



# 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.

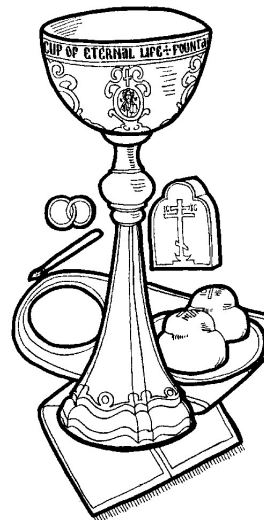
Fr. Paul is available after the service, or by appointment, to answer questions you may have about any facet of the Orthodox Christian faith.

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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239.348.0828 (office)



**“...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 & 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.**

# WEEKLY SERVICE SCHEDULE AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

## WEEKLY SERVICES

Saturday: Great Vespers 5:00PM (Not July 14 - See announcement below)

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** - Resumes in August - Date TBA!



### **Antiochian Arcdiocese Clergy Symposium at the Antiochian Village**

Fr. Paul traveling July 16 - July 20

[Fr. Joe Shaheen is available to cover any pastoral emergencies]

**Bp. +NICHOLAS - Great Vespers - Next Sat. July 14 (5PM)**

@ St. Peter Orthodox Church in Bonita Springs

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

*“Just as the blessings of God are unutterably great, so their acquisition requires much hardship and toil undertaken with hope and faith.”  
+ St. Macarius the Great*

*“The Church is a hospital, and not a courtroom, for the soul. She does not condemn on behalf of sins, but grants remission of sins.”  
+ St. John Chrysostom*

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

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

## SUNDAY, JULY 8, 2018

SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

**GREAT-MARTYR PROCOPIUS OF CAESAREA IN PALESTINE**

**NEW-MARTYRS THEOPHANES AND ANASTASIOS OF CONSTANTINOPLE; VENERABLE THEOPHILOS THE MYRRH-STREAMING OF ST. BASIL KELLI ON ATHOS; PROCOPIUS OF USTUG, FOOL-FOR-CHRIST**

**+DIVINE LITURGY OF ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM+**

### **RESURRECTIONAL APOLYTIKION IN TONE FIVE**

Let us believers praise and worship the Word; coeternal with the Father and the Spirit, born of the Virgin for our salvation. For, He took pleasure in ascending the Cross in the flesh to suffer death; and to raise the dead by His glorious Resurrection.

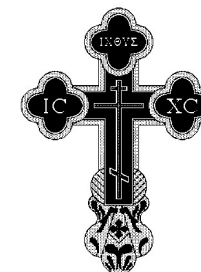
### **APOLYTIKION OF ST. PROCOPIUS THE GREAT-MARTYR IN TONE FOUR**

Thy Martyr, O Lord, in his courageous contest for Thee \* received as the prize the crowns of incorruption and life from Thee, our immortal God. \* For since he possessed Thy strength, he cast down the tyrants \* and wholly destroyed the demons' strengthless presumption. \* O Christ God, by his prayers, save our souls, since Thou art merciful.

*+ 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.

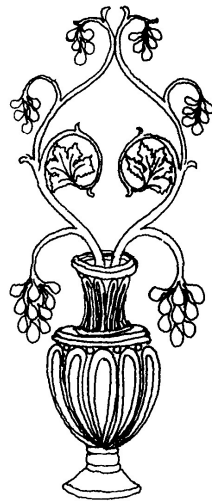


## THE EPISTLE

*Thou, O Lord, wilt preserve us and keep us from this generation.  
Save me, O Lord, for the Godly man hath disappeared.*

### **The Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Romans. (12:6-14)**

Brethren, having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith; if service, in our serving; he who teaches, in his teaching; he who exhorts, in his exhortation; he who contributes, in liberality; he who gives aid, with zeal; he who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness. Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; love one another with brotherly affection; outdo one another in showing honor. Never flag in zeal, be aglow with the Spirit, and serve the Lord. Rejoice in your hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints, practice hospitality. Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them.



## THE GOSPEL

*(For the Sixth Sunday of Matthew)*

### **The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew. (9:1-8)**

At that time, Jesus got into a boat, crossed over and came to His own city. And behold, they brought to Him a paralytic, lying on his bed; and when Jesus saw their faith He said to the paralytic, “Take heart, my son; your sins are forgiven.” And behold, some of the scribes said to themselves, “This man is blaspheming.” But Jesus, knowing their thoughts, said, “Why do you think evil in your hearts? For which is easier, to say, ‘Your sins are forgiven,’ or to say, ‘Rise and walk’? But that you may know that the Son of man has authority on earth to forgive sins”—He then said to the paralytic—“Rise, take up your bed and go home.” And he rose and went home. When the crowds saw it, they marveled, and they glorified God, Who had given such authority to men.





## THE SYNAXARION

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

On July 8 in the Holy Orthodox Church we commemorate the holy Great-Martyr Procopius and those beheaded with him: Saint Theodosia, his mother; the Twelve Women of senatorial rank; Saints Antiochus and Nicostratus the Tribunes; and Abdas and Sabbas the prison guards.

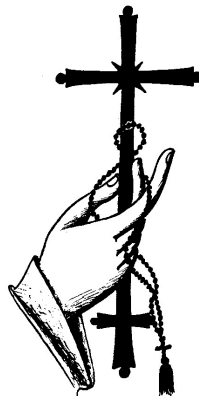
### Verses

*Meet it was that Procopius, his neck bending should say: Cut; I will not sacrifice to error.  
On the eighth they cut the heads off of swift-smiting Procopius and companions.*

Procopius was born "Neanias" of a Christian father, Christopher, and a pagan mother, Theodosia, who raised him a pagan. When Neanias matured, Emperor Diocletian brought him to his palace for military service. Diocletian ordered Neanias to go to Alexandria with a garrison of soldiers to exterminate the Christians. But, while on the road, the Lord appeared to Neanias. A glowing cross as if of crystal appeared in the air and there came a voice saying: "I am Jesus, the crucified Son of God. By this sign that you saw, conquer your enemies and My peace will be with you." Neanias made the same kind of cross and instead of going against the Christians in Alexandria he, with his soldiers, went to Jerusalem. Being brought before the court, Neanias removed his commander's belt and sword and tossed them before the judge, thereby showing that he is only a soldier of Christ the King. After great tortures he was cast into prison where the Lord Christ, again, appeared to him, baptized him and gave him the name Procopius. One day twelve women of senatorial rank appeared before his prison window and said to him: "We also are servants of Christ." Then they were thrown into the same prison where Procopius taught them the Faith of Christ and martyrdom. For that reason, in the Orthodox marriage ritual, Procopius is mentioned along with the Godcrowned Emperor Constantine and Empress Helena. Witnessing their suffering and bravery, the mother of Procopius also believed in Christ and all thirteen women were martyred, along with four other men. Procopius honorably suffered in Caesarea in Palestine and was crowned with the glorious wreath of immortality on July 8, 303.

On this day, we also commemorate the New-martyrs Theophanes and Anastasios of Constantinople; Venerable Theophilos the myrrh-streaming of St. Basil Kelli on Athos; and Procopius of Ustug, fool-for-Christ.

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



## ANTIOCHIAN HOUSE OF STUDIES AWARDED ATS CERTIFICATE OF ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP

By the grace of God, the Antiochian House of Studies (AHOS) now enters a new stage in its development, joining the company of many of the greatest centers of theological learning in North America.

On June 20, 2018, a Certificate of Associate Membership in the Association of Theological Schools (ATS) in the United States and Canada was bestowed upon AHOS at the ATS Centennial Biennial Meeting in Denver, Colorado. This is the first step in a five-year process toward full membership.

"It is our intention to contribute to the theological landscape of this great continent by bearing witness to the Biblical and Patristic ethos of the Orthodox Church," noted Dr. Christopher Veniamin, Professor of Patristic Theology and Dogmatics, Dean, and Chief Administrative Officer of AHOS. "As valuable members of AHOS and the Archdiocese, we humbly urge each one of you to help spread the word of this momentous event in the history of the House of Studies, the Antiochian Archdiocese, and indeed of the Orthodox Church in North America and beyond."

AHOS is a long-standing institution of higher theological learning, offering Master's and Ph.D. programs in Orthodox Studies. The Ph.D. program is the first of its kind to be established within an English-speaking framework in North America. The 270 member schools of ATS will likely come to accredit and recognize these degrees to the benefit of students pursuing post-graduate studies.

Fully accredited Orthodox members of ATS include Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology, St. Tikhon's Orthodox Theological Seminary and St. Vladimir's Orthodox Theological Seminary.

(source: [antiochian.org](http://antiochian.org))

## PREPARATION FOR PRAYER BY ST. IGNATIUS (BRIANCHANINOV)

OUR FATHER AMONG THE SAINTS IGNATIUS BRIANCHANINOV (1807-1867), WAS A BISHOP OF THE CHURCH OF RUSSIA AND ASCETICAL WRITER. HIS FEAST DAY IS CELEBRATED ON APRIL 30.

On account of the signal importance of prayer, preparation should precede its practice. Before praying, prepare yourself; and be not as one who tempts the Lord. [Ecclus. 18:23] 'When we are going to stand in the presence of our King and God and converse with Him,' says St. John of the Ladder, 'let us not rush into it without preparation, lest seeing from afar that we are without the weapons and clothing required for standing in the presence of the King, He should order His servants and slaves to bind us and banish us far from His presence and tear up our petitions and fling them in our face.'

The first preparation consists in rejecting resentment and condemnation of our neighbors. This preparation is commanded by our Lord Himself: When you stand praying, He orders, forgive, if you have anything against anyone, so that your Father, Who is in heaven may forgive you your offenses. But if you do not forgive, neither will your Father Who is in heaven forgive you your offenses. [St. Mark 11: 25] Further preparation consists in the rejection of cares by the power of faith in God and by the power of obedience and surrender to the will of God; also a realization of one's sinfulness and the resultant contrition and humility of spirit. The one sacrifice which God accepts from fallen human nature is contrition of spirit. If Thou hadst desired sacrifice, I would have given it; says His Prophet to God on behalf of everyone who has fallen and remains in his fallen state. It is not merely some partial sacrifice of body or soul, but even total holocausts do not please Thee. The sacrifice for God is a contrite spirit; a contrite and humble heart God will not despise. [Ps. 50:17]

St. Isaac the Syrian repeats the following saying of another holy father: *'If anyone does not recognize himself as a sinner, his prayer is not acceptable to God.'*

Stand at prayer before the invisible God as if you saw Him, and with the conviction that He sees you and is looking at you attentively. Stand before the invisible God just as a guilty criminal convicted of countless crimes and condemned to death stands before a stern, impartial judge. Exactly! You are standing before your sovereign Lord and Judge; you are standing before the Judge in Whose sight no living soul will be justified.

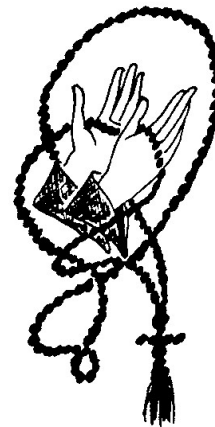


## PREPARATION FOR PRAYER CONTINUED...

Who always wins when He is judged, Who does not condemn only when, in His unspeakable love for men, He forgives a man his sin and enters not into judgment with His servant. Feeling the fear of God, and feeling from the action of this fear the presence of God when you pray, you will see without seeing, spiritually, Him Who is invisible, and you will realize that prayer is a standing by anticipation at the awful judgment of God.

Stand at prayer with bowed head, with your eyes cast to the ground, on both legs equally and without moving; assist your prayer by sorrow of heart, sighs from the depth of your soul, and abundant tears. A reverent outward demeanour at prayer is most essential and most helpful for all wrestling at the work of prayer, especially for beginners in whom the disposition of the soul conforms largely to the posture of the body.

The Apostle orders thanksgiving when we pray: Persevere in prayer, he says, and keep wakeful in it with thanksgiving. [Col. 4:2. cp. Phil. 4:6.] The Apostle says that thanksgiving is ordered by God Himself: Pray without ceasing; give thanks for everything, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus. [Thess. 5:17] What is the meaning of thanksgiving? It means praising God for His countless blessings, poured out on all mankind and on everyone. By such thanksgiving the soul is filled with a wonderful peace; and she is filled with joy in spite of the fact that sorrows beset her on all sides. By thanksgiving a man acquires a living faith so that he rejects all worry about himself, tramples on fear of men and devils, and surrenders himself wholly to the will of God.



Such a disposition of the soul is an excellent preparatory disposition for prayer. Therefore since you have received Christ Jesus as Lord, says the Apostle, so walk in Him (live in Him), rooted and built up in Him, and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in it by thanksgiving, that is, by means of thanksgiving obtaining an abundance of faith. [Col. 2:6-7] Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I will say it, Rejoice! ... The Lord is near. Be anxious about nothing, but in every circumstance, by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God. [Phil. 4:4-6]

