



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)



# LACES OF LOVE

NEW SHOES FOR NEEDY KIDS

**There are many children and young adults in Collier County who need shoes. To meet this end, the Antiochian Women have teamed with Laces of Love to bring footwear to those in need.**

**During the week of Sunday Jan 14, through Sunday, Jan 21 please bring new shoes, or sneakers, tied together, (no boxes) to St. Paul Conference room.**

**The shoes can be purchased in Target, Walmart, or wherever you shop. They should not be expensive, but they must be NEW.**

## PRAYERS FOR THE HEALTH AND MEMORY OF...

Prayers for the **Health of** Greg and Kyra Strachov are offered by Vincent and Irene Benfatti.

Prayers for the **Health of** Tania, Sofia, Marina and the entire Benfatti family, that our Lord's loving protection may rest upon them, are offered by Vincent and Irene Benfatti.

Prayers in **Memory of** Christopher Davis and Erin Daddio are offered by Lou (Lazarus) and Shirly Nicholas.

+++

*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)

+++

**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); Lora Bidireanu (1/22); Linda Shady (1/22); 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 Synaxis)

*The righteous shall rejoice in the Lord. O God, hear my prayer.*

### The Reading is from the Acts of the Apostles. (19:1-8)

In those days, while Apollos was at Corinth, Paul passed through the upper country and came to Ephesus. There he found some disciples. And he said to them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?" And they said, "No, we have never even heard that there is a Holy Spirit." And he said, "Into what then were you baptized?" They said, "Into John's baptism." And Paul said, "John baptized with the baptism of repentance, telling the people to believe in the One Who was to come after him, that is, Jesus." On hearing this, they were baptized in the Name of the Lord Jesus. And when Paul had laid his hands upon them, the Holy Spirit came on them; and they spoke with tongues and prophesied. There were about twelve of them in all. And he entered the synagogue and for three months spoke boldly, arguing and pleading about the Kingdom of God.



## THE SYNAXARION

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

**On January 7 in the Holy Orthodox Church, we commemorate the New-martyr Athanasios of Attalia; and Venerable Brannock of Braunton.**

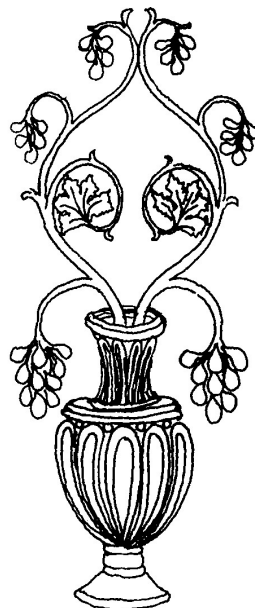
### THE GOSPEL

(For the Synaxis)

**The Reading is from the Holy Gospel according to St. John . (1:29-34)**

At that time, John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, “Behold, the Lamb of God, Who takes away the sin of the world! This is He of Whom I said, ‘After me comes a man Who ranks before me, for He was before me.’ I myself did not know Him; but for this I came baptizing with water, that He might be revealed to Israel.”

And John bore witness, “I saw the Spirit descend as a dove from heaven, and it remained on Him. I myself did not know Him; but He Who sent me to baptize with water said to me, ‘He on Whom you see the Spirit descend and remain, this is He Who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.’ And I have seen and have borne witness that this is the Son of God.”



On this day, we celebrate the Synaxis (Gathering) of the holy and glorious Prophet, Forerunner and Baptist John. On the same day is also commemorated the translation of his most precious and holy right hand unto the city of Constantinople.

Because John’s main role in his life was played out on the day of Theophany (Epiphany), the Church from earliest times dedicated the “day after” to his memory. Among the Gospel personalities who surround the Savior, John the Baptist occupies a totally unique place by his roles in baptizing the Messiah and in baptizing people from repentance.

John prepared himself in the wilderness of the desert for 30 years for his great service by a strict life, by fasting, prayer and sympathy for the fate of God’s people. John was of such moral purity that, in truth, he could be called an angel (messenger) as Holy Scripture calls him rather than a mortal man. He appeared on the banks of the Jordan, to prepare the people by his preaching to accept the Savior of the world. In church hymnology, the Baptist is called a “bright morning star,” whose gleaming outshone the brilliance of all the other stars, announcing the coming dawn of the day of grace, illumined with the light of the spiritual Sun, our Lord Jesus Christ. John differs from all other prophets especially in that he had that privilege of being able, with his hand, to show the world Him about Whom he prophesied. As the holy Forerunner and Baptist of the Lord—whom the Lord called the greatest of the prophets—John concludes the history of the Old Testament and opens the era of the New Testament. He bore witness to the Only-Begotten Son of God, incarnate in the flesh. John was accounted worthy to baptize Him in the waters of the Jordan, and he was a witness of the Theophany of the Most Holy Trinity at the Savior’s Baptism.



By the intercessions of Thy Forerunner, O Christ our God, have mercy on us. Amen.



**SUNDAY, JANUARY 07, 2018**

**SYNAXIS OF THE HOLY PROPHET, FORERUNNER & BAPTIST JOHN**

**SAINTS COMMEMORATED TODAY:**

**NEW-MARTYR ATHANASIOS OF ATTALIA; VENERABLE BRANNOCK OF BRAUNTON**

**RESURRECTIONAL APOLYTIKION IN TONE SIX**

When Mary stood at Thy grave, looking for Thy sacred body, angelic powers shone above Thy revered tomb; and the soldiers who were to keep guard became as dead men. Thou led Hades captive and wast not tempted thereby. Thou didst meet the Virgin and didst give life to the world, O Thou, Who art risen from the dead, O Lord, glory to Thee.

**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.

**APOLYTIKION OF SYNAXIS OF JOHN THE BAPTIST IN TONE TWO**

The memory of the righteous is celebrated with songs of praise, but the Lord's testimony is sufficient for thee, O Forerunner. Thou wast shown indeed to be the most honorable of the prophets, for in the waters thou didst baptize Him Who had been proclaimed. After suffering with joy in behalf of the truth, thou didst proclaim even to those in Hades the God Who appeared in the flesh, Who taketh away the sin of the world, and granteth us the Great Mercy.

*+Now the apolytikion of the holy Apostle Paul+*

**KONTAKION OF THE THEOPHANY OF CHRIST IN TONE THREE**

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 CHRIST HAS HUNG THE SALVATION OF ALL PEOPLE ON  
PATIENCE**

...Continuing the account of the mother with children, abandoned by her husband:

Meanwhile, the doctor had three more children with his mistress. But what happened? As soon as the third child was born, he got involved with another young woman, a sixteen-year-old, whom he invited to his office to assist as a nurse, and he sent away his mistress and their three children. The spiritual laws, you see, came in-to effect, forcing the woman to pay her debt and realize the pain she had caused to the legal wife. After a while, the doctor got sick and was bedridden in his home. The latest young woman stayed with him for as long as he had money, but she lived immorally. As she was supposed to be taking care of him and couldn't leave the house, she invited friends over. But her lifestyle constantly wounded the doctor and made him jealous of her. In the end, after squandering the money he had set aside, the woman abandoned him.

When his real wife heard about his terrible condition, she went to take care of him. She cleaned and put the house in order, and took care of her wayward husband with the money she had earned while working, as well as with the money of her children — who had grown up and were working. As for the previous mistress who had been expelled, not only did she not approach to help even a little, she didn't even want to hear of him. Only the woman with whom he had been crowned in church, his wife, returned to stand by him, take care of him and help him spiritually. Finally, the doctor asked for his confession to be heard. And after that, he lived in repentance.

Seeing this entire effort of the good wife - enduring for years and years, living honorably and working hard to raise her children, and then to continue working hard to take care of her husband who had treated her so badly and barbarously - God, in His benevolence, rewarded her. So what happened next? A rich relative of her husband died in America and left him a substantial inheritance. In the end, the inheritance came to the good wife and mother, who helped her own children and other poor people, and who lived the remainder of her life without poverty. Yet, we must say that even when she was living in poverty, this woman was wealthy, because she was rich in goodness and kindness — the most important kind of wealth.



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 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](mailto:frpaulgirgis@gmail.com); 509.845.4540; 239.348.0828)

**Congratulations to Michael and Olivia Pagedas** on the birth of their second daughter, Cassandra Olivia. By God's grace, all are happy and healthy. May God grant their newest addition many years! (Born: January 4, 2018 at 2:22PM)

**Order of St. Ignatius Brunch** - Jan. 14 (Sunday), at Pelican Marsh. A wonderful opportunity to learn more about this philanthropic organization in our Archdiocese. All are welcome - RSVP by contacting Barbara Hebekka ([ebhebeka@hotmail.com](mailto:ebhebeka@hotmail.com)) first. RSVP deadline is January 10, 2018.

**2018 Stewardship Campaign & Pledge Drive** - Commit to godly stewardship by responding to this pledge drive. It is the most effective way for you to be part of the growth at St. Paul Church. By being faithful with all these things God has given us, we are expressing our gratitude, for all things, to Him.

**Flea Market** - Saturday, Jan. 13 (8AM-1PM) - See Anna C. to reserve a table and/or volunteer to help in this great event. Let's come together and make this happen!

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

