

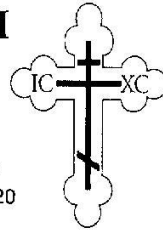


ST. RAPHAEL ORTHODOX CHURCH

Orthodox Church in America, Diocese of the South
1277 N. Paul Dr., Inyemess, FL 34453

Archpriest Fr. Theodore Pisarchuk, Priest-in-charge

Warden: Francis Duncan Treasurer: Georgeanne Vukmir Secretary: Lydia Wilcox
Please Visit: www.straphaelchurch.org Church: 352-201-1320
Check our home page for new content, news and announcements



SUNDAY, MAY 24, 2020 – 6th SUNDAY OF PASCHA – Tone 5.
Blind Man.

SERVICES RESUMED THIS WEEK

SAT. Vespers 4PM & SUN. Liturgy 10AM

Fr John Chudik can be reached by
email at

frjohnatstraphaels@gmail.com

or you can call or text his
cell phone: **941-920-2708.**

Please identify yourself as a
St. Raphael parishioner.

*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 40: 41; 45; 48; 54, Malachi
3; 4, Solomon 3; 4, Luke 7:17-30,
2 Corinthians 4:6-15, Matt. 11:2-
15, Acts 17:1-15, John 11:47-57

Tue: Acts 17:19-28, John 12:19-36

Wed: Acts 18:22-28, John 12:36-47

Thu: Isaiah 2:2-3; 62:10-63; 7-9,
Zechariah 14:1; 4; 8-11, Mark 16:
9-20; Acts 1:1-12; Luke 24:36-53

Fri: Acts 19:1-8, John 14:1-11

Sat: Acts 20:7-12, John 14:10-21

+EPISTLE+ (Acts 16:16-34) Now it happened, as we went to prayer, that a certain slave girl possessed with a spirit of divination met us, who brought her masters much profit by fortune-telling. This girl followed Paul and us, and cried out, saying, "These men are the servants of the Most High God, who proclaim to us the way of salvation." And this she did for many days. But Paul, greatly annoyed, turned and said to the spirit, "I command you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her." And he came out that very hour. But when her masters saw that their hope of profit was gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the marketplace to the authorities. And they brought them to the magistrates, and said, "These men, being Jews, exceedingly trouble our city; and they teach customs which are not lawful for us, being Romans, to receive or observe." Then the multitude rose up together against them; and the magistrates tore off their clothes and commanded them to be beaten with rods. And when they had laid many stripes on them, they threw them into prison, commanding the jailer to keep them securely. Having received such a charge, he put them into the inner prison and fastened their feet in the stocks. But at midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them. Suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken; and immediately all the doors were opened and everyone's chains were loosed. And the keeper of the prison, awaking from sleep and seeing the prison doors open, supposing the prisoners had fled, drew his sword and was about to kill himself. But Paul called with a loud voice, saying, "Do yourself no harm, for we are all here." Then he called for a light, ran in, and fell down trembling before Paul and Silas. And he brought them out and said, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" So they said, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved, you and your household." Then they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all who were in his house. And he took them the same hour of the night and washed their stripes. And immediately he and all his family were baptized. Now when he had brought them into his house, he set food before them; and he rejoiced, having believed in God with all his household.

+GOSPEL+ (John 9:1-38) Now as Jesus passed by, He saw a man who was blind from birth. And His disciples asked Him, saying, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" Jesus answered, "Neither this man nor his parents sinned, but that the works of God should be revealed in him. I must work the works of Him who sent Me while it is day; the night is coming when no one can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." When He had said these things, He spat on the ground and made clay with the saliva; and He anointed the eyes of the blind man with the clay. And He said to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which is translated, Sent). So he went and washed, and came back seeing. Therefore the neighbors and those who previously had seen that he was blind said, "Is not this he who sat and begged?" Some said, "This is he." Others said, "He is like him." He said, "I am he." Therefore they said to him, "How were your eyes opened?" He answered and said, "A Man called Jesus made clay and anointed my eyes and said to me, 'Go to the pool of Siloam and wash.' So I went and washed, and I received sight." Then they said to him, "Where is He?" He said, "I do not know." They brought him who formerly was blind to the Pharisees. Now it was a Sabbath when Jesus made the clay and opened his eyes. Then the Pharisees also asked him again how he had received his sight. He said to them, "He put clay on my eyes, and I washed, and I see." Therefore some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, because He does not keep the Sabbath." Others said, "How can a man who is a sinner do such signs?" And there was a division among them. They said to the blind man again, "What do you say about Him because He opened your eyes?" He said, He is a prophet." But the Jews did not believe concerning him, that he had been blind and received his sight, until they called the parents of him who had received his sight. And they asked them, saying, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?" His parents answered them and said, "We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; but by what means he now sees we do not know. He is of age; ask him. He will speak for himself." His parents said these things because they feared the Jews, for the Jews had agreed already that if anyone confessed that He was Christ, he would be put out of the synagogue. Therefore, his parents said, "He is of age; ask him." So they again called the man who was blind, and said to him, "Give God the glory! We know that this Man is a sinner." He answered and said, "Whether He is a sinner or not I do not know. One thing I know: that though I was blind, now I see." Then they said to him again, "What did He do to you? How did He open your eyes?" He answered them, "I told you already, and you did not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become His disciples?" Then they reviled him and said, "You are His disciple, but we are Moses' disciples. We know that God spoke to Moses; as for this fellow, we do not know where He is from." The man answered and said to them, "Why, this is a marvelous thing, that you do not know where He is from; yet He has opened my eyes! Now we know that God does not hear sinners; but if anyone is a worshiper of God and does His will, He hears him. Since the world began it has been unheard of that anyone opened the eyes of one who was born blind. If this Man were not from God, He could do nothing." They answered and said to him, "You were completely born in sins, and are you teaching us?" And they cast him out. Jesus heard that they had cast him out; and when He had found him, He said to him, "Do you believe in the Son of God?" He answered and said, "Who is He, Lord, that I may believe in Him?" And Jesus said to him, "You have both seen Him and it is He who is talking to you." Then he said, "Lord I believe!" And he worshiped Him.

THE GIFTS- MAY 17

Regular Offerings 325

Charity - St. Raphael
Parishioner Aid 130

*We sincerely thank and bless
Charles and Lou Ellen Davis
for their ongoing generous
donations.*

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dosoca.org website to make on-
line donations with a credit card
or send your weekly offering to:
St. Raphael Orthodox
1277 N. Paul Dr.,
Inverness, FL 34453

"WHO SINNED THAT THIS MAN WAS BORN BLIND?"

The thought of someone being blind from birth touches even the hardest of hearts. Imagine never seeing a sunset, a field of flowers, a mountain range or a multitude of other natural wonders with which our Heavenly Father has blessed us.

With this in mind, today we commemorate the Sunday of the MAN BORN BLIND. It is touching to hear how our Lord gave him his sight. It is troubling, however, to note how the man was treated after his amazing good fortune!

Even before Christ performed this great miracle, the Apostles questioned their Master as to who was to blame for this man's handicap. Was it he, or his parents, who had sinned? The Lord explains that suffering should not be equated with sin! Throughout the course of normal events, misfortune invades all of our lives, giving God opportunities to work His Power through us.

How shameful the Pharisees act when confronted with this miracle. There is no joy expressed by them. Instead, they were indignant that Christ would do such a thing on the Sabbath! When the former blind man would not acknowledge that the Man who healed him was a "sinner," the Pharisees cast him out from their midst. Theirs was a more permanent "blindness."

The message of today's Gospel is clear: physical blindness is not nearly as bad as spiritual blindness. This is summarized beautifully in one of the verses from the Vespers for today: "I come to you, O Lord, with the eyes of my soul as blind as the eyes of the man born blind. In repentance, I cry to you: you are the brilliant light for all of those in darkness."

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