



BEHEADING OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST



A star football player, drafted by a team in the NFL, faced a grave decision. He decided, after much prayer and thought, not to play professional football. His reason was that playing in the league would interfere with his keeping of Sunday as the Lord's Day!

That is what is called having a standard in life, a value, which a person will uphold at all costs. This is what is so lacking as we look at people in all walks of life today. There has been compromise with God's standards and laws.

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST had a high moral standard. When King Herod married his brother's wife, John went to him and protested, saying it was against God's law. The king's standards were different from John's. Though he listened to the Baptist's admonition carefully, the king didn't change. The woman involved, Herodias, also lacked standards. In fact, she was so angry that she wanted John killed.

An opportunity for just that came at a birthday party. The daughter of Herodias, Salome, danced for the crowd, and so delighted the king that he promised to give her whatever she asked. After consultation with her mother, Salome asked for the head of John. The King ordered the Baptist decapitated, and soldiers carried out this gruesome task.

And so each year the Church honors the man with high standards, who refused to compromise his deep-seated beliefs. He paid with his life, for what he believed. That man, "the greatest born of woman," was St. John the Baptist.



ST. RAPHAEL ORTHODOX CHURCH

Orthodox Church in America, Diocese of the South

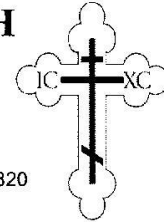
1277 N. Paul Dr., Inverness, FL 34453

Fr. Sergious Gerken, Parish Priest

Warden Barbara Aldunate, Co-Warden Joel Miller, Treasurer Linda Labosky

Please Visit: **www: straphaelchurch.org** Church: 352-201-1320

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SUNDAY, AUG. 29, 2021 - 10th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST - Tone 1.
The Beheading of the Holy Glorious Prophet, Forerunner, and Baptist John.

HOLY WORSHIP THIS WEEK	<i>Please join us after Divine Liturgy for a Coffee Fellowship in Myrrhbearers Hall Confessions - Ask Fr. Sergious for a time</i>	DAILY SCRIPTURE READINGS
Sat: Great Vespers 4:00 PM		Mon: 2 Corinthians 2:4-15, Matthew 23:13-22
Sun: Reading of The Hours 9:45 AM Divine Liturgy 10:00 AM		Tue: 2 Corinthians 2:14-3:3, Matthew 23:23-28
Wed: Divine Liturgy 9:00 AM Church New Year		Wed: Isaiah 61:1-9, Leviticus 26, Solomon 4:7-15, 1 Timothy 2:1-7, Luke 4:16-22, Colossians 3:12-16, Matthew 11:27-30; 23:29-39, 2 Corinthians 3:4-11
Thu.: Akathist to St. Herman 4:00 PM		Thu: 2 Corinthians 4:1-6, Matthew 24:13-28
		Fri: 2 Corinthians 4:13-18, Matthew 24:27-33; 42-51
		Sat: 1 Corinthians 1:3-9, Matthew 19:3-12

+EPISTLE+ (1 Corinthians 4:9-16) Brethren: For I think that God has displayed us, the apostles, last, as men condemned to death; for we have been made a spectacle to the world, both to angels and men. We are fools for Christ's sake, but you are wise in Christ! We are weak, but you are strong! You are distinguished, but we are dishonored! To the present hour we both hunger and thirst, and we are poorly clothed, and beaten, and homeless. And we labor, working with our own hands. Being reviled, we bless; being persecuted, we endure; being defamed, we entreat. We have been made as the filth of the world, the offscouring of all things until now. I do not write these things to shame you, but as my beloved children I warn you. For though you might have ten thousand instructors in Christ, yet you do not have many fathers; for in Christ Jesus I have begotten you through the gospel. Therefore I urge you, imitate me.

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

+GOSPEL+ (Matthew 17:14-23) And when they had come to the multitude, a man came to Him, kneeling down to Him and saying, "Lord, have mercy on my son, for he is an epileptic and suffers severely; for he often falls into the fire and often into the water. So I brought him to Your disciples, but they could not cure him." Then Jesus answered and said, "O faithless and perverse generation, how long shall I be with you? How long shall I bear with you? Bring him here to Me." And Jesus rebuked the demon, and it came out of him; and the child was cured from that very hour. Then the disciples came to Jesus privately and said, "Why could we not cast it out?" So Jesus said to them, "Because of your unbelief; for assuredly, I say to you, if you have faith as a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move; and nothing will be impossible for you. However, this kind does not go out except by prayer and fasting." Now while they were staying in Galilee, Jesus said to them, "The Son of Man is about to be betrayed into the hands of men, and they will kill Him, and the third day He will be raised up." And they were exceedingly sorrowful.

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<p>THE GIFTS - AUG. 22</p> <p>Attendance 27</p> <p>Regular Offerings 237 Candles 75</p> <p><i>We sincerely thank and bless Charles and Lou Ellen Davis for their ongoing generous donations.</i></p>		<p>VIGIL CANDLES - AUGUST 22</p> <p><u>Dolores Lichatz</u> - Health of Joan. Health of Lois. Memory of John.</p> <p><u>Nancy Kintley</u> - Health of Bill, Julianna & Family, Andrew & Family, Mary Ann H., Patricia, Judy, Joel, Judith, Nick & Pat, Margaret W. on her birthday.</p> <p><u>Nick Borick</u> - Health of Eva, Ryan, Mary Ann H. Richard, Nick & Pat.</p> <p><u>Zina Juskin</u> - Memory of husband Vladimir Juskin.</p>
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