



SAINT
PAUL



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.

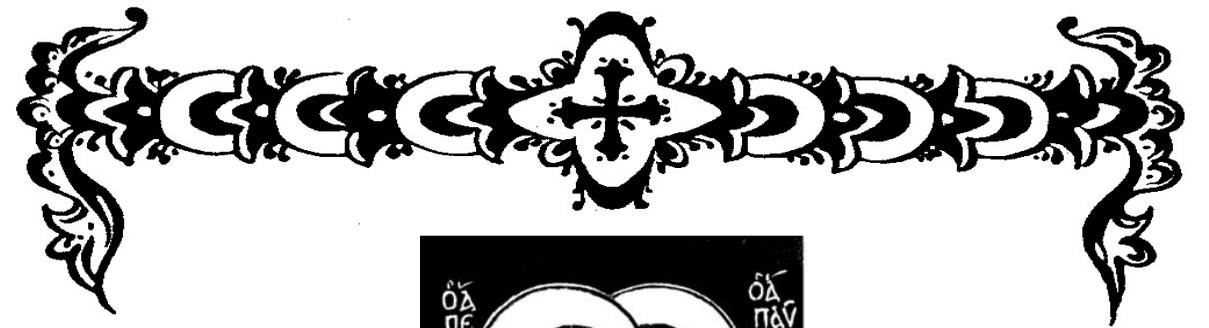
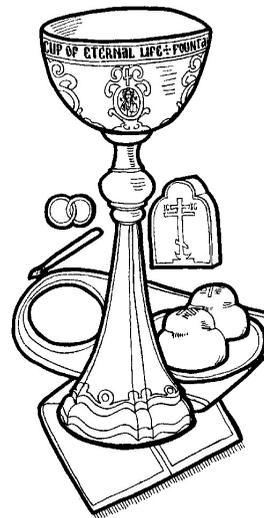
Fr. Paul is available after the service, or by appointment, to answer questions you may have about any facet of the Orthodox Christian faith.

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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FEAST DAY CELEBRATION FOR STS. PETER AND PAUL

On this glorious feast, we gather together at St. Paul Church in Naples, with various concelebrating clergy, and faithful from the surrounding area, to honor these "preachers of the universe" - our patron and protector St. Paul, as well as that of our sister parish, St. Peter in Bonita Springs.

Thursday (6/28) at 6:00PM

Festal Matins & Hierarchical Divine Liturgy

w/His Grace Bishop +NICHOLAS

Festal meal to follow!

+Similar to Great Lent & Holy PASCHA, donations towards flowers to beautify the temple on occasion of our Patronal Feast, is a wonderful Orthodox Christian practice:

*"For the health of..."
"In memory of..."
"For the sake of..."*

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 - NOT MEETING ON 6/28 - SEE BELOW



Our Parish Feast Day

The Feast of Sts. Peter & Paul (June 29)

MARK YOUR CALENDAR & SPREAD THE WORD

St. Paul Orthodox Church
Thursday (6/28) at 6:00PM
Festal Matins & Hierarchical Divine Liturgy
w/His Grace Bishop +NICHOLAS
Festal meal to follow!

Fellowship Hour - Sign up sheet on board in hallway! Keep it simple & keep it delicious!

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

THE SYNAXARION

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

On June 24 in the Holy Orthodox Church we celebrate the Nativity of the venerable and glorious Prophet, Forerunner and Baptist John.

Verses

*Dance now, O Zacharias, together with thy wife;
Though ye bear not many, the one ye do bear is great.
On the twenty-fourth a mother brought forth the Forerunner.*

Six months before his appearance in Nazareth to the All-holy Virgin Mary, the great archangel of God, Gabriel, appeared to Zacharias the high priest in the Temple at Jerusalem. The archangel announced the miraculous conception to the childless old woman Elizabeth. Zacharias did not immediately believe the words of the herald of God and this is why his tongue was tied with dumbness and remained as such until eight days after the birth of John. On that day, the relatives of Zacharias and Elizabeth gathered for the young child's circumcision and for the sake of giving him a name. When they asked the father what name he wishes to give to his son and being dumb, he wrote on a tablet: "John." At that moment he could speak again. Herod heard of this news and sent soldiers to slay the children throughout Bethlehem, including the Forerunner.

Herod's executioners killed Zacharias between the court and the temple; his blood coagulated and petrified on the stone pavers and remained a perpetual witness against Herod. Elizabeth hid with the child in a cave where she died soon after. The young child John remained in the wilderness alone under the care of God and God's angels.

On this day, we also commemorate the New-martyr Pannayiotis of Caesarea in Cappadocia.

By their intercessions, O God, have mercy on us. Amen.



SUNDAY, JUNE 17 2018

THIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST:

THIRD SUNDAY OF MATTHEW

+DIVINE LITURGY OF ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM+

RESURRECTIONAL APOLYTIKION IN TONE THREE

Let the heavens rejoice and the earth be glad, for the Lord hath done a mighty act with His own arm. He hath trampled down death by death, and become the first-born from the dead. He hath delivered us from the depths of Hades, granting the world the Great Mercy.

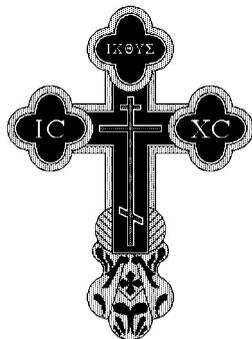
APOLYTIKION OF THE NATIVITY OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST IN TONE FOUR (**Be quick to anticipate**)

O prophet and Forerunner of Christ God's coming to us, * all we who with longing now extol thee are at a loss to honor thee worthily. * For thy mother's barrenness and father's long silence, * by thine all-renowned and hallowed birth, were both ended, * and the Incarnation of the Son of God is preached unto all the world.

+ 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

The righteous shall rejoice in the Lord. O God, hear my voice when I cry unto Thee.

The Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Romans. (13:11-14:4)

Brethren, salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed; the night is far gone, the day is at hand. Let us then cast off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; let us conduct ourselves becomingly as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires. As for the man who is weak in faith, welcome him, but not for disputes over opinions. One believes he may eat anything, while the weak man eats only vegetables. Let not him who eats despise him who abstains, and let not him who abstains pass judgment on him who eats; for God has welcomed him. Who are you to pass judgment on the servant of another? It is before his own master that he stands or falls. And he will be upheld, for God is able to make him stand.



THE GOSPEL

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according St. Luke. (1:1-25, 57-68, 76, 80)

Inasmuch as many have undertaken to compile a narrative of the things which have been accomplished among us, just as they were delivered to us by those who from the beginning were eyewitnesses and ministers of the word, it seemed good to me also, having followed all things closely for some time past, to write an orderly account for you, most excellent Theophilus, that you may know the truth concerning the things of which you have been informed. In the days of Herod, king of Judea, there was a priest named Zacharias, of the division of Abijah; and he had a wife of the daughters of Aaron, and her name was Elizabeth. And they were both righteous before God, walking in all the commandments and ordinances of the Lord blamelessly. But they had no child, because Elizabeth was barren, and both were advanced in years. Now while he was serving as priest before God when his division was on duty, according to the custom of the priesthood, it fell to him by lot to enter the Temple of the Lord and burn incense. And the whole multitude of the people was praying outside at the hour of incense. And there appeared to him an angel of the Lord standing on the right side of the altar of incense. And Zacharias was troubled when he saw him, and fear fell upon him. But the angel said to him, "Do not be afraid, Zacharias, for your prayer is heard, and your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you shall call his name John. And you will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth; for he will be great before the Lord, and he shall drink neither wine nor strong drink, and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit, even from his mother's womb. And he will turn many of the sons of Israel to the Lord their God, and he will go before Him in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, to make ready for the Lord a people prepared."

THE GOSPEL CONTINUED...

Holy Gospel according St. Luke. (1:1-25, 57-68, 76, 80)

And Zacharias said to the angel, "How shall I know this? For I am an old man, and my wife is advanced in years." And the angel answered him, "I am Gabriel, who stands in the presence of God; and I was sent to speak to you, and to bring you this good news. And behold, you will be silent and unable to speak until the day that these things come to pass, because you did not believe my words, which will be fulfilled in their time." And the people were waiting for Zacharias, and they wondered at his delay in the temple. And when he came out, he could not speak to them, and they perceived that he had seen a vision in the temple; and he made signs to them and remained dumb. And when his time of service was ended, he went to his home. After these days his wife Elizabeth conceived, and for five months she hid herself, saying, "Thus the Lord has done to me in the days when he looked on me, to take away my reproach among men." Now the time came for Elizabeth to be delivered, and she gave birth to a son. And her neighbors and kinsfolk heard that the Lord had shown great mercy to her, and they rejoiced with her. And on the eighth day they came to circumcise the child; and they would have named him Zacharias after his father, but his mother said, "Not so; he shall be called John." And they said to her, "None of your kindred is called by this name." And they made signs to his father, inquiring what he would have him called. And he asked for a writing tablet, and wrote, "His name is John." And they all marveled. And immediately his mouth was opened and his tongue loosed, and he spoke, blessing God. And fear came on all their neighbors. And all these things were talked about through all the hill country of Judea; and all who heard them laid them up in their hearts, saying "What then will this child be?" For the hand of the Lord was with him. And his father Zacharias was filled with the Holy Spirit, and prophesied, saying, "Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for He has visited and redeemed His people. And you, child, will be called the Prophet of the Most High; for you will go before the Lord to prepare His ways." And the child grew and became strong in spirit, and he was in the wilderness until the day of his manifestation to Israel.





+SPIRITUAL GEMS FOR THE SPIRITUAL LIFE+

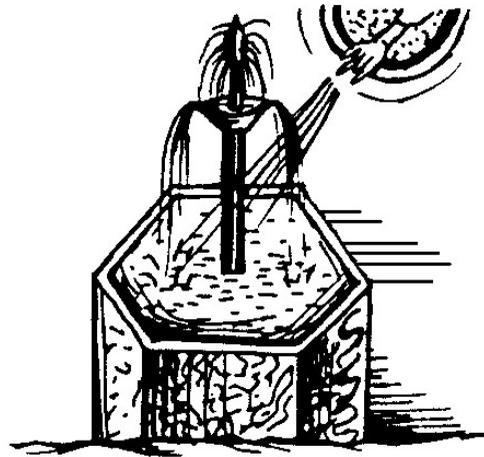
“Afflictions, illness, ill health and the pains that our bodies experience are counted for the remission of our trespasses. They are the furnace in which we are purified.”
+St. John Chrysostom

“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

“We must understand that the human person, in reality, does not die. Death is simply a transfer from one life to the other.”
+ St. Paisios of Mt. Athos

“Even in the most difficult times, he who will occupy himself diligently with the Jesus Prayer will be able to be easily saved.”*
+ St. Seraphim of Vyritsa

“We should not be despondent. In the sorrows we experience is concealed the mercy of God. How the Lord arranges our life is incomprehensible for us.”
+ St. Nikon of Optina



* Jesus Prayer: “Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me a sinner.”



“...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 continued good health of Ray and Jennie Mansour, are offered by Kevin, Diane, and their sons, Andrew and Randy Labrecque.

We beseech our Lord to grant safe travels to Vincent, Irene, and the entire Benfatti family as well as Jerry, Janice and the entire Naddra family, this summer.

Please keep Al & Anna Castley, the departed servant of God Robert Mourad, his wife Margaret and the entire Mourad family, Marianne Poppe, Robert Cardoos, Christopher and the Sapp family, Joe & Doris Hessney, 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.

