

† Deacons of the Church †



ST. RAPHAEL ORTHODOX CHURCH

Orthodox Church in America, Diocese of the South

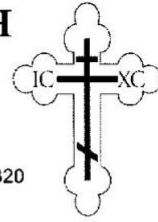
1277 N. Paul Dr., Inverness, FL 34453

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, JULY 25, 2021 - 5th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST - Tone 4.
The Dormition of the Righteous Anna, mother of the Most-Holy Theotokos.

HOLY WORSHIP THIS WEEK	Please join us after Divine Liturgy for a Coffee Fellowship Confessions - Ask Fr. Sergious for a time	DAILY SCRIPTURE READINGS
Sat: Great Vespers 4:00 PM		Mon: Solomon 5:15-6:3, 1 John 4:1-6; 20:5-5, John 10:9-16, Philippians 3:7-14, Mark 10:29-31; 42-45, Romans 16:17-24, Matthew 13:10-23
Sun: Reading of The Hours 9:45 AM Divine Liturgy Dormition of the Righteous Anna 10:00 AM		Tue: 2 Timothy 2:1-10, John 15:17-16:2, 1 Corinthians 1:1-9, Matthew 13:24-30
Thu.: Akathist to St. Herman 4:00 PM		Wed: 1 Corinthians 2:9-3:8, Matthew 13:31-36 Thu: 1 Corinthians 3:18-23, Matthew 13:36-43 Fri: 1 Corinthians 4:5-8, Matthew 13:44-45 Sat: Romans 9:1-5, Matthew 9:18-26

+EPISTLE+ (Romans 10:1-10) Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is that they may be saved. For I bear them witness that they have a zeal for God, but not according to knowledge. For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and seeking to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted to the righteousness of God. For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes. For Moses writes about the righteousness which is of the law, "The man who does those things shall live by them." But the righteousness of faith speaks in this way, "Do not say in your heart, 'Who will ascend into heaven?' (that is, to bring Christ down from above) or, 'Who will descend into the abyss?'" (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead). But what does it say? "The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart" (that is, the word of faith which we preach): that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

+GOSPEL+ (Matthew 8:28-9:1) When He had come to the other side, to the country of the Gergesenes, there met Him two demon-possessed men, coming out of the tombs, exceedingly fierce, so that no one could pass that way. And suddenly they cried out, saying, "What have we to do with You, Jesus, You Son of God? Have You come to torment us before the time?" Now a good way off from them there was a herd of many swine feeding. So the demons begged Him saying, "If You cast us out, permit us to go away into the herd of swine." And He said to them, "Go." So when they had come out, they went into the herd of swine. And suddenly the whole herd of swine ran violently down the steep place into the sea, and perished in the water. Then those who kept them fled; and they went away into the city and told everything, including what had happened to the demon possessed men. And behold the whole city came out to meet Jesus. And when they saw Him, they begged Him to depart from their region. So He got into a boat, crossed over, and came to His own city.

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 -JULY 11

Attendance 26

Regular Offerings 403
Candles 207

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

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

VIGIL CANDLES - JULY 11

Dolores Lichatz - Health of Nicholas, Nadean, Jack, Nicholas.

Fr. Sergious - Health & Happiness of Emma, Yaroslav, Dolores and Nicholas.

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

Zina Juskin - Memory of Vladimir Juskin.

Fr. Sergious - Health and Recovery of Joan Pereny and Barbara Aldunate.

Fr. Sergious - Health and Salvation of Joel and Theresa Miller.

Nick Borick - Health of Ryan, Eva, Olga, Nancy, Dolores, Nick & Pat.

"SEEK OUT FROM AMONG YOU SEVEN MEN"

In the sixth chapter of the Book of Acts, we read of a great problem developing in the early Church. To put it simply, the Apostles -- the first priests of the Church -- were becoming overworked! Today, we might say that they were on the verge of "CLERGY BURN-OUT." They rightly perceived that their primary mission was to preach the word of God and carry Christ's Gospel to the ends of the earth. This is precisely what their Master had instructed them to do. The phenomenal growth of the early Church, however, brought increased duties to the Twelve. The Church had assumed the responsibility for widows, orphans and the poor. The task of caring for them fell largely upon the Apostles. If the Apostles were expected to look out for the material needs as well as the spiritual concerns of their ever-increasing flock, then they would need some assistance.

Seven men, therefore, were selected to provide this aid, bringing about the establishment of the diaconate in the Christian Church. The original seven DEACONS of the Church were: "STEPHEN, a man full of faith and the Holy Spirit, PHILIP, PROCHORUS, NICANOR, TIMON, PARMENAS and NICOLAS, a convert from Antioch." (Acts 6:5)

Deacons continue to play an important role in the Church. They assist in the celebration of liturgical services, teach Church School and Bible Study classes and visit the sick. Many of the dedicated deacons of today's Church fulfill their tasks while still holding demanding secular jobs. Let us pray that more are inspired to seek the life of service for which deacons are called.

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