





ST. RAPHAEL ORTHODOX CHURCH

Orthodox Church in America, Diocese of the South

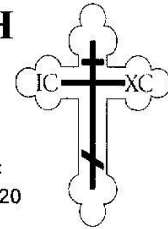
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Warden: Francis Duncan Treasurer: Georgeanne Vukmir Secretary: Lydia Wilcox

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

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**SUNDAY, FEB. 9, 2020 – Sunday of the Publican and the Pharisee – Tone 1.
Leavetaking of the Meeting. Beginning of the Lenten Triodion.**

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		Please bring a Donation of food each Sunday for the Citrus County Family Resource Center	DAILY SCRIPTURE READINGS
Sun.: Reading of The Hours 9:45 AM Divine Liturgy 10:00 AM Sunday of the Publican and the Pharisee			
Thu.: Akathist to St. Herman 4:00 PM		Please invite our visitors to join you at Brunch in Myrrhbearers Hall	Mon: 2 Peter 1:20-2:9, Mark 13:9-13
Sat.: Great Vespers 4:00 PM			Tue: 2 Peter 2:9-22, Mark 13:14-23
			Wed: 2 Peter 3:1-18, Mark 13:24-31
			Thu: 1 John 1:8-2:6, Mark 13:31-14:2
			Fri: 1 John 2:7-17, Mark 14:3-9
			Sat: 2 Timothy 3:1-9, Luke 20:46-21:4

+EPISTLE+ (2 Timothy 3:10-15) But you have carefully followed my doctrine, manner of life, purpose, faith, longsuffering, love, perseverance, persecutions, afflictions, which happened to me at Antioch, at Iconium, at Lystra – what persecutions I endured. And out of them all the Lord delivered me. Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer deceiving and being deceived. But you must continue in the things which you have learned and been assured of, knowing from whom you have learned them, and that from childhood you have known the holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.

Practice Christianity every day with each person you meet and each word you say.
Christ spoke saying: But those things which proceed out of the mouth come from the heart, and they defile a man.

*St. Mat. 15:18 Readings: St. Mat. 15:16-20. St. Mark 7:18-23, St. James 3:5-12,
Prov. 18:2-29:20R*

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

+GOSPEL+ (Luke 18:10-14) “Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, 'God, I thank You that I am not like other men – extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this tax collector. I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I possess.' And the tax collector, standing afar off, would not so much as raise his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, 'God, be merciful to me a sinner!' I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other; for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.”

Save the Date! St. Raphael Saint Day Luncheon on Sunday, February 23 (Meatfare) after Divine Liturgy at Citrus Hills Country Club in the Garden Room. Each sit-down dinner is \$30 with a choice of Chicken Marsala or Beef Tips over noodles. Door Prizes & 50/50 Raffle. Meal sign-up sheet and raffle tickets are now on sale in the Narthex.

Please come and enjoy & support your church!

Today is the kickoff of the 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 will be on display in the Narthex. See Helen Kaimer for Easter Quilt raffle tickets.

<p>THE GIFTS-FEB. 2</p> <p>Attendance 54</p> <p>Regular Offerings 1983</p> <p>Candles 100</p> <p>Brunch 47</p> <p>Charity (Parishioner Aid) 263</p> <p>Vespers in the Villages Jan.28</p> <p>Attendance 16</p> <p>Regular Offerings 21</p> <p><i>We sincerely thank the Charles E. Davis Funeral Home for its ongoing quarterly donation</i></p>		<p>VIGIL CANDLES - FEBRUARY 2</p> <p><u>Margaret & Ken Wagner</u> - Memory of our son Michael / Gerard. Health of Sue, Jennie, Roberta, Mary.</p> <p><u>Martin & Sue Bane</u> - Health of Fr. Sergious, Debra, Pam, Debra & Joe and all parishioners of St. Andrews in Mingo, Ohio.</p> <p><u>Nancy Kinley</u> - Health of Bill, Julianna, Jakob, Zoe, Peter, Patricia, Fr. Sergious, Judy, Paul, Margaret, Dolores.</p> <p><u>Nicholas Barick</u> - Health of Isidora, Mary Ann, Dolores, Nancy, Ann, Maureen, Nicholas & Patricia.</p>
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PERCEPTION IS NOT REALITY!

There is an old saying with which we are all familiar: *"Things are not always what they seem to be."* These wise words certainly apply to the main characters in the Parable of THE PUBLICAN AND THE PHARISEE.



In the story, our Lord tells us that two men go to pray in the temple. The Pharisee, a well-respected leader in the Jewish religious community, presents God with a "litany" of his good works: he fasts, he tithes, he lives a spiritual life. The Publican, a despised tax collector, undoubtedly has nothing in his life of which he is proud. All he can offer to the Lord is a simple plea: "O God, be merciful to me, a sinner."

The perception of the Pharisee would be that he is a man to be held in high esteem. In reality, he is someone who did all of the right things for the wrong reasons! The opposite could be said of the Publican. While shunned by society, Christ tells us that his sincerity caused him to find favor with God. Truly, *"he who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted."* (Luke 18:14)

In his "Commentary on the Gospel of St. Luke," St. Cyril of Alexandria writes: *"We must remember that when we pray, we are speaking to the God Who knows all things."* On this, the first of the Pre-Lenten Sundays, let us remember that the Lord is not impressed with prideful boasting, for He knows the secrets of our hearts. Without real humility, there can be no true sorrow for our sins, and no reconciliation with God.

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