





ST. RAPHAEL ORTHODOX CHURCH

Orthodox Church in America, Diocese of the South

1277 N. Paul Dr., Inverness, FL 34453

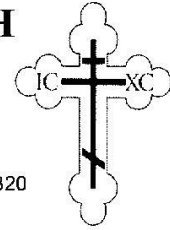
Fr. Sergious Gerken, Parish Priest

Warden Barbara Aidunate, 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, JULY 11, 2021 - 3rd SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST - Tone 2.
All Saints (Great Martyr Euphemia (451) & Olga Princess of Russia (969)).

HOLY WORSHIP THIS WEEK	<i>Please join us after Divine Liturgy for a Coffee Fellowship in Myrrhbearers Hall</i>	DAILY SCRIPTURE READINGS
Sat: Great Vespers 4:00 PM		Mon: Romans 9:18-33, Matthew 11:2-15
Sun: Reading of The Hours 9:45 AM		Tue: Romans 10:11-11:2, Matthew 11:16-20
Divine Liturgy 10:00 AM		Wed: Romans 11:2-12, Matthew 11:20-26
All Saints		Thu: 3[1] Kings 8:22-23; 27-30, Isaiah 60:1-16; 61:10-62:5, John 10:1-16, Galatians 1:11-19, Romans 11:13-24, Matthew 11:27-30
Thu.: Akathist to St. Herman 4:00 PM	<i>Confessions - Ask Fr. Sergious for a time</i>	Fri: Romans 11:25-36, Matthew 12:1-8
		Sat: Romans 6:11-17, Matthew 8:14-23

+EPISTLE+ (Romans 5:1-10) Brethren: Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God. And not only that, but we also glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance; and perseverance, character; and character, hope. Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us. For when we were still without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. For scarcely for a righteous man will one die; yet perhaps for a good man someone would even dare to die. But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him. For if when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life.

+GOSPEL+ (Matthew 6:22-33) The lamp of the body is the eye. If therefore your eye is good, your whole body will be full of light. But if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If therefore the light that is in you is darkness, how great is that darkness! No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon. Therefore I say to you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink; nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air, for they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? Which of you by worrying can add one cubit to his stature? So why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin; and yet I say to you that even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. Now if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is, and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will He not much more clothe you, O you of little faith? Therefore do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we wear?' For after all these things the Gentiles seek. For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.

THE GIFTS -JULY 4

Attendance 22
 Regular Offerings 793.45
 Candles 37.00
 Charity-St.Tikhon 110.00
 Myrrhbearers
 Hall Project 200.00

***Choir Practice Sunday
 at 9 AM***

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

VIGIL CANDLES - JULY 4

Susanna Bane – For the Health of Fr. Sergious, Martin, Nick & Pat, Mona & Curtis, Linda & Linda & All my Church Family. Please keep us in your prayers.

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

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

REFLECTING, WITH GLORY, THE IMAGE OF GOD

Whether we like it or not (and most of us do not!), a mirror does not lie. It always shows us exactly as we are, flaws and all. No matter what our own pre-conceived notions or perceptions of what our appearance may be, a mirror merely reflects our true self.

The Book of Genesis tells us that we have been made “in the image and likeness of God.” In like manner, those who profess to be Christians are said to be “mirror images” of our Lord. In other words, those around us should be able to look at us and see the reflection of Christ. All of our thoughts, words, deeds and feelings should be consistent with His actions. To put it simply, Christ must be constantly visible in us.

It is important to note that this does not happen without effort on our part. To reach the point where we can confidently say that we are “Christ’s reflection” requires a great deal of attention. Only through prayer, fasting, reading the Scriptures and living the Gospel can this be accomplished. We cannot be Christ-like if He does not dwell in our heart!

We must all allow God to mold and shape us into what He wants us to be. We are the masterpiece of His creation - “diamonds in the rough” - waiting to be refined and polished by our Creator. May we all strive to become Christians who truly reflect with glory the image of God that lies deep within us.

Icon by Fr. Paul Drozdowski — www.pd-icons.com

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