





ST. RAPHAEL ORTHODOX CHURCH

Orthodox Church in America, Diocese of the South

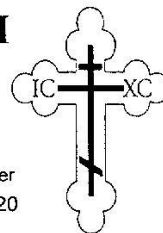
1277 N. Paul Dr., Inverness, FL 34453

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, FEB. 2, 2020 – 33rd SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST – Tone 8. The Meeting of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, in the Temple.

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

**The Meeting of our Lord
In The Temple**

Thu.: Akathist to St. Herman 4:00 PM

Sat.: Great Vespers 4:00 PM

**Today is Charity Sunday -
St. Raphael Parishioner Aid**

*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 Peter 2:21-3:9, Mark 12:13-17

Tue: 1 Peter 3:10-22, Mark 12:18-27

Wed: Proverbs 3; 8; 10, Solomon 4:7-15;
6; 7; 8; 9, John 10:9-16, Hebrews
13:17-21, Luke 6:17-23, 1 Peter
4:1-11, Mark 12:28-37

Thu: 1 Peter 4:12-5:5, Mark 12:38-44

Fri: 2 Peter 1:1-10, Mark 13:1-8

Sat: 2 Timothy 2:11-19, Luke 18:2-8

+EPISTLE, Meeting+ (Hebrews 7:7-17) Now beyond all contradiction the lesser is blessed by the better. Here mortal men receive tithes, but there he receives them, of whom it is witnessed that he lives. Even Levi, who receives tithes, paid tithes through Abraham, so to speak, for he was still in the loins of his father when Melchizedek met him. Therefore, if perfection were through the Levitical priesthood (for under it the people received the law), what further need was there that another priest should rise according to the order of Melchizedek, and not be called according to the order of Aaron. For the priesthood being changed, of necessity there is also a change of the law. For He of whom these things are spoken belongs to another tribe, from which no man has officiated at the altar. For it is evident that our Lord arose from Judah, of which tribe Moses spoke nothing concerning priesthood. And it is yet far more evident if, in the likeness of Melchizedek, there arises another priest who has come, not according to the law of a fleshly commandment, but according to the power of an endless life. For He testifies: "You are a priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek."

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

+GOSPEL, Meeting+ (Luke 2:22-40) Now when the days of her purification according to the law of Moses were completed, they brought Him to Jerusalem to present Him to the Lord (as it is written in the law of the Lord, "Every male who opens the womb shall be called holy to the Lord"), and to offer a sacrifice according to what is said in the law of the Lord, "A pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons." And behold, there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon, and this man was just and devout, waiting for the Consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ. So he came by the Spirit into the temple. And when the parents brought in the Child Jesus, to do for Him according to the custom of the law, he took Him up in his arms and blessed God and said: "Lord, now You are letting Your servant depart in peace, according to Your word; for my eyes have seen Your salvation which You have prepared before the face of all peoples, a light to bring revelation to the Gentiles, and the glory of Your people Israel." And Joseph and His mother marveled at those things which were spoken of Him. Then Simeon blessed them, and said to Mary His mother, "Behold, this Child is destined for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign which will be spoken against (yes, a sword will pierce through your own soul also), that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed." Now there was one, Anna, a prophetess, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of great age, and had lived with a husband seven years from her virginity; and this woman was a widow of about eighty-four years, who did not depart from the temple, but served God with fastings and prayers night and day. And coming in that instant she gave thanks to the Lord, and spoke of Him to all those who looked for redemption in Jerusalem. So when they had performed all things according to the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own city, Nazareth. And the Child grew and became strong in spirit, filled with wisdom; and the grace of God was upon Him.

***Save the Date!* St. Raphael Saint Day Luncheon on Sunday, February 23 (Meatfare) at Citrus Hills Country Club. Each meal \$30. Door Prizes and a 50/50 Raffle. Meal tickets and raffle tickets are now on sale in the Narthex.**

THE GIFTS-JAN. 26	
Attendance 57	
Regular Offerings	1389
Candles	100
Brunch	110
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We sincerely thank the Charles E. Davis Funeral Home for its ongoing quarterly donation	

VIGIL CANDLES - JANUARY 26	
<u>Susanna & Martin Bane</u> - Health of Fr. Sergious, Nick & Pat and all parishioners.	
<u>Nancy Kinley</u> - Memory of Julia. Health of Bill, Julianna, Jakob, Zoe, Peter, Judy & Paul, Fr. Sergious	
<u>Ken & Margaret Wagner</u> - Memory of our son Michael, Gerard. Health of Sue, Roberto, Mary, Jennie.	
<u>Helen Kainer</u> - Health of my sister, Mary DeSanto.	
<u>Nicholas Borick</u> - Health of Elaine, Dolores, Isidora, Margaret, Nicholas & Pat, Andy Cuttic's son Ben Fr. Sergious & all parishioners.	

CHRISTIANS ARE MARKED PEOPLE

St. Paul once said, "From now on let no man trouble me, for I bear on my body the marks of the Lord Jesus." This is a fascinating statement. Keep in mind it was the custom in those days to brand upon the body of a slave a mark of ownership. The burning by a brand was also used in cases of theft or great crime. So that, in St. Paul's time, anyone who was branded with a mark, was identified, either as a slave or criminal.

Yet St. Paul was not ashamed to apply this idea to himself and his Master, Christ. He said, "I am a slave, the slave of Christ, and I am not ashamed to carry with me this mark which identifies me as Christ's man."

Numerous whippings and stonings had left their scars on St. Paul, signifying the suffering that he bore for Christ. Fortunately, Christians are not subjected to such physical tortures in America today. Still, there should be some marks of our love for Christ, something about us that proudly identifies us as followers of Him. Through the mysteries of Baptism and of Chrismation, in which we are "sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit," there is placed an indelible mark upon us.

As we live our lives, the ownership of us by Christ should be obvious to the world. Our lives could be marked by kindness and love to others. There could be the mark of honesty, of worship, of service. There could be the mark of learning and loving God's Word.

One did not have to ask martyrs, confessors or saints their faith – it was crystal clear to all with whom they came into contact. Their way of living reflected Christ. Christians are marked people. Let all see the indelible seal of the cross that is upon us.

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