





ST. RAPHAEL ORTHODOX CHURCH

Orthodox Church in America, Diocese of the South

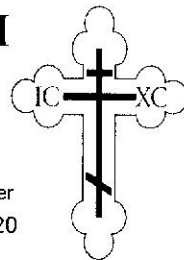
1277 N. Paul Dr., Inverness, FL 34453

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

Warden: Stanley Borowski Treasurer: Alessandra 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, JAN. 5, 2020 – 29th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST – Tone 4.
Eve of Theophany. Sunday before Theophany.

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

Eve of Theophany

Vigil – Matins/Vespers 4:00 PM

Blessing of the Waters

Mon.: **Theophany Divine** 10:00 AM

Liturgy of St. Basil and

Great Blessing of the Waters

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

Sat.: 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: Mark 1:9-11, Titus 2:11-14; 3:4-7,

Matthew 3:13-17, Isaiah 12:3-6; 35:

1-10; 55:1-13, 1 Corinthians 10:1-4

Tue: Hebrews 9:8-10; 15:23, Luke 21:12-19,

Acts 19:1-8, John 1:29-34

Wed: Hebrews 10:1-18, Luke 21:5-7; 10-11;
20-24

Thu: Hebrews 10:35-11:7, Luke 21:28-33

Fri: Hebrews 11:8; 11-16, Luke 21:37-22:8

Sat: Solomon 3:1-9; 4:7-15; 5:15-6:3, Luke
6:17-23; 13:18-29, 2 Corinthians 4:6-15,
Matthew 4:1-11; 11:27-30, Ephesians
5:1-8; 6:10-17

+EPISTLE+ (1 Corinthians 10:1-4) Moreover, brethren, I do not want you to be unaware that all our fathers were under the cloud, all passed through the sea, all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, all ate the same spiritual food, and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them, and that Rock was Christ.

Choir Practice Sunday 9:00 AM & Monday, Jan.5 9:00 AM (Theophany)

+GOSPEL+ (Mark 1:9-11) It came to pass in those days that Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee, and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And immediately, coming up from the water, He saw the heavens parting and the Spirit descending upon Him like a dove. Then a voice came from heaven, "You are My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."

***Today is Charity Sunday – St. Tikhon Seminary
Married Student Housing***

Holy Myrrhbearer Meeting next Sunday, Jan. 12, after Brunch

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*

The 2020 Annual Parish Meeting is being held on Sunday, January 26, 2020, in the Temple after Divine Liturgy. Copies of the agenda, proposed budget & the 2019 Annual Parish Meeting minutes are now available in the narthex.

Nominations for officers, council members & audit committee are being sought. Please use the form in the narthex to nominate yourself or others and put it in the box provided.

THE GIFTS - DEC. 25

Attendance	45
Nativity Offerings	3,602
Candles	77
Brunch	44

DECEMBER 29

Attendance	47
Regular Offerings	507
Candles	79
Brunch	79
Poinsettias	30

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

VIGIL CANDLES - DECEMBER 25

*Nick Borick - Health of Sandra & Mike
Saxe, Isidora, Olga, Andy, Dolores.
RoseMarie Vandergrift - In memory of
Gamble & Hruby families.*

DECEMBER 29 - Chas. & Mary Ann

*Buettner - Health of Buettner family.
Nicholas Borick - Health of Lee, Wavil,
Dolores, Olga, Isidora, Ben, Pat & Nick.
Nancy Kinley - Health of Bill, Julianna,
Jakob, Zoe, Dolores, Isidora, Nicholas,
Peter, Margaret & Ken.*

“THIS IS MY BELOVED SON”

For years, John the Baptist preached along the banks of the Jordan River, urging those who listened to repent. Although scores of people answered his plea by being baptized, the Church will forever focus upon the day when John was approached by *“the One Whose sandals I am not worthy to carry.”* The **BAPTISM OF CHRIST** is celebrated by our Holy Church as the Feast Day of **THEOPHANY**. It is a day of great theological significance.

Theophany is not merely a historical account of our Saviour's Baptism, nor is it simply a commemoration of the beginning of Christ's public ministry. It is rather a wonderful manifestation of God's glory, of His love for mankind, and of His mercy and compassion, as expressed in the Divine Person of Jesus Christ. He became Incarnate in order to become a sacrifice of salvation for the sake of all humanity.

This Feast Day is also remembered for the manifestation of the Holy Trinity to the world for the first time. On Theophany, God the Father speaks to us from Heaven, God the Son is baptized in the waters of the Jordan and God the Holy Spirit appears to us in the form of a dove.

In the early Church, Theophany was a day reserved for the baptism of catechumens, unceasingly repeating the words of St. Paul: *As many as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ. Alleluia.* It has also been a long-standing custom to bless water on this day. Faithful Orthodox Christians look forward to having their homes blessed and sanctified with holy water during this season.

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