



ST. RAPHAEL ORTHODOX CHURCH

Orthodox Church in America, Diocese of the South

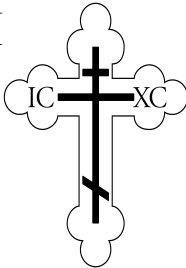
1277 N. Paul Dr., Inverness, FL 34453

Parish Council: Fr. Sergious Gerken, Parish Priest,

Warden: Barbara Aldunate, Secretary: Linda Evans,

Treasurer: Marissa Lafferty, Lilia Denisova, Mona Fisher.

Please Visit: ***www: straphaelchurch.org***



DECEMBER 24, 2023 - 29th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST - Tone 4. Eve of the Nativity of Christ. Sunday before the Nativity.

HOLY WORSHIP THIS WEEK Sun: Reading of the Hours 9:45 AM Divine Liturgy 10:00 AM Eve of the Nativity-Sunday before Nativity Great Compline Vespers / Matins 4:00 PM Mon: Divine Liturgy Nativity of Christ <i>followed by Nativity feast</i> 10:00 AM Thu: Akathist to St. Herman 4:00 PM Sat: Great Vespers 4:00 PM	<i>Please join us after Divine Liturgy for Coffee Social - Myrrhbearers Hall.</i> <i>Please bring in cans of food for the C.C. Resource Center.</i> <i>Confessions - Ask Fr. Sergious fo a time</i>	DAILY SCRIPTURE READINGS Mon: Matthew 1:18-25; 2:1-12, Galatians 4:4-7 Tue: Hebrews 2:11-18, Matthew 2:13-23 Wed: Acts 6:8-15; 7:1-5; 47-60, Matthew 21:33-42, Hebrews 10:1-18, Mark 11:22-26 Thu: Hebrews 10:35-11:7, Mark 11:27-33 Fri: Hebrews 11:8; 11-16, Mark 12:1-12 Sat: 1 Timothy 3:14-4:5; 6:11-16, Matthew 3:1-11; 12:15-21, Ephesians 5:1-8, Luke 17:3-10
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+EPISTLE+ *Sunday Before* (Hebrews 11:9-10, 17-23, 32-40) Brethren: By faith he dwelt in the land of promise as in a foreign country, dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise; for he waited for the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God. By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises offered up his only begotten son, of whom it was said, “In Isaac your seed shall be called,” concluding that God was able to raise him up, even from the dead, from which he also received him in a figurative sense. By faith Isaac blessed Jacob and Esau concerning things to come. By faith Jacob, when he was dying, blessed each of the sons of Joseph, and worshiped, leaning on the top of his staff. By faith Joseph, when he was dying, made mention of the departure of the children of Israel, and gave instructions concerning his bones. By faith Moses, when he was born, was hidden three months by his parents, because they saw he was a beautiful child; and they were not afraid of the king's command. And what more shall I say? For the time would fail me to tell of Gideon and Barak and Samson and Jephthah, also of David and Samuel and the prophets: who through faith subdued kingdoms, worked righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong, became valiant in battle, turned to flight the armies of the aliens. Women received their dead raised to life again. Others were tortured, not accepting deliverance, that they might obtain a better resurrection. Still others had trial of mockings and scourgings, yes, and of chains and imprisonment. They were stoned, they were sawn in two, were tempted, were slain with the sword. They wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins, being destitute, afflicted, tormented – of whom the world was not worthy. They wandered in deserts and mountains, in dens and caves of the earth. And all these, having obtained a good testimony through faith, did not receive the promise, God having provided something better for us, that they should not be made perfect apart from us.

+GOSPEL+ *Sunday Before* (Matthew 1:1-25) The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the Son of David, the Son of Abraham: Abraham begot Isaac, Isaac begot Jacob, and Jacob begot Judah and his brothers. Judah begot Perez and Zerah by Tamar, Perez begot Hezron, and Hezron begot Ram. Ram begot Amminadab, Amminadab begot Nahshon, and Nahshon begot Salmon. Salmon begot Boaz by Rahab, Boaz begot Obed by Ruth, Obed begot Jesse, and Jesse begot David the king, David the king begot Solomon by her who had been the wife of Uriah. Solomon begot Rehoboam, Rehoboam begot Abijah, and Abijah begot Asa. Asa begot Jehoshaphat, Jehoshaphat begot Joram, and Joram begot Uzziah. Uzziah begot Jotham, Jotham begot Ahaz, and Ahaz begot Hezekiah. Hezekiah begot Manasseh, Manasseh begot Amon, and Amon begot Josiah. Josiah begot Jeconiah and his brothers about the time they were carried away to Babylon. And after they were brought to Babylon, Jeconiah begot Shealtiel, and Shealtiel begot Zerubbabel. Zerubbabel begot Abiud, Abiud begot Eliakim, and Eliakim begot Azor. Azor begot Zadok, Zadok begot Achim, and Achim begot Eliud. Eliud begot Eleazar, Eleazar begot Matthan, and Matthan begot Jacob. And Jacob begot Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom was born Jesus who is called Christ. So all the generations from Abraham to David are fourteen generations, from David until the captivity in Babylon are fourteen generations, and from the captivity in Babylon until the Christ are fourteen generations. Now the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows: After His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Spirit. Then Joseph her husband, being a just man, and not wanting to make her a public example, was minded to put her away secretly. But while he thought about these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take to you Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit. And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins.” So all this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying: “Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel, which is translated, 'God with us.'” Then Joseph, being aroused from sleep, did as the angel of the Lord commanded him and took to him his wife, and did not know her till she had brought forth her firstborn Son. And he called His name Jesus.

THE GIFTS DECEMBER 17, 2023 Attendance 37 Regular Offerings 1540 Candles 37 <i>We sincerely thank and bless Charles and Lou Ellen Davis for their ongoing generous donations.</i>	DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS <u>Sam Miller - Dec. 26</u> JANUARY BIRTHDAYS Rodna Donovski - Jan. 2 Marissa-Jan. 3/Genevieve-Jan. 2 Ellen Pantazis - Jan. 5 Mary Ann Hildebrandt-Jan. 16 Barbara Yacos - Jan. 19 Martin Bane - Jan. 26 <u>Ephraim Jurien St. Day- Jan. 28</u> JANUARY ANNIVERSARY Mary Ann/Wolfgang H. -Jan. 19	VIGIL CANDLES - DEC. 17 <i>Barbara Aldunate</i> - Linda Richards – Health. Sandy Kunnman – Health. <i>Nancy Kinley</i> - Health of Bill, Julianna & Fam., Andrew & Fam.. Mary Ann H., Linda E., Patricia, Linda L., Yong, Judith, Howard, Constantine.
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