



ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH



REV. FR. PAUL GIRGIS
509.845.4540 :: FRPAULGIRGIS@GMAIL.COM

2425 RIVERS ROAD, NAPLES, FLORIDA 34120
WWW.STPAULNAPLES.ORG



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)

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.

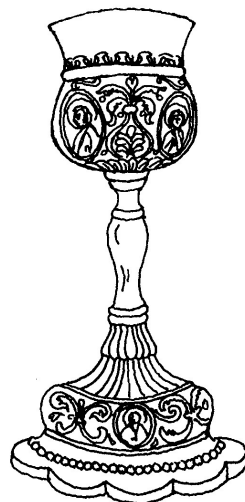
Fr. Paul is available after the service, or by appointment, to answer questions you may have about any facet of the Orthodox Christian faith.

May God bless you.

+++

Please contact Fr. Paul to request a pastoral visit for anyone hospitalized, sick, suffering, or alone.

frpaulgirgis@gmail.com
239.348.0828 (office)



MAY GOD REMEMBER ALL MOTHERS IN HIS KINGDOM

Mother's Day today, and all over the world children take the opportunity to remember and honor their mother. Yet there are also those who question the whole commercialization of the business of the adoption of the day as a 'feast', while others think that the state of motherhood is so sacred that every day of the year should be dedicated to it, rather than a single day.

For its part, the Church presents the person of the Mother of God (Theotokos) as the most outstanding of mothers and discreetly suggests the feast of the Reception of the Lord (2 February) as a day that could be set apart for us to honor mothers.

Within our tradition, we also encounter the Church itself as the mother who gives birth to us and gives us rebirth in Christ, also bringing us to salvation. This doesn't mean, however, that there's some kind of contradistinction: her restraint and obedience place the Theotokos at the center of the Church. John the Damascene says that the mystery of divine Dispensation finds its expression in her person. And her unconstrained acceptance of the divine will opened the way for us to return to the bosom of God. The Incarnation of the Divine Word, which took place in her womb, effected the union of the divine and the human. So the Church continues through history as a 'continuous Mother of God' (i.e. *The Church continuously giving us rebirth in Christ*).

The Theotokos is the eternal model of motherhood: she suffers with and feels the pain of every wounded person and is, at the same time, the refuge and consolation of all those in tribulation. The sorrowful image (*Icon*) of her as the sword penetrates her when she sees her Son suffering for the whole of humankind makes her the outstanding representative of mercy and loving-kindness. She's the archetypal Mother, who suffers and cares for each and every one of her children, for the sorrow and injustice which hold sway over the world; she's the continuous sigh for anguished people. In her person, mothers in particular find unique support and total understanding regarding their concerns about the future of their children and the world as a whole. As the poet says: 'In wars, it's the mothers who die...'

This is why the Church's attitude is to pay exceptional honor to the person of the mother.

(source: pemptousia.com)



+SPIRITUAL GEMS FOR THE SPIRITUAL LIFE+

“Let no one out of laziness or continuous worldly occupations miss these holy Sunday gatherings, which God Himself handed down to us, lest he be justly abandoned by God... If you are detained and do not attend on one occasion, make up for it the next time, bringing yourself to Christ's Church. Otherwise you may remain uncured, suffering from unbelief in your soul because of deeds or words, and failing to approach Christ's surgery to receive... holy healing.” +**St. Gregory Palamas**

“We should refer all our problems, whatever they are, to God, just as we say in the Divine Liturgy that we ‘...Commend our whole life to Christ our God.’ We leave everything to You, O Lord. Whatever You will. Let Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.” + **St. Porphyrios**



“Love every man in spite of his falling into sin. Never mind the sins, but remember that the foundation of the man is the same - the image of God.” +**St. John Krondstadt**

“Watch your heart throughout your life; examine it, listen to it, and see what prevents it from uniting itself with the Lord. Let this be your supreme and constant study, and with God's help you will easily observe what estranges you to Him, and what draws you to Him and unites you to Him...” +**St. John Krondstadt**

“We will recognize that, whether we like it or not, what happens happens; to be upset about it is useless, and moreover deprives us of the crown of patience and shows us to be in revolt against the will of God.” +**St. Peter of Damaskos**



“...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 Al and Anna Castley are offered by Fr. Joe and Diane.

Please continue to pray for a speedy recovery for Fr. Gregory, Al Castley, Lorraine Zain, George Henney, Judy Tirakis, Bob and Margaret Mourad.

**MAY THE LORD OUR GOD HEAR OUR PRAYERS AND SEND DOWN UPON US HIS
DIVINE GRACE FOR STRENGTH AND CONSOLATION.**

+++

Prayers are offered, by Al and Anna Castley, for the memory of Al's parents: Anthony and Julia Castley. Prayers for the departed will be said at the end of service today.

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)

**MAY THE CREATOR OF THE UNIVERSE REMEMBER ALL OUR DEPARTED LOVED
ONES IN HIS KINGDOM.**

WEEKLY SERVICE SCHEDULE AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

WEEKLY SERVICES

Saturday: Great Vespers* at 5:00PM

Sunday: Orthros 8:30AM; The Divine Liturgy at 9:30AM

*Fr. Paul hears confessions after Great Vespers Saturday and by appointment.

Orthodox Christian Sunday School Program - Immediately after Sunday Liturgy! All children of guests/visitors are welcome - Orthodoxy and Snack are provided!

“Orthodoxy & Scripture” Group - 6PM Thursdays - Material on table in Narthex.

CHRIST IS RISEN! EI MASEEH QAM! XHRISTOS ANESTI! KRISTOS VOISKRESE!



Holy Ascension of our Lord God and Savior Jesus Christ

Wednesday - May 16

Matins 5:30PM

Divine Liturgy 6:30PM

Holy Pentecost - Sunday - May 27

Apostles Fast - June 4-June 29 (Feast of Sts. Peter & Paul)

Food For Hungry People - Several boxes located in narthex - Please make sure to give to our brothers and sisters in need. Extra boxes available to take home and fill-up too!

Fellowship Hour - Sign up sheet on board in hallway!



HAPPY MOTHERS DAY!



For more information visit: stpaulnaples.org & Find us on “facebook.com/stpaulnaples”

**MAY YOUR STEWARDSHIP CONTRIBUTIONS REFLECT, ABOVE ALL, YOUR LOVE FOR
GOD AND THE PRIORITY HIS HOUSE HOLDS IN YOUR LIFE.**

Robert & Michaelene Aber

Joe & Julie Ablan

Alan & Debbie Abraham

James & Julianna Agoritsas

Karam Talal & Norma Abi-Karam

Philip & Bette Ayoub

Philip G. Ayoub

Robert & Thelma Badwey

Ron & Dawn Barakett

Victor & Lucy Bard

Vince & Irene Benfatti

Fr. Vlad & Mat. Margarita Berzonksy

David & Betty Bojrab

Susan Khoury Bourdon

Peter & Rita Caleshu

Robert & Barbara Cardoos

Al & Anna Castley

Barbara Cleaver

John & Michelle Connell

George & Judy Corey

George D. Corey

Laila Corey

Beverly & Frank Czerwinski

Lorna & Peter Daddio

George & Dorothy Darany

John A. Dunlap

Ed & Marilyn Edge

Nick & Jan Ferris

Aleyamma George

Fr. Paul & Kh. Thekla Girgis

Nicholas & Somaya Gorab

Elias & Barbara Hebeke

George W. Henney

Joseph Hessney

David & Lydia Jackson

George & Bessie Jarjoura

Edward Kappaz

Eugene & Carolyn Karrip

George & Samira Khoury

Steve & Jo Krevinko

Ray & Jennie Mansour

John & Anne Maragus

All & Gloria Mizhir

Michael & Catherine Moukios

Robert & Barbara Nader

George Nassor

Louis & Shirley Nicholas

Andrew & Olga Nosal

Marianne Poppe

John Povich

Jerry Powers

Elena Ripley

John J. Salem

Joseph and Marlene Samra

Chris & Jean Sapp

Linda & Joseph Shady

Fr Joe & Diane Shaheen

Elias & Nicole Shaheen

Robert & Florence Skaf

Judy Spina

Wayne & Wendy Staley

Judith Tirakis

Joseph & Omayya Touma

Ray & Leila Trabulsi

Mara Vertrees

Bill & Leslie Yurkovac

George & Lorraine Zain

+2018 STEWARDSHIP FORMS CAN BE FOUND IN BACK OF CHURCH+

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

On May 13 in the Holy Orthodox Church, we commemorate the Virgin-martyr Glykeria of Heraklea; Venerable Sergios the Confessor, father of Photios the Great; Venerable Euthymios the New, founder of Iveron monastery on Athos, his father John the Iberian, and their kinsman George; and Venerable Gabriel the Iberian.

On this day, the sixth Sunday of Pascha, we celebrate the miracle wrought by our Lord and God and Savior Jesus Christ upon the man who was blind from his birth.

*O Light of Light most perfect, and Light-provider,
On the blind from birth, O Word, eyes Thou bestowest.*

The Savior met this man, born blind and incurable after every human effort, while leaving the Temple on the Sabbath. Saints John Chrysostom, Basil the Great and Irenaeus teach that the man was born without eyes. Jesus spat into the dirt, made clay, rubbed it in his eye sockets and told him to wash in the pool of Siloam, a famous water spring in Jerusalem. The Savior did not send him there because his eye sockets were covered in clay, nor did the pool have healing power, but instead to test his faith and obedience. The blind man proclaimed that Jesus healed him, but this confession caused him to be cast out by the enemies of the truth. Even his own parents would not defend him. However, the blind man followed Jesus from that moment forward.



By Thine infinite mercy, O Christ our God, Giver of light, have mercy on us. Amen.

SUNDAY, MAY 13, 2018

SIXTH SUNDAY OF PASCHA & SUNDAY OF THE BLIND MAN

VIRGIN-MARTYR GLYKERIA OF HERAKLEA; VENERABLE SERGIOS THE CONFESSOR,
FATHER OF PHOTIOS THE GREAT; VENERABLE EUTHYMIOS THE NEW, FOUNDER
OF IVERON MONASTERY ON ATHOS, HIS FATHER JOHN THE IBERIAN, AND THEIR
KINSMAN GEORGE; VENERABLE GABRIEL THE IBERIAN

+DIVINE LITURGY OF ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM+

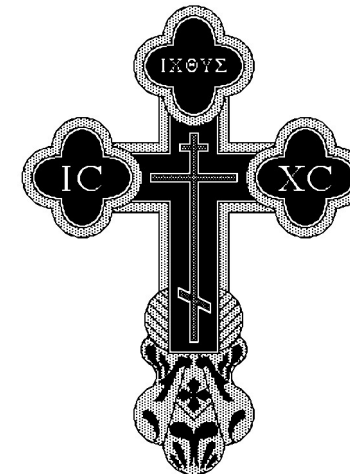
RESURRECTIONAL APOLYTIKION IN TONE FIVE

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.

+Now sing the apolytikion of the holy Apostle Paul+

KONTAKION FOR PASCHA IN TONE EIGHT

O Immortal One, when Thou didst descend into the tomb, Thou didst destroy the power of Hades; and Thou didst rise victorious, O Christ God. Thou hast said to the ointment-bearing women: Rejoice! And Thou gavest peace to Thy Disciples, O Bestower of Resurrection to those Who had fallen.



THE EPISTLE

*Thou, O Lord, shall keep us and preserve us.
Save me, O Lord, for the godly man hath disappeared.*

The Reading from the Acts of the Apostles. (16:16-34)

In those days, as we Apostles were going to the place of prayer, we were met by a slave girl who had a spirit of divination and brought her owners much gain by soothsaying. She followed Paul and us, crying, "These men are servants of the Most High God, who proclaim to you the way of salvation." And this she did for many days. But Paul was annoyed, and turned and said to the spirit, "I charge you in the Name of Jesus Christ to come out of her." And it came out that very hour. But when her owners saw that their hope of gain was gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the market place before the rulers; and when they had brought them to the magistrates they said, "These men are Jews and they are disturbing our city. They advocate customs which it is not lawful for us Romans to accept or practice." The crowd joined in attacking them; and the magistrates tore the garments off them and gave orders to beat them with rods. And when they had inflicted many blows upon them, they threw them into prison, charging the jailer to keep them safely. Having received this charge, he put them into the inner prison and fastened their feet in the stocks. But about midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them. And suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken. And immediately all the doors were opened and every one's fetters were unfastened. When the jailer woke and saw that the prison doors were open, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself, supposing that the prisoners had escaped. But Paul cried with a loud voice, "Do not harm yourself, for we are all here." And he called for lights and rushed in, and trembling with fear he fell down before Paul and Silas, and brought them out and said, "Men, what must I do to be saved?" And they said, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household." And they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all that were in his house. And he took them the same hour of the night, and washed their wounds, and he was baptized at once, with all his family. Then he brought them up into his house, and set food before them; and he rejoiced with all his household that he had believed in God.



THE GOSPEL

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according St. John. (9:1-38)

At that time, when Jesus was passing, He saw a man blind from his birth. And His Disciples asked Him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" Jesus answered, "It was not that this man sinned, or his parents, but that the works of God might be made manifest in him. I must work the works of Him Who sent me, while it is day; night comes, when no one can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." As He said this, he spat on the ground and made clay of the spittle and anointed the man's eyes with the clay, saying to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" [which means Sent]. So he went and washed and came back seeing. The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar, said, "Is not this the man who used to sit and beg?" Some said, "It is he"; others said, "No, but he is like him." He said, "I am the man." They said to him, "Then how were your eyes opened?" He answered, "The man called Jesus made clay and anointed my eyes and said to me, 'Go to Siloam and wash'; so I went and washed and received my sight." They said to him, "Where is He?" He said, "I do not know." They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. Now it was a Sabbath day when Jesus made the clay and opened his eyes. The Pharisees again asked him how he had received his sight. And he said to them, "He put clay on my eyes, and I washed, and I see." Some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, for He does not keep the Sabbath." But others said, "How can a man who is a sinner do such signs?" There was a division among them. So they again said to the blind man, "What do you say about Him, since He has opened your eyes?" He said, "He is a prophet." The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight, until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight, and asked them, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?" His parents answered, "We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; but how he now sees we do not know, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age, he will speak for himself." His parents said this because they feared the Jews, for the Jews had already agreed that if anyone should confess Him to be Christ, he was to be put out of the synagogue. Therefore his parents said, "He is of age, ask him." So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and said to him, "Give God the praise; we know that this man is a sinner." He answered, "Whether He is a sinner, I do not know; one thing I know, that though I was blind, now I see." They said to him, "What did He do to you? How did He open your eyes?" He answered them, "I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you too want to become His disciples?" And they reviled him, saying, "You are His disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where He comes from." The man answered, "Why, this is a marvel! You do not know where He comes from, and yet He opened my eyes. We know that God does not listen to sinners, but if anyone is a worshiper of God and does His will, God listens to him. Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a man born blind. If this man were not from God, He could do nothing." They answered him, "You were born in utter sin, and would you teach us?" And they cast him out. Jesus heard that they had cast him out, and having found him He said, "Do you believe in the Son of God?" He answered, "And Who is He, Sir, that I may believe in Him?" Jesus said to him, "You have seen Him, and it is He who speaks to you." He said, "Lord, I believe"; and he worshiped Him.

