



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.

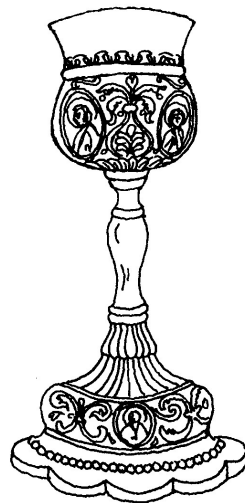
Fr. Paul is available after the service, or by appointment, to answer questions you may have about any facet of the Orthodox Christian faith.

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)



ST. PAUL ORTHODOX CHURCH- "GLORY TO GOD"

It is natural to give great thought to the manner in which we decorate our house, beautifying it, and ensuring all the necessities are present, functional, clean, and honorable. Rarely do we choose the "cheaper" route but pay for quality - we want the best for our home. While this is OK, how much more important is it to give priority, and thought, towards God's house?

Imagine being a steward of a royal castle, would we not ensure it was immaculate and beautifully adorned to the extent fitting for such an honorable place? We are stewards of this parish, a Heavenly Castle, that has been placed in our care. There is no doubt we will reap the fruit of our sacrificial-offering at the second and glorious coming of Christ.

It is a wonderful act, truly spiritual and in touch with reality, when we give (back) to God that which He has given us. These donations were made with such a perspective in heart as it was found most fitting to offer the "King of kings", the "Lord of lords", the best.

We are called to use the very resources, which ultimately belong to God, for His glory as we work-out our salvation - enabling others to do so as well. Being merely granted responsibility over it, taking "nothing with us" into the next life, we are simply stewards who will be rewarded, or not, for our faithfulness in this life only.

+For those also inspired to donate in a similar fashion, speak/contact Fr. Paul or note on check/envelope "Glory to God"+

BASIC CHURCH-LIFE NEEDS

A very organic and loving manner in which Orthodox Christians can participate in the life of the Church is by simply providing even the most basic items. This is a beautiful opportunity to keep the House of God, in all aspects of our life, the top priority.

Please consider, the next time you are buying for yourself, to also buy for God's house:

- **Extra Virgin Olive Oil** (used for oil lamps on altar)
- **Lighters (BBQ Style)** (used to light censor, candles, etc.)

+Simply bring the above items with you to the church

ST. PAUL ORTHODOX CHURCH - "GLORY TO GOD"

"Take heed that you do not do your charitable deeds before men, to be seen by them. Otherwise you have no reward from your Father in heaven. Therefore, when you do a charitable deed, do not sound a trumpet before you as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may have glory from men. Assuredly, I say to you, they have their reward. But when you do a charitable deed, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, that your charitable deed may be in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will Himself reward you openly. +(Matthew 6:1-8)

By the grace of God, over the last several months, St. Paul Church has received various donations from God-loving parishioners inspired to give the best to God, to His holy house:

Great Lent & PASCHA Flowers
Beeswax Candles
Incense
NEW:

Cross & Icon of Christ crucified (Holy Thursday)
Holy Altar cover
Gospel cover
Ileton for underneath Antimension on Holy Altar
Chalice & Diskos covers
Gospel Stand cover
Icon stand covers (Christ & Theotokos)
Icon of St. George
Icon of St. Demetrios
Icon of the Raising of Lazarus (coming soon)
Beeswax Candle Stand (coming soon)

These donations were made by faithfully adhering to our Lord's command to give anonymously, without drawing attention to oneself, not even letting the "left hand know what your right hand is doing". May they, and any that join them, receive their reward openly from their Father "who sees in secret".

+For those also inspired to donate in a similar fashion, speak/contact Fr. Paul or note on check/envelope "Glory to God"+



**"...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 Judy Tirakis are offered by Fr. Joe and Kh. Diane.

Prayers for the health and safety of Sofia, Marina, Tania, Irene, and Vincent are offered by Vincent and Irene Benfatti.

Prayers for the health of Gregory, Kyra, and Maryann, that the Lord may strengthen them to endure His most perfect will with peace, are offered by Vincent and Irene Benfatti.

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

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

+++

Prayers for the memory of Eugene Sudol, are offered by Vincent and Irene Benfatti.

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.



Feast of Pentecost - Sunday - May 27

Apostles Fast - June 4-June 29

Feast of Sts. Peter & Paul - June 29 - Save the Date!

Fellowship Hour - Sign up sheet on board in hallway!

DIOCESE OF MIAMI AND THE SOUTHEAST PARISH LIFE CONFERENCE

PALM BEACH AIRPORT HILTON

JUNE 13 - 16, 2018

HOSTED BY: ST. MARY CHURCH, WEST PALM BEACH, FL

Worship Services
Guest Speakers & Retreats
Workshops & Games
Family & Friends

Schedule and Registration at:
www.antiochianevents.com/miami.html

*For more information visit: stpaulnaples.org
& Find us on "facebook.com/stpaulnaples"*

+SPIRITUAL GEMS FOR THE SPIRITUAL LIFE+

"Food is not evil, but gluttony is. Childbearing is not evil, but fornication is. Money is not evil, but avarice is. Glory is not evil, but vainglory is. Indeed, there is no evil in existing things, but only in their misuse. **+St. Maximus the Confessor**

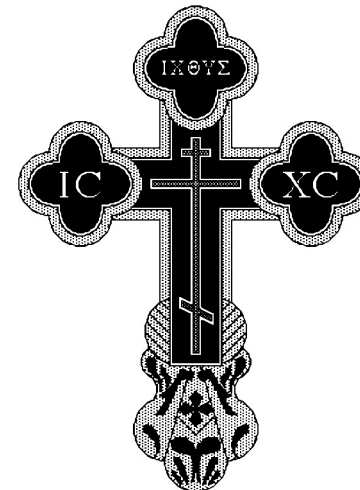
"We should refer all our problems, whatever they are, to God, just as we say in the Divine Liturgy that we '...Commend our whole life to Christ our God.' We leave everything to You, O Lord. Whatever You will. Let Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven." **+ St. Porphyrios**

"Does a phobia or disappointment get a hold of you? Turn to Christ. Love him in simplicity, with humility, without demands and He will free you." **+ St. Porphyrios**

"Do not lay in bed without saying a prayer. Say a "Trisagion" ("O Heavenly King...Holy God (3x)...our Father") and the 50th Psalm, embrace the icon of Jesus and the Virgin Mary, do the sign of the Cross on your pillow and then lie down." **+St. Paisios**

"A person cannot choose the time in which he is born or lives; it is not up to him, who his parents are, or the nation he will be born into, but what he is responsible for is how he will act in that given time: Will he be human or inhuman, no matter his nation or parents." **+Pat. Pavle (Departed Patriarch of Serbia)**

"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." **+ Mt. 6:4; Mk. 10:30**



THE SYNAXARION

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

On May 20 in the Holy Orthodox Church, we commemorate the Martyrs Thallelaios the Unmercenary Healer of Phoenicia, and his disciples Alexander and Asterios of Cilicia; Martyr Askellas of Egypt; Venerable Nikitas, John and Joseph of Chios; Lydia 'the seller of purple' of Thyatira and Philippi; Alexis the wonderworker, metropolitan of Moscow; and Venerable Stephen of Piperi in Serbia.

On this day, the seventh Sunday of Pascha, we celebrate the first Ecumenical Council of the 318 God-bearing Fathers, which took place in Nicaea in Bithynia.

Verses

O ye light-bearing stars of the spiritual firmament, enlighten my mind with your rays.

Verses Against Arius

Calling the Son a stranger to the Father's essence, Arius proved to be a stranger to God's glory.

Arius, the notorious heretic, began to blaspheme against God and His Son the Word, saying that the latter was not God consubstantial with the Father, but that He was created as a stranger to the Substance of the Father and His glory. Alexander, the Archbishop of Alexandria, tried to constrain Arius from disturbing the faithful with this teaching; even though Alexander excommunicated him, Arius did not cease his blasphemy, which spread throughout the Church in all nations. Thus, Emperor Constantine the Great called the First Ecumenical Council, which gathered bishops and teachers in the Church from all lands. They all proclaimed, as by one mouth, the equality of the Son of God with the Father in Substance, thus laying down the noble Confession of Faith, The Creed, which we Orthodox Christians recite to this day. The Church regards these divine Fathers as preachers of the Faith next to the holy Apostles.

By the intercessions of the 318 God-bearing Fathers, O Christ God, have mercy on us. Amen.

SUNDAY, MAY 20, 2018

SUNDAY OF THE AFTER-FEAST OF THE ASCENTSION

COMMEMORATION OF THE HOLY FATHERS OF THE FIRST ECUMENICAL COUNCIL

MARTYRS THALLELAIOS THE UNMERCENARY HEALER OF PHOENICIA, AND HIS DISCIPLES ALEXANDER AND ASTERIOS OF CILICIA; MARTYR ASKELLAS OF EGYPT; VENERABLE NIKITAS, JOHN AND JOSEPH OF CHIOS; LYDIA 'THE SELLER OF PURPLE' OF THYATIRA AND PHILIPPI; ALEXIS THE WONDERWORKER, METROPOLITAN OF MOSCOW; VENERABLE STEPHEN OF PIPERI IN SERBIA

+DIVINE LITURGY OF ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM+

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 ASCENSION IN TONE FOUR

Thou hast ascended in glory, O Christ our God, and gladdened Thy Disciples with the promise of the Holy Spirit, making them confident through the blessing that Thou art the Son of God, and Deliverer of the world.

APOLYTIKION OF THE HOLY FATHERS IN TONE EIGHT

Thou, O Christ, art our God of exceeding praise Who didst establish our holy Fathers as luminous stars upon earth, and through them didst guide us unto the true Faith, O most merciful One, glory to Thee.

+Now sing the apolytikion of the holy Apostle Paul+

KONTAKION OF THE ASCENSION IN TONE SIX

When Thou didst fulfill Thy dispensation for our sakes, uniting the terrestrials with the celestials, Thou didst ascend in glory, O Christ our God, inseparable in space, but constant without separation, and crying unto Thy beloved: I am with you, and no one shall be against you.

THE GOSPEL

THE EPISTLE

Blessed art Thou, O Lord, the God of our Fathers. For Thou art just in all Thou has done.

The Reading from the Acts of the Apostles. (20:16-18, 28-36)

In those days, Paul had decided to sail past Ephesus, so that he might not have to spend time in Asia; for he was hastening to be at Jerusalem, if possible, on the day of Pentecost. And from Miletus he sent to Ephesus and called to him the elders of the church. And when they came to him, he said to them: "Take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for the church of God which he obtained with the blood of his own Son. I know that after my departure fierce wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock; and from among your own selves will arise men speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after them. Therefore, be alert, remembering that for three years I did not cease night or day to admonish everyone with tears. And now I commend you to God and to the word of His grace, which is able to build you up and to give you the inheritance among all those who are sanctified. I coveted no one's silver or gold or apparel. You yourselves know that these hands ministered to my necessities, and to those who were with me. In all things I have shown you that by so toiling one must help the weak, remembering the words of the Lord Jesus, how He said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'" And when he had spoken thus, he knelt down and prayed with them all.



The Reading from the Holy Gospel according St. John. (17:1-13)

At that time, Jesus lifted up His eyes to heaven and said, "Father, the hour has come; glorify Thy Son that the Son may glorify Thee, since Thou hast given Him power over all flesh, to give eternal life to all whom Thou hast given Him. And this is eternal life, that they know Thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ Whom Thou hast sent. I glorified Thee on earth, having accomplished the work which Thou gavest Me to do; and now, Father, glorify Thou Me in Thy own presence with the glory which I had with Thee before the world was made. I have manifested Thy Name to the men whom Thou gavest Me out of the world; Thine they were, and Thou gavest them to Me, and they have kept Thy word. Now they know that everything that Thou hast given Me is from Thee; for I have given them the words which Thou gavest Me, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from Thee; and they have believed that Thou didst send Me. I am praying for them; I am not praying for the world but for those whom Thou hast given Me, for they are Thine; all Mine are Thine, and Thine are Mine, and I am glorified in them. And now I am no more in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to Thee. Holy Father, keep them in Thy Name, which Thou hast given Me, that they may be one, even as We are one. While I was with them, I kept them in Thy Name, which Thou have given Me; I have guarded them, and none of them is lost but the son of perdition, that the scripture might be fulfilled. But now I am coming to Thee; and these things I speak in the world, that they may have My joy fulfilled in themselves."

