



SAINT
PAUL



ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX
CHURCH



REV. FR. PAUL GIRGIS
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A WORD ABOUT COMMUNION (HOLY EUCHARIST)

+HOLY COMMUNION - WHY ONLY FOR THE ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN?+

Welcome to St. Paul Antiochian Orthodox Church. We are honored by your presence. It is our sincere desire that your participation today in the Divine Liturgy will draw you closer to Christ and His Church.

The Orthodox Church understands the Eucharist, or Lord's Supper, to be the paramount expression of Christian unity. While it is our deepest hope that Christendom will one day fulfill Christ's desire for true unity among all those who claim His name (John 17:21), the unfortunate reality of our day is that the various segments of Christendom are not unified with the historic Orthodox faith. Since participation in the Eucharist (Holy Communion) expresses a unity with **all the dogma, teachings, and practice of the Orthodox Church**, it is obvious that non-Orthodox Christians (Catholic, Protestant, Oriental, etc.) **do not** receive Holy Communion but respect the official policy of the Antiochian Archdiocese of North America.

Thank you for your understanding.

On that same note, all **Eastern Orthodox Christians** are called to prepare for the receiving of the Body and Blood of Christ through recent confession, prayer, and fasting from all food and drink approximately midnight the night before. Please speak with Fr. Paul if medical conditions preclude it.

Fr. Paul is available after the service, or by appointment, to answer questions you may have about any facet of the Orthodox Christian faith.

May God bless you.

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Please contact Fr. Paul to request a pastoral visit for **anyone** hospitalized, sick, suffering, or alone (Christian or not).

frpaulgirgis@gmail.com
509.845.4540 (mobile)
239.348.0828 (office)

WEEKLY SERVICE SCHEDULE AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

WEEKLY SERVICES

Saturday: Great Vespers* at 6:00PM

Sunday: 3rd & 6th Hour at 9:00AM; The Divine Liturgy at 9:30AM

**Fr. Paul hears confessions after Great Vespers Saturday and by appointment.*

Sunday School (Children's Christian Education Program) - After Divine Liturgy; Mainly for children ages 3-7 (but all are welcome) - snack and Orthodoxy provided!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

House Blessing - Every Orthodox Christian should bless their home. Fr. Paul will come with the angels, with the water of the Jordan and the blessing of Christ, to distribute holiness, encouragement, strength, joy, and grace, for the peace and purification of your life. That's what you get when the priest brings the waters of Theophany into your home.

To schedule your house blessing and establish a "bond of holiness" between The Church and your home, contact Fr. Paul (frpaulgirgis@gmail.com; 509.845.4540; 239.348.0828)

Out of Town - Fr. Paul & Family will be at the Diocese Delegates Retreat hosted by St. Elias Orthodox Church in Atlanta, GA (Jan. 25-28) - Fr. Joe will cover, God willing.

Order of St. Ignatius Brunch - After Liturgy today - thank you for RSVP-ing!

Pancake Breakfast - Sunday, Jan. 21, after Liturgy. Tickets on sale after service **today!**

"Laces of Love" - Don't forget! Bring your sneaker donation(s) to the conference room this week (Jan. 14-21)!

2018 Stewardship Campaign & Pledge Drive - Commit to godly stewardship by responding to this pledge drive. It is the most effective way to be involved in the growth at St. Paul Church. By being faithful we are expressing our gratitude, for all things, to Him.

Fellowship Hour - sponsors needed - Sign up sheet on board in hallway!

PRAYERS FOR THE HEALTH AND MEMORY OF...

Brothers and sisters of St. Paul Church, remember to call upon our Lord to have mercy and grant strength to Greg and Kyra Strachov, family to Vincent and Irene Benfatti. Greg is experiencing a tremendous amount of health complications, while his wife Kyra must patiently endure such a difficult episode in life. May Christ be with them.

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May our good God, who loves mankind, grant many years and good strength to all those offering prayers for the sake of others.

Why do we do this?

Orthodox Christians pray for the dead so that the Lord will have mercy on their souls, that He will grant them eternal rest “in the bosom of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob,” that He will extend His unfathomable love upon them, and that He will receive them into that state “in which there is neither sickness, nor sighing, nor sorrow, but life everlasting.” Saint Paul clearly teaches that those who have gone before us are still members of the Body of Christ, the Church. And it is the duty of the members of the Church to pray for one another. Just as the living continually beseech God to have mercy on them—and may rightly offer prayers to God on behalf of their living spiritual sisters and brothers as well as request prayers on their own behalf from others—so too we have the duty to pray for all members of the Body of Christ, even those who have departed this life and still “belong to Christ.” In asking God to have mercy on the souls of the departed, we also ask God to have mercy on us who are still in this life, and we recognize that we too shall die. All members of the Church, living as well as faithful departed, cry before the throne of God, “Lord, have mercy on us.” (source: oca.org)

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January Birthdays: Philip Ayoub (1/6); Joshua Povich (1/8); Marilyn Edge (1/15); Mihai Bidireanu (1/15); George Darany (1/16); Robert Cardoos (1/19); Elias Saaloukeh (1/20); Lora Bidireanu (1/22); Linda Shady (1/22); Elijah Girgis (1/23); Jaislee Spina (1/26), Joe Shady (1/26); Ghaith Fakhoury (1/27); Fran Kennan (1/31)

January Anniversary: Ray & Leila Trabulsi (1/22)

May God grant him many years!

THE EPISTLE

(For the Sunday after Theophany of Christ)

Let Thy mercy, O Lord, be upon us. Rejoice in the Lord, O ye righteous.

The Reading is from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Ephesians. (4:7-13)

Brethren, grace was given to each of us according to the measure of Christ’s gift. Therefore, it is said, “When He ascended on high He led a host of captives, and He gave gifts to men.” (In saying, “He ascended,” what does it mean but that He had also descended into the lower parts of the earth? He who descended is He who also ascended far above all the heavens, that He might fill all things.) And His gifts were that some should be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ.



THE SYNAXARION

(AN ABRIDGED COLLECTION OF THE "LIVES OF THE SAINTS")

THE GOSPEL

(For the Sunday after Theophany of Christ)

The Reading is from the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew (4:12-17)

At that time, when Jesus heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew into Galilee; and leaving Nazareth he went and dwelt in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, so that what was spoken by the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled: "The land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, toward the sea, across the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles—the people who sat in darkness have seen a great light, and for those who sat in the region and shadow of death light has dawned." From that time Jesus began to preach, saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of Heaven is at hand."



On January 14 in the Holy Orthodox Church, we take leave of the Feast of Theophany, and we commemorate the holy Forty Fathers that were slain on Mount Sinai in the reign of Diocletian, and those slain in the days of Neilos the Wise.

In the fourth century, Ammonios, an Egyptian monk, witnessed the first martyrdom. He tells of how the Saracens attacked his monastery and would have killed all the monks, if God had not intervened. A fire appeared on the summit of the peak, and the whole mountain smoked. The barbarians were terrified, and fled, while the surviving monks thanked God for sparing them. The second massacre occurred nearly one hundred years later, and was also recorded by an eyewitness, St. Neilos the Wise, who miraculously escaped. The attackers permitted some of the monks run for their lives. They also thanked God for sparing them and glorified God for glorifying their departed brethren.

The holy Forty Fathers that were slain at Raithu. On the same day of the first attack at Sinai, the Blemmyes martyred forty Fathers at Raithu on the shores of the Red Sea. Igumen Paul exhorted his monks to endure their suffering with courage and pure hearts. On January 14, we also commemorate the Virgin-martyr Agnes; Venerable Theodoulos, son of Neilos the Wise; Nina, equal-to-the-Apostles and enlightener of Georgia; and Sabbas, first archbishop of Serbia.

By their intercessions, O Christ God, have mercy upon us. Amen.



SUNDAY, JANUARY 14, 2018

LEAVE-TAKING OF & SUNDAY AFTER THE THEOPHANY OF CHRIST

HOLY FATHERS SLAIN AT SINAI AND RAITHU; VIRGIN-MARTYR AGNES; VENERABLE
THEODOULOS, SON OF NEILOS THE WISE OF SINAI; NINA, EQUAL-TO-THE-
APOSTLES AND ENLIGHTENER OF GEORGIA; SABBAS, FIRST ARCHBISHOP OF SERBIA

RESURRECTIONAL APOLYTIKION IN TONE SIX

Thou didst shatter death by Thy Cross, Thou didst open paradise to the thief; Thou didst turn the sadness of the ointment-bearing women into joy. And didst bid Thine Apostles proclaim a warning, that Thou hast risen O Christ, granting to the world the Great Mercy.

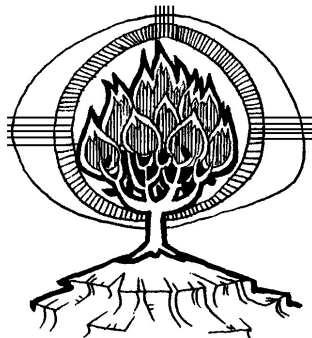
APOLYTIKION OF THE THEOPHANY OF CHRIST IN TONE ONE

When Thou, O Lord, wast baptized in the Jordan, worship of the Trinity wast made manifest; for the voice of the Father bore witness to Thee, calling Thee His beloved Son. And the Spirit in the likeness of a dove confirmed the truth of His word. O Christ our God, Who hath appeared and enlightened the world, glory to Thee.

+Now the apolytikion of the holy Apostle Paul+

KONTAKION OF THE THEOPHANY OF CHRIST IN TONE FOUR

On this day Thou hast appeared * unto the whole world, and Thy light, O Sovereign Lord, is signed on us who sing Thy praise and chant with knowledge: Thou hast now come, Thou hast appeared, O Thou Light unapproachable.



SPIRIT-FILLED WORDS FROM ST. PAISIOS OF MT. ATHOS
(1924-1994)

“SALVIFIC PATIENCE”

THAT WE PATIENTLY ENDURE THE WINTER WITH THE HOPE OF
SPRING

St. Paisios responds to the comment:

“Geronta (Elder), I see that I am not making spiritual progress, and I worry.”

Once upon a time, a man had planted a grapevine. And even though the roots had not fully matured, he was expecting it to produce grapes — so that he could make plenty of wine, so that he could drink it, celebrate and make merry. This is what you are doing too: You’ve planted a little vine and you want to drink the wine right here and now. This is impossible! You cannot plant the grapevine today and expect to drink wine tomorrow. In a year’s time, you’ll be able to eat a few clusters of grapes. In two years, you may eat a basket of grapes, and in five years, you will also drink wine. Likewise, if you want to enjoy spiritual fruit, you must struggle and be patient.”

“Geronta (Elder) I am not used to waiting and I lose my patience quickly.”

You must have patience and prudence. You see, quite often, although one is patient for a couple of hours while the food is cooking, he does not wait a minute or two for the food to cool down. Therefore, without thinking, he starts to eat and ends up burning himself. Well ... when I return to Mt. Athos, I will send you an ikon of St. Ypomoni [St. Patience] ...”

“Geronta, you did not bring me any “herbs”(*) from the Holy Mountain this time.’

There are no “herbs” in the Garden of the Panaghia(+) at this time... We have to wait for spring. But for Spring to come, you need to have some patience until winter is over. Therefore, right now, the best and most productive “herb” for you is patience.”

(*) - The Sister is asking for some spiritual word — having in mind the letter of St. Paisios entitled, “Spiritual Herbs.”

(+) - Mount Athos is also referred to as the Garden of Panaghia.



Founders' Weekend

*Welcoming
His Grace Bishop Nicholas*

Sunday, February 11, 2018

Join us for brunch
immediately following Hierarchical Divine Liturgy

*Olde Cypress Country Club
7165 Treeline Drive Naples, FL*

Adults \$40
Kids 12 and under \$15



For reservations and tickets,
contact Joe or Julie Ablan
ablan.joseph@gmail.com
913-484-8047

*St. Paul Antiochian Orthodox Church
Naples, FL*

SAVE THE DATE

LENTEN WOMEN'S RETREAT

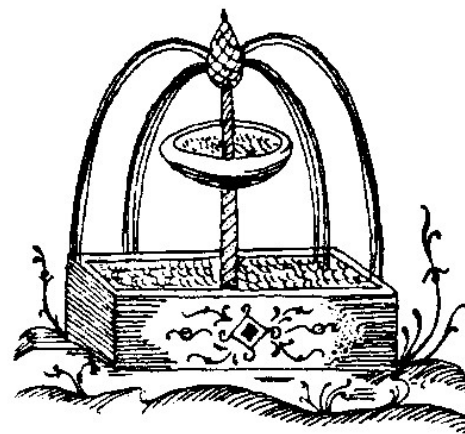
Date: March 3, 2018

**Location: St. Peter Orthodox Mission
(24850 Old Forty One, Bonita Springs, FL. 34135)**

Topic: The Theotokos: A Role Model for women in the 21st Century

Speakers: Fr. Hans Jacobse and Fr. Paul Girgis

Official Schedule, Formal Invitation and Registration will follow in early February!



PLEASE NOTE: THIS YEAR, EVENT IS ONLY THE BRUNCH WELCOMING OUR NEW BISHOP

