



An Ancient Mosaic of the Last Judgment.  
Christ is enthroned, separating the sheep from the goats.

## MEATFARE SUNDAY

Take this time to reflect  
on the ways you are serving the less fortunate  
mentioned by Jesus in the Gospel



## ST. RAPHAEL ORTHODOX CHURCH

*Orthodox Church in America, Diocese of the South*

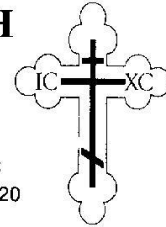
1277 N. Paul Dr., Inverness, FL 34453

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

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

Please Visit: [www.straphaelchurch.org](http://www.straphaelchurch.org) Church: 352-201-1320

Check our home page for new content, news and announcements



### SUNDAY, FEB. 23, 2020 – SUNDAY OF MEATFARE – Tone 3. Sunday of the Last Judgment.

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  
**Sunday of Meatfare**  
Tue.: **Vespers in The Villages** 6:30 PM  
*St. George Episcopal, 1250 Paige Place*  
Thu.: Akathist to St. Herman 4:00 PM  
Sat.: **Divine Liturgy** 9:00 AM  
**Memorial Saturday**  
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: Isaiah 40,41,45,48,54; Malachi 3,4;  
Solomon 4,5; Luke 7:17-30; 19:29-40;  
22:7-39, 2 Corinthians 4:6-15, Matthew  
11:2-15, 3 John 1:1-15  
Tue: Jude 1:1-10, Luke 22:39-42; 45-23:1  
Wed: Joel 2:12-26; 3:12-21  
Thu: Proverbs 3,8,10:1-31-11:12, Solomon  
4:7-15, John 10:1-16, Hebrews 13:17-  
21, Jude 1:11-25, Luke 23:2-34; 44-56  
Fri: Zechariah 8:7-17; 19-23  
Sat: Galatians 5:22-6:2, Matthew 6:1-13;  
11:27-30, Romans 14:19-23; 16:25-27

**+EPISTLE+ (1 Corinthians 8:8-9:2)** But food does not commend us to God; for neither if we eat are we the better, nor if we do not eat are we the worse. But beware lest somehow this liberty of yours become a stumbling block to those who are weak. For if anyone sees you who have knowledge eating in an idol's temple, will not the conscience of him who is weak be emboldened to eat those things offered to idols? And because of your knowledge shall the weak brother perish, for whom Christ died? But when you thus sin against the brethren, and wound their weak conscience, you sin against Christ. Therefore, if food makes my brother stumble, I will never again eat meat, lest I make my brother stumble. Am I not an apostle? Am I not free? Have I not seen Jesus Christ our Lord? Are you not my work in the Lord? If I am not an apostle to others, yet doubtless I am to you. For you are the seal of my apostleship in the Lord.

**Choir Practice - Sunday 9:00 AM & Monday 2:30 PM**

**+GOSPEL+ (Matthew 25:31-46)** When the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him, then He will sit on the throne of His glory. All the nations will be gathered before Him, and He will separate them one from another, as a shepherd divides his sheep from the goats. And He will set the sheep on His right hand, but the goats on the left. Then the King will say to those on His right hand, 'Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: for I was hungry and you gave Me food; I was thirsty and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger and you took Me in; I was naked and you clothed Me; I was sick and you visited Me; I was in prison and you came to Me.' Then the righteous will answer Him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry and feed You, or thirsty and give You drink? When did we see You a stranger and take You in, or naked and clothe You? Or when did we see You sick, or in prison, and come to You?' And the King will answer and say to them, 'Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me.' Then He will also say to those on the left hand, 'Depart from Me, you cursed, into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels: for I was hungry and you gave Me no food; I was thirsty and you gave Me no drink; I was a stranger and you did not take Me in, naked and you did not clothe Me, sick and in prison and you did not visit Me.' Then they will answer Him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to You?' Then He will answer them, saying, 'Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to Me.' And these will go away into everlasting punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."

St. Raphael Saint Day Luncheon today after Divine Liturgy at the Citrus Hills Country Club  
in the Garden Room, 509 E. Hartford St., Hernando, FL 34443

Myrrhbearer Easter Quilt Raffle. Helen Kaimer has handcrafted a beautiful full/queen bed quilt in shades of lavender and purple which could also be used as a wall hanging. Raffle tickets are \$5 each or three for \$10. The drawing will be conducted on Palm Sunday after church. The quilt is on display in the Narthex. See Helen Kaimer for Easter Quilt raffle tickets.

#### THE GIFTS-FEB. 16

Attendance 66  
Regular Offerings 919  
Candles 108  
Brunch 75  
In memory of Rose Marie  
Vandergrift 50

We sincerely thank the Charles  
E. Davis Funeral Home for its  
ongoing quarterly donation

#### VIGIL CANDLES - FEBRUARY 16

Margaret & Ken Wagner - Memory of Michael,  
Gerard, Mary. Health of Jennie, Sue, Roberta,  
George.

Nicholas Borick - Health of Olga, Isidora,  
Dolores, Nicholas, Ben, Alexsandra, Nancy,  
Mary Ann, Nick & Pat.

Nancy Kinley - Memory of Anna. Health of  
Bill, Julianna, Jakob & Zoe, Dolores, Peter, Jim,  
Margaret, Fr. Sergious. Memory Eternal  
Rose Marie.

Darcie Burkholder - Memory of parents Mike and  
Jane Gambo.

Alek Wereszczak - Memory of Margaret.



## WHAT A MESSAGE FOR OUR TIME!



In this **MEATFARE SUNDAY**, we are presented with an inspiring message of profound importance. In the Gospel of St. Matthew, Jesus instructs us of His standard of judgment. He informs us: **"Whatsoever you did to the least of these My brothers and sisters, you did to Me."**

Who are these **"least brethren"** that we are to minister to? The Lord identifies them in the Gospel narrative: the hungry, the thirsty, the stranger (homeless), the naked, the sick, the imprisoned – folks in our neighborhood and in our world. How are we to minister to them? By meeting their needs – with food, water, shelter, by comforting, by visitation – in a word, by caring and doing what we can to alleviate their dire needs.

Helping such people is a satisfying work in itself. Such ministration to others leaves a warm feeling in our souls. But, there is much more to this activity. What we do to people in such circumstances, we do unto Christ Himself! Imagine the impact of that identification. Our Lord, in a way, identifies Himself with the poor, the homeless, the sick, the suffering. And, even more, the result of such a caring, praying life, is to be embraced by the Lord in eternity.

Christ is the One who set an example for us. We have been given our instructions: **"Love one another, as I have loved you."** Will we follow them?

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