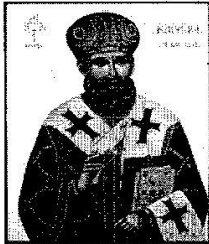


## † HOLY ASCENSION †

Thou hast ascended in glory, O Christ our God, and gladdened Thy disciples with the promise of the Holy Spirit; and they were assured by the blessing that Thou art the Son of God and Redeemer of the world.





## ST. RAPHAEL ORTHODOX CHURCH

*Orthodox Church in America, Diocese of the South*

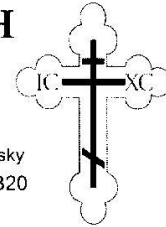
1277 N. Paul Dr., Inverness, FL 34453

Fr. Sergious Gerken, Parish Priest

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

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

Check our home page for new content, news and announcements



**SUNDAY, JUNE 6, 2021 - 6<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY OF PASCHA - Tone 5.**

**Blind Man.**

### HOLY WORSHIP THIS WEEK

Sat: Great Vespers 4:00 PM

Sun: Reading of The Hours 9:45 AM

**6<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Pascha**  
**Blind Man** 10:00 AM

Wed: Great Vespers 4:00 PM

Thu.: **Divine Liturgy -**

**Ascension** 9:00 AM

Akathist to St. Herman 4:00 PM

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

*Please join us*  
*after Divine*  
*Liturgy for a*  
*Coffee*

*Fellowship in*  
*Myrrhbearers*  
*Hall*

*Confessions -*  
*Ask Fr. Sergious*  
*for a time*

### DAILY SCRIPTURE READINGS

Mon: Acts 17:1-15, John 11:47-57

Tue: Acts 17:19-28, John 12:19-36

Wed: Acts 18:22-28; John 12:36-47

Thu: Isaiah 2:2-3; 62:10-63:3-9, Zechariah  
14:1; 4; 8-11, Mark 16:9-20,  
Acts 1:1-12, Luke 24:36-53

Fri: 1 Peter 1:3-19; 2:11-24, John 14:1-11;  
21:15-25, Acts 11:19-30; 19:1-8,  
Luke 10:16-21

Sat: Acts 20:7-12, John 14:10-21

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

**+EPISTLE+ (Acts 16:16-34)** Brethren: Now it happened, as we went to prayer, that a certain slave girl possessed with a spirit of divination met us, who brought her masters much profit by fortune telling. This girl followed Paul and us, and cried out, saying, "These men are the servants of the Most High God, who proclaim to us the way of salvation." And this she did for many days. But Paul, greatly annoyed, turned and said to the spirit, "I command you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her." And he came out that very hour. But when her masters saw that their hope of profit was gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the marketplace to the authorities. And they brought them to the magistrates, and said, "These men, being Jews, exceedingly trouble our city; and they teach customs which are not lawful for us, being Romans, to receive or observe." Then the magistrates rose up together against them; and the magistrates tore off their clothes and commanded them to be beaten with rods. And when they had laid many stripes on them, they threw them into prison, commanding the jailer to keep them securely. Having received such a charge, he put them into the inner prison and fastened their feet in the stocks. But at midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them. Suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken; and immediately all the doors were opened and everyone's chains were loosed. And the keeper of the prison, awaking from sleep and seeing the prison doors open, supposing the prisoners had fled, drew his sword and was about to kill himself. But Paul called with a loud voice, saying, "Do yourself no harm, for we are all here." Then he called for a light, ran in, and fell down trembling before Paul and Silas. And he brought them out and said, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" So they said, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved, you and your household." Then they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all who were in his house. And he took them the same hour of the night and washed their stripes. And immediately he and all his family were baptized. Now when he had brought them into his house, he set food before them; and he rejoiced, having believed in God with all his household.

**+GOSPEL+ (John 9:1-38)** Now as Jesus passed by, He saw a man who was blind from birth. And His disciples asked Him, saying, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" Jesus answered, "Neither this man nor his parents sinned, but that the works of God should be revealed in him. I must work the works of Him who sent Me while it is day; the night is coming when no one can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." When He had said these things, He spat on the ground and made clay with the saliva; and He anointed the eyes of the blind man with the clay. And He said to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which is translated, Sent). So he went and washed, and came back seeing. Therefore the neighbors and those who previously had seen that he was blind said, "Is not this he who sat and begged?" Some said, "This is he." Others said, "He is like him." He said, "I am he." Therefore they said to him, "How were your eyes opened?" He answered and said, "A Man called Jesus made clay and anointed my eyes and said to me, 'Go to the pool Siloam and wash.' So I went and washed, and I received sight." Then they said to him, "Where is He?" He said, "I do not know." They brought him who formerly was blind to the Pharisees. Now it was a Sabbath when Jesus made clay and opened his eyes. Then the Pharisees also asked him again how he had received his sight. He said to them, "He put clay on my eyes, and I washed, and I see." Therefore some of the Pharisees said, "This Man is not from God, because He does not keep the Sabbath." Others said, "How can a man who is a sinner do such signs?" And there was a division among them. They said to the blind man again, "What do you say about Him because He opened your eyes?" He said, "He is a prophet." But the Jews did not believe concerning him, that he had been blind and received his sight, until they called the parents of him who had received his sight. And they asked them, saying, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind?" How then does he now see?" His parents answered them and said, "We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; but by what means he now sees we do not know, or who opened his eyes we do not know. His is of age; ask him. He will speak for himself." His parents said these things because they feared the Jews, for the Jews had agreed already that if anyone confessed that He was Christ, he would be put out of the synagogue. Therefore his parents said, "He is of age; ask him." So they again called the man who was blind, and said to him, "Give God the glory! We know that this Man is a sinner." He answered and said, "Whether He is a sinner or not I do not know. One thing I know; that though I was blind, now I see." Then they said to him again, "What did He do to you? How did He open your eyes?" He answered them, "I told you already, and you did not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become His disciples?" Then they reviled him and said, "You are His disciple, but we are Moses' disciples. We know that God spoke to Moses; as for this fellow, we do not know where His is from." The man answered and said to them, "Why, this is a marvelous thing, that you do not know where He is from; yet He has opened my eyes! Now we know that God does not hear sinners; but if anyone is a worshiper of God and does His will, He hears him. Since the world began it has been unheard of that anyone opened the eyes of one who was born blind. If the Man were not from God, He could do nothing." They answered and said to him, "You were completely born in sins, and are you teaching us?" And they cast him out. Jesus heard that they had cast him out; and when He had found him, He said to him, "Do you believe in the Son of God?" He answered and said, "Who is He, Lord, that I may believe in Him?" And Jesus said to him, "You have both seen Him and it is He who is talking with you." Then he said, "Lord, I believe!" And he worshiped Him.

#### THE GIFTS - MAY 30

Attendance 40

Regular Offerings 1036  
Candles 71  
Myrrhbearers Hall 300

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

#### VIGIL CANDLES - MAY 30

Zina Juskin - Memory of husband Vladimir

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

Nick Borick - Eva, Olga, Judy, Mary Ann H., Ryan, Dolores, Pat & Nick.

Margaret & Ken Wagner - Memory of our son Michael / Health of Megan, Arlene

SD Paul & Judy - Health of Nick & Pat, Helen, Joel, & The Villages Orthodox Mission.



## A JOYFUL FAREWELL

One of life's most difficult tasks is to bid a final farewell to someone. What a sad and emotional experience this can be! With this in mind, it is, perhaps, a bit puzzling to read in St. Luke's account of our Lord's Ascension that the Apostles returned to Jerusalem "with great joy" after witnessing Christ's glorious departure from this world to His heavenly home. How could they possibly rejoice at the prospect of never seeing their Master again?

The joyful reaction of the Apostles to the Ascension indicates that they fully understood *WHO* Christ was, *WHAT* His mission encompassed, and *WHY* He couldn't remain with them on earth. Jesus was God Incarnate. He lived as a Man among us for one divine purpose: *TO SHOW US THE WAY TO ACHIEVE OUR SALVATION*. After accomplishing this through His teachings and His example, and after conquering death by virtue of His Resurrection, Christ's work here was finished!

In order to provide us with the greatest amount of assistance in our personal struggle to show our worthiness to be numbered among the righteous in God's kingdom, our Lord had to leave us. Still, He did not leave us as orphans! No, as He promised His disciples at the Mystical Supper prior to His Crucifixion, Christ's exit opened the door for the entrance of the Holy Spirit into the world, Who could *BE IN ALL PLACES AND FILL ALL THINGS!*

As we celebrate this Feast Day, let us do so joyfully! We are all disciples, called upon by the Saviour to obey Him, to live like Him, and to spread His Gospel to others. We eagerly await that wonderful day when He will come again with glory!

The Orthodox Weekly Bulletin . . . . . Vestal, Cliffwood, New Jersey . . . . . Litho in U.S.A.