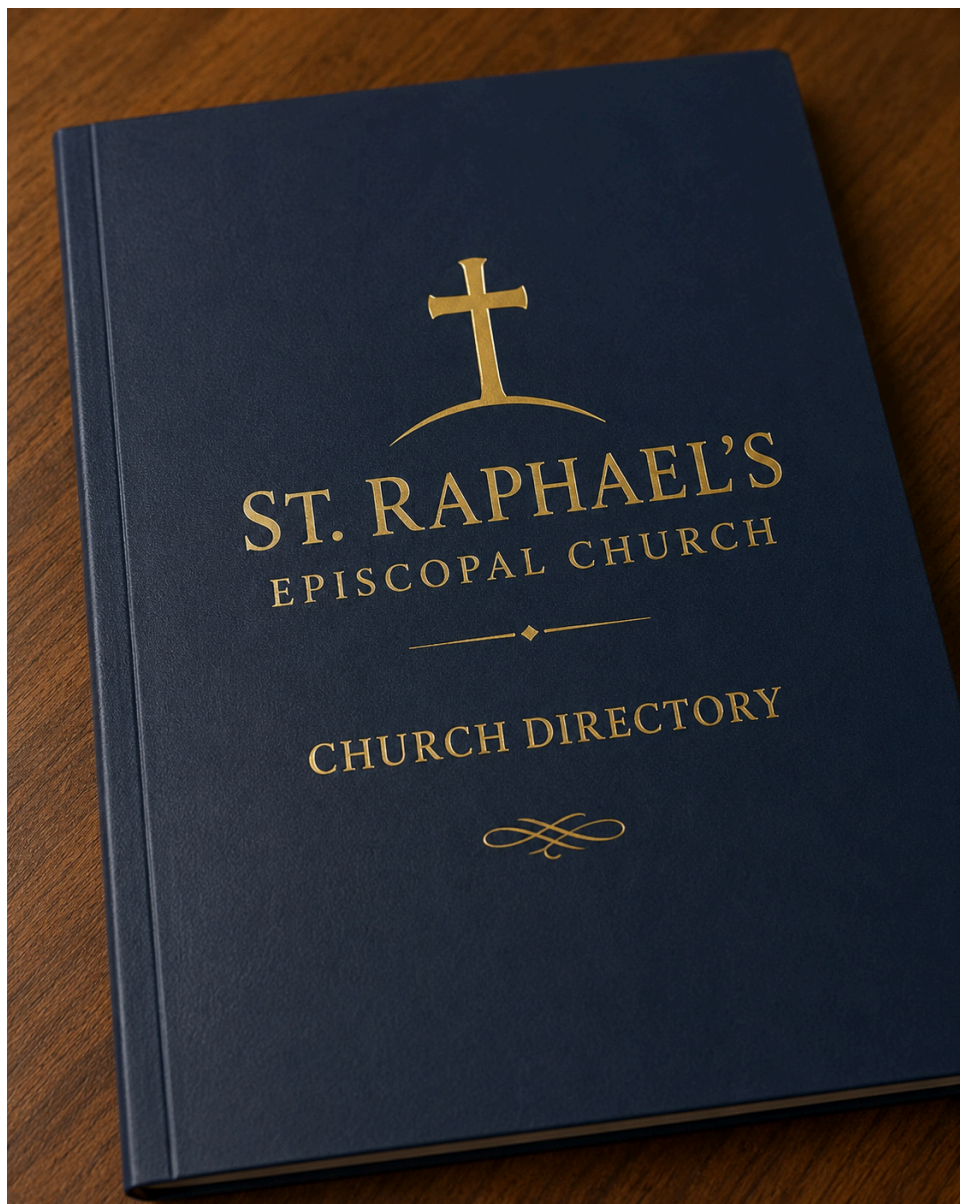
Thank you for your time and dedication
to our St. Raphael's community.

HELP WANTED

Now that summer is upon us, many of our regular participants have left until fall. Right now we have two people who are available to acolyte and administer the chalice. We have three people available to read. If Bob and Ellie are not available, the priest will not have any assistance at the altar. You do not need to be licensed to be an acolyte, so if you are going to be around over the summer and can step up, please let Ellie know. We will train you. The June schedule will be posted next week and you will see there are two Sundays where we have nobody available to assist at the altar.



Directory Help Needed



We are working on creating an updated membership directory as part of the Diocese's recommended hurricane preparedness plan. In the coming weeks, we will send out a form for you to complete so we can ensure we have your most current contact information in case we need to reach you during an emergency.

The information you provide will be entered into our secure database and may eventually be used to create a printed church directory featuring member photos and additional information about our parish family.



Do You Have a Generator You Don't Need?

The BC decided that we should purchase a generator in anticipation of the upcoming hurricane season. Before we do this we thought we would ask if anyone had a generator that was not needed that

could be donated to the church. If
so, please contact JoAnne at
office@straphaelschurch.org.

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](#)



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