



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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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 **memory of** Paulose George, the late husband of Aley George are offered by Aley. The prayers for the departed will be performed on the occasion of the 3 year anniversary of his repose.

Prayers for the **memory of** John Dominick Lofaro, brother of Anna Castley, are offered by Shirley and Lou Nicholas

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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March Birthday: Stephanie Sapp (3/5)

May God grant her many years!

WEEKLY SERVICE SCHEDULE AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

WEEKLY SERVICES

Saturday: Great Vespers* at 5:00PM

Sunday: Orthros 8:15AM; 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 (Bible Study) - Thursdays at 6:00PM. All are welcome! An opportunity for edifying discussion and learning about the Ancient Christian faith. If you missed this past week, the reading material is available to take home - ask Fr. Paul!

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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

Website & Facebook page - Visit the new St. Paul Church website (stpaulnaples.org) and "Follow"/"Like" the new St. Paul Facebook page (www.facebook.com/stpaulnaples)

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

Antiochian Women (AW) Meeting - Sat. March 10 - 11:30AM at Pelican March. Please RSVP with Barbara Hebeke (ebhebeke@hotmail.com)

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

Food For Hungry People - Several boxes located in narthex - Please make sure to give to our brothers and sisters in need.

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

ON OCCASION OF THIS SUNDAY OF ST. GREGORY PALAMAS

+SPIRITUAL MORSELS FROM A SPIRITUAL GIANT+

"... the passion for popularity brings such injury upon those it masters that it shipwrecks faith itself. Our Lord confirms this when He says, 'How can you have faith in Me when you receive honour from one another and do not seek for the honour that comes from the only God?' (cf. Jn. 5:44)."

"If you put something fragrant on to burning coals, you motivate those who approach to come back again and to stay near, but if instead you put on something with an unpleasant, oppressive smell, you repel them and drive them away. It is the same with the mind. If your attention is occupied with what is holy, you make yourself worthy of being visited by God, since this is the sweet savour which God catches scent of. On the other hand, if you nurture evil, foul and earthly thoughts within you, you remove yourself from God's supervision and unfortunately make yourself worthy of His aversion."

"If from one burning lamp someone lights another, then another from that one, and so on in succession, he has light continuously. In the same way, through the Apostles ordaining their successors, and these successors ordaining others, and so on, the grace of the Holy Spirit is handed down through all generations and enlightens all who obey their spiritual shepherds and teachers."

"You should secretly give from what you have to those in need, so that you receive from God, Who sees in secret, a hundred times more, as well as life eternal in the age to come (cf. Mt. 6:4; Mk. 10:30)."

"Let not one think, my fellow Christian, that only priests and monks need to pray without ceasing and not laymen No, no; every Christian without exception ought to dwell always in prayer."

"We know that prayer in and of itself cannot save us, but carrying it out before God can. For when the Lord's eyes are upon us He sanctifies us, as the sun warms everything upon which it shines."



THE SYNAXARION

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

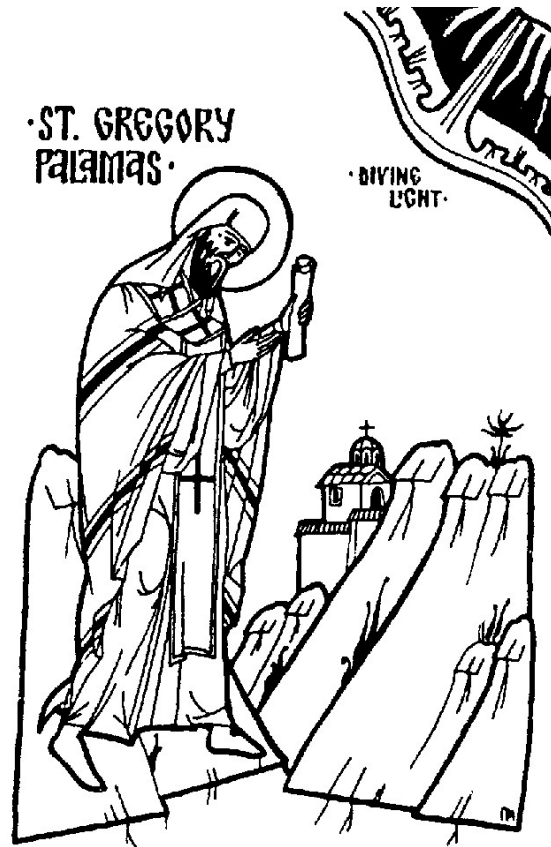
On March 4 in the Holy Orthodox Church, we commemorate the Venerable Gerasimos of the Jordan; Gregory, bishop of Constantia in Cyprus; Martyrs Paul and Juliana of Palestine; and Daniel the wonderworker, prince of Moscow.

On this same day, the Second Sunday of the Fast, we make remembrance of our father among the saints, Gregory Palamas, archbishop of Thessalonica.

This divine father was born in Asia and was brought up from infancy in the royal palace of Constantinople. When he was of age, Gregory left the palace and gave himself to asceticism on Mount Athos. He eventually moved to Thessalonica to seek cure for the diseases he contracted because of his asceticism and piety. In 1349, he was elevated to the episcopacy, tending to his people in an Apostolic fashion for 13 years. He is glorified as an ascetic, a theologian, a hierarch and a miracle-worker, who forsook a prominent, secular lifestyle to take up his cross and follow Christ.

The Most-Holy Theotokos, St. John the Theologian, St. Demetrius, St. Anthony the Great, St. John Chrysostom and angels of God appeared to him at different times.

Through his intercessions, O Lord Jesus Christ our God, have mercy upon us. Amen



SUNDAY, MARCH 4, 2018

SECOND SUNDAY OF GREAT LENT

COMMEMORATION OF GREGORY PALAMAS, ARCHBISHOP OF THESSALONICA

VENERABLE GERASIMOS OF THE JORDAN; GREGORY, BISHOP OF CONSTANTIA IN CYPRUS; MARTYRS PAUL AND JULIANA OF PALESTINE; DANIEL THE WONDERWORKER, PRINCE OF MOSCOW

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 FOR ST. GREGORY PALAMAS
IN TONE EIGHT

O Star of Orthodoxy, support of the Church and its teacher, O comeliness of ascetics, and incontestable champion of those who speak in theology, Gregory the wonder-worker, the pride of Thessalonica and preacher of grace, implore thou constantly for the salvation of our souls.

+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.

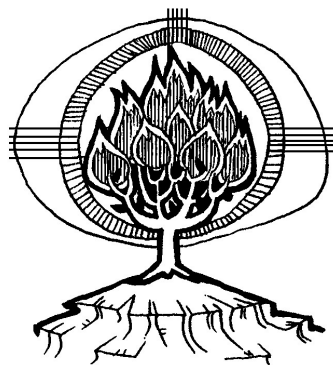


THE EPISTLE

O Lord, Thou wilt preserve us and keep us from this generation. Save me, O Lord, for the godly man hath disappeared.

The Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Hebrews. (1:10-2:3)

In the beginning, Thou, O Lord, didst found the earth, and the heavens are the work of Thy hands; they will perish, but Thou remainest; they will all grow old like a garment, like a mantle Thou wilt roll them up, and they will be changed. But Thou art the same, and Thy years will never end." But to what angel has He ever said, "Sit at My right hand, until I make Thine enemies a stool for thy feet"? Are they not all ministering spirits sent forth to serve, for the sake of those who are to obtain salvation? Therefore, we must pay closer attention to what we have heard, lest we drift away from it. For if the message, declared by angels, was valid and every transgression or disobedience received a just retribution, how shall we escape if we neglect such a great salvation? It was declared at first by the Lord, and it was attested to us by those who heard Him.



The Reading is from the Holy Gospel according St. Mark. (2:1-12)

At that time, when Jesus returned to Capernaum after some days, it was reported that He was at home. And many were gathered together, so that there was no longer room for them, not even about the door; and He was preaching the Word to them. And they came, bringing to Jesus a paralytic carried by four men. And when they could not get near Jesus because of the crowd, they removed the roof above Him; and when they had made an opening, they let down the pallet on which the paralytic lay. And when Jesus saw their faith, He said to the paralytic, "Son, your sins are forgiven." Now, some of the scribes were sitting there, reasoning in their hearts, "Why does this man speak thus? It is blasphemy! Who can forgive sins but God alone?" And immediately Jesus, perceiving in His spirit that they thus reasoned within themselves, said to them, "Why do you reason thus in your hearts? Which is easier, to say to the paralytic, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Rise, take up your pallet and walk'? But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins" – He said to the paralytic – "I say to you, rise, take up your pallet and go home." And he rose, and immediately took up the pallet and went out before them all. So that they were all amazed and glorified God, saying, "We never saw anything like this!"

