



ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX
CHURCH



REV. FR. PAUL GIRGIS
509.845.4540 :: FRPAULGIRGIS@GMAIL.COM

2425 RIVERS ROAD, NAPLES, FLORIDA 34120
WWW.STPAULNAPLES.ORG



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.

+++

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)

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!

+++

MAY GOD GRANT THEM MANY YEARS!

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)



2018 STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN

Dear brothers and sisters,

Several weeks ago, we launched our 2018 Pledge drive in order to construct an efficient and realistic 2018 budget to better meet our expenses for the new year. The Parish will vote to accept the new budget at our annual meeting in February, God willing.

To date, we have received pledges from 44 families, which is approximately half of our parish. As such, we ask that you please submit your pledge before January 31 - your St. Paul Church budget and growth-plan depend on it.

If you have already submitted your 2018 Pledge, thank you. If you have misplaced the information that was mailed, please see Fr. Paul or our treasurer Bill Yurkovac - pledge cards are also available on the shelf where the Sunday bulletin is found.

Being called an Orthodox Christian is tremendously humbling and at the same time a joyful thing - beyond description - as we participate in a life that brings spiritual growth, comfort, faith, and hope in the Living God. It is natural that we should desire to see this life grow and flourish in Naples for our sake but also for the future generation(s) to come.

The time is now to be good stewards of what we have received from God for such a commitment to godly stewardship is what fuels the growth of any parish. By being good stewards, we are simply saying "thank You" to the One True Living God.

With love in Christ,

Rev. Fr. Paul Girgis
Parish Priest

Ed Kappaz
Parish Council Chair

THE EPISTLE

(For the 32nd Sunday after Pentecost)

The Lord will give strength to His people. Ascribe to the Lord, O sons of God; ascribe to the Lord honor and glory.

The Reading from the First Epistle of St. Paul to St. Timothy. (4:9-15)

Timothy, my son, the saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance. For to this end we toil and strive, because we have our hope set on the living God, Who is the Savior of all men, especially of those who believe. Command and teach these things. Let no one despise your youth, but set the believers an example in speech and conduct, in love, in faith, in purity. Until I come, attend to the public reading of scripture, to preaching, to teaching. Do not neglect the gift you have, which was given you by prophetic utterance when the council of elders laid their hands upon you. Practice these duties; devote yourself to them, so that all may see your progress.



THE SYNAXARION
(AN ABRIDGED COLLECTION OF THE “LIVES OF THE SAINTS”)

THE GOSPEL

(For the fifteenth Sunday of Luke - “Zacchaeus Sunday”)

The Reading is from the Holy Gospel according St. Luke. (19:1-10)

At that time, Jesus entered Jericho and was passing through. And there was a man named Zacchaeus; he was a chief tax collector, and rich. And he sought to see Who Jesus was, but could not, on account of the crowd, because he was small of stature. So he ran on ahead and climbed up into a sycamore tree to see Jesus, for He was to pass that way. And when Jesus came to the place, He looked up and said to him, “Zacchaeus, make haste and come down; for I must stay at your house today.” So he made haste and came down, and received Him joyfully. And when they saw it they all murmured, “He has gone in to be the guest of a man who is a sinner.” And Zacchaeus stood and said to the Lord, “Behold, Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor; and if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I restore it fourfold.” And Jesus said to him, “Today salvation has come to this house, since he also is a son of Abraham; for the Son of man came to seek and to save the lost.”



**On January 21 in the Holy Orthodox Church, we commemorate our righteous
Father Maximos the Confessor.**

Maximos was born in Constantinople. First, he was a high-ranking courtier for Emperor Heraclius and, after that, a monk and abbot of a monastery not too far from the capitol. He was the greatest defender of Orthodoxy against the so-called Monothelite heresy which proceeded from the heresy of Eutyches. He claimed that there is only one nature in Christ (Monophysitism), so the Monothelites claimed that there is only one will in Christ (Monothelitism). Maximos opposed that claim and found himself as an opponent of the emperor and the patriarch. Maximos did not frighten easily but endured to the end in proving that there were two wills as well as two natures in Christ. Because of his efforts, a council was held in Carthage and another in Rome. Both councils anathematized the teachings of the Monothelites.

Maximos suffered greatly for Orthodoxy: he was tortured by princes, deceived by prelates, spat upon by the masses of the people, beaten by soldiers, exiled, imprisoned, until finally, with a severed tongue and hand, he was condemned to exile for life in the land of Skhemaris (near Batum on the Black Sea) where he spent three years in prison and gave up his soul to God in the mid-seventh century.

On this day, we also commemorate the Martyr Neophytos of Nicaea; Venerable Zosimas, Bishop of Syracuse in Sicily; and Venerable Maximos the Greek of Russia.

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



SUNDAY, JANUARY 21, 2018

THIRTY-SECOND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST & FIFTEENTH SUNDAY OF LUKE

VENERABLE MAXIMOS THE CONFESSOR

MARTYR NEOPHYTOS OF NICAEA; VENERABLE ZOSIMAS, BISHOP OF SYRACUSE IN SICILY; VENERABLE MAXIMOS THE GREEK OF RUSSIA

RESURRECTIONAL APOLYTIKION IN TONE EIGHT

From the heights Thou didst descend, O compassionate One, and Thou didst submit to the threeday burial, that Thou might deliver us from passion; Thou art our life and our Resurrection, O Lord, glory to Thee .

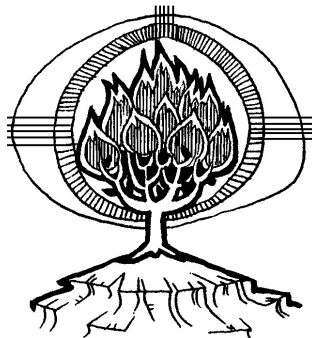
APOLYTIKION OF ST. MAXIMOS THE CONFESSOR IN TONE EIGHT

Thou hast shown thyself, O God-inspired Maximos, as a guide to the Orthodox Faith, a teacher of true worship and purity; O star of the universe and companion of the bishops, O wise one. Through thy light thou hast enlightened all, O harp of the spirit. Therefore, intercede with Christ God to save our souls.

+Now the apolytikion of the holy Apostle Paul+

KONTAKION OF THE PRESENTATION OF CHRIST IN TONE ONE

Thou, O Christ God, Who by Thy Birth, didst sanctify the Virgin's womb, and, as is meet, didst bless Simeon's arms, and didst also come to save us; preserve Thy fold in wars, and confirm them whom Thou didst love, for Thou alone art the Lover of mankind.



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

“SPIRITUAL JOY”

THAT THERE IS TRUE JOY WHENEVER CHRIST IS PRESENT

St. Paisios responds to the comment: “Geronta, there are times I cannot be joyful, and then I think perhaps joy is not for me.”

What are you saying? There is no joy for you? And who is it for, the devil? Have you lost your mind? Joy is for all people. God has not given sorrow. He has only given joy... When your mind is not on God, how can you feel the joy of God? As your mind is constantly fixed on chores and the daily machinery of life, you forget Christ and your spiritual machinery stops working. Start up the Jesus Prayer(*) and the soft chanting, and then you will take off and spin like a top around Christ.”

It is only near Christ that one can find actual and genuine joy, because only Christ gives actual joy and consolation. Wherever Christ is present, that is where true joy and the delight of Paradise are present. Those who are far from Christ do not have true joy. They make plans and dream: ‘I will do this. I will do that? I will go here. I will go there.’ They enjoy worldly honors, or attend all sorts of events, and be happy, but the happiness they feel cannot fill their soul.”

That type of joy is material, worldly joy. The soul, however, is not fulfilled by material joys, and one is then left with a void in his heart. Have you seen what Solomon says? ***‘I made me great works; I builded me houses; I planted me vineyards, I made me gardens... I gathered me also silver and gold... And whatever mine eyes desired, I kept not from them ... and, behold, all was vanity and vexation of spirit, and there was no profit under the sun’ [Cf. Eccl. 2:4-11].***”

“Worldly joy provides something temporary, something ephemeral for the moment. It cannot provide what spiritual joy provides. Spiritual joy is life in Paradise. Those who have first gone through the Crucifixion, and have been resurrected spiritually, live in the joy of Pascha: ‘Pascha, the Pascha of the Lord!’ And then comes Pentecost!... And when they come to Pentecost and receive the fiery tongue, the Holy Spirit, then everything comes to an end...”(**)

(*)”Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me a sinner. Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God...”

(**) - Those words of the Saint express the ultimate purpose of the spiritual struggle of each person: to acquire the Holy Spirit. When a person becomes a communicant of the deifying Grace of the Holy Spirit, he reaches the state of “theosis” — deification, the state of “endless perfection.”

DEADLINE TO PURCHASE TICKETS - THURSDAY, FEB. 1.



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

WEEKLY SERVICE SCHEDULE AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

WEEKLY SERVICES

Saturday: Great Vespers* at **5:00PM (Note Service Time Change - Starting Feb. 3)**

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

Bible Study - Orthodoxy & Scripture - Starting Feb. 1 - Every Thursday at 6:00PM.
Invite family and friends, Orthodox Christian or not - all are welcome! This will not be a "lecture series" but rather an opportunity for edifying discussion and learning.

House Blessing - Every Orthodox Christian should bless their home. To schedule your house blessing and establish a "bond of holiness" between The Church and your home, contact Fr. Paul (frpaulgiris@gmail.com; 509.845.4540; 239.348.0828)

Out of Town - No Great Vespers Sat. (1/27), Fr. Paul & family will be at the Diocese Delegates Meetings hosted by St. Elias Antiochian Orthodox Church in Atlanta, GA (Jan. 25-28). God willing, Fr. Joe will serve the Divine Liturgy at 9:30AM Sun. (1/28).

Pancake Breakfast (Today) - Join us for pancakes & coffee after service in the Pavilion!

Flea Market - Sat. (Feb. 3) 8AM - 1PM. Please extend a hand & spread the word!

2018 Stewardship Campaign & Pledge Drive - Please return Pledge Cards by Jan. 31 as the future growth of this parish depends on it - may God bless it!

Meeting (Presentation) of Christ in the Temple - Friday/Feb. 2 Service Details TBA

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

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

