





## ST. RAPHAEL ORTHODOX CHURCH

*Orthodox Church in America, Diocese of the South*

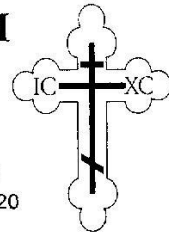
1277 N. Paul Dr., Inverness, FL 34453

Archpriest Fr. Theodore Pisarchuk, Priest-in-charge

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

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

Check our home page for new content, news and announcements



**SUNDAY, MARCH 22, 2020 – THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT – Tone 7.**

**Veneration of the Cross. 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

Sat.: Great Vespers 6:30 PM  
Sun.: Reading of The Hours 9:45 AM  
**Divine Liturgy** 10:00 AM  
**Veneration of the Cross**  
with Fr. John Chudik

*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

Mon: Isaiah 14:24-32, Genesis 8:21-9:7, Proverbs 11:19-12:6

Tue: Isaiah 25:1-9, Genesis 9:8-17; 28:10-17, Proverbs 9:1-11; 12:8-22, Ezekiel 43:27-44:4

Wed: Isaiah 26:21-27:9, Genesis 9:18-10:1, Proverbs 8:22-30; 12:23-13:9, Exodus 3:1-8, Luke 1:24-49; 56, Hebrews 2:11-18

Thu: Isaiah 28:14-22, Genesis 10:32-11:9, Proverbs 13:19-14:6, Hebrews 2:11-18, Luke 1:24-28

Fri: Isaiah 29:13-23, Genesis 12:1-7, Proverbs 14:15-26

Sat: 1 Corinthians 15:47-57, John 5:24-30, Hebrews 6:9-12, Mark 7:31-37

**+EPISTLE+ (Hebrews 4:14-5:6)** Seeing then that we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need. For every high priest taken from among men is appointed for men in things pertaining to God, that he may offer both gifts and sacrifices for sins. He can have compassion on those who are ignorant and going astray, since he himself is also subject to weakness. Because of this he is required as for the people, so also for himself, to offer sacrifices for sins. And no man takes this honor to himself, but he who is called by God, just as Aaron was. So also Christ did not glorify Himself to become High Priest, but it was He who said to Him: "You are My Son, today I have begotten You." As He also says in another place: "You are a priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek."

**+GOSPEL+ (Mark 8:34-9:1)** When He had called the people to Himself, with His disciples also, He said to them, "Whoever desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake and the gospel's will save it. For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul? For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him the Son of Man also will be ashamed when He comes in the glory of His Father with the holy angels." And He said to them, "Assuredly, I say to you that there are some standing here who will not taste death till they see the kingdom of God present with power."

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*

**ANNUNCIATION SERVICE** will not take place this week.

**VESPERS IN THE VILLAGES** is canceled until after Pascha.

**LENTEN SOUP SALE, EASTER QUILT RAFFLE and EASTER BASKET RAFFLE** are on hold for now.

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, 1277 N. Paul Dr., Inverness, FL 34453

THE GIFTS-MAR. 15		VIGIL CANDLES - MARCH 15
Regular Offerings      361 Candles                      55		<i>Margaret &amp; Ken Wagner - Memory of our son Michael, Gerard, Mary. Health of Roberto, Sue, Barbara, George.</i>
<i>We sincerely thank and bless Charles and Lou Ellen Davis for their ongoing generous donations.</i>		<b>Choir Practice Sunday 9 AM</b>  <i>New St. Raphael Church Directories are available in the Narthex</i>



## OUR LENTEN JOURNEY REACHES ITS MIDWAY POINT

**T**hose involved with athletics are fully aware of the importance of "halftime" in any sporting event. It is an opportunity to pause before continuing with the vigor of the game. More importantly, it is a time to correct any mistakes or deficiencies in one's "game plan" and to become recommitted to the ultimate goal of victory.

This morning, our Holy Church has reached the midway point of Great Lent. For three weeks, the spiritual disciplines of prayer and fasting have been emphasized. The theme of repentance has been placed before us repeatedly. Those who are "weak in spirit" may be faltering on this 40-day journey to Pascha.

In her wisdom, the Church places before us the greatest of symbols today: The precious and life-giving Cross. We are encouraged to focus our attention on this instrument of Christ's passion. At the same time, we are reminded of the necessity of being willing to deny ourselves, take up our own cross, and follow Christ. These thoughts should serve to strengthen us as we continue along the road that will take us to Golgotha and, ultimately, to the empty tomb!

On the third Sunday of Lent, the following hymn from Matins clearly expresses the essence of today's spiritual message: "On this day, when we look at the precious Cross of Christ, let us adore it in faith, let us embrace it, fervently asking our Lord, Who of His own choice, gave Himself to be crucified upon it, to make us worthy of adoring His most precious Cross, so that, free from all defilement, we may attain the day of Resurrection."

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