



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).

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509.845.4540 (mobile)
239.348.0828 (office)

PRAYERS FOR THE HEALTH AND MEMORY OF...

Prayers in **memory of** Al and Marilyn Salem are offered by the Salem family. May their memory be eternal!

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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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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 Sunday of the Pharisee and Publican)

Make vows to the Lord thy God, and perform them.

In Judah God is known; His Name is great in Israel.

The Reading from the Second Epistle of St. Paul to St. Timothy. (3:10-15)

Timothy my son, you have observed my teaching, my conduct, my aim in life, my faith, my patience, my love, my steadfastness, my persecutions, and my sufferings; and what befell me at Antioch, at Iconium, and at Lystra. What persecutions I endured; yet from them all, the Lord rescued me. Indeed all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted, while evil men and impostors will go on from bad to worse, deceivers and deceived. But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings which are able to instruct you for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.

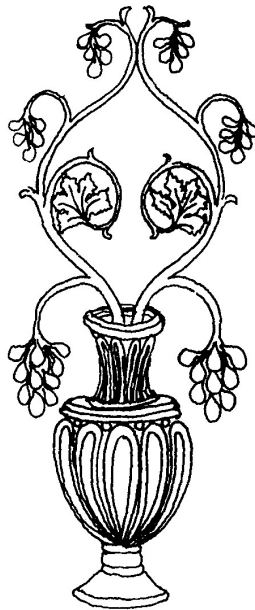


THE GOSPEL

(For the Sunday of the Pharisee and Publican)

The Reading is from the Holy Gospel according St. Luke. (18:10-14)

The Lord spoke this parable: “Two men went up into the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, ‘God, I thank Thee that I am not like other men, extortionists, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I get.’ But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even lift up his eyes to Heaven, but beat his breast, saying, ‘God, be merciful to me a sinner!’ I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other; for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but he who humbles himself will be exalted.”



THE SYNAXARION

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

On January 28 in the Holy Orthodox Church, we commemorate of our Venerable and God-bearing Fathers Ephraim and Isaac the Syrians; Venerable Palladios of Antioch; Martyr Charita; and Venerable Theodosios of Totma in Vologda. On this day, we make remembrance of the Parable of the Pharisee and the Publican, which occurs in the Holy Gospel according to Luke the Evangelist.

In our Savior’s parable, Jesus uses a Pharisee, a leader of the synagogue, who was regarded in public opinion as virtuous; and a publican, a tax collector, who was regarded as oppressive, greedy and a sinner. In their prayers to God, we discover the real hearts of these two men.

We thus learn of the harm that comes from pride and the good that comes from humility. The divine Church Fathers sought to alert and prepare the Christ-loving clergy and laity for the upcoming period of the Great Fast. Therefore, on this Sunday we are reminded that humility is the greatest weapon against pride, as we imitate the humility of the publican to ascend to the divine heights.

Through the intercessions of the wonderworking Saints, O Christ our God, have mercy upon us and save us. Amen.



SUNDAY, JANUARY 28, 2018

SUNDAY OF THE PHARISEE AND PUBLICAN

GOD-BEARING FATHERS EPHRAIM AND ISAAC THE SYRIANS;
VENERABLE PALLADIOS OF ANTIOCH; MARTRY CHARITA;
VENERABLE THEODOSIOS OF TOTMA IN VOLOGDA

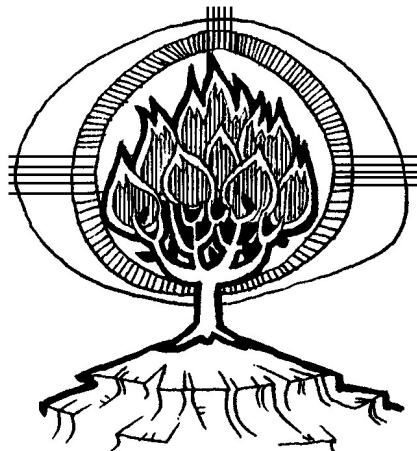
RESURRECTIONAL APOLYTIKION IN TONE ONE

While the stone was sealed by the Jews, and the soldiers were guarding Thy most pure body, Thou didst arise on the third day, O Savior, granting life to the world. For which cause the heavenly powers cried aloud unto Thee, O giver of life. Glory to Thy Resurrection, O Christ, glory to Thy kingdom, glory to Thy providence, O Thou Who alone art the lover of mankind.

+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 SPIRITUAL JOY IS THE FRUIT OF SPIRITUAL WORK

St. Paisios responds to the comment:

“Geronta (Elder), tell us something about heavenly joys.”

“Since there are heavenly joys and delights in this life on earth, one wonders if there is something more sublime in the other life than what is experienced here. These joys cannot be articulated; they can only be experienced.”

“Geronta (Elder), how can one attain such a condition?”

“In order to reach the state wherein you cannot contain the joy, nor express it, you need to be vigilant about three things: Act simply; don't over occupy yourself with others; say the Jesus Prayer (*). If you do these things, the time will come when you will feel so much joy that you will tell me: ‘...I have gone crazy! I can't possibly be well! What is this that I am feeling?’ Your joy will be that daft (silly, child-like)!”

“Geronta (Elder), for one who is to have spiritual joy, does he have to be in a good spiritual state?”

“What do you think? Would one have spiritual joy...when he is in a disorderly state? Inner joy comes with the putting into place of our self, which is what gives wings to the soul. When the soul has not been warmed up by inner work, it is like a car with a cold engine that needs to be pushed in order to start. However, inner work - vigilance in the observance of our inner self, study and the Jesus Prayer - warms up the soul, so that the engine starts up and keeps going. That is when one can overlook the external details, and make spiritual leaps and bounds.”

**Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me the sinner...Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God...*

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**

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

Divine Liturgy of St. John - Presentation of Christ in the Temple - Thursday, Feb. 3
at 6:00PM. Please note adjusted Bible Study start date.

Bible Study - Orthodoxy & Scripture - Starting Feb. 8 - Each Thursday at 6:00PM.
Invite family and friends, Orthodox Christian or not - all are welcome! An opportunity
for edifying discussion and learning about the Christian faith.

Founders' Weekend - Welcome to our new Bishop - Thursday, Feb. 1, deadline to
purchase tickets for brunch event (ablan.joseph@gmail.com; 913.484.8047).

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 (frpaulgirgis@gmail.com; 509.845.4540; 239.348.0828).

Great Vespers - Resumes Feb. 3 at 5:00PM.

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!

Save The Date - Lenten Women's Retreat - March 3 at St. Peter Orthodox Mission.

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

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

