



St. John the Theologian

"TAKE MY MOTHER, THE EARTH, AND COVER ME WITH IT!"

JOHAN THE THEOLOGIAN had won wide acclaim in the early Church as both an Apostle and Evangelist. Known as the *"beloved disciple,"* he had certainly done his part in spreading the message of our Lord. He preached throughout Asia Minor. He authored a deeply theological Gospel. He withstood torture, imprisonment and exile. Finally, at an advanced age of well over 100, John was permitted to return to the town of Ephesus and spend his remaining years in a place where much of his missionary work had been accomplished.

Sensing that his earthly life was rapidly coming to an end, St. John took a group of his loyal followers into the countryside on the outskirts of Ephesus. After spending time in prayer, the Theologian commanded his disciples to dig a grave, asking them to make it as deep as he was tall. John then climbed into the grave and made one final request: *"Take my mother, the earth, and cover me with it!"* Sadly, they carried out John's orders.

Returning to the city, John's mournful followers reported what had taken place. Tradition has it that a number of people went out and dug up the grave, only to find it empty! It is also said that on May 8th – the Feast Day of St. John the Theologian – a fragrant dust with miraculous healing powers, comes out of the tomb of this much-revered saint.



ST. RAPHAEL ORTHODOX CHURCH

Orthodox Church in America, Diocese of the South

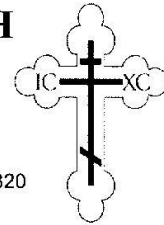
1277 N. Paul Dr., Inverness, FL 34453

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, SEPT. 26, 2021 - 14th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST - Tone 5.
Repose of the Holy Apostle and Evangelist John the Theologian.

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: Galatians 2:11-16, Luke 4:37-44
Sun: Reading of The Hours 9:45 AM		Tue: Solomon 3:1-9; 4:7-15; 5:15-6:3, Matthew 4:25-5:12, 2 Corinthians 4:6-15, Luke 5:12-16; 6:17-23, Galatians 2:21-3:7
Divine Liturgy 10:00 AM Repose of Evangelist John		Wed: Galatians 3:15-22, Luke 5:33-39
Thu.: Akathist to St. Herman 4:00 PM		Thu: Galatians 3:23-4:5, Luke 6:12-19
		Fri: Genesis 28:10-17, Ezekiel 43:27-44:4, Proverbs 9:1-11, Luke 1:39-49; 56; 6:17-23; 10:38-42; 11:27-28, Hebrews 9:1-7, Galatians 4:8-21
		Sat: 1 Corinthians 4:17-5:5, Luke 5:17-26

+EPISTLE+ (2 Corinthians 1:21-2:4) Brethren: Now He who establishes us with you in Christ and has anointed us is God, who also has sealed us and given us the Spirit in our hearts as a guarantee. Moreover I call God as witness against my soul, that to spare you I came no more to Corinth. Not that we have dominion over your faith, but are fellow workers for your joy; for by faith you stand. But I determined within myself, that I would not come again to you in sorrow. For if I make you sorrowful, then who is he who makes me glad but the one who is made sorrowful by me? And I wrote this very thing to you, lest, when I came, I should have sorrow over those from whom I ought to have joy, having confidence in you all that my joy is the joy of you all. For out of much affliction and anguish of heart I wrote to you, with many tears, not that you should be grieved, but that you might know the love which I have so abundantly for you.

+GOSPEL+ (Luke 5:1-11) So it was, as the multitude pressed about Him to hear the word of God, that He stood by the Lake of Gennesaret, and saw two boats standing by the lake; but the fishermen had gone from them and were washing their nets. Then He got into one of the boats, which was Simon's, and asked him to put out a little from the land. And He sat down and taught the multitudes from the boat. When He had stopped speaking, He said to Simon, "Launch out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch." But Simon answered and said to Him, "Master, we have toiled all night and caught nothing; nevertheless at Your word I will let down the net." And when they had done this, they caught a great number of fish, and their net was breaking. So they signaled to their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both the boats, so that they began to sink. When Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, "Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord!" For he and all who were with him were astonished at the catch of fish which they had taken; and so also were James and John, the sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. And Jesus said to Simon, "Do not be afraid. From now on you will catch men." So when they had brought their boats to land, they forsook all and followed Him.

Choir Practice Sunday at 9 AM

<p>THE GIFTS -SEPT.19</p> <p>Attendance 45</p> <p>Regular Offerings 592 Candles 222 Myrhhbearers Hall Renovation 100</p> <p><i>We sincerely thank and bless Charles and Lou Ellen Davis for their ongoing generous donations.</i></p>		<p>VIGIL CANDLES - SEPT. 19</p> <p><u>Dolores Lichatz</u> – Memory of William, Mary Ann. <u>Fr. Sergious</u> – Lord Guide and Direct our Nation <u>Nancy Kinley</u> - Health of Bill, Julianna & Fam., Andrew & Fam., Mary Ann H., Patricia, Joel, Judy, Patty, Pat & Nick, Olga K. & Mona. <u>Nick Borick</u> - Health of Fran, Eva, Olga, Mary Ann H., Richard, Ryan, Nick & Pat. <u>Zina Juskin</u> - Memory of husband Vladimir Juskin.</p>
---	--	--