



## 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

## WELCOME VISITORS AND FAITHFUL OF ST. PAUL CHURCH

Welcome to St. Paul Orthodox Christian Church in Naples. 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. Please join us after service for our fellowship hour in the pavilion. It is good to be together.

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 reality of our day is that various segments of Christendom are not unified with the historic Orthodox Christian faith - something truly unfortunate.

Since participation in the Eucharist (Holy Communion) expresses a unity with all the dogma, teachings, and practice of the Orthodox Church, it is natural that non-Orthodox Christians (Roman Catholic, Protestant, Non-Chalcedonian, etc.) do not receive Holy Communion but respect the official policy of the Antiochian Archdiocese of North America and canonical boundaries of the entire Orthodox Christian Church.

We 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.

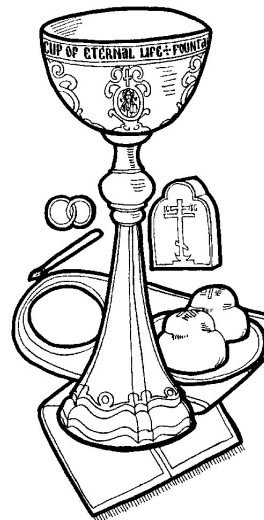
Fr. Paul is available after the service, or by appointment, to answer questions you may have about any facet of the Orthodox Christian faith.

May God bless you.

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

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## LEARN ABOUT THE APOSTLES FAST (JUNE 4 - JUNE 29)

(source: OrthoChristian.com)

This summer fast, which we now call the Apostles fast, was earlier called the fast of Pentecost. The Church calls us to keep this fast according to the example of the holy Apostles, who, having received the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost, prepared themselves to preach the Gospels to the whole world.

On the fiftieth day after His rising from the tomb, and the ninth day after His Ascension and sitting at the right hand of the Father, the Lord sent down the Holy Spirit upon all His disciples and Apostles on the day of Pentecost. This is one of the greatest feasts of the Lord. This is the completion of the new, eternal covenant with mankind.

"After the extended feast of Pentecost, the fast is particularly needed in order to cleanse our mind by ascetic labors, and to make us worthy of the gifts of the Holy Spirit," writes St. Leo the Great. "After the present feast, which the Holy Spirit has sanctified by His descent, all the people usually keep a fast beneficially established for the healing of soul and body, and therefore requiring that we spend it with the appropriate reverence. For we do not doubt that after the Apostles' hearts were filled with the Spirit of truth promised to them from on high, amongst the other mystical heavenly teachings given by their Teacher, they were given also the teaching on spiritual continence, so that their hearts, purified by fasting, would be made capable of receiving gifts of grace... It is would not be possible to struggle in a pampered body and fattened flesh against the persecutions, and the fierce threats of the ungodly that lay ahead; for that which delights our outer man destroys our inner man, and the more a wise soul mortifies its flesh, the purer it becomes.

"Therefore, enlightening all the sons and daughters of the Church by their example and instruction, the teachers designated a holy fast at the onset of warfare for Christ, so that as we set out to battle against spiritual depravation, we would have temperance as our weapon, and thus mortify our sinful desires, for our unseen enemies and fleshless foes will not overcome us if we do not give ourselves over to fleshly lusts. Although the tempter constantly and invariably desires to do us harm, he remains powerless and ineffective when he does not find any side of us to attack... This is why the steadfast and saving custom has been established, after these holy and joyful days we have celebrated in honor of the Lord, Who rose from the dead and ascended into heaven, and after we have received the gift of the Holy Spirit, of keeping a fast.

## ON THE APOSTLES FAST CONTINUED...

"The custom of earnestly keeping the fast is necessary also in order to preserve those gifts imparted now to the Church from God. Having been made temples of the Holy Spirit, and having drunk more than ever the Divine waters, we must not submit to any desires, or serve any vices, so that the habitation of the virtues might not be defiled by any unclean thing. With God's help and cooperation, we can all achieve this, if only we will cleanse ourselves by fasting and almsgiving, strive to free ourselves from sinful impurity, and bring forth abundant fruits of love."

Further, St. Leo the Great writes, "In the Apostolic canons inspired by God Himself, the Church fathers have, at the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, established first and foremost that all virtuous labors begin with fasting. They have done this because God's commandments can be fulfilled well only when Christ's army is protected from all temptations of sin by holy abstinence. Thus, beloved, we must exercise ourselves in fasting especially at the present time, as we are commanded to do at the close of the fifty days that follow the Resurrection of Christ, up to the descent of the Holy Spirit, which we have solemnly observed."

This fast has been given to us in order to preserve us from slackness, for it is very easy to become slack due to the long period in which we were allowed to eat various foods. If we do not cultivate the field of our flesh continually, thorns and thistles will easily grow there, and produce fruits suitable only for burning, and not for the harvest storehouse. Therefore, we are obligated now to scrupulously preserve those seeds that we received in our hearts from the Heavenly Sower, and take precautions so that the envious foe might not spoil what God has given us, and so that the thorns of vice would not grow in the paradise of virtues. We can only avoid such evil though almsgiving and fasting."

Blessed Simeon of Thessalonika writes that the fast was established in honor of the Apostles, because we have been vouchsafed many blessings through them, and they have been shown to us as doers and teachers of fasting, obedience... and temperance. Even the Latins witness to this, albeit against their will, honoring the Apostles by fasting in remembrance of them. But in accordance with the Apostolic canons composed by St. Clement, after the descent of the Holy Spirit, we celebrate. Then, beginning from the following week, we honor the Apostles who have instructed us to fast.

The asceticism of the Apostles fast is less austere than the forty days fast of Great Lent. During the Apostles fast, the Church rubrics prescribe for three days of each week—Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays—abstinence from fish, wine, and oil, taking uncooked food at the ninth hour after Vespers. On the other weekday, abstinence from fish is prescribed.



**"...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 Sean Barakett as well as Dr. David Thomas, are offered by Ron Barakett.

Please keep Al and Anna Castley, the newly-departed servant of God Robert Mourad, his wife Margaret and the entire Mourad family, as well as Marianne Poppe, Robert Cardoos, and Judy Tirakis, in your prayers.

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

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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)

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

## WEEKLY SERVICE SCHEDULE AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

### WEEKLY SERVICES

***“A sure sign of the deadening of the soul is the avoidance of church services”***  
**+St. John Climacus (*“The Ladder of Divine Ascent”*)**

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** - Program resumes after summer break.

**“Orthodoxy & Scripture” Group** - 6PM Thursdays - Come, Listen, Discuss, Grow.



### **Our Parish Feast Day - The Feast of Sts. Peter & Paul (June 29)**

The end of the Apostles Fast (6/24-6/29) is naturally marked with the celebration of the Feast of Sts. Peter and Paul. This is our “patronal feast”, the day we pay special honor to our patron and protector St. Paul, as well as that of our sister parish, St. Peter in Bonita Springs. Thursday evening (June 28), together, with various concelebrating clergy, and faithful from the surrounding area, we will honor these “preachers of the universe”.

**His Grace Bishop +NICHOLAS has already committed to join us!**

**SAVE THE DATE:** Evening of 6/28; St. Paul Church - time and details forthcoming.

### **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

**Fellowship Hour** - Sign up sheet on board in hallway!

For more information visit: [stpaulnaples.org](http://stpaulnaples.org)  
& Find us on “[facebook.com/stpaulnaples](https://www.facebook.com/stpaulnaples)”

## +SPIRITUAL GEMS FOR THE SPIRITUAL LIFE+

*“Prayer is a great weapon, a rich treasure, a wealth that is never exhausted, an undisturbed refuge, a cause of tranquility, the root of a multitude of blessings and their source.”*  
+St. John Chrysostom

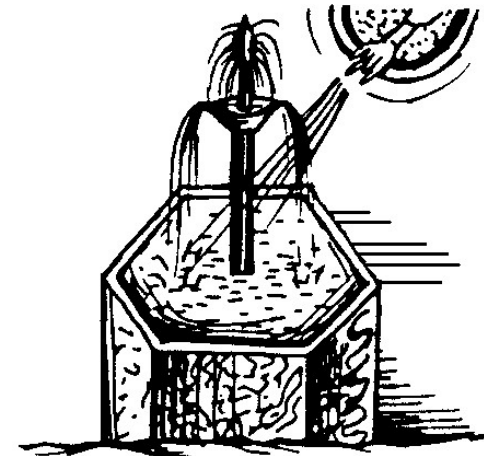
*“Whatever you do, on no account condemn anyone; do not even try to judge whether a person is good or bad, but keep your eyes on that one evil person for whom you must give an account before God - yourself.”*  
+St. Ignatius Brianchaninov

*“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

*“A true Christian behaves in this life so that it may be a preparation for the future one, and not only a life here below. In his actions he does not think what will be said there in Heaven; he represents to himself that he is always in the presence of God, of the angels and all the saints, and remembers that some day they will bear witness of his thoughts, words, and deeds.”* +St. John of Kronstadt

*“The end of the world signifies not the annihilation of the world, but its transformation.”*  
+St. John Maximovitch of San Francisco

*“The saints were people like all of us. Many of them came out of great sins, but by repentance they attained the Kingdom of Heaven. And everyone who comes there comes through repentance, which the merciful Lord has given us through His sufferings.”*  
+Silouan the Athonite



# THE SYNAXARION

(AN ABRIDGED COLLECTION OF THE “LIVES OF THE SAINTS”)

On June 10 in the Holy Orthodox Church, we commemorate the Martyr Alexander and Virgin-martyr Antonina, whose relics were taken to Constantinople.

## Verses

*Alexander, together with Antonina, deemed the pit a boat sailing to bliss eternal.  
On the tenth, Antonina suffered her lot in boiling pitch.*

Antonina was an honorable virgin and Alexander an imperial soldier. They were both Christians. Antonina was first brought to trial and tortured. When they cast her into prison, Alexander, by the command of an angel of God, went to the prison—even though he did not know Antonina—covered her with his military mantel and told her to lower her head and to pass through the guards before the gates. Antonina escaped and Alexander remained in prison. Then the guards brought Alexander before the judge, Festus, and began to torture Alexander for the Name of Christ. Hearing about this, Antonina returned to the evil judge who then subjected both of them to various tortures. Finally, Festus threw them into a fire which was started in a pit and covered them with dirt. They suffered honorably for the sake of the love of Christ. Festus, at the moment of the deaths of the martyrs, was seized by an evil spirit that tormented him for seven days and killed him.

On this day, we also commemorate Venerable Theophanes the monk and Pansemne the former harlot of Antioch; and John the wonderworker, metropolitan of Tobolsk and all Siberia.

By their intercessions, O Christ God, have mercy upon us. Amen.



SUNDAY, JUNE 10 2018

SECOND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST:

SECOND SUNDAY OF MATTHEW

+DIVINE LITURGY OF ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM+

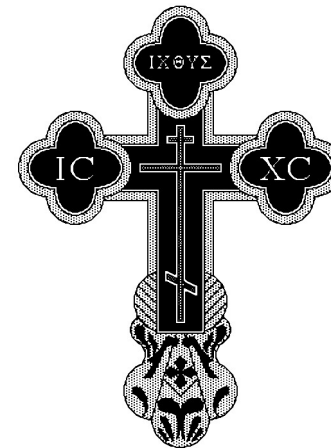
## RESURRECTIONAL APOLYTIKION IN TONE ONE

While the stone was sealed by the Jews, and the soldiers were guarding Thy most pure body, Thou didst arise on the third day, O Savior, granting life to the world. For which cause the heavenly powers cried aloud unto Thee, O giver of life. Glory to Thy Resurrection O Christ, glory to Thy kingdom, glory to Thy providence, O Thou Who alone art the lover of mankind.

+ Now sing the apolytikion of the holy Apostle Paul+

## KONTAKION FOR ORDINARY SUNDAYS IN TONE TWO

O protection of Christians that cannot be put to shame, mediation unto the Creator most constant, O despise not the suppliant voices of those who have sinned; but be thou quick, O good one, to come unto our aid, who in faith cry unto thee: Hasten to intercession, and speed thou to make supplication, thou who dost ever protect, O Theotokos, them that honor thee.



## THE EPISTLE

(For Second Sunday after Pentecost)

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

### **The Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Romans. (2:10-16)**

Brethren, glory and honor and peace for everyone who does good, the Jew first and also the Greek. For God shows no partiality. All who have sinned without the Law will also perish without the Law, and all who have sinned under the Law will be judged by the Law. For it is not the hearers of the Law who are righteous before God, but the doers of the Law who will be justified. When Gentiles who have not the Law do by nature what the Law requires, they are a law to themselves, even though they do not have the Law. They show that what the Law requires is written on their hearts, while their conscience also bears witness and their conflicting thoughts accuse or perhaps excuse them on that day when, according to my gospel, God judges the secrets of men by Christ Jesus.



## THE GOSPEL

(For Second Sunday of Matthew)

### **The Reading from the Holy Gospel according St. Matthew. (4:18-23)**

At that time, as Jesus was walking by the Sea of Galilee, He saw two brothers, Simon who is called Peter and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea; for they were fishermen. And He said to them, "Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men." Immediately they left their nets and followed Him. And going on from there He saw two other brothers, James the son of Zebedee and John his brother, in the boat with Zebedee their father, mending their nets, and He called them. Immediately they left the boat and their father, and followed Him. And He went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and preaching the gospel of the Kingdom and healing every disease and every infirmity among the people.



