



SAINT PAUL



ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH



REV. FR. PAUL GIRGIS
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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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PRAYERS FOR THE HEALTH AND MEMORY OF...

Prayers in **memory of** Al and Marilyn Salem are offered by Ray and Leila Trabulsi.

Prayers in **memory of** Richard (Dickie) Joseph, Jr. on occasion of his 6 month repose are offered by Harvey and Connie Tolson.

Prayers in **memory of** Michael Simone, grandson of Bob and Margaret Mourad, are offered by Fr. Joe and Diane Shaheen.

Prayers in **memory of** Eduardo and Angelina Pentella, parents of Vincenza (Jennie) Mansour, are offered by Vincenza and Raymond Mansour.

May the Lord our God remember them in His Kingdom.

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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!

February Birthdays: Al Castley (2/16)



2018 STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN (UPDATE)

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 on **February 18**, God willing.

To date, we have received pledges from **only 52 families**, which is hardly more than half of our parish. As such, brothers and sisters, please submit your pledge right away - 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 Prodigal Son)

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

The Reading from the First Epistle of St. Paul to St. Timothy. (6:12-20)

Brethren, all things are lawful for me, but not all things are helpful. All things are lawful for me, but I will not be enslaved by anything. Food is meant for the stomach and the stomach for food; but God will destroy both one and the other. The body is not meant for immorality, but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body. And God raised the Lord and will also raise us up by His power. Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Shall I therefore take the members of Christ and make them members of a prostitute? Never! Do you not know that he who joins himself to a prostitute becomes one body with her? For, as it is written, “The two shall become one flesh.” But he who is united to the Lord becomes one spirit with Him. Shun immorality. Every other sin which a man commits is outside the body; but the immoral man sins against his own body. Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, which you have from God? You are not your own; you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God’s.



THE GOSPEL

(For Sunday of the Prodigal Son)

The Reading is from the Holy Gospel according St. Luke. (15:11-32)

The Lord spoke this parable: "There was a man who had two sons; and the younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of property that falls to me.' And he divided his living between them. Not many days later, the younger son gathered all he had and took his journey into a far country, and there he squandered his property in loose living. And when he had spent everything, a great famine arose in that country, and he began to be in want. So he went and joined himself to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him into his fields to feed swine. And he would gladly have fed on the pods that the swine ate; and no one gave him anything. But when he came to himself he said, 'How many of my father's hired servants have bread enough and to spare, but I perish here with hunger! I will arise and go to my father, and I will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me as one of your hired servants."' And he arose and came to his father. But while he was yet at a distance, his father saw him and had compassion, and ran and embraced him and kissed him. And the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' But the father said to his servants, 'Bring quickly the best robe, and put it on him; and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet; and bring the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and make merry; for this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found.' And they began to make merry. Now his elder son was in the field; and as he came and drew near to the house, he heard music and dancing. And he called one of the servants and asked what this meant. And he said to him, 'Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has received him safe and sound.' But he was angry and refused to go in. His father came out and entreated him, but he answered his father, 'Lo, these many years I have served you, and I never disobeyed your command; yet you never gave me a kid that I might make merry with my friends. But when this son of yours came, who has devoured your living with harlots, you killed for him the fatted calf!' And he said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. It was fitting to make merry and be glad, for this your brother was dead, and is alive; he was lost, and is found.'"

THE SYNAXARION

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

On February 4, in the Holy Orthodox Church, we commemorate the Venerable Isidore of Pelusium; Venerable Nicholas the Confessor of Studion; New-martyr Joseph of Aleppo; and George, prince of Vladimir.

On the Sunday which falls during the After-feast of the Presentation (Meeting) of our Lord, we commemorate the Holy and Righteous Mothers of the Three Hierarchs: Emmelia (Basil the Great), Nona (Gregory the Theologian) and Anthousa (John Chrysostom).

On this day, we make remembrance of the Parable of the Prodigal Son, which occurs in the noble Gospel and which our deified Fathers reinstated in the Triodion.

In the parable our Savior tells, Jesus illustrates three things: the condition of the sinner, the canon of repentance and the knowledge of God's compassion. For in the person of the prodigal son, we view the wretched condition that sin creates for us, distant from God and His Sacraments. However, we become aware of ourselves and awaken, hastening with hope to return to Him through repentance. Our Savior wants to call back to His mansions all those who have been overtaken by despair, lacking hope of forgiveness for their grave sins. The Father encourages all of his lost children to remove the desperation from their hearts, and revive their energies for virtuous deeds.

Through Thine ineffable love for mankind, O Christ our God, have mercy upon us. Amen.



SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 04, 2018

SUNDAY OF THE PRODIGAL SON & AFTER-FEAST OF PRESENTATION OF CHRIST

RESURRECTIONAL APOLYTIKION IN TONE TWO

When Thou didst submit Thyself unto death, O Thou deathless and immortal One, then Thou didst destroy hell with Thy Godly power. And when Thou didst raise the dead from beneath the earth, all the powers of Heaven did cry aloud unto Thee: O Christ, Thou giver of life, glory to Thee.

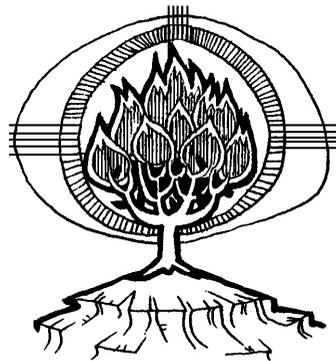
APOLYTIKION OF THE PRESENTATION OF CHRIST IN TONE ONE

Rejoice, O Virgin Theotokos, full of grace, for from thee arose the Sun of justice, Christ our God, lighting those who are in darkness. Rejoice and be glad, O righteous elder, carrying in thine arms the Deliverer of our souls, Who granteth us Resurrection.

+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 question:

“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.”

“And then, Geronta, can he be influenced, if he finds himself in a difficult environment?”

“No, he is not affected. Since he now moves about in another realm, another atmosphere, he is outside of the environment. And because he moves about in another atmosphere, the outer environment does not trouble him. It is as if others are speaking another language that he does not know, and so he does not understand what they are saying. And it is better that he does not understand, because if he did understand, even a little, his attention would be drawn in that direction. But now, he is devoted to the language that he understands. That is how this inner flight begins.

Do you have any idea what this inner flight is? Which angelic order has wings — the Cherubim or the Seraphim? ... (Seraphim)...Do you know what the Seraphim do? They beat their wings with a rhythm...That is how the heart beats, with a pulsation, when there is an inner flight of the soul. Life is then a festival. But you are still tied to your selves, and so the heart has not been liberated, in order to attain this state — to be leaping with joy. My children, why don't you first taste a little bit of this joy and then come to have a talk?”

WEEKLY SERVICE SCHEDULE AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

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.

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

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

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).

REMINDER: 2018 Stewardship Campaign & Pledge Drive - Please return Pledge Cards right away as the future growth of this parish depends on it - may God bless it!

Lenten Women's Retreat - March 3 at St. Peter Orthodox Mission (Details to come)

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

Great Lent - Service Schedule Coming Soon

"Founders' Weekend - Welcome to our new Bishop"

Saturday: Reception of Bishop & Great Vespers at 5:00PM (Please be on time)

Sunday: Orthros at 8:15AM;
Hierarchical Divine Liturgy at 9:30AM

Brunch to follow at Olde Cypress - Advanced tickets required. Questions? Contact Joe Ablan (ablan.joseph@gmail.com; 913.484.8047).