





ST. RAPHAEL ORTHODOX CHURCH

Orthodox Church in America, Diocese of the South

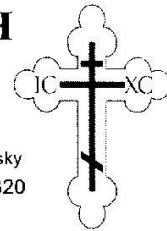
1277 N. Paul Dr., Inverness, FL 34453

Fr. Sergious Gerken, Parish Priest

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

Please Visit: **www: straphaelchurch.org** Church: 352-201-1320

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SUNDAY, MAY 9, 2021 - ANTIPASCHA. 2nd SUNDAY OF PASCHA -Tone 1.
St. Thomas Sunday. Happy Mothers Day!

HOLY WORSHIP THIS WEEK	<i>Please bring a donation of food on Sunday for the</i> <i>Citrus County Family Resource Center.</i> <i>Confessions-Ask Fr. Sergious for a time</i>	DAILY SCRIPTURE READINGS
Sat: Great Vespers 4:00 PM		Mon: 1 John 3:21-4:6; 4:11-16; 20-5:5, John 2:1-11; 21:15-25, 1 Corinthians 4:9-16, Matthew 13:54-58, Acts 3:19-26
Sun: Reading of The Hours 9:45 AM 2 nd Sunday of Pascha St. Thomas Sunday 10:00 AM		Tue: Proverbs 3; 8; 10-11:12, Solomon 4:7-15, John 3:16-21; 10:1-9, Hebrews 7:26-8:2, Matthew 5:14-19, Acts 4:1-10
Thu: Akathist to St. Herman 4:00 PM		Wed: Acts 4:13-22, John 5:17-24 Thu: Acts 4:23-31, John 5:24-30 Fri: Acts 5:1-11, John 5:30-6:2 Sat: Acts 5:21-33, John 6:14-27

+EPISTLE+ (Acts 5:12-20) Brethren: And through the hands of the apostles many signs and wonders were done among the people. And they were all with one accord in Solomon's Porch. Yet none of the rest dared join them, but the people esteemed them highly. And believers were increasingly added to the Lord, multitudes of both men and women, so that they brought the sick out into the streets and laid them on beds and couches, that at least the shadow of Peter passing by might fall on some of them. Also a multitude gathered from the surrounding cities to Jerusalem, bringing sick people and those who were tormented by unclean spirits, and they were all healed. Then the high priest rose up, and all those who were with him (which if the sect of the Sadducees), and they were filled with indignation, and laid their hands on the apostles and put them in the common prison. But at night an angel of the Lord opened the prison doors and brought them out, and said, "Go, stand in the temple and speak to the people all the words of this life."

Choir Practice Sunday at 9 AM and Monday, May 17 at 2:30 PM

+GOSPEL+ (John 20:19-31) Then, the same day at evening, being the first day of the week, when the doors were shut where the disciples were assembled, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in the midst, and said to them, "Peace be with you." When He had said this, He showed them His hands and His side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. So Jesus said to them again, "Peace to you! As the Father has sent Me, I also send you." And when He had said this, He breathed on them, and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained." Now Thomas, call the Twin, one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. The other disciples therefore said to him, "We have seen the Lord." So he said to them, "Unless I see in His hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into the print of the nails, and put my hand into His side, I will not believe." And after eight days His disciples were again inside, and Thomas with them. Jesus came, the doors being shut, and stood in the midst, and said, "Peace to you!" Then He said to Thomas, "Reach your finger here, and look at My hands; and reach your hand here, and put it into My side. Do not be unbelieving, but believing." And Thomas answered and said to Him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Thomas, because you have seen Me, you have believed. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed." And truly Jesus did many other signs in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name.

Today is Charity Sunday – St. Raphael Parishioner Aid.

<p>THE GIFTS - MAY 2 HOLY PASCHA</p> <p>Attendance - 48</p> <p>Regular Offerings 1214 Candles 329</p> <p><i>We sincerely thank and bless Charles and Lou Ellen Davis for their ongoing generous donations.</i></p>	<p>VIGIL CANDLES - MAY 2</p> <p><u>Lilia Denisova</u> - Raisa, Alexander, Anatolee, Svytoslav, Motrena, Vladimeer, Anna, Nataliy, Peter, Alex, Yong, Nicolas, Alla, Evgenay.</p>	<p>VIGIL CANDLES - MAY 2</p> <p><u>Lydia Wilcox</u> - Health & Faith of Jeremiah, Aydan, Anna. <u>Lydia Wilcox</u> - Health of Elijah Borek, Fr. Sergious, Fr. John. Faith of Barry Lee. <u>Nancy Kinley</u> - Health of Bill, Julianna & Fam., Andrew & Fam., Mary Ann H., Patricia, Joel, Patty, Pat, Nick. Memory-Anna, Stephen, Peter. <u>Susanna Bane</u> - Health of Fr. Sergious & Martin & Pamela. <u>Nick Borick</u> - Mary Ann H., Olga, Martin, Ryan, Pat & Nick. <u>Nina Butenko</u> - Health of Nina, Iwan, Tatiana, Alexandra, Cassandra. <u>Dolores Lichatz</u> - Memory of Paul, Dimitri, Tillie, Julian.</p>
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SEEING IS BELIEVING



Seeing is believing. We have all heard that age old adage, haven't we? It is quite possible that this saying originated with the story of St. Thomas, who expressed a similar philosophy in today's Gospel when he skeptically proclaimed in regards to Christ's asserted Resurrection: "Unless I see in His Hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into the print of the nails, and put my hand into His Side, I WILL NOT BELIEVE."

We know, of course, that Thomas got his wish, for Christ appeared to the Apostle eight days later when the doubting disciple was in their midst. He received sufficient proof to cry out with the others: My Lord and My God! Thomas SAW . . . Thomas BELIEVED.

In reality, however, "believing" has absolutely nothing to do with "seeing." When we experience something visually, we are dealing within the

realm of FACT and KNOWLEDGE. Faith does not enter the picture at all if something is proved to us beyond a shadow of a doubt. This is precisely why the words of our Lord in response to Thomas are so significant to us: "BLESSED ARE THOSE WHO HAVE NOT SEEN, AND YET STILL BELIEVED."

We all fall into this category. We have not been blessed with "first-hand" knowledge of our Saviour. His words never directly touched our ears. Our eyes never witnessed His miracles. We neither saw His Crucifixion, nor experienced His Resurrection. Still we continue to believe! We have shown FAITH in the writings of those who had KNOWLEDGE of our Lord. And for this, we will be rewarded, for the Gospels were written ". . . that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that BELIEVING, YOU MAY HAVE LIFE IN HIS NAME."