



Christ took upon Himself the sins of the World





ST. RAPHAEL ORTHODOX CHURCH

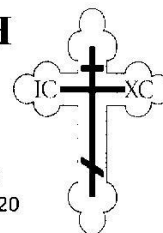
Orthodox Church in America, Diocese of the South
1277 N. Paul Dr., Inverness, FL 34453

Archpriest Fr. Theodore Pisarchuk, Priest-in-charge

Warden: Francis Duncan Treasurer: Georgeanne Vukmir Secretary: Lydia Wilcox

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

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SUNDAY, MARCH 29, 2020 – FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT – Tone 8.
St. John Climacus (of The Ladder). *Welcome Fr. John Chudik.*

A Warm Welcome to Our Guests ~ Welcome to St. Raphael Orthodox Church.
We are thankful for your visit and for praying with us. Please sign our Guest Book!

HOLY WORSHIP THIS WEEK		We are asking parishioners to please respect the fact that Fr. Sergious is on medical leave and not try to contact him. He is to be fully away from the church at this time. He is not answering his phone or reading texts or emails sent from parishioners, as is required.	DAILY SCRIPTURE READINGS
Sun.: Reading of The Hours	9:45 AM		
Divine Liturgy	10:00 AM		Mon: Isaiah 37:33-38:6, Genesis 13:12-18, Proverbs 14:27-15:4
St. John Climacus (of The Ladder)			Tue: Isaiah 40:18-31, Genesis 15:1-15, Proverbs 15:7-19, John 10:1-16, Hebrews 7:26-8:2
with Fr. John Chudik			Wed: Isaiah 41:4-14, Genesis 17:1-9, Proverbs 15:20-16:9
			Thu: Isaiah 42:5-16, Genesis 18:20-33, Proverbs 16:17-17:17
			Fri: Isaiah 45:11-17, Genesis 22:1-18, Proverbs 17:17-18:5
Choir Practice - Sunday 9:00 AM			Sat: Hebrews 9:1-7; 24-28, Luke 10:38-42; 11:27-28, Mark 8:27-31

+EPISTLE+ (Hebrews 6:13-20) For when God made a promise to Abraham, because He could swear by no one greater, He swore by Himself, saying, "Surely blessing I will bless you, and multiplying I will multiply you." And so, after he had patiently endured, he obtained the promise. For men indeed swear by the greater, and an oath for confirmation is for them an end of all dispute. Thus God, determining to show more abundantly to the heirs of promise the immutability of His counsel, confirmed it by an oath, that by two immutable things, in which it is impossible for God to lie, we might have strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold of the hope set before us. This hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast, and which enters the Presence behind the veil, where the forerunner has entered for us, even Jesus, having become High Priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek.

+GOSPEL+ (Mark 9:17-31) Then one of the crowd answered and said, "Teacher, I brought you my son, who has a mute spirit. And wherever it seizes him, it throws him down; he foams at the mouth, gnashes his teeth, and becomes rigid. So I spoke to Your disciples, that they should cast it out, but they could not." He answered him and said, "O faithless generation, how long shall I be with you? How long shall I bear with you? Bring him to Me." Then they brought him to Him. And when he saw Him, immediately the spirit convulsed him, and he fell on the ground and wallowed, foaming at the mouth. So He asked his father, "How long has this been happening to him?" And he said, "From childhood. And often he has thrown him both into the fire and into the water to destroy him. But if You can do anything, have compassion on us and help us." Jesus said to him, "If you can believe, all things are possible to him who believes." Immediately the father of the child cried out and said with tears, "Lord, I believe; help my unbelief!" When Jesus saw that the people came running together, He rebuked the unclean spirit, saying to it: "Deaf and dumb spirit, I command you, come out of him and enter him no more!" Then the spirit cried out, convulsed him greatly, and came out of him. And he became as one dead, so that many said, "He is dead." But Jesus took him by the hand and lifted him up, and he arose. And when He had come into the house, His disciples asked Him privately, "Why could we not cast it out?" So He said to them, "This kind can come out by nothing but prayer and fasting." Then they departed from there and passed through Galilee, and He did not want anyone to know it. For He taught His disciples and said to them, "The Son of Man is being betrayed into the hands of men, and they will kill Him. And after He is killed, He will rise the third day."

THE GIFTS-MAR. 22

Regular Offerings 598
Candles 30
Charity (C.C. Family
Resource Center) 40

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

**Many of our parishioners
cannot attend at this time, but
our expenses must continue to
be met. Please consider
sending in your weekly
donation to:**

**St. Raphael Orthodox
1277 N. Paul Dr.,
Inverness, FL 34453**

THE GARDEN BECAME A BATTLEGROUND

GETHSEMANE! The very word brings an awesome image into our minds. The icon on today's bulletin captures the vivid account of Christ in the Garden. Let us recount the biblical record of this event.

It was after the Mystical Supper that the Lord took His apostles to the place which He often frequented to pray. Now Jesus came there to prepare Himself to die. He took three of the Apostles, Peter, James and John, further into the garden. These were the three who saw Him once transfigured in all His glory; now they were to see Him suffer and weep.

Christ bid His friends to *"watch and pray,"* while He went on, falling to His knees and pouring out His heart and soul in agonized prayer. Sweat, like beads of blood, form on His brow as He contemplates the suffering to follow. Finally, Jesus prays: *"Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me. Let not My will but Thine be done!"* And the Father sent an Angel to strengthen Him for the agony to come.

There Jesus lies, exhausted, and we begin to realize what a price He had to pay for our salvation. As for the apostles, they were tired and asleep, unable to cope with the situation. The words of the Lord ring out: *"The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak . . ."*

What a picture we see of our Lord! His agony would end in complete submission to the will of the Heavenly Father. It is not to be interpreted as an act of weakness, but the fulfillment of a higher purpose. Jesus **CHOSE** to go to the crucifixion on Golgotha, in order to save mankind.

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