

Dear Fellow Parishioners,

We are thrilled to be back in operation after Hurricane Ian. With most of our restoration work now complete, we can once again focus on creating a general budget that supports the core ministries of St. Raphael's.

We are inspired by how far we have come and can clearly see God's dream unfolding here at St. Raphael's. Ours is a vibrant, thriving congregation shaped by love, service, and outreach. We are blessed with a community of creative, caring people who continually find new ways to seek and serve Christ on Fort Myers Beach and beyond.

As we approach the end of the year, we want to share two important messages. First, we are called to share our gifts—the ideas, talents, and passions that God has placed within us. When we share these gifts, we help grow God's kingdom and cast the net wider.

Last month, you received a letter from Father Michael along with a pledge card. As the Bishop's Committee prepares our 2026 budget, it is essential that we have a clear sense of our anticipated income for the coming year.

As we return to our core mission of offering healing, hope, and hospitality to the residents of Fort Myers Beach, we also recognize that our expenses will be increasing. During reconstruction, we were spared many of the usual costs for utilities and maintenance. Now, with a part-time priest and a parish secretary on staff, our regular financial responsibilities have resumed.

We will continue to raise funds through our monthly shrimp dinners and special events; however, we still rely on your pledges of time, talent, and treasure. In the coming days, we invite you to pray, to listen, and to consider how you may continue sharing yourself with our parish community in all the meaningful ways that you do.

Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord!

With gratitude and faith,