



GREÆT MÆRTYR EUPHEMIA

A TIME TO OBEY AND A TIME TO RESIST

The story of the GREAT MARTYR EUPHEMIA is a story of CHOICES. She was born in Chalcedon in the third century - a time when Christians were still facing terrible persecution from the pagan Romans. Her parents were wealthy aristocrats but secretly devout Christians. They did their best to foster a love for the Lord within their daughter. Euphemia could have lived a life of luxury and still practiced her Christian faith quietly. Instead, she chose to vocally express her beliefs, even though she understood that by speaking out, she would face danger.

Euphemia's faith was put to the ultimate test when the provincial governor Priscus came to Chalcedon to celebrate a pagan festival. Some 49 Christians, led by Euphemia, refused to attend. When the angry Priscus discovered this insubordination, he had them brought before him and demanded to know why they had disobeyed his imperial command. Without hesitation, Euphemia spoke up: *"Both the Emperor's commands and yours must be obeyed if they are not contrary to the God of heaven. If they are, not only must they not be obeyed, they must be resisted."*

Furious with this defiant response, Priscus ordered the dissenters to all be tortured for 19 days. Euphemia was the target of the most brutal cruelties. First, she was tied to a wheel. Then she was thrown into a fiery furnace. Surviving these ordeals, Euphemia was thrown into a pit filled with poisonous snakes. After making the sign of the Cross, she remained unharmed! Finally, St. Euphemia suffered martyrdom after being severely mauled by wild beasts. Her remains rest in the famous Church of St. George in Constantinople.



ST. RAPHAEL ORTHODOX CHURCH

Orthodox Church in America, Diocese of the South

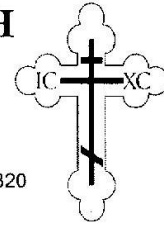
1277 N. Paul Dr., Inverness, FL 34453

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

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SUNDAY, SEPT. 19, 2021 - 13th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST - Tone 4.

Afterfeast of the Elevation of the Cross. Sunday after Elevation.

HOLY WORSHIP THIS WEEK

Sat: Great Vespers 4:00 PM

Sun: Reading of The Hours 9:45 AM

Divine Liturgy 10:00 AM

Afterfeast of the Elevation

After Divine Liturgy, there are baptisms at Hunter Springs Park in Crystal River. Parishioners are welcome.

Thu.: Akathist to St. Herman 4:00 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: 2 Corinthians 12:10-19, Luke 3:19-22

Tue: 2 Corinthians 12:20-13:2, Luke 3:23-4:1

Wed: 2 Corinthians 13:3-14, Luke 4:1-15

Thu: Galatians 1:1-10; 20-2:5; 4:22-31, Luke 1:5-25; 4:16-22

Fri: Isaiah 43:9-14, Solomon 3:1-9; 5:15-6:3, Luke 4:22-30; 12:2-12; 21:12-19, Romans 8:28-39, Galatians 2:6-10

Sat: Proverbs 3; 8; 10-11:12, Solomon 3:1-9, Matthew 11:27-30, Galatians 5:22-6:2, Luke 4:31-36; 6:17-23, 1 Corinthians 4:1-5

+EPISTLE+ (1 Corinthians 16:13-24) Brethren: Watch, stand fast in the faith, be brave, be strong. Let all that you do be done with love. I urge you, brethren – you know the household of Stephanas, that it is the firstfruits of Achaia, and that they have devoted themselves to the ministry of the saints – that you also submit to such, and to everyone who works and labors with us. I am glad about the coming of Stephanas, Fortunatus, and Achaicus, for what was lacking on your part they supplied. For they refreshed my spirit and yours. Therefore acknowledge such men. The churches of Asia greet you. Aquila and Priscilla greet you heartily in the Lord, with the church that is in their house. All the brethren greet you. Greet one another with a holy kiss. The salutation with my own hand – Paul's. If anyone does not love the Lord Jesus Christ, let him be accursed. O Lord, come! The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. My love be with you all in Christ Jesus. Amen.

+GOSPEL+ (Matthew – 21:33-42) “Hear another parable: There was a certain landowner who planted a vineyard and set a hedge around it, dug a winepress in it and built a tower. And he leased it to vinedressers and went into a far country. Now when vintage-time drew near, he sent his servants to the vinedressers, that they might receive its fruit. And the vinedressers took his servants, beat one, killed one, and stoned another. Again he sent other servants, more than the first, and they did likewise to them. Then last of all he sent his son to them, saying, 'They will respect my son.' But when the vinedressers saw the son, they said among themselves, 'This is the heir. Come, let us kill him and seize his inheritance.' So they took him and cast him out of the vineyard and killed him. Therefore, when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those vinedressers?” They said to Him, “He will destroy those wicked men miserably, and lease his vineyard to other vinedressers who will render to him the fruits in their seasons.” Jesus said to them, “Have you never read in the Scriptures: 'The stone which the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone. This was the Lord's doing, and it is marvelous in our eyes'?”

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

<p>THE GIFTS -SEPT. 12</p> <p>Attendance 30</p> <p>Regular Offerings 475 Candles 86 Priest's DOS Assemblies 1000</p> <p><i>We sincerely thank and bless Charles and Lou Ellen Davis for their ongoing generous donations.</i></p>		<p>VIGIL CANDLES - SEPT. 12</p> <p><u>Dolores Lichatz</u> - Health of David, John. Memory of William. <u>Zina Juskin</u> - Memory of husband Vladimir. <u>Nancy Kinley</u> - Health of Bill, Julianna & Fam., Andrew & Fam., Mary Ann H., Patricia, Joel, Judy, Patty, Pat & Nick. Memory of Margery. <u>Georgianne Vukmir</u> - Memory of Mary Ann. <u>Nick Borick</u> - Health of Eva, Olga, Ryan, Richard, Mary Ann H., Nick & Pat.</p>
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