

3820 Moores Lake Rd.

Dover, FL 35527

In case of emergency: Call Father Harry Lisinbigler, (813) 406 – 2620. If there is no answer, leave a message. Then call Pani Carrie at (813) 451-9829

**“(Jesus)...a light to bring revelation to the Gentiles, and the Glory of Your people Israel.”
(Simeon) – St. Luke**

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Schedule

Tuesday February 2:

10:00 am Divine Liturgy
The Meeting of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ in the Temple

Sunday February 7:

10:00 am Divine Liturgy

Sunday February 14:

10:00 am Divine Liturgy

Sunday February 28:

10:00 am Divine Liturgy

Sunday March 7:

10:00 am Divine Liturgy

Counters

February 7 - Jacob – Pani Carrie
February 14 – Mike – Pani Carrie
February 21 – Svetlana – Pani Carrie
February 28 – Harry Jr. – Pani Carrie
March 7 – Jacob - Paula

The Meeting of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ in Temple, (February 2)

“Today the Church commemorates an important event in the earthly life of our Lord Jesus Christ (Luke 2:22-40). Forty days after His birth the God-Infant was taken to the Jerusalem Temple, the center of the nation’s religious life. According to the Law of Moses (Lev. 12:2-8), a woman who gave birth to a male child was forbidden to enter the Temple of God for forty days. At the end of this time the mother came to the Temple with the child, to offer a young lamb or pigeon to the Lord as a purification sacrifice. The Most Holy Virgin, the Mother of God, had no need of purification, since she had given birth to the Source of purity and sanctity without defilement. However, she humbly fulfilled the requirements of the Law.

At this time the righteous Elder Simeon (February 3) was living in Jerusalem. It had been revealed to him that he would not die until he should behold the promised Messiah. By inspiration from above, Saint Simeon went to the Temple at the very moment when the Most Holy Theotokos and Saint Joseph had brought the Infant Jesus to fulfill the Law.

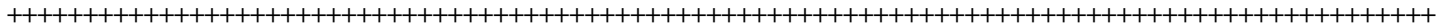
The God-Receiver Simeon took the divine Child in his arms, and giving thanks to God, he spoke the words repeated by the Church each evening at Vespers: "Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace, according to Thy word, for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation, which Thou hast prepared before the face of all but served God with fasting and prayers night and day. She arrived just when Saint Simeon met the divine Child. She also gave thanks to the Lord and spoke of Him to all those who were looking for redemption in Jerusalem" (Luke 2:37-38). In the icon of the Feast she holds a scroll which reads: "This Child has established Heaven and earth."

Before Christ was born, righteous men and women lived by faith in the promised Messiah, and awaited His coming. The Righteous Simeon and the Prophetess Anna, the last righteous people of the

Old Testament, were deemed worthy to meet the Savior in the Temple.

The Feast of the Meeting of the Lord is among the most ancient feasts of the Christian Church. We have sermons on the Feast by the holy bishops Methodius of Patara (+ 312), Cyril of Jerusalem (+ 360), Gregory the Theologian (+ 389), Amphilocius of Iconium (+ 394), Gregory of Nyssa (+ 400), and John Chrysostom (+ 407). Despite its early origin, this Feast was not celebrated so splendidly until the sixth century.

In 528, during the reign of Justinian, an earthquake killed many people in Antioch. Other misfortunes followed this one. In 541 a terrible plague broke out in Constantinople, carrying off several thousand people each day. During this time of widespread suffering, a solemn prayer service (Litia) for deliverance from evils was celebrated on the Feast of the Meeting of the Lord, and the plague ceased. In thanksgiving to God, the Church established a more solemn celebration of this Feast...." From the Orthodox Church in America



Parish Council:

President: Brian Delp, (813) 763-5226
Vice President: Paula Karagounis, (813) 838-4554
Secretary: Rebecca Delp, (813) 7635225
Treasurer: Tom Moore, (813) 244-7670
Financial Secretary: Natalie Brennan (508) 272-0395
Member, Ellen Flynn, (863) 242-4865

Reposed: Please pray for the departed: Virginia, Harry, Millie, Harry, Richard, Albert, Mary, John, Doris, Mary, Subdeacon John, Vera Beverly James Dessie, Ernest, Elbert, Bill, Viva, Ina, Cynthia, Bernard, Finn, Marie, Kathy, Cassia, Ashton, Camillo, Lexi, Francesca, Tina, Joan, Lennie, Walter, Wally, and Bertha.

Volunteers Needed:

Volunteers are needed to read the epistle and/or to be chanters. Contact Pani Carrie.

Church School

Contact Tracy Galla for church school information:

Out Reach:

Last February we collected items for the pregnancy center in Plant City. On January 28th there was a virtual March for Life via the OCA's YouTube. To coincide with that; we will collect items for the unborn at the Pregnancy Center in Plant City. The women who go there choose to deliver their children rather than abort them. The items should be new and if you are interested in donating to this organization they have a wishlist on Amazon Smile. A collection box is provided for donated items.

This month's Saint of the month is St. Raphael of Brooklyn.

Prayer Corner:

Contact Cynthia Brown to add or delete names from the Prayer Corner lists. Cynthiaann36@live.com or (863) 223-6775.

Living: Please pray for the ailing: Pearl, (grandmother) Mike, Stella, Egerton, Amanda, Mike, Michael, Samuel, Vilma, Stacy, Arlene, Cecily, Reagan, Emmanuelle, and Dan.



St. Raphael of Brooklyn

Troparion. Tone Three

Rejoice, O Father Raphael. Adornment of the Holy Church. Thou art champion of the true Faith. Seeker of the lost. Consolation of the oppressed. Father of orphans, and friend of the poor. Peacemaker and Good Shepherd. Joy of the Orthodox. Son of Antioch. Boast of America: Intercede with Christ God for us and for those that honor thee.

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St. Raphael of Brooklyn February 27/March 12

Raphael Hawaweeny was born in Damascus, Syria on November 8, 1860 and received the highest theological training from Halkis in Greece and in Kiev in Imperial Russia. In 1895 he was invited to America to tend the small community of Arab Christians who fled the oppression of the Turks throughout the Middle East. He went to St. Petersburg as a deacon to receive the blessing of Bishop Nicholas to come to America. He was elevated to the priesthood and then came to America. He traveled to all the small Arab orthodox communities in both the U.S. and in Canada. He baptized, married and blessed graves throughout the continent. He celebrated the Divine Liturgy where ever he went. When the faithful knew he was coming they would spread the word and people would come from great distances to be with him. Bishop Tikhon was so impressed with Fr. Raphael that he got permission from the Holy Synod of Russia to elevate him to the rank of bishop, the first to become bishop in North America. With apostolic zeal he traveled and made Orthodox texts available. His tireless concern was for the protection and unification of Orthodox peoples of various nationalities within the bounds of North America. He became a resolute defender of Orthodoxy against unrelenting pressure from heterodox influences upon the disadvantage immigrant arrivals. His swift decisive actions clearly stated his position against heterodox ecumenism. His multinational, Pan-Orthodox zeal most eloquently expressed by his own words, "I am Syro-Arab by birth, a Greek by education and an American by residence, but a Russian at heart and a Slav in my soul". Bishop Raphael reposed on February 27, 1915 and was buried in Mount Olivet Cemetery in Brooklyn, New York. Later he was moved to Antiochian Village in Ligonier, Pennsylvania.

What can learn from the life of St. Raphael?