



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 (EUCHARIST)+

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 and the Hessney family, Christopher and the Sapp family, Al and Anna Castley, Victor Bard, Ed and Marilyn Edge, Robert and Michaelene Aber, and the recently departed Doris Hessney.

At the end of Liturgy, a (Trisagion) Memorial Service will be prayed for the recently departed handmaiden of God, Doris Hessney.

Prayers for the peaceful repose and memory of Doris Hessney are requested by Elias and Barbara Hebeke.

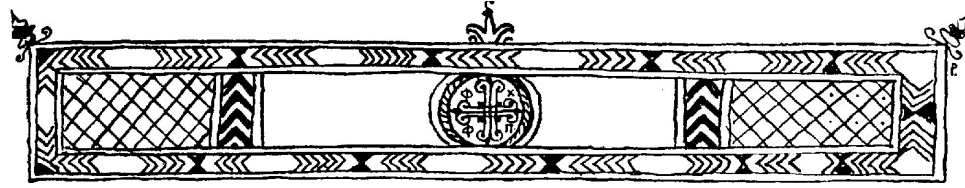
Prayers for the good health of Bob and Barbara Nader are requested by Joyce, Leila, and Ray Trabulsi.

**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. November 15th - December 19th: No meat, dairy, fish, wine, and oil is observed. Wine and oil is OK on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Fish, wine, and oil OK on Saturdays and Sundays. December 20th-24th: No meat, dairy, fish, wine, and oil is observed. Wine and oil OK 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 9 in the Holy Orthodox Church we commemorate Saint Anna's Conception of the Most Holy Theotokos.

Verses

*Not like Eve dost thou bring forth children in sorrow,
For within thy womb thou bearest joy, O Anna.
On the ninth, Anna conceived Mary, God's Mother*

After many years of childlessness and fervent prayer, an angel of the Lord announced to Joachim and Anna that they would be the parents of a daughter, the Virgin Mary, who would bring blessings to the whole human race. The Conception took place at Jerusalem. The Orthodox Church does not accept the teaching that the Mother of God was exempted from the consequences of ancestral sin (death, corruption, sin, etc.) at the moment of her conception by virtue of the future merits of her Son. Only Christ was born perfectly holy and sinless. The Holy Virgin was like everyone else in her mortality and in being subject to temptation, although she committed no personal sins. She was not a deified creature removed from the rest of humanity. If this were the case, she would not have been truly human, and the nature that Christ took from her would not have been truly human either. If Christ does not truly share our human nature, then the possibility of our salvation is in doubt.

By her intercessions, O Christ God, have mercy upon us. Amen.



SUNDAY - DECEMBER 9, 2018

CONCEPTION OF THE THEOTOKOS BY RIGHTEOUS ANNA
& TENTH SUNDAY OF LUKE

CONSECRATION OF THE CHURCH OF THE RESURRECTION IN JERUSALEM

+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 CONCEPTION OF THE THEOTOKOS

BY ST. ANNA IN TONE FOUR

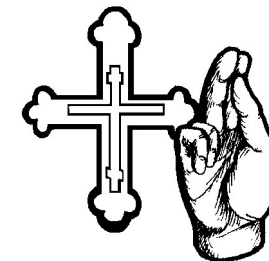
Today have the bonds of barrenness been loosened; God, having heard the prayers of Joachim and Anna, promised them openly that they should give birth, beyond hope, to the Maiden of God, from whom He, the infinite One was to be born, becoming man, commanding the angel to shout to her: Rejoice, O full of grace, the Lord is with thee.

+Now sing the apolytikion of the holy Apostle Paul+

KONTAKION OF CONCEPTION OF THE THEOTOKOS BY

ST. ANNA IN TONE FOUR

All the world doth celebrate Anna's conception on this day with festive joy, because it came to pass through God; for by divine grace she hath conceived her that beyond words conceiveth the Word of God.



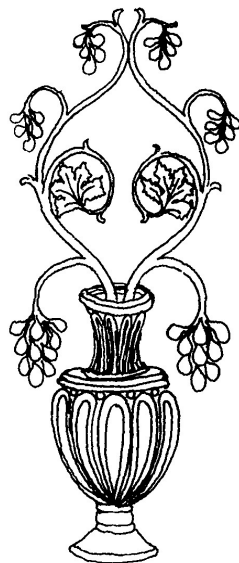
THE EPISTLE

(For the Conception of the Theotokos by Righteous Anna)

God is wondrous in His saints. Bless God in the congregations.

The Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Galatians. (4:22-27)

Brethren, Abraham had two sons, one by a slave and one by a free woman. But the son of the slave was born according to the flesh, the son of the free woman through promise. Now this is an allegory: these women are two covenants. One is from Mount Sinai, bearing children for slavery; she is Hagar. Now Hagar is Mount Sinai in Arabia; she corresponds to the present Jerusalem, for she is in slavery with her children. But the Jerusalem above is free, and she is our mother. For it is written, "Rejoice, O barren one who does not bear; break forth and shout, you who are not in travail; for the children of the desolate one are many more than the children of her that is married."

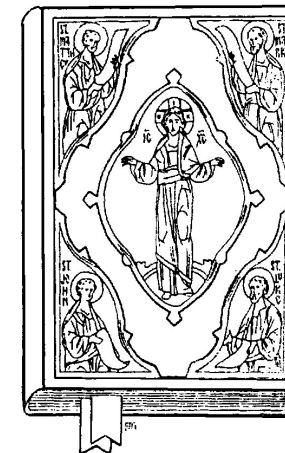


THE GOSPEL

(For the Tenth Sunday of Luke)

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Luke. (13:10-17)

At that time, Jesus was teaching in one of the synagogues on the Sabbath. And there was a woman who had had a spirit of infirmity for eighteen years; she was bent over and could not fully straighten herself. And when Jesus saw her, He called her and said to her, "Woman, you are freed from your infirmity." And He laid His hands upon her, and immediately she was made straight, and she praised God. But the ruler of the synagogue, indignant because Jesus had healed on the Sabbath, said to the people, "There are six days on which work ought to be done; come on those days and be healed, and not on the Sabbath day." Then the Lord answered him, "You hypocrite! Does not each of you on the Sabbath untie his ox or his ass from the manger, and lead it away to water it? And ought not this woman, a daughter of Abraham, whom Satan bound for eighteen years, be loosed from this bond on the Sabbath day?" As Jesus said this, all His adversaries were put to shame; and all the people rejoiced at all the glorious things that were done by Him.



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!



- Nativity of Christ Service Schedule: www.stpaulnaples.org/calendar
- Order of St. Ignatius Sunday (Dec. 16) - Fellowship Hour sponsored by OSI members
- Nativity Celebration (Dec. 26) - See Flyer & any Antiochian Woman for tickets
- “Specialty Bread Sale”: Order forms in the Pavilion - lot's of great choices!

SPIRITUAL MORSALS FOR THE SPIRITUAL LIFE

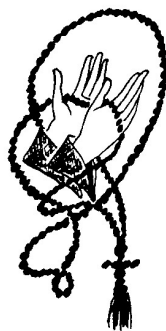
“We should try to live in such a way that if the Gospels were lost, they could be rewritten by looking at us.”

+Metropolitan Anthony Bloom

“My children, avoid criticism -- a very great sin. God is grieved whenever we criticize and loathe people. Let us concern ourselves only with our own faults -- for these let us feel pain; let us criticize ourselves and then we will find mercy and grace from God.”

+Elder Ephraim of Arizona

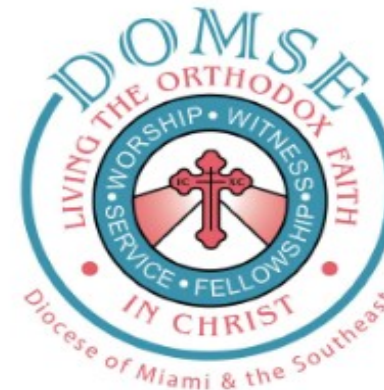
For more information visit: stpaulnaples.org & facebook.com/stpaulnaples



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/>



CHRISTIANITY 101

THE BIBLE ALONE?

The true Christian faith is based on the Bible alone - right?

The Bible never has been and never can be “alone”. It was the Orthodox Catholic (i.e. “Universal”) Church that finally decided what books belonged in the Bible and what did not. In the era following the death of the Apostles, there were many books that claimed to be Apostolic Scripture. The Church decided what books were authentic and what were not, based on whether or not those books conformed to the oral tradition she had received from the Apostles. Without the Church there would be no Bible.

Heresies and distortions result when the Bible is torn away from the Church or interpreted privately outside the universal tradition of the Church (2 Peter 3:16). The same Holy Spirit that inspired the Scriptures is promised to guide the Church unto all truth and preserve her from error (John 16:13).

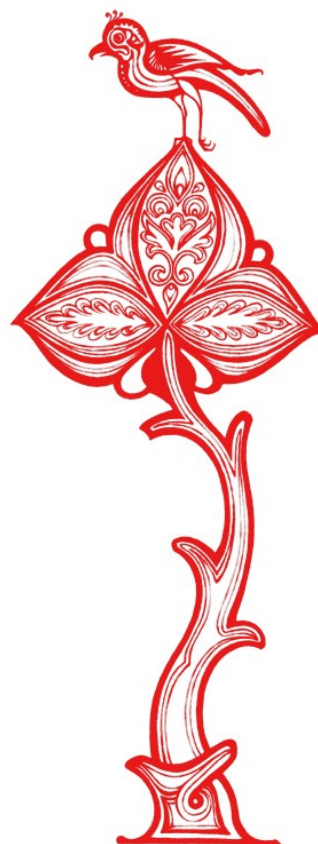
The Bible is not “alone” - it belongs to the Church.



+Learn more at our weekly “Bible Study Group” Thursday 6PM-7PM+

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





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

+ St. Macarius of Optina