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ST. RAPHAEL ORTHODOX CHURCH

Orthodox Church in America, Diocese of the South

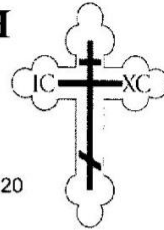
1277 N. Paul Dr., Inverness, FL 34453

Fr. Sergious Gerken, Parish Priest

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

Please Visit: **[www: staphaelchurch.org](http://www:staphaelchurch.org)** Church: 352-201-1320

Check our home page for new content, news and announcements



SUNDAY, AUG. 8, 2021 - 7th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST - Tone 6.
Afterfeast of the Transfiguration. St. Emilian the Confessor.

HOLY WORSHIP THIS WEEK		Please join us after Divine Liturgy for a Coffee Fellowship in Myrrhbearers Hall Confessions - Ask Fr. Sergious for a time	DAILY SCRIPTURE READINGS	
Sat: Great Vespers	4:00 PM		Mon: Solomon 3:1-9; 4:7-15; 5:15-6:3, Matthew 11:27-30; 16:1-6, Galatians 5:22-6:2, Luke 6:17-23, 1 Corinthians 9:13-18	
Sun: Reading of The Hours	9:45 AM		Tue: 1 Corinthians 10:5-12, Matthew 16:6-12	
Divine Liturgy			Wed: 1 Corinthians 10:12-22, Matthew 16:20-24	
Afterfeast	10:00 AM		Thu: 1 Corinthians 10:28-11:7, Matthew 16:24-28	
Mon: Divine Liturgy	9:00 AM		Fri: Proverbs 3; 8; 10-11:12, Solomon 4:7-15, John 10:9-16, Hebrews 7:26-8:2, Matthew 5:14-19; 17:10-18, 1 Corinthians 11:8-22	
St. Herman of Alaska			Sat: Romans 13:1-10, Matthew 12:30-39	
Thu.: Akathist to St. Herman	4:00 PM			

+EPISTLE+ (Romans 15:1-7) Brethren: We then who are strong ought to bear with the scruples of the weak, and not to please ourselves. Let each of us please his neighbor for his good, leading to edification. For even Christ did not please Himself; but as it is written, "The reproaches of those who reproached You fell on Me." For whatever things were written before were written for our learning, that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope. Now may the God of patience and comfort grant you to be like-minded toward one another, according to Christ Jesus, that you with one mind and one mouth glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore receive one another, just as Christ also received us, to the glory of God.

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

+GOSPEL+ (Matthew 9:27-35) When Jesus departed from there, two blind men followed Him, crying out and saying, "Son of David, have mercy on us!" And when He had come into the house, the blind men came to Him. And Jesus said to them, "Do you believe that I am able to do this?" They said to Him, "Yes, Lord." Then He touched their eyes, saying, "According to your faith let it be to you." And their eyes were opened. And Jesus sternly warned them, saying, "See that no one knows it." But when they departed, they spread the news about Him in all that country. As they went out, behold, they brought to Him a man, mute and demon-possessed. And when the demon was cast out, the mute spoke. And the multitudes marveled, saying, "It was never seen like this in Israel!" But the Pharisees said, "He casts out demons by the ruler of the demons." Then Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every sickness and every disease among the people.

Practice Christianity every day with each person you meet and each word you say.
Christ spoke saying: But those things which proceed out of the mouth come from the heart, and they defile a man.

*St. Mat. 15:18 Readings: St. Mat. 15:16-20. St. Mark 7:18-23, St. James 3:5-12,
Prov. 18:2-29:20R*

THE GIFTS - AUG. 1

Attendance 29

Regular Offerings 1735
Candles 73
Charity - St. Raphael
Parishioner Aid 181.35

*We sincerely thank and bless
Charles and Lou Ellen Davis for
their ongoing generous donations.*

VIGIL CANDLES - AUGUST 1

Zina Juskin - Memory of Vladimir Juskin.

Nancy Kinley - Health of Bill, Julianna & Family, Andrew & Family, Mary Ann H., Judy, Patricia, Patty, Pat & Nick, Joel, Judith.

Fr. Sergious - Guidance for populus to follow the way of the Lord.

Nick Borick - Health Ryan, Richard, Eva, Mary Ann H., Nick & Pat.

THE LIFE OF ST. NIPHON

Well travelled and highly revered are two ways we now describe **ST. NIPHON**, Patriarch of Constantinople. Let us give proper recognition to his spiritual qualities that were at times questioned during his tumultuous life.

Niphon was born in Greece in the 15th century. The hand of the Lord touched him at an early age, and while still in his teens, he decided to embrace the monastic life. He lived in a number of monasteries, ultimately making his way to Mt. Athos, where he quietly intended to spend the rest of his life.

Young Niphon discovered, however, that God had other plans for him! He was first selected to be Archbishop of Thessalonika, and when the patriarchal throne was vacant, Niphon was elected Patriarch of Constantinople. His reign was brief, lasting only 3 years. Pressured by both RELIGIOUS and POLITICAL enemies, he was forced to live in exile. Some ten years later, Niphon was reinstated as Patriarch. Once again, his enemies prevailed and in less than a year, Niphon was put out of office. This proved to be a blessing in disguise for this saintly hierarch. He returned to the monastery of Dionysiou on Mt. Athos.

Niphon has been given credit for compiling the **"Prayer of the Departing of the Soul"** used in requiem services in our Church. This blessing is read upon the death of a believer, for the forgiveness of their sins. The saint fell asleep in the Lord in 1508 A.D. at the age of 90.

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