



SAINT MERCURIUS: A CHRISTIAN SOLDIER

The military played a major role in the life of people of the first century. Armies affected every person and every aspect of life in those years. It is no wonder, then, that Saint Paul in writing to the faithful of Ephesus speaks in military terms and bids them to fight evil as in a battle.

St. Paul writes: "My brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of His might . . . Take unto yourselves the whole armor of God . . . Stand, therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness . . . Above all, taking the shield of faith . . . and take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit which is the Word of God . . ." The great Apostle points to the foes of salvation, Satan and his wiles, endlessly attacking the believer. Certainly his words have relevance in our day as well. We are confronted each day by the secular forces of our materialistic culture. We, too, must arm ourselves as if in battle!

A number of soldiers of the early centuries of the Church, upon hearing the Gospel of Christ and seeing the virtuous lives of believers, embraced the Christian faith. Some did so secretly. One such soldier is the saint and martyr MERCURIUS. He was a warrior in the mighty Roman Army of the third century, who successfully fought the barbarians and became a great hero of the day. In fact, he is said to have been named a general by Emperor Decius. But some envious officers found out that he was a Christian and betrayed him to the emperor. Mercurius refused to deny his faith in Christ and to pray to the pagan gods of the Romans. He was martyred around the year 253.

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



ST. RAPHAEL ORTHODOX CHURCH

Orthodox Church in America, Diocese of the South

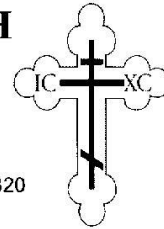
1277 N. Paul Dr., Inverness, FL 34453

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, NOV. 21, 2021 - 22nd SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST – Tone 5.
The Entry of the Most-Holy Theotokos into the Temple.

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: 1 Thessalonians 1:1-5, Luke 17:20-25
Sun: Reading of The Hours 9:45 AM Divine Liturgy 10:00 AM Entry of the Theotokos Into the Temple		Tue: Galatians 5:22-6:2, Matthew 11:27-30, 1 Thessalonians 1:6-10, Luke 17:26-37
Thu.: Akathist to St. Herman 4:00 PM		Wed: 1 Thessalonians 2:1-8, Luke 18:15-17; 26-30
		Thu: Hebrews 9:1-7, Luke 10:38-42; 11:27-28; 18:31-34, 1 Thessalonians 2:9-14
		Fri: 1 Thessalonians 2:14-19, Luke 19:12-28
		Sat: 2 Corinthians 8:1-5, Luke 10:19-21

+EPISTLE+ (Galatians 6:11-18) Brethren: See with what large letters I have written to you with my own hand! As many as desire to make a good showing in the flesh, those would compel you to be circumcised, only that they may not suffer persecution for the cross of Christ. For not even those who are circumcised keep the law, but they desire to have you circumcised that they may boast in your flesh. But God forbid that I should boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision avails anything, but a new creation. And as many as walk according to this rule, peace and mercy be upon them, and upon the Israel of God. From now on let no one trouble me, for I bear in my body the marks of the Lord Jesus. Brethren, the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. Amen.

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

+GOSPEL+ (Luke 12:16-21) Then He spoke a parable to them, saying: "The ground of a certain rich man yielded plentifully. And he thought within himself, saying, 'What shall I do, since I have no room to store my crops?' So he said, 'I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build greater, and there I will store all my crops and my goods. And I will say to my soul, "Soul, you have many goods laid up for many years; take your ease; eat, drink, and be merry."' But God said to him, 'Fool! This night your soul will be required of you; then whose will those things be which you have provided?' So is he who lays up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God."

***Please participate in the Holy Myrrhbearers
Annual No-Bake Bake Sale.***

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 a weekly drawing for items like wine, maple syrup, candles.

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 - NOV. 14

Attendance 41

Regular Offerings 1158
Candles 98

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

VIGIL CANDLES - NOV. 14

Dolores Lichatz - Health of Marlene, Mary Ann.

Margaret & Ken Wagner - Memory of our son Michael. Guidance for Zachary. Health of Jayne & Sue.

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

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

Zina Juskin - Memory of husband Vladimir.