





ST. RAPHAEL ORTHODOX CHURCH

Orthodox Church in America, Diocese of the South

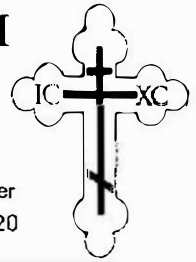
1277 N. Paul Dr., Inverness, FL 34453

Fr. Sergious Gerken, Parish Priest Home Phone: 352 503-9327

Warden: Stanley Borowski Treasurer: Aleksandra Riznik Vice Warden: Mark Casper

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

Check our home page for new content, news and announcements



SUNDAY, DEC. 15, 2019 – 26th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST – Tone 1.

A Warm Welcome to Our Guests ~ Welcome to St. Raphael Orthodox Church.

We are thankful for your visit and for praying with us. Please join us for Brunch at Myrrhbearers Hall following Divine Liturgy. We would like to get to know you. Please sign our Guest Book!

HOLY WORSHIP THIS WEEK

Sun.:	Reading of The Hours	9:45 AM
	Divine Liturgy	10:00 AM
Thu.:	Akathist to St. Herman	4:00 PM
Sat.:	Great Vespers	4:00 PM

Please bring a Donation of food each Sunday for the Citrus County Family Resource Center

Please invite our visitors to join you at Brunch in Myrrhbearers Hall

DAILY SCRIPTURE READINGS

Mon:	1 Timothy 5:1-10, Mark 9:42-10:1
Tue:	1 Timothy 5:11-21, Mark 10:2-12
Wed:	1 Timothy 5:22-6:11, Mark 10:11-16
Thu:	1 Timothy 6:17-21, Mark 10:17-27
Fri:	2 Timothy 1:1-2; 8-18, Mark 10:23-32
Sat:	Galatians 3:8-12; 5:22-6:2, Luke 13:18-29; 16:10-15

+EPISTLE+ (Colossians 3:4-11) When Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory. Therefore put to death your members which are on the earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. Because of these things the wrath of God is coming upon the sons of disobedience, in which you yourselves once walked when you lived in them. But now you yourselves are to put off all these: anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy language out of your mouth. Do not lie to one another, since you have put off the old man with his deeds, and have put on the new man who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him, where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcised nor uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave nor free, but Christ is all and in all.

Choir Practice Sunday 9:00 AM and every Monday at 2:30 PM

+GOSPEL+ (Luke 14:16-24) Then He said to him, "A certain man gave a great supper and invited many, and sent his servant at supper time to say to those who were invited, 'Come, for all things are now ready.' But they all with one accord began to make excuses. The first said to him, 'I have bought a piece of ground, and I must go and see it. I ask you to have me excused.' And another said, 'I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I am going to test them. I ask you to have me excused.' Still another said, 'I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot come.' So that servant came and reported these things to his master. Then the master of the house, being angry, said to his servant, 'Go out quickly into the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in here the poor and the maimed and the lame and the blind.' And the servant said, 'Master, it is done as you commanded, and still there is room.' Then the master said to the servant, 'Go out into the highways and hedges, and compel them to come in, that my house may be filled.' For I say to you that none of those men who were invited shall taste my supper.'"

Parish Council Meeting today after Brunch

Last day of the Holy Myrrhbearer No-Bake Bake Sale!

Instead of baking, please make a contribution. Instead of purchasing baked goods, please make a contribution. Every week someone who contributes will win a drawing for wine or other prize. Special envelopes are available in the narthex.

The 2020 Annual Parish Meeting is being held on Sunday, January 26, 2020, in the Temple after Divine Liturgy. Copies of the agenda, proposed budget & the 2019 Annual Parish Meeting minutes are now available in the narthex

<p>THE GIFTS - DEC. 8</p> <p>Attendance 57</p> <p>Regular Offerings 802 Candles 104 Brunch 69 Christmas Collection 100</p> <p><i>We sincerely thank the Charles E. Davis Funeral Home for its ongoing quarterly donation</i></p>	<p>7</p>	<p>VIGIL CANDLES - DECEMBER 8</p> <p>Susanna & Martin Bane - Health of Fr. Sergious, Martin, Pam, Linda & Paula.</p> <p>Nick & Pat Borick - Health of Dolores, Linda L., Mary Ann H., Isidora, Nick & Pat, Sue & Martin.</p> <p>Charles Kilgore - Health of Martha, Robert. Memory of Ariene.</p> <p>Nancy Kinley - Health of Bill, Julianna, Jakob & Zoe, Dolores, Fr. Sergious, Mary Ann, Jim, Peter.</p>
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GAINING SALVATION BY LOSING A LIFE

For many, the road leading to Christ is a long and winding one. Some of the Church's most revered saints initially lived sinful, shameful lives. The saints depicted on the cover of today's Bulletin – **BONIFACE** and **AGLAE** – bear witness to this.

Boniface and Aglae were both pagans living in an immoral relationship. Aglae, a very superstitious woman, convinced Boniface that he should travel to Asia and bring back a relic of a Christian martyr, which she thought would bring them good fortune, and would protect their household from evil.

Soon, Boniface arrived in Tarsus, where he witnessed a great number of Christians facing terrible torture for their beliefs. He was greatly moved by what he saw, repenting, not only for the unthinkable mission that had brought him to Tarsus, but for all of the sins of his life! Boldly, Boniface cried out among the other martyrs: **"I, TOO, AM A CHRISTIAN!"** Arrested immediately, Boniface was tortured and executed as well.

The servants who had accompanied Boniface to Tarsus brought his body back to Aglae. Prior to their arrival, an angel appeared to her, revealing to Aglae all that had happened. The angel left her with these words: **"TAKE HIS BODY BACK, FOR HE IS NOW THE GUARDIAN OF YOUR SOUL AND THE PROTECTOR OF YOUR LIFE."**

How ironic it is that the relic Aglae was to ultimately receive was that of her beloved Boniface! She buried his body and built a church over it. Giving away her many worldly possessions, Aglae embraced Christianity, and spent the rest of her life in penitence.

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