



ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH



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HIS EMINENCE METROPOLITAN JOSEPH, ARCHBISHOP OF NEW YORK
AND METROPOLITAN OF ALL NORTH AMERICA

HIS GRACE BISHOP NICHOLAS, AUXILIARY BISHOP
OF THE DIOCESE OF MIAMI AND THE SOUTHEAST

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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2018 ST. PAUL CHURCH PARISH COUNCIL

MAY GOD GRANT THEM MANY YEARS TO SERVE IN A MANNER THAT BOLDLY UPHOLDS THE TEACHINGS AND HOLY TRADITION OF THE HOLY ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CHURCH.

2018 PARISH COUNCIL OFFICERS

Elias Hebeka - Chair

Nick Ferris - Vice Chair

Joseph Ablan - Secretary

William Yurkovac - Treasurer

2018 PARISH COUNCIL MEMBERS

Joseph Ablan

Demetri Agoritsas

Phil Ayoub

Vince Benfatti

Robert Cardoos

Albert Castley

Ed Edge

Nick Ferris

Elias Hebeka

Judy Tirakis

Bill Yurkovac

THE PARISH COUNCIL WILL ALWAYS WELCOME ANY IDEAS OR SUGGESTIONS FROM OUR PARISHIONERS IF IT BENEFITS THE CHURCH.

PLEASE DO NOT HESITATE TO CONTACT ELIAS HEBEKA (E.HEBEKA@GMAIL.COM) OR ANY MEMBER OF THE PARISH COUNCIL SO THAT YOUR SUGGESTION CAN BE DISCUSSED AT THE COUNCIL'S MEETING (2ND TUESDAY OF THE MONTH)



BELOVED FAMILY OF SAINT PAUL:

THE ANTIOCHIAN WOMEN of our Parish are offering each of us an opportunity to offer aid to the suffering people throughout our world by preparing:

EMERGENCY KITS*

During February, March and April, we are preparing ***Hygiene Kits:*** Buy a one-gallon plastic bag with a zipper closure and please assemble the following items:

- ❖ **One hand towel**
- ❖ **One washcloth**
- ❖ **One comb**
- ❖ **One nail clipper**
- ❖ **One bar of soap (bath size)**
- ❖ **One toothbrush (NO TOOTHPASTE)**
- ❖ **Six Band-Aids**

We recommend that you then place them inside the zippered bag & drop them into the clearly marked box in the Conference Room.



Any cash donations to offset mailing costs will be gratefully accepted.

“...PRAY ONE FOR ANOTHER, THAT YOU MAY BE HEALED. THE EFFECTIVE, FERVENT PRAYER OF A RIGHTEOUS MAN AVAILS MUCH.” +JAMES 5:16

Prayers for the **health of** Tania, Sofia, Marina, Gregory, Kyra, Louis Jr., Jody, Irene, Vincent, and all The Benfatti children, are offered by Irene and Vincent Benfatti.

The Castley Family offers prayers for the good **health of** Al Castley on the occasion of his 80th Birthday. Many Years!

The Castley Family offers prayers for the **health of** Al and Anna Castley on the occasion of their 34th wedding anniversary.

Prayers for the **health of** Anna Castley and in memory of Anna's brother are offered by Elias & Barbara Hebek.

Prayers for the **health of** Chuckie Shahadie, Eva Ozman, and Nora Ayoub, are offered by Alan and Debbie Abraham.

Prayers for **memory of** Bill Jollie, the late brother of Bessie Jarjoura, and late husband of Denise Jollie are offered by Bessie and Denise. The prayers for the departed will be performed on the occasion of the three-year anniversary of his repose.

Prayers for the **memory of** Michael Samone, the grandson of Robert and Margaret Mourad, are offered by Dr. David and Betty Bojrab.

Prosphora is offered in **memory of** Christopher Davis and for the **health of** the Davis, Corey, and Shaheen families.

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

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February Birthdays: Al Castley (2/16)

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; Currently for children ages 3-7 but all are welcome. Snack and Orthodoxy provided!

Orthodoxy & Scripture - Thursdays at 6:00PM. All are welcome! An opportunity for edifying discussion and learning about the Ancient Christian faith.

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Sunday of Orthodoxy Vespers - Today at Holy Cross Orthodox Church in Fort Myers at 5:00pm - all area clergy and faithful are invited. Light refreshments to follow.

"Spiritual Saturday" - Mar. 3 - Women's Retreat - Registration Forms on "Visitors Table" in Narthex - speak to Fr. Paul if there are any questions!

GREAT LENT 2018 - WEEKDAY SERVICE SCHEDULE

(ALL SERVICES AT 6PM)

Monday - Great Compline

Wednesday - Presanctified Liturgy (Lenten Potluck immediately afterwards)

Friday - Little Compline W/Akathist

The Bread Basket - Pita Bread Sale to benefit the parish; "Bread Basket" open each Sunday of Great Lent; \$3/package. Sponsored The Order of St. Ignatius here at St. Paul

1st Annual St. Paul Church Family Picnic - Sat., Apr. 14 - Save the date!

House Blessing - Every Orthodox Christian should bless their home. Contact Fr. Paul (frpaulgirgis@gmail.com) or church office (239.348.0828) to schedule a time.

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

LETTER FROM HIS EMINENCE THE MOST REVEREND +METROPOLITAN JOSEPH

FEBRUARY 25, 2018

Reverend Fathers, Esteemed Members of the Parish Council, and Beloved Faithful:

Greetings and blessings to you in the Name of Our Lord, God, and Savior, Jesus Christ!

I pray that all of you have been granted by God a good start to the Lenten journey over the course of the past week, and that He will continue to strengthen you with His Grace for coming weeks!

During our annual commemoration of the Sunday of Orthodoxy, we ask each parish to contribute towards the education and formation of our young men studying for the holy priesthood. As we celebrate today what is called the Triumph of Orthodoxy, we should be reminded that we have been given a precious inheritance – the “faith once and for all delivered to the saints” – through the struggles of our martyrs and ascetics, the devotion of our parents and grandparents, and the divinely enlightened erudition of the Fathers. We, therefore, have a sacred responsibility to ensure the passing down the “precious pearl” of Holy Orthodoxy to future generations as we have received it.

The young men who have answered the call to serve in the ranks of our clergy, as well as their wives and families, have sacrificially offered themselves to the Church to love and to serve Her people and to work for the preservation of the Faith we celebrate today. I ask for all of our faithful, Christ-loving flock to generously donate towards the support of the seminarians and their families. This is a sacred responsibility for all of us to share as they as their families will be sharing their lives and their love with us.

Wishing all of you a grace-filled and salvific journey to the Passion and Resurrection of our Lord, I remain,

Your Father in Christ,

+JOSEPH

Archbishop of New York and Metropolitan of all North America

THE SYNAXARION

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

On February 25 in the Holy Orthodox Church, we commemorate Tarasios the confessor, archbishop of Constantinople; Hieromartyr Reginos, bishop of Skopelos; Hieromartyr Markellos, bishop of Apamea in Syria; Martyr Alexander of Markianopolis

On this same day, the First Sunday of the Fast, we make remembrance of the restoration of the holy and venerable Icons, which took place through the ever-memorable Sovereigns of Constantinople, Michael and his mother, Theodora, during the patriarchate of Saint Methodios the Confessor.

"I rejoice, as I see them fittingly reverence The icons formerly unfittingly banished."

This restoration was accomplished in the year 842. Theodora's husband was an iconoclast. After his death, Theodora venerated an icon of the Theotokos in front of Patriarch Methodios. The other faithful in the church did the same, venerating all the icons, considering them to be representations of their original elements, not idols. Theodora prayed to God to forgive her husband during the first week of Great Lent; and on the First Sunday of the Fast, she led the way in hanging up the icons to adorn the churches.

O invariant Icon of the Father, through the intercessions of Thy holy Confessors, have mercy on us. Amen.



SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2018

FIRST SUNDAY OF GREAT LENT (SUNDAY OF ORTHODOXY)

TARASIOS THE CONFESSOR, ARCHBISHOP OF CONSTANTINOPLE; HIEROMARTYR REGINOS, BISHOP OF SKOPELOS; HIEROMARTYR MARKELLOS, BISHOP OF APAMEA IN SYRIA; MARTYR ALEXANDER OF MARKIONOPOLIS

RESURRECTIONAL APOLYTIKION IN TONE FIVE

Let us believers praise and worship the Word; coeternal with the Father and the Spirit, born of the Virgin for our salvation. For, He took pleasure in ascending the Cross in the flesh to suffer death; and to raise the dead by His glorious Resurrection.

APOLYTIKION OF FIRST SUNDAY OF GREAT LENT IN TONE TWO

Thy pure image do we venerate, O good One, asking forgiveness of our sins, O Christ our God; for by Thine own will Thou didst ascend the Cross in Thy body, to save Thy creatures from the bondage of the enemy. Thou hast verily filled all with joy, since Thou didst come, O our Savior, to save the world.

+Now the apolytikion of the holy Apostle Paul+

KONTAKION FOR THE ANNUNCIATION/GREAT LENT IN TONE EIGHT

To thee, the Champion Leader, do I offer thanks of victory, O Theotokos, thou who hast delivered me from terror; but as thou that hast that power invincible, O Theotokos, thou alone can set me free: from all forms of danger free me and deliver me, that I may cry unto thee: Hail, O Bride without Bridegroom.

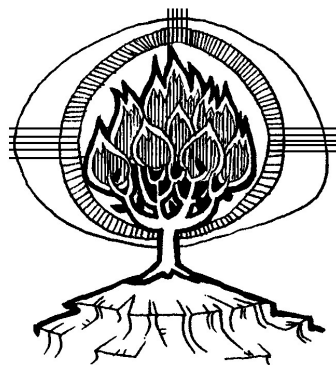


THE EPISTLE

Blessed art Thou, O Lord, the God of our fathers. For Thou art just in all that Thou hast done for us.

The Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Hebrews. (11:24-26, 32-40)

Brethren, by faith Moses, when he was grown up, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, choosing rather to share ill-treatment with the people of God than to enjoy the fleeting pleasures of sin. And what more shall I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets; who through faith conquered kingdoms, enforced justice, received promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched raging fire, escaped the edge of the sword, won strength out of weakness, became mighty in war, and put foreign armies to flight. Women received their dead by resurrection. Some were tortured, refusing to accept release that they might rise again to a better life. Others suffered mocking and scourging, and even chains and imprisonment. They were stoned, they were sawn in two, they were killed with the sword; they went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, afflicted, ill-treated—of whom the world was not worthy—wandering over deserts and mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth. And all these, though well attested by their faith, did not receive what was promised, since God had foreseen something better for us, that apart from us they should not be made perfect.



THE GOSPEL

The Reading is from the Holy Gospel according St. John. (1:43-51)

At that time, Jesus decided to go to Galilee. And He found Philip and said to him, "Follow Me." Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. Philip found Nathanael, and said to him, "We have found Him of Whom Moses in the Law and also the Prophets wrote, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph." Nathanael said to him, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" Philip said to him, "Come and see." Jesus saw Nathanael coming to Him, and said of him, "Behold, an Israelite indeed, in whom is no guile!" Nathanael said to Jesus, "How do you know me?" Jesus answered him, "Before Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree, I saw you." Nathanael answered Him, "Rabbi, Thou art the Son of God! Thou art the King of Israel!" Jesus answered him, "Because I said to you, I saw you under the fig tree, do you believe? You shall see greater things than these." And Jesus said to him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, you will see heaven opened, and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of man."

