





ST. RAPHAEL ORTHODOX CHURCH

Orthodox Church in America, Diocese of the South

1277 N. Paul Dr., Inverness, FL 34453

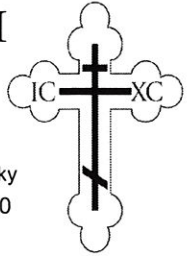
Fr. Sergious Gerken, Parish Priest

Warden Barbara Aldunate, Co-Warden Joel Miller, Secretary Lydia Wilcox, Linda Labosky

Please Visit: www.straphaelchurch.org

Church: 352-201-1320

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SUNDAY, FEB. 28, 2021 - SUNDAY OF THE PRODIGAL SON - Tone 5.

Second Sunday of the Lenten Triodion.

HOLY WORSHIP THIS WEEK

Sat.: Great Vespers 4:00 PM
Sun: Reading of the Hours 9:45 AM
Divine Liturgy - Prodigal Son 10:00 AM
Thu.: Akathist to St. Herman 4:00 PM

Confessions: Ask Fr. Sergious for a time

Please bring a donation of food on Sunday for the Citrus County Family Resource Center.

DAILY SCRIPTURE READINGS

Mon: 1 John 2:18-3:10, Mark 11:1-11
Tue: 1 John 3:11-20, Mark 14:10-42
Wed: 1 John 3:21-4:6, Mark 14:43-15:1
Thu: 1 John 4:20-5:21, Mark 15:1-15
Fri: 2 John 1:1-13, Mark 15:22-25; 33-41
Sat: 1 Thessalonians 4:13-17, John 5:24-30, 1 Corinthians 10:23-28, Luke 21:8-9; 25-27; 33-36

+EPISTLE+ (1 Corinthians 6:12-20) Brethren, All things are lawful for me, but all things are not helpful. All things are lawful for me, but I will not be brought under the power of any. Foods for the stomach and the stomach for foods, but God will destroy both it and them. Now the body is not for sexual immorality but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body. And God both raised up the Lord and will also raise us up by His power. Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Shall I then take the members of Christ and make them members of a harlot? Certainly not! Or do you not know that he who is joined to a harlot is one body with her? For "the two," He says, "shall become one flesh." But he who is joined to the Lord is one spirit with Him. Flee sexual immorality. Every sin that a man does is outside the body, but he who commits sexual immorality sins against his own body. Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's.

Choir Practice Sunday morning at 9 AM and Monday afternoon at 2:30 PM

+GOSPEL+ (Luke 15:11-32) Then He said: “A certain man had two sons. And the younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the portion of goods that falls to me.' So he divided to them his livelihood. And not many days after, the younger son gathered all together, journeyed to a far country, and there wasted his possessions with prodigal living. But when he had spent all, there arose a severe famine in that land, and he began to be in want. Then he went and joined himself to a citizen of that country, and he sent him into his fields to feed swine. And he would gladly have filled his stomach with the pods that the swine ate, and no one gave him anything. But when he came to himself, he said, 'How many of my father's hired servants have bread enough and to spare, and I perish with hunger! I will arise and go to my father, and will say to him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you, and I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Make me like one of your hired servants.”'” And he arose and came to his father. But when he was still a great way off, his father saw him and had compassion, and ran and fell on his neck and kissed him. And the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and in your sight, and am no longer worthy to be called your son.' But the father said to his servants, 'Bring out the best robe and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand and sandals on his feet. And bring the fatted calf here and kill it, and let us eat and be merry; for this my son was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.' And they began to be merry. Now his older son was in the field. And as he came and drew near to his house, he heard music and dancing. So he called one of the servants and asked what these things meant. And he said to him, 'Your brother has come, and because he has received him safe and sound, your father has killed the fatted calf.' But he was angry and would not go in. Therefore his father came out and pleaded with him. So he answered and said to his father, 'Lo, these many years I have been serving you; I never transgressed your commandment at any time; and yet you never gave me a young goat, that I might make merry with my friends. But as soon as this son of yours came, who has devoured your livelihood with harlots, you killed the fatted calf for him.' And he said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that I have is yours. It was right that we should make merry and be glad, for your brother was dead and is alive again, and was lost and is found.'”

<p>THE GIFTS - FEB. 21</p> <p>Attendance - 30</p> <p>Regular Offerings 2442</p> <p>Candles 119</p> <hr/> <p><i>We sincerely thank and bless Charles and Lou Ellen Davis for their ongoing generous donations.</i></p>	<p>MARCH BIRTHDAYS</p> <p>Michael Ornac - March 6</p> <p>Steve Pereny - March 12</p> <p>Marian Pirih - March 22</p> <p>Karen Cuttic - March 26</p> <p>Steven Vargas - March 31</p> <p>MARCH ANNIVERSARIES</p> <p>Martin & Sue Bane - March 11</p>	<p>VIGIL CANDLES - FEB. 21</p> <p><i>Margaret & Ken Wagner - Memory of our son Michael. Health of Nick, Pat, Dolores, Joseph.</i></p> <p><i>SD Paul & Judy - Health of Father S., SD Paul, Jim G., Stanley.</i></p> <p><i>Lilia Denisova - Memory of Raisa & Alexander. Health of Tatiana.</i></p> <p><i>Nancy Kinley - Health of Bill, Julianna & Family, Andrew & Family, Mary Ann H., Patricia, Joel, Judy, Patty, Nick & Pat. Memory of Anna.</i></p> <p><i>Nick Borick - Dolores, Eva, Mary Ann, Covid Nurses.</i></p> <p><i>Michael & Joyce - John & Jose Ornac, Joe & Helen Bartlet.</i></p> <p><i>Steve Pereny - Health & Salvation of Nicole, Steven, Family.</i></p>
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IT'S NEVER TOO LATE TO REPENT

Throughout His public ministry, Christ preached the message of repentance, and stressed the forgiving nature of His Heavenly Father. Today our Holy Church places before us the most classic example of this: The Parable of the PRODIGAL SON.

In this well-known story, the younger son impatiently demands his share of his promised inheritance, and sets out on his own. He soon finds, however, that his new-found independence and wealth do not bring him happiness. His fortune disappears very quickly. Soon, he is left with nothing.

From the depths of his despair, the Prodigal Son has one glimmer of hope: his Father. Swallowing his pride and recognizing the folly of his wasteful and sinful behavior, the Prodigal Son begins his long journey home. He hopes that his Father will, at least, treat him like one of the servants.

The welcome he received, however, went far beyond his expectations. His Father and his entire household rejoiced that this "lost son" had returned home safely! No lectures or reprimands were given; only the warm embrace of a father delighted that his son had returned to his home and to his senses.

Sin brings all of us down to the level experienced by the Prodigal Son. At such times, we are confronted with two distinct choices: remain in such a hopeless state, or follow the example of the Prodigal Son and "arise and return to our Father." It is never too late to repent. Our Heavenly Father awaits our return to Him with outstretched loving arms. His capacity to forgive is without limit. Let us remember this in this season of repentance.

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