



You seek
Jesus
Who was
crucified.
He is not here.

**HE IS
RISEN!**



ST. RAPHAEL ORTHODOX CHURCH

Orthodox Church in America, Diocese of the South

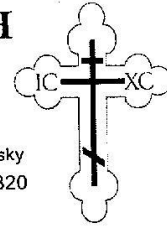
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Fr. Sergious Gerken, Parish Priest

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

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SUNDAY, MAY 16, 2021 - 3rd SUNDAY OF PASCHA -Tone 2. Myrrhbearing Women.

HOLY WORSHIP THIS WEEK	<i>Please bring a donation of food on Sunday for the Citrus County Family Resource Center.</i>	DAILY SCRIPTURE READINGS
Sat: Great Vespers 4:00 PM	Confessions - Ask Fr. Sergious for a time	Mon: Acts 6:8-7:5, 47-60, John 4:46-54
Sun: Reading of The Hours 9:45 AM		Tue: Acts 8:5-17, John 6:27-33
3 rd Sunday of Pascha Myrrhbearing Women 10:00 AM		Wed: Acts 8:18-25, John 6:35-39
Thu: Akathist to St. Herman 4:00 PM		Thu: Acts 8:26-39, John 6:40-44
		Fri: 3[1] Kings 8:22-23; 27-30, Isaiah 60:1-16; 61:10-62:5, John 6:48-54; 10:1-16, Acts 8:40-9:19; 26:1-5; 12-20
		Sat: Acts 9:20-31, John 15:17-16:2

+EPISTLE+ (Acts 6:1-7) Brethren: Now in those days, when the number of the disciples was multiplying, there arose a complaint against the Hebrews by the Hellenists, because their widows were neglected in the daily distribution. Then the twelve summoned the multitude of the disciples and said, "It is not desirable that we should leave the word of God and serve tables. Therefore, brethren, seek out from among you seven men of good reputation, full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business; but we will give ourselves continually to prayer and to the ministry of the word." And the saying pleased the whole multitude. And they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and the Holy Spirit, and Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolas, a proselyte from Antioch, whom they set before the apostles; and when they had prayed, they laid hands on them. Then the word of God spread, and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests were obedient to the faith.

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

+GOSPEL+ (Mark 15:43-16:8) Joseph of Arimathea, a prominent council member, who was himself waiting for the kingdom of God, coming and taking courage, went in to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Pilate marveled that He was already dead; and summoning the centurion, he asked him if He had been dead for some time. So when he found out from the centurion, he granted the body to Joseph. Then he bought fine linen, took Him down, and wrapped Him in the linen. And he laid Him in a tomb which had been hewn out of the rock, and rolled a stone against the door of the tomb. And Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Joses observed where He was laid. Now when the Sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, that they might come and anoint Him. Very early in the morning, on the first day of the week, they came to the tomb when the sun had risen. And they said among themselves, "Who will roll away the stone from the door of the tomb for us?" But when they looked up, they saw that the stone had been rolled away – for it was very large. And entering the tomb, they saw a young man clothed in a long white robe sitting on the right side; and they were alarmed. But he said to them, "Do not be alarmed. You seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He is risen! He is not here. See the place where they laid Him. But go, tell His disciples – and Peter – that He is going before you into Galilee; there you will see Him, as He said to you." So they went out quickly and fled from the tomb, for they trembled and were amazed. And they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.

Love suffers long and is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up; does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil; does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth; bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never fails.

1 Corinthians 13:4-8

THE GIFTS - MAY 9		VIGIL CANDLES - MAY 9
<p>Attendance</p> <p>Regular Offerings 1437</p> <p>Candles 217</p> <p>Charity – St. Raphael</p> <p>Parishioner Aid 353</p> <p><i>We sincerely thank and bless Charles and Lou Ellen Davis for their ongoing generous donations.</i></p>		<p><u>Dolores Lichatz</u> – Health of James & Susan. Memory of Wesley, William.</p> <p><u>Susanna Bane</u> - Health of Fr. Sergious and all Florida friends.</p> <p><u>Nick Borick</u> - Olga, Mary Ann H., Alexandra, Ryan, Nick & Pat.</p> <p><u>Nancy Kinley</u> - Health of Bill, Julianna & Fam., Andrew & Fam., Mary Ann H., Joel, Patricia, Patty, Pat & Nick. Memory of Mothers, Julia & Anna.</p>

THEY FOUND AN EMPTY TOMB!

The Church's celebration of Christ's Resurrection from the grave continues. This second Lord's Day after the Feast of Feasts is in commemoration of the MYRRH-BEARING WOMEN. What a lesson they provide us of faith, devotion, love and service to the Lord.

These were women who watched under the Cross as Jesus suffered and died. They watched when Joseph and Nicodemus took down the Lord's body from the Cross and carried it for burial. They watched at the grave as their Loved One was laid to rest. Apparently the internment was hurried since the great Feast of the Passover was at hand. How the women wanted to minister to the Lord at this time of need!

It is no wonder that as soon as the Passover was over, the women hurried to the tomb of Christ, armed with the proper ointment. It was still dark, but they knew the way. They wondered who would roll away the stone from the door of the tomb, but still kept going. Love would find a way.

And when they finally came to the tomb, they see to their surprise that the stone had been rolled back. They discovered that the grave is empty! An Angel of the Lord proclaims the good news: "You seek Jesus Who was crucified. He is not here. He is risen! Behold the place where they laid Him . . ."

The icon for today depicts the scene in a traditional way. The burial garments lie in place, but the body is gone. The angelic messenger bids them to hurry and tell the disciples of the Lord that He has risen from the tomb. But the women, trembling and astonished at what they have learned, depart in awe.

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