

Generous Community

Loving God, Loving Each Other

“ Growing up, my mother often told me that she never missed any money that she gave to a church. We would drive downtown from the suburbs to attend Mariner’s Church in Detroit, the “musty old hall” mentioned in Gordon Lightfoot’s ballad “The Wreck of the Edmund Fitzgerald”. My father would give my brother and I each a Kennedy half-dollar coin to put in the collection plate each Sunday.

I know from the church experience of my youth that regular church attendance, like faith, is a habit that gets easier the more you do it. I know from decades of church attendance at St. Raphael’s that when we aren’t here, we are missed by those who are. Your presence at worship is a gift to others *and* a gift to yourself. Join in and feel the presence of the Holy spirit.



Amy Smereck

St. Raphael Sr. Warden and
Vestry Member

The Summary of the law says it all...love God with all your heart, mind and soul, and your neighbor as yourself. It seems like such an insurmountable task. Who could possibly do this adequately? We can’t possibly completely attain these goals, but God is honored and satisfied if our efforts are reflected in a life lived in faith, gratitude for his gifts, and loving service to others



Make your 2025 pledge at sreclex.org/pledge

MANY WAYS TO GIVE



Give your **time** to St. Raphael’s. Your regular presence at worship, committee meetings, and fellowship events makes our community stronger and more vibrant. Do you have time to volunteer in the church office and answer the phone? Can you call or visit parishioners who are home-bound? Can you wheel the garbage and recycling bins out to the curb and back again, or empty the dishwasher? These kind acts of service to our church community may seem small but they are important.



Give your **talents**. Can you teach, make repairs, clean, run errands, plan events, write newsletter articles? Do you like to get your hands dirty in the garden, weeding and planting? Can you sing, or play an instrument? Do you have leadership skills you could tap to organize a fundraiser, or serve on a committee or on the Vestry?



Give your **treasure**. St. Raphael’s needs money to operate. Time and talents are wonderful to give, but our budget includes items that must be paid for in cash. Over the years St. Raphael’s budget has been trimmed of every ‘extra’ expense. There’s really nothing that can be cut without drastically changing the character of our worship experience. We simply must meet our goal of \$175,000 in pledges for 2025. Won’t you please do what you can to help us meet this goal?

“Give and it will be given to you... For the measure you give will be measured back to you.”

—Luke 6:38

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