



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.

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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.

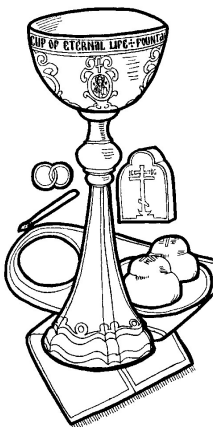
Fr. Paul is available after the service, or by appointment, to answer questions you may have about any facet of the Orthodox Christian faith.

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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**“...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 Gregory & Kyra, Tania, Sofia, Marina, Vincent & Irene are offered by Vincent and Irene Benfatti.

A memorial service for the departed handmaiden of God, Frances Agoritsas, mother of Demetri Agoritsas, on occasion of the 30th anniversary of her repose, will be prayed at the end of Liturgy today. May her memory be eternal.

Please especially keep in your prayers, the newly-departed George Henney, and the entire Henney family, Al & Anna Castley, the departed servant of God Robert Mourad, his wife Margaret and the entire Mourad family, Christopher and the Sapp family, Joe & Doris Hessney, Jo Krevinko and Shirley Nicholas 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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As Jo Krevinko continues to recover from hip-surgery, she has requested prayers of thankfulness to be said as a token of her deep and humble thanks for the unbelievable prayers and good wishes she received from the parish family.



THE EPISTLE

(For the Ninth Sunday after Pentecost)

*Make vows to the Lord thy God and perform them.
In Judah God is known; His Name is great in Israel.*

The Reading from the First Epistle of St. Paul to the Corinthians. (3:9-17)

Brethren, we are God's fellow workers; you are God's field, God's building. According to the grace of God given to me, like a skilled master builder I laid a foundation, and another man is building upon it. Let each man take care how he builds upon it. For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. Now if any one builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay or straw, each man's work will become manifest; for the Day will disclose it, because it will be revealed with fire, and the fire will test what sort of work each one has done. If the work which any man has built on the foundation survives, he will receive a reward. If any man's work is burned up, he will suffer loss, though he himself will be saved, but only as through fire. Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you? If anyone destroys God's temple, God will destroy him; for God's temple is holy, and you are that temple.



THE GOSPEL

(For the Ninth Sunday of Pentecost)

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew. (14:22-34)

At that time, Jesus made the Disciples get into the boat and go before Him to the other side, while He dismissed the crowds. And after He had dismissed the crowds, He went up on the mountain by Himself to pray. When evening came, He was there alone, but the Disciples' boat by this time was many furlongs distant from the land, beaten by the waves; for the wind was against them. And in the fourth watch of the night He came to them, walking on the sea. But when the Disciples saw Jesus walking on the sea, they were terrified, saying, "It is a ghost!" And they cried out for fear. But immediately He spoke to them, saying, "Take heart, it is I; have no fear." And Peter answered Him, "Lord, if it is Thee, bid me come to Thee on the water." He said, "Come." So Peter got out of the boat and walked on the water and came to Jesus; but when he saw the wind, he was afraid, and beginning to sink he cried out, "Lord, save me!" Jesus immediately reached out His hand and caught him, saying to him, "O man of little faith, why did you doubt?" And when they got into the boat, the wind ceased. And those in the boat worshiped Him, saying, "Truly, Thou art the Son of God." And when they had crossed over, they came to land at Gennesaret.



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 5:00PM

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

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

Sunday School Program - On Summer Break!

"Orthodoxy & Scripture" Group - Back to the Gospels - Thurs. (Aug. 2) @ 6:00PM



Dormition of the Theotokos Fast (Aug 1 - Aug. 15)

Feast of the Transfiguration of Jesus Christ (Aug. 6)

Feast of the Dormition of the Theotokos (Aug. 15)

(We will celebrate on Eve of Feast - Aug. 14)

Pickup the August Calendar on the Visitor's Table in Narthex or go online:

stpaulnaples.org/calendar

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Fellowship Hour - Please sign-up! Keep it simple & keep it delicious!

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

+SPIRITUAL GEMS FOR THE SPIRITUAL LIFE+

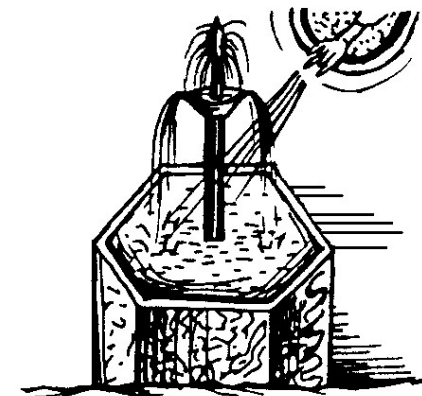
*"We celebrate the Liturgy together but we must pay what this costs: Each one must be concerned for the salvation of the others. Our life is an endless martyrdom."
+ Elder Sophrony of Essex*

*"We may study as much as we will but we shall still not come to know the Lord unless we live according to His commandments, for the Lord is not made known through learning but by the Holy Spirit. Many philosophers and scholars have arrived at a belief in existence of God, but they have not come to know God. To believe in God is one thing, to know God another."
+ St. Silouan the Athonite*

*"The person who has trust in divine justice is neither upset when treated unfairly, nor seeks his justice; on the contrary, he accepts the false accusations as if they were true, and does not try to convince others that he has been slandered; instead he asks to be forgiven..."
+ St. Paisios of the Holy Mountain*

*"The ones who seek the Divine gifts and insights while being immersed in the passions (sins) are in proud and foolish delusion. First, one needs to work on cleansing oneself. Grace is sent as a gift to those who are cleansed from the passions. And they get it quietly, at the moment that they do not notice."
+ St. Nectarios of Aegina*

*"Just as the thought of fire does not warm the body, so faith without love does not actualize the light of spiritual knowledge in the soul."
+ St. Maximos the Confessor*



THE SYNAXARION

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

On July 29 in the Holy Orthodox Church we commemorate the holy Martyrs Kallinikos of Gangra in Asia Minor and Theodota of Bithynia.

Verses

*When Kallinikos was cast into the furnace, the namesake of victory found a divine garland.
Theodota gave herself to bitter torments, and by them as a gift unto God was given.*

Kallinikos was born in Cilicia and educated in Christian piety. In Ancyra, a heathen Prince Sarcedos arrested him and cruelly tortured him for refusing to worship the idols. After that, the prince ordered that he be driven into the city of Gangra. The prince was afraid to kill him in Ancyra because many others, observing the heroic patience of this holy man, converted to the Faith of Christ. Along the way the soldiers became thirsty; Kallinikos prayed to God and brought forth water from a stone. When they arrived in the city of Gangra, the torturers threw Kallinikos into a fiery furnace. The saint prayed to God saying: “I give thanks to Thee, O Heavenly Father, for making me worthy of this hour in which I die for Thy Name.” When the fire died down they found his body, whole and unharmed. He entered the eternal Kingdom in about the year 250.

Theodota of Bithynia was a young widow with three children. In Thessalonica, together with St. Anastasia, Theodota labored in the work of God completely dedicated to a pious life. The women were arrested during the time of Diocletian’s persecution (284-305). At the trial, the dignitary Leucadius was captivated by the beautiful Theodota and he decided to take her home with him, intending to marry her. Theodota kept herself in purity with the protection of the angels, yielding neither to inducements nor charms, nor threats or assaults by the pagan. Theodota was sentenced to death and, together with her children, was thrown into a fiery furnace. Their holy souls soared into the Heavenly Fatherland.

On this day, we also commemorate Pious Emperor Theodosios the Younger; Constantine III, patriarch of Constantinople; Lupus the Confessor, bishop of Troyes; and Martyr Serapia of Antioch.

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

SUNDAY, JULY 29, 2018

NINTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

HOLY MARTYR KALLINIKOS OF GANGRA IN ASIA MINOR; HOLY VIRGIN MARTYR THEODOTA OF BITHYNIA; PIOUS EMPEROR THEODOSIOS THE YOUNGER; CONSTANTINE III, PATRIARCH OF CONSTANTINOPLE; LUPUS THE CONFESSOR, BISHOP OF TROYES; MARTYR SERAPIA OF ANTIOCH

+DIVINE LITURGY OF ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM+

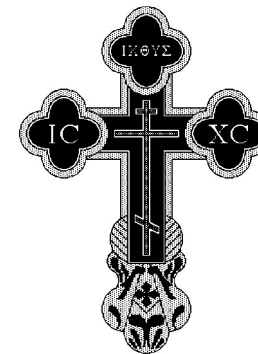
RESURRECTIONAL APOLYTIKION IN TONE EIGHT

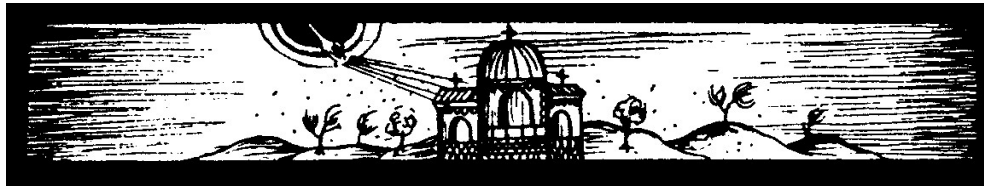
From the heights Thou didst descend, O compassionate One, and Thou didst submit to the threeday burial, that Thou might deliver us from passion; Thou art our life and our Resurrection, O Lord, glory to Thee.

+ Now sing the apolytikion of the holy Apostle Paul+

KONTAKION OF THE TRANSFIGURATION IN TONE SEVEN

Thou wast transfigured on the mount, and Thy Disciples, in so far as they were able, beheld Thy glory, O Christ our God; so that, when they should see Thee crucified, they would remember that all Thy suffering was voluntary, and could declare to all the world that Thou art truly the effulgent Splendor of the Father.





ORTHODOX CHRISTIANITY 101

WORSHIPING MARY AS THE “MOTHER OF GOD”?

Is it right that some Orthodox traditions are paganistic, like worshiping the Virgin Mary as the “Mother of God”?

First of all, Orthodox Christians do not worship Mary. Worship is reserved for God alone. However, Mary is greatly esteemed and honored as the one chosen by God to bring forth His Only-Begotten Son into the world. Because of this, she is the most exalted of all creatures. She herself prophesied “All generations shall call me blessed” (Luke 1:48).

Jesus Christ is an eternal, divine Person who took on a complete human nature through the Virgin Mary (John 1:1,14). As Mary gave birth to and nurtured a divine Person, she is rightly called the “Mother of God.” This, of course, does not imply that she is the mother of God the Father. Many of those who question the title “Mother of God” are those who also doubt the full divinity of Jesus Christ.

There is nothing paganistic in the Church’s veneration of the Mother of our Savior.

+Learn more at our “Orthodoxy & Scripture (O&S)” sessions (Thursday’s at 6PM)+

(source: “An Eastern Orthodox Response to Evangelical Claims” by Fr. Paul O’Callaghan of the Antiochian Archdiocese)

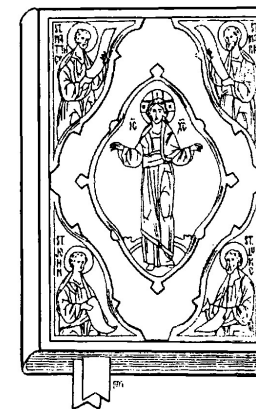


ORTHODOX CHRISTIANITY 101

PRAYER TO MARY AND THE SAINTS

The Orthodox pray to Mary and the other saints. Isn’t this worship?

Orthodox Christians ask Mary and other saints to intercede for us before God in prayer. The Orthodox believe that the reality of the Church encompasses both the living and those who have died and are now “with Christ” (Phil. 1:23). Those who have died in Christ do not care for us any less, nor do they cease to pray for us because they have passed into eternal life. We approach the saints with veneration as we ask their prayers. In no way can this be compared to the worship we offer the Triune God.



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