



## 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.

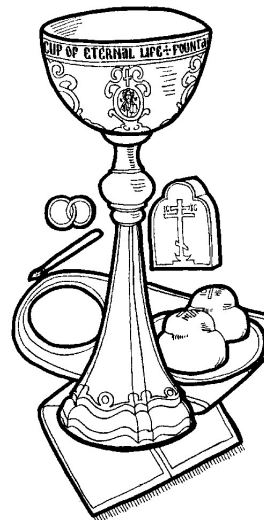
Fr. Paul is available after the service, or by appointment, to answer questions you may have about any facet of the Orthodox Christian faith.

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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## HAPPY FATHERS DAY!

### IMITATING OUR HEAVENLY FATHER

*by Fr Luke Veronis, Saints Constantine & Helen Greek Orthodox Church*

One of the most precious images we have of God is as our Heavenly Father. Jesus Himself taught His followers to think of "the One who is and was and is to come, the Lord Almighty" as "Our Father" whenever we pray. What a radical image that Christ offered to His disciples – telling them not to think of our All Powerful Creator as a distant God, as someone or something separate and far from us, but to relate with our Maker as our Father! And numerous examples Jesus offered highlighted this comforting image – think of the most beautiful story Jesus ever taught, the parable of The Prodigal Son, which more appropriately should be called the Parable of The Loving Father.

God as a compassionate, merciful, forgiving, grace-filled Father, One whose love for us is unconditional and unlimited, this is our understanding of Our Heavenly Father. That is the image of God for all Christians to embrace and hold onto.

I highlight this image of God because today our country commemorates Father's Day. Today we celebrate and honor our fathers, and all the father figures in our lives, and thank God for the blessing they have been in our lives and the lives of many. Fathers can play such a central and influential role in our lives.

I think of my own father and thank God that I had a wonderful role model – one who tried to live all that he preached. One of the greatest lessons I learned from my father, which exemplifies his spirit, is his sincere love and generosity towards the poor, needy and defenseless. He always incarnated God's divine love to those in need. "If you are going to err," he would say, "Err on the side of generosity! Err on the side of helping others in as generous a way as possible!"

Throughout his life, my father tried to offer to all a clear vision of life according to the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. While preaching the Good News through countless moving sermons, and trying to live faithfully according to our Orthodox tradition, he also desired to offer every possible opportunity for his children and others to discover and embrace that same intimate, dynamic relationship with God for themselves.

Fathers can truly play a central and influential role in our lives. As I googled Father's Day, I liked some of these saying I found:

"One father is worth more than a hundred school teachers." - George Herbert

## FATHERS DAY ARTICLE CONTINUED...

“My father didn’t tell me how to live; He lived and let me watch him do it.” - Clarence Kelland

“A dad is someone who wants to catch you before you fall, but instead picks you up, brushes you off, and lets you try again. A dad is someone who wants to keep you from making mistakes, but instead lets you find your own way, even though his heart breaks in silence when you get hurt. A dad is someone who holds you when you cry, scolds you when you break the rules, shines with pride when you succeed, and has faith in you even when you fail.” - Author Unknown

“Father, Your guiding hand will remain with me forever.” - Author Unknown

If Jesus called us to understand God as our Father, He obviously has a very high understanding of what a Father should be. A Father is supposed to be a model of love, peace, and joy; an example of someone who is compassionate to the marginalized, generous to the poor, ready to help those in need, merciful and forgiving to those who have fallen. A father is one who is faithful, an encourager and supporter of others, a caregiver and a protector of his loved ones. A father is one who guides His family – who leads first by his example, and second who walks hand in hand with his family, guiding them on a path that leads into the Kingdom of God.

As I reflect on fathers, I think of something that Fr. Alkiviadis Calivas, my former beloved professor, shared with our group in Albania 10 days ago. He said that all Christians, and I could underline these central traits in true fatherhood, are called to reflect two fundamental characteristics. We are called to be “philotheoi” and “philoptochoi.” These two Greek words summarize our Christian life as “philotheoi” (friends/lovers of God) and “philoptochoi” (friends/lovers of the poor). Jesus Himself said that the two greatest commandments were to love God with all our heart, soul, mind and strength, and to love our neighbor, the other. We can’t say we love God if we don’t love the other, and we can’t truly love the other if we don’t see the image of God within them and then love them with the agape love that God fills us with.

On Father’s Day, we lift fathers who love their wives, who are present and available to their children, who support and care for their families, who protect their homes, and above all, who teach their family to fear the Lord and lead them on the path of the Kingdom of God!

A most blessed and joyous Father’s Day to all fathers everywhere!

(source: <http://www.schwebster.org>)



**“...PRAY ONE FOR ANOTHER, THAT YOU MAY BE HEALED.  
THE EFFECTIVE, FERVENT PRAYER OF A RIGHTEOUS MAN AVAILS  
MUCH.” +JAMES 5:16**

Please keep Al and Anna Castley, 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”.

**We will be joined by His Grace Bishop +NICHOLAS!**

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

**St. Paul Orthodox Church**

**Thursday (6/28) at 6:00PM**

**Festal Matins & Hierarchical Divine Liturgy w/His Grace Bishop +NICHOLAS**

**-Immediately followed with a festive meal-**

**PLEASE SIGN-UP - 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+**

*“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

*“So when you want to find out the will of God, abandon your own will completely together with every other thought of your plan and with great humility ask for His knowledge in prayer. And whatever takes shape that carries weight in your heart, do it and it will be according to God’s will.”*

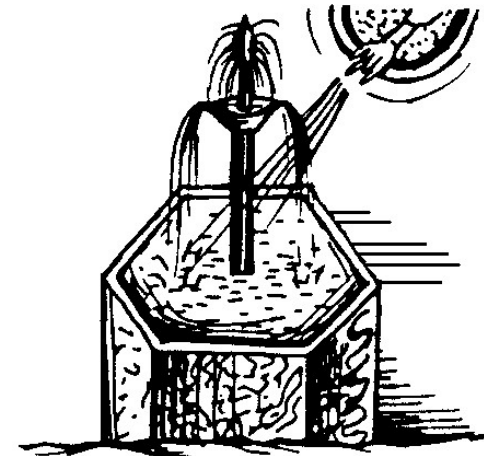
+ Elder Joseph the Hesychast

*“God is love; He is not a simple spectator in our life. He provides and cares for us as our Father, but He respects our freedom. God has foreknowledge, but He does not pre-ordain.”*

+ St. Porphyrios

*“Therefore humble yourselves under the might hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time, casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you.”*

+ St. Peter, the holy apostle [1 Peter 5:6-7]





# THE SYNAXARION

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

On June 17 in the Holy Orthodox Church, we commemorate the Martyrs Isauros, Basil, Innocent, Hermias, Felix and Peregrinos of Athens; and the Martyrs Manuel, Sabel and Ishmael of Persia.

## Verses

*Isauros, his head cut off with five fellow athletes,  
Cutteth clean through the heart of the noetic dragon.*

Sabel, Manuel, Ishmael, Persians by race, are Martyrs in dignity, by way of the sword. On the seventeenth, blades beheaded these nine brethren.

The holy Martyr Isauros, a deacon, and Basil and Innocent were from Athens. In the reign of Numerian (283-284), they came to Apollonia in Illyricum. There, encountering Felix, Peregrinos, and Hermias hidden in a cave, they strengthened them in their faith as they endured persecutions. Betrayed to Tripontius the Proconsul, all but Isauros and Innocent were beheaded. These last two Tripontius gave over to his son, Apollonius, who tortured them, and then had them beheaded. All six men then entered into our Lord's Heavenly Kingdom. Manuel, Sabel, and Ishmael, Persians by race and brethren according to the flesh, were sent by the Persian King Alamundar as ambassadors to Julian the Apostate to negotiate a peace treaty. While with him at a place near Chalcedon, they refused to join him in offering sacrifice to his idols. Scorning the immunity universally accorded to ambassadors, Julian had them slain in the year 362. This was a cause of the war with Persia in which Julian perished miserably the following year, much to the joy and ridicule of the entire world.

On this day, we also commemorate Venerable Joseph and Pior, disciples of Anthony the Great; and Martyr Nectan of Hartland.

By the intercessions of Thy Saints, O God, have mercy upon us.  
Amen.



SUNDAY, JUNE 17 2018

THIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST:

THIRD SUNDAY OF MATTHEW

+DIVINE LITURGY OF ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM+

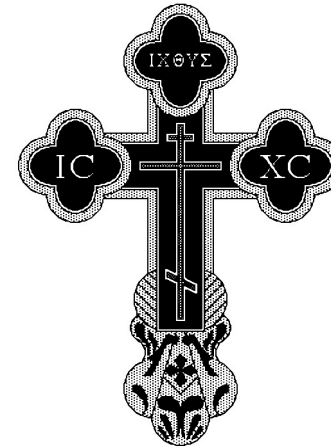
## RESURRECTIONAL APOLYTIKION IN TONE TWO

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.

+ 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 Third Sunday after Pentecost)

*The Lord is my strength and my song. The Lord has chastened me sorely.*

### **The Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Romans. (5:1-10)**

Brethren, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Through Him we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in our hope of sharing the glory of God. More than that, we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit which has been given to us. While we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. Why, one will hardly die for a righteous man—though perhaps for a good man one will dare even to die. But God shows His love for us in that while we were yet sinners Christ died for us. Since, therefore, we are now justified by His blood, much more shall we be saved by Him from the wrath of God. For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of His Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, we shall be saved by His life.



## THE GOSPEL

(For Third Sunday of Matthew)

### **The Reading from the Holy Gospel according St. Matthew. (6:22-33)**

The Lord said, "The eye is the lamp of the body. So, if your eye is sound, your whole body will be full of light; but if your eye is evil, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light in you is darkness, how great is the darkness! No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon. Therefore, I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you shall eat or what you shall drink; nor about your body, what you shall put on. Is not the soul more than food, and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of heaven: they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? And which of you by being anxious can add one cubit to his stature? And why are you anxious about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin; yet I tell you, even Solomon himself in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is alive and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will He not much more clothe you, O men of little faith? Therefore, do not be anxious, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' For the Gentiles seek all these things; and your heavenly Father knows that you need them all. But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things shall be yours as well."

