

## AN ACT OF CHARITY



St. Nicholas giving money to a poor father  
as a dowry for his three daughters



### THE EXAMPLE ST. NICHOLAS SET FOR US

**E**ach year, as we approach the celebration of our Lord's Nativity, our Church honors the memory of **SAINT NICHOLAS**, the 4th century Archbishop of Myra. He is revered and remembered by us primarily because he dedicated his life to following Christ's uncomplicated dictate: **TO LOVE ONE ANOTHER.**

And what a shining example of love this holy hierarch was! St. Nicholas loved his fellow man so much that he gave away everything he possessed to those who were in need. Perhaps the most popular tale of his generosity centers around his secretly throwing three bags of gold through the window of a house one night when he heard that a father was being forced to sell his three daughters into slavery because he was so destitute! This beloved

bishop had a special fondness for children, a love that has transcended time itself, for even in today's world, his kindly spirit touches the hearts of youngsters everywhere. St. Nicholas loved his Orthodox Faith so deeply that he was willing to defend it at any cost. He faced exile and possible execution at the hands of the Emperor Diocletian. He risked being removed from his episcopal office for striking the heretic Arius at the 1st Ecumenical Council in 325 A.D. Through these and other trials and tribulations during his lifetime, his love for Christ's Church never wavered!

Truly the life of St. Nicholas teaches us that love does conquer all! Without this great virtue, as St. Paul writes to the Corinthians, we are **NOTHING AT ALL!** May his memory inspire us.



## ST. RAPHAEL ORTHODOX CHURCH

*Orthodox Church in America, Diocese of the South*

1277 N. Paul Dr., Inverness, FL 34453

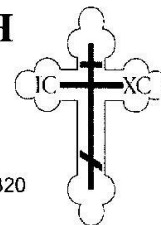
Fr. Sergious Gerken, Parish Priest

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

Please Visit: **[www: straphaelchurch.org](http://www.straphaelchurch.org)**

Church: 352-201-1320

Check our home page for new content, news and announcements



**SUNDAY, DEC. 5, 2021 - 24<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST – Tone 7.**  
**Ven. Sabbas the Sanctified (532).**

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: Proverbs 3; 8; 10-11:12, Solomon 4:7-15, John 10:9-16, Hebrews 13:17-21, Luke 6:17-23; 20:27-44, 2 Thessalonians 1:1-10
Sun: Reading of The Hours 9:45 AM Divine Liturgy 10:00 AM		Tue: 2 Thessalonians 1:10-2:2, Luke 21:12-19
Mon: Divine Liturgy 9:00 AM St. Nicholas		Wed: 2 Thessalonians 2:1-12, Luke 21:5-7; 10-11; 20-24
Thu.: Akathist to St. Herman 4:00 PM		Thu: Galatians 4:22-31, Luke 8:16-21; 21:28-33, 2 Thessalonians 2:13-3:5
		Fri: 2 Thessalonians 3:6-18, Luke 21:37-22:8
		Sat: Galatians 1:3-10, Luke 13:18-29

**+EPISTLE+ (Ephesians 2:14-22)** Brethren: For He Himself is our peace, who has made both one, and has broken down the middle wall of separation, having abolished in His flesh the enmity, that is, the law of commandments contained in ordinances, so as to create in Himself one new man from the two, thus making peace, and that He might reconcile them both to God in one body through the cross, thereby putting to death the enmity. And He came and preached peace to you who were afar off and to those who were near. For through Him we both have access by one Spirit to the Father. Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone, in whom the whole building, being fitted together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord, in whom you also are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit.

***Today is Charity Sunday – Citrus County Family Resource Center***

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

**+GOSPEL+ (Luke 17:12-19)** Then as He entered a certain village, there met Him ten men who were lepers, who stood afar off. And they lifted up their voices and said, "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!" So when He saw them, He said to them, "Go, show yourselves to the priests." And so it was that as they went, they were cleansed. And one of them, when he saw that he was healed, returned, and with a loud voice glorified God, and fell down on his face at His feet, giving Him thanks. And he was a Samaritan. So Jesus answered and said, "Were there not ten cleansed? But where are the nine? Were there not any found who returned to give glory to God except this foreigner? And He said to him, "Arise, go your way. Your faith has made you well."

***The Holy Myrrhbearers  
Annual No-Bake Bake Sale continues.***

***The concept is that bakers can donate what they would have spent on ingredients, parishioners can donate what they would have spent at the bake sale. All contributors will be included in the weekly drawing.***

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

<p><b>THE GIFTS - NOV. 28</b></p> <p>Attendance 36</p> <p>Regular Offerings 1026 Candles 113</p> <p><i>We sincerely thank and bless Charles and Lou Ellen Davis for their ongoing generous donations.</i></p>		<p><b>VIGIL CANDLES - NOV. 28</b></p> <p><u>Dolores Lichatz</u> - Health of Eric &amp; Jonathan, Mary Ann.</p> <p><u>Zina Juskin</u> - Memory of husband Vladimir.</p> <p><u>Nancy Kinley</u> - Health of Bill, Julianna &amp; Fam., Andrew &amp; Fam., Mary Ann H., Patricia, Patty, Joel, Pat &amp; Nick.</p> <p><u>Nick Borick</u> - Olga, Ryan, Richard, Mary Ann H., Nick &amp; Pat, Susan.</p>
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