



ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH



REV. FR. PAUL GIRGIS
509.845.4540 :: FRPAULGIRGIS@GMAIL.COM

2425 RIVERS ROAD, NAPLES, FLORIDA 34120
WWW.STPAULNAPLES.ORG



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 TO ST. PAUL CHURCH

We are honored by your presence as our doors are open to anyone seeking the fullness of the Truth. It is our sincere desire that your participation today in the Divine Liturgy will draw you closer to Christ and His Church. We are a parish community within the Body of Christ striving to “seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness” (Mt. 6:33) above all else.

The Church is a spiritual hospital and our Lord Jesus Christ is the Great Physician who offers us healing, hope, and refuge – true life with real freedom. We answer Christ's call to repent and be transformed, healed of our brokenness, through a real spiritual life - our priority is to be in “perfect communion” with the living God.

Please join us after service for our fellowship hour in the pavilion. Fr. Paul is available to answer questions you may have about any facet of the Christian faith.

+HOLY COMMUNION (EUCARIST)+

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. Since participation in the Eucharist expresses a unity with all the dogma, teachings, and practice of the Orthodox Church, it is natural that non-Eastern Orthodox Christians (Roman Catholic, Protestant, Non-Chalcedonian/Oriental, etc.) do not approach the chalice for Holy Communion but respect the official policy of the Antiochian Archdiocese of North America and canonical boundaries of the One, Holy, Catholic (Universal), and Apostolic Church - the Orthodox Christian Church. Teaching the people of Corinth about the seriousness of the Holy Eucharist, St. Paul warns:

“Therefore whoever eats this bread or drinks this cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord...For he who eats and drinks in an unworthy manner eats and drinks judgment to himself, not discerning the Lord's body. For this reason many are weak and sick among you, and many sleep (i.e. die).” (1 Cor. 11:27;29).

We lovingly desire the salvation of all - not judgment and condemnation.

All Eastern Orthodox Christians are expected to prepare for the receiving of the Body and Blood of Christ through recent confession, prayer, and fasting from all food/drink approximately midnight the night before. Please speak with Fr. Paul if medical conditions preclude it.

May God bless you.



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

Please continue to pray for Fr. Joe and Kh. Diane Shaheen, Joe & Doris Hessney, Christopher and the Sapp family, Al and Anna Castley, Victor Bard, Ed and Marilyn Edge., Robert and Michaelene Aber, and the recently departed Ibrahim Shaheen.

Prayers for the good health of Irene, Vincent, Tatiana, Sofia, Marina, Gregory, and Kyra are requested by Vincent Benfatti.

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

The Nativity Fast (Nov. 15 - Dec. 25) is one of the four Canonical Fasting Seasons in the Church year. This is a joyous fast in anticipation of the Nativity of Christ. That is the reason it is less strict than other fasting periods. The fast is divided into two periods. The 1st period is November 15th through December 19th when the traditional fasting discipline (no meat, dairy, fish, wine, and oil) is observed. There is dispensation given for wine and oil on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Similarly, fish, wine, and oil are permitted on Saturdays and Sundays. The 2nd period is December 20th through 24th when the traditional fasting discipline (no meat, dairy, fish, wine, and oil) is observed. There is dispensation given for wine and oil only on Saturday and Sunday during this period.

Fasting always works in conjunction with prayer and giving alms (helping the poor, giving to worthy charities, etc.). Fasting helps us reorder the interior life, but the reordering does not occur without greater prayer and greater concern for the poor.

The reordering is a clarification — we end up seeing things more clearly, we get stronger in the fight against sin and temptation. The fast always ends on a great Feast Day of our Lord. (*source: antiochian.org*)



THE SYNAXARION

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

On December 2 in the Holy Orthodox Church we commemorate the Holy Prophet Habakkuk.

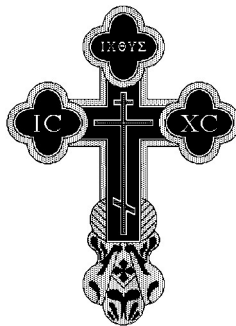
Verses

*At thine end, O Habakkuk, and expiration, God strengthened thy feet, even as thou saidest.
On the second, Habakkuk went up to the city of God.*

Habakkuk was the son of Asaphat from the tribe of Simeon. He prophesied the coming of Christ before 600 years His Nativity, during the time of King Manasseh, and foretold the destruction of Jerusalem. When Nebuchadnezzar, King of Babylon, attacked Jerusalem, Habakkuk sought refuge in the land of the Ishmaelites. From there he returned to Judea, where he lived as a farmer. One day he was carrying lunch to the workers in the fields, when suddenly an angel of the Lord appeared to him and said: Go carry the dinner that thou hast into Babylon unto Daniel, who is in the lion's den. But Habakkuk responded: Lord, I never saw Babylon; neither do I know where the den is. Then the angel took him by the hair and instantly brought him to Babylon, to the lion's den, where Daniel had been cast by King Cyrus as a punishment for not worshiping the idols. Daniel took and ate the dinner which God had sent him (Daniel 14:34-37). Then the angel of God again took Habakkuk back to his field in Judea. He died at an old age. His relics were discovered in Palestine during the reign of Theodosius the Great.

On this day, we also commemorate the Martyr Habib the New; Martyr Myrope of Chios; Venerable John, Heraclemon, Theophilos and Andrew of Egypt; Martyr Stephen Urosh, the Serbian king; and Venerable Ioannikios of Devitch.

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



SUNDAY - DECEMBER 2, 2018

TWENTY-SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
& FOURTEENTH SUNDAY OF LUKE

THE HOLY PROPHET HABAKKUK; MARTYR HABIB THE NEW; MARTYR MYROPE OF CHIOS; VENERABLE JOHN, HERACLEMON, THEOPHILOS AND ANDREW OF EGYPT;
MARTYR STEPHEN UROSH, THE SERBIAN KING;
VENERABLE IOANNIKIOS OF DEVITCH

+DIVINE LITURGY OF ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM+

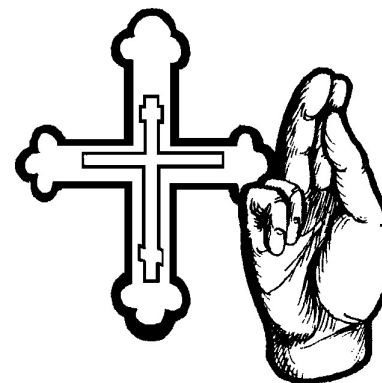
RESURRECTIONAL APOLYTIKION IN TONE TWO

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 OF PREPARATION OF CHRIST'S NATIVITY IN TONE THREE

On this day the Virgin cometh to the cave to give birth to God the Word ineffably, Who was before all the ages. Dance for joy, O earth, on hearing the gladsome tidings; with the Angels and the shepherds now glorify Him Who is willing to be gazed on as a young Child Who before the ages is God.



THE EPISTLE

(For the Twenty-Seventh Sunday after Pentecost)

The Lord is my strength and my song. With chastisement hath the Lord chastened me.

The Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Ephesians. (6:10-17)

Brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we are not contending against flesh and blood, but against the principalities, against the powers, against the world rulers of this present darkness, against the spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. Therefore, take the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Stand, therefore, having girded your loins with truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, and having shod your feet with the equipment of the gospel of peace; besides all these, taking the shield of faith, with which you can quench all the flaming darts of the evil one. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

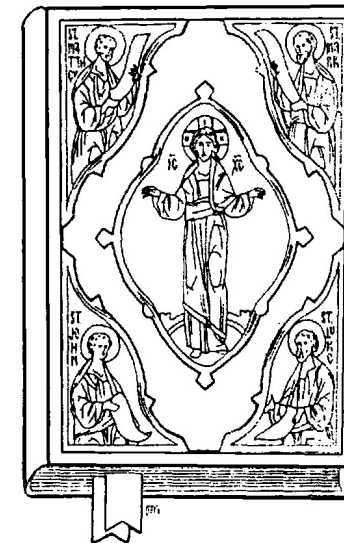


THE GOSPEL

(For the Fourteenth Sunday of Luke)

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Luke. (18:35-43)

At that time, when Jesus drew near to Jericho, a blind man was sitting by the roadside begging; and hearing a multitude going by, he inquired what this meant. They told him, "Jesus of Nazareth is passing by." And he cried, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" And those who were in front rebuked him, telling him to be silent; but he cried out all the more, "Son of David, have mercy on me!" And Jesus stopped, and commanded him to be brought to him; and when he came near, Jesus asked him, "What do you want me to do for you?" He said, "Lord, let me receive my sight." And Jesus said to him, "Receive your sight; your faith has made you well." And immediately he received his sight and followed Jesus, glorifying God; and all the people, when they saw it, gave praise to God.



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: 6:00PM

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

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

Weekly Bible Study Group - Thursday's 6PM-7PM!



- **Final Day (Dec. 2)** to turn-in forms for the 2018 Parish Christmas Card. Order forms available on the entrance banister in the back of the Nave.
- Nativity of Christ Service Schedule: www.stpaulnaples.org/calendar
- Tomorrow/Mon. (Dec. 3) Christmas Tree Decorating & Potluck @ 5:00PM - join us!
- St. Nicholas Day (Dec. 5) w/His Grace Bishop Nicholas (6:00PM) - See Flyer
- Order of St. Ignatius Sunday (Dec. 16) - Fellowship Hour sponsored by OSI members
- Nativity Celebration (Dec. 26) - See any Antiochian Woman for tickets - See Flyer
- "Specialty Bread Sale": Order forms in the Pavilion - lot's of great choices!

SPIRITUAL MORSALS FOR THE SPIRITUAL LIFE

Don't criticize or judge other people, regard everyone else as an angel, justify their mistakes and weaknesses, and condemn only yourself as the worst sinner. This is step one in any kind of spiritual life." +Fr. Seraphim Rose

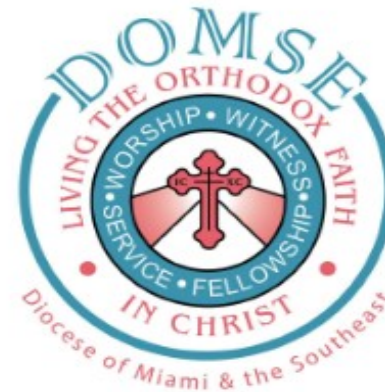
"And so let us be glad and bear with patience everything the world throws at us. Secure in the knowledge that it is then that we are most in the mind of God."
+St. Basil the Great

For more information visit: stpaulnaples.org & facebook.com/stpaulnaples

Diocese Of Miami & the SouthEast

2019 Winter Retreat

~ Bishop NICHOLAS, presiding, cordially invites you to attend ~



DOMSE 2nd Annual Winter Retreat

Hosted at St. Elias Church in Atlanta, GA

Pastors Only: Jan. 23 - 24, 2019; all Pastors to arrive in Atlanta by Jan. 22

Attached Clergy & Assistant Pastors are strongly encouraged to participate & arrive on the same date!

Clergy, Antiochian Men, Women, & Young Adults: Jan. 25 - 27, 2019

Note: Teen SOYO's part in the Winter Retreat will be moved to the Spring to accommodate for Winter Camp

ALL must register! \$50 fee per person to cover meals & all other retreat expenses

REGISTER HERE (includes hotel info): <http://bit.ly/DMC-Winter-Retreat>

FOLLOW US on FaceBook ~ <https://www.facebook.com/DMCDOMSE/>





St. Nicholas Day Celebration

DECEMBER 5, 2018 @ 6:00PM

A FAMILY & FRIENDS EVENT - JOIN US!

+HIS GRACE BISHOP NICHOLAS LOOKS FORWARD TO JOINING US ON OCCASION OF THIS BEING HIS "NAMES DAY"+

Arrival & Reception of Bishop NICHOLAS to St. Paul Church

Followed by:

- Great Vespers & Artoklasia for the Feast of St. Nicholas the Wonderworker
- Interactive Story: "St. Nicholas & the gold coins"
- Surprise from St. Nicholas w/goodies & treats
- A "free-will" offering meal to benefit St. Paul and the Naples Food Pantry:



Fresh Pasta Marinara or White Bean & Escarole Soup
Salad & Bread
Water, Juice, Wine
& Christmas cookies!

+God willing, we will be joined by family & friends from neighboring Orthodox parishes+



St. Paul Parish Nativity Celebration Buffet Dinner

Wednesday evening, December 26, 2018

5:30 PM

The Club at the Strand
5840 Strand Boulevard
Naples, Florida 34110

Adults-\$45.00 Children - 2-6-\$8.00

7-15-\$20.00

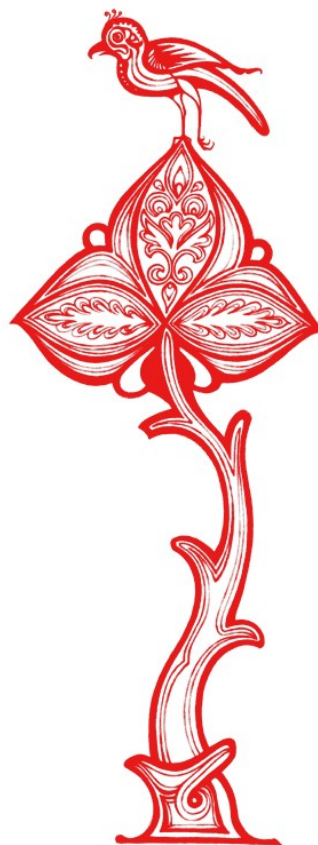
For Reservations

Please contact Bessie Jarjoura at
ggeobess@yahoo.com or see her at Church

Please make check out to "St. Paul" with
"12/26/2018 Dinner" in the Note line

Cash Bar- Raffle- Open Seating

Reservation Deadline December 17, 2018



“Watch out for complaining. It only makes situations worse and increases sorrows.”

+ St. Macarius of Optina