

Generous Community

Loving God, Loving Each Other

“ I was at Raising Cane’s when a nicely-dressed boy handed me a leaflet and asked me “Have you accepted Jesus Christ as your personal Lord and savior?” I said, “Yes I have”. Then “Do you read the Bible?” “Yes, I do”. Whew! Lastly, he wanted to know if I went to a church. This boy was sharing the no-cost part of Christianity. Jesus and salvation is yours, no charge, no tithes. Salvation and forgiveness for the asking. But we know that a group of believers wants a space and time to share Gods love. A place where others are welcome to join and experience what we have.

How would I have answered his questions had I never walked into St. Raphael’s? Yes, it is a pretty building close to Michael’s and my house. But we would never have kept coming back were it not for the wonderful welcome and community that we experienced from the first moment. We need this space and all of you.

Could our giving alone be enough to meet all the church bills? Of course not. But combined with all of you, it could.



Carol Summers

St. Raphael Vestry Member

Mark tells us that Bartimaeus had faith that Jesus could heal him. The disciples tried to shoo him away, but he was persistent, and Jesus answered his plea. What is it in our lives that blinds us, and lets us shoo ourselves away from believing in, and accepting the grace and mercy of our God? As Stewards with restored vision, we can serve in ways that are yet unknown to us if we pray for our own blindness to be healed!



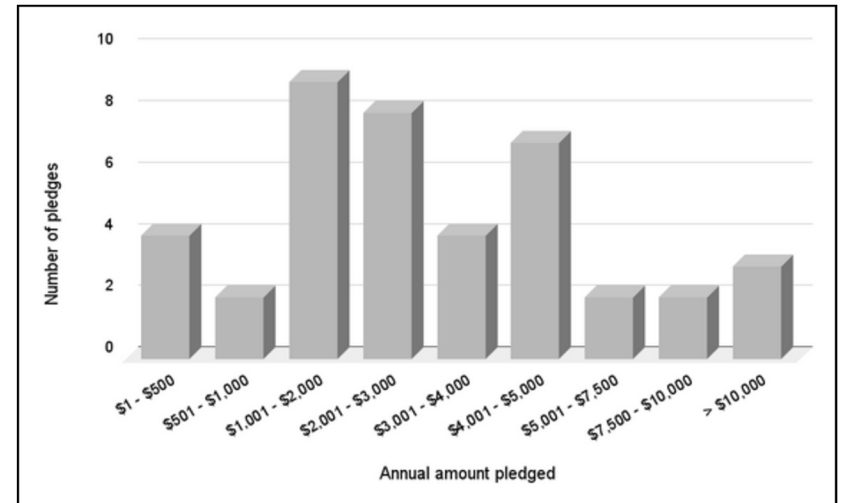
Make your 2025 pledge at sreclex.org/pledge

A DISTRIBUTION OF PLEDGES

Giving is between you and God, a generous response in recognition of and thanksgiving for all we have through the grace of God. When our offerings are brought to the altar, Rev. Helen says “...All things come of thee, and of thine own have we given thee.” (I Chronicles 29:14)

Yet, it is natural that we want to know how our giving compares to that of others in our congregation. The chart below shows the distribution of 2024 pledge amounts to the General Fund from the 40 households that submitted a pledge (estimate of giving).

Some non-pledgers give regularly, but because they have not expressed their intention, these gifts are more difficult to count on for budgeting purposes and are not included in the chart.



Questions about St. Raphael’s finances?
Email finance@sreclex.org for answers!