



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

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 make sure to sign our guest book at the visitors table in the Narthex/lobby area and 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.

## ENCOURAGEMENT TO FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN

Your children are welcome here. Don't worry if they wiggle or squirm a bit. Unless your child is making more noise than our priest and choir, stay put. When they need a little more room, or a short break, it is OK to walk them to the back (or out) until they are ready to return. Please enjoy the “Children's Word” (bulletin) found on the banister upon entering the Nave (worship space).

If you want to raise your children in the Church, then they have to be in the church. The entire spiritual culture of the Orthodox faith is necessary formation for everyone, whether 40 days old, 40 years old, or 40 years a senior citizen.

It can be a sacrifice to raise children in the Church, and we know it, but if your child doesn't learn to incline his/her heart in worship, and turn aside from distraction from a young age, how in the world will they survive as an older Christian in a world which is designed to distract them?

## +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 mid-night the night before. Please speak with Fr. Paul if medical conditions preclude it.



“...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 and the Bard family, Ed and Marilyn Edge, Robert and Michaelene Aber, Mary Alvanette Kennan, Jean Sam, the newly departed Doris Hessney and Mary Ann Thomas.

Prayers for the repose of the soul of the newly departed Mary Ann Thomas, and in Memory of Edward Thomas, have been requested by Fr. Joe and Kh. Diane Shaheen, Laila Corey, Dr. Robert and Thelma Badwey, Robert and Michaelene Aber, as well as Lou and Shirley Nicholas. We will pray the “Trisagion Prayers of Mercy for the Departed” (Memorial Service) prior to starting the Divine Liturgy this morning.

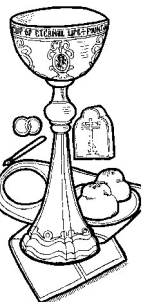
Please continue to pray for Jean Sam who is hospitalized and in serious decline with kidney and heart problems.

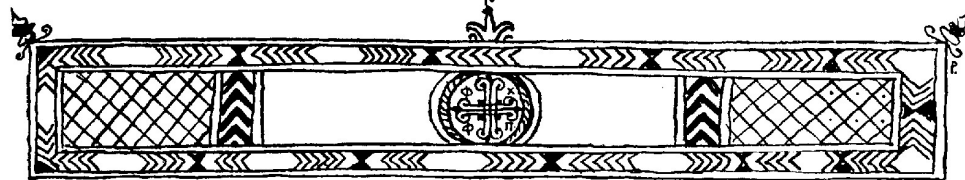
Prayers for the health of Albert and Anna Castley, Diane and Kevin Labrecque, and their sons, Andrew and Randy, are requested by Ray and Jennie Mansour.

Prayers in memory of Evelyn Elias Mansour, sister-in-law to Ray Mansour, and wife to Ray's departed brother Louis, are requested by Ray and Jennie Mansour. Louis worked alongside Ray in renovating the “old house” into a usable church for the building up of the St. Paul community. Prayers for Ray's nephews, Robert and Louis, and their families, are also requested by the Mansours.

Prayers for Philip Ayoub, on occasion of his birthday, are requested by Ray and Leila Trabulsi. May God grant Philip many years!

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





## THE SYNAXARION

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

On January 6 in the Holy Orthodox Church we celebrate the Holy Theophany, or Epiphany, of our Lord, God and Savior Jesus Christ.

### Verses

*Christ's Baptism, having rent open the Heavens, leadeth therein all such as do not defile it.  
On the sixth the Forerunner baptized Christ in the river.*

When our Lord reached thirty years from His physical birth, He began His teaching and saving work. He Himself signified this “beginning of the beginning” by His baptism in the River Jordan. St. Cyril of Jerusalem says, “The beginning of the world: water; the beginning of the Good News: Jordan.” At the time of the baptism of the Lord in water, the Father was revealed to the sense of hearing; the Spirit was revealed to the sense of sight, and in addition to these, the Son was revealed to the sense of touch. The Father uttered His witness about the Son, the Son was baptized in the water, and the Holy Spirit in the form of a dove hovered above the water. John the Baptist witnessed and said about Christ, “Behold, the Lamb of God, Who takes away the sins of the world.” When John immersed and baptized the Lord in the Jordan, the mission of Christ in the world and the path of our salvation were shown. That is to say: The Lord took upon Himself the sins of mankind and died under them (immersion) and became alive again (the coming out of the water); and we must die as the old sinful man and become alive again as cleansed, renewed and regenerated. This is the Savior and this is the path of salvation. The Feast of the Epiphany (Theophany in Greek) is also called the Feast of Illumination. For us, the event in the River Jordan illuminates, by manifesting to us God as Trinity, consubstantial and undivided. Also, every one of us through baptism in water is illumined by this, that we become adopted by the Father of Lights through the merits of the Son and the power of the Holy Spirit.

Unto Christ be glory and dominion unto ages of ages. Amen.

SUNDAY - JANUARY 6, 2019

THE THEOPHANY OF OUR LORD, GOD AND SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST

+DIVINE LITURGY OF ST. BASIL THE GREAT+

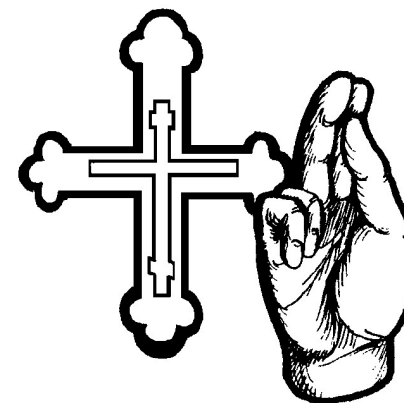
### APOLYTIKION OF THE THEOPHANY OF CHRIST IN TONE ONE

When Thou, O Lord, wast baptized in the Jordan, worship of the Trinity wast made manifest; for the voice of the Father bore witness to Thee, calling Thee His beloved Son. And the Spirit in the likeness of a dove confirmed the truth of His word. O Christ our God, Who hast appeared and enlightened the world, glory to Thee.

*+Do NOT sing the apolytikion of the holy Apostle Paul+*

### KONTAKION OF THE THEOPHANY OF CHRIST IN TONE FOUR

On this day Thou hast appeared unto the whole world, and Thy light, O Sovereign Lord, is signed on us who sing Thy praise and chant with knowledge: Thou hast now come, Thou hast appeared, O Thou Light unapproachable.



## THE EPISTLE

*Blessed is He that cometh in the Name of the Lord.*

*O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good; for His mercy endureth forever.*

### **The Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to Titus. (2:11-15; 3:4-7)**

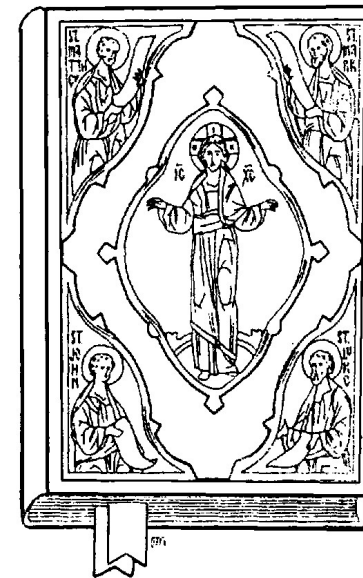
My son Titus, the grace of God has appeared for the salvation of all men, training us to renounce irreligion and worldly passions, and to live sober, upright, and godly lives in this world; awaiting our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, Who gave Himself for us to redeem us from all iniquity and to purify for Himself a people of His own who are zealous for good deeds. Declare these things; exhort and reprove with all authority. Let no one disregard you. When the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, He saved us, not because of deeds done by us in righteousness, but in virtue of His own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal in the Holy Spirit, which He poured out upon us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that we might be justified by His grace and become heirs in hope of eternal life.



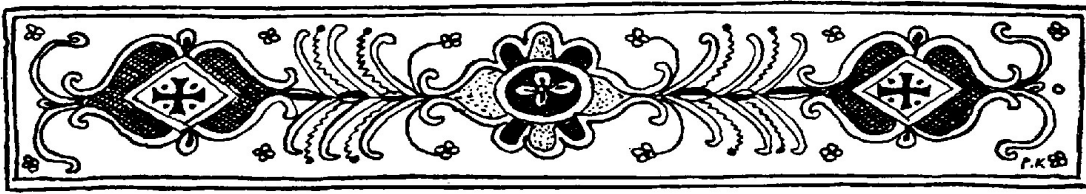
## THE GOSPEL

### **The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew. (3:13-17)**

At that time, Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to John, to be baptized by him. John would have prevented Him, saying, "I need to be baptized by Thee, and Thou dost come to me?" But Jesus answered him, "Let it be so now; for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness." Then he consented. And when Jesus was baptized, He went up immediately from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and alighting on Him; and lo, a voice from heaven, saying, "This is My beloved Son, with Whom I am well pleased."







### PARISH CLERGY

REV. FR. PAUL GIRGIS, PRESIDING PRIEST  
V. REV. FR. JOSEPH SHAAHEEN, RETIRED ARCHPRIEST  
REV. DN. NICHOLAS REID, ATTACHED DEACON

### 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 9:30AM

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

### WEEKLY BIBLE STUDY

Every Thursday 6PM-7PM - Join us!

### HIGHLIGHTS

- Blessing Homes - Time slots are being filled - contact Fr. Paul to get on the schedule.
- Stewardship Sunday w/Pancake Breakfast immediately following Divine Liturgy - Jan. 13
  - Stewardship Cards have been mailed but are also located on banister in back of Nave (worship space).
  - Pancake breakfast tickets, to support St. Paul parish, are available after Liturgy today.
- "Specialty Bread Sale": See Anna Castley or Barbara Hebeka to place/pickup an order.
- Order of St. Ignatius (OSI) Brunch - For members and those who are interested in becoming members - Sunday, Jan. 20 - following Liturgy at Pelican Marsh Clubhouse. Please see Barbara Hebeka.

*For more info, calendar of special services/ events, visit: [stpaulnaples.org](http://stpaulnaples.org) or "facebook.com/stpaulnaples"*



## BLESSING HOMES

*"... keep safe from harm all those who dwell herein. Vouchsafe them sanctification, purification and health of body, and grant their petitions which are unto salvation and life everlasting..."*

**Blessing homes** of Orthodox Christians is done each year on or after the feast of Theophany. This act is the central sign of God's sanctification of all things through Christ's baptism in the river Jordan and His epiphany to the world... The sanctification of the home takes place with prayer and the sprinkling of holy water. The priest, at this annual visit, asks God to have mercy on the house, to rid it of every evil and to fill it with every blessing. Everyone of the house prays together for the living and the dead of the family... and process from room to room while the priest blesses the house.

*(source: orthodoxwiki.org)*

### WHAT DO YOU GET WHEN THE PRIEST BRINGS THE WATERS OF THEOPHANY INTO YOUR HOME?

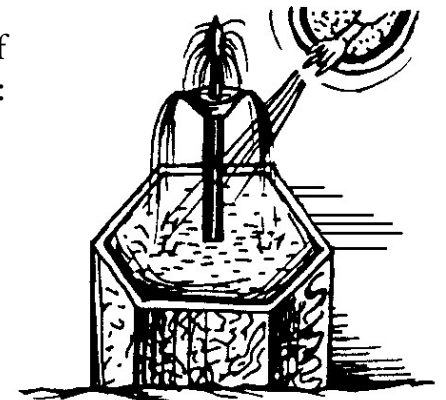
Fr. Paul will come with the angels, with the water of the Jordan and the blessing of Christ, to distribute holiness, encouragement, strength, joy, and grace, for the peace and purification of your life. This is why every Orthodox Christian should bless their home.

To schedule a house blessing and establish a "bond of holiness" between The Church and your home, contact:

**Fr. Paul Girgis**

**[frpaulgirgis@gmail.com](mailto:frpaulgirgis@gmail.com)**

**239-348-0828 (office)**



## ***BELOVED FAMILY OF SAINT PAUL:***

THE ANTIOCHIAN WOMEN of our Parish are offering each of us an opportunity to offer aid to the suffering people throughout our world by preparing:

### **EMERGENCY KITS\***

During February, March and April, we are preparing ***Hygiene Kits:*** Buy a one-gallon plastic bag with a zipper closure and please assemble the following items:

- ❖ **One hand towel**
- ❖ **One washcloth**
- ❖ **One comb**
- ❖ **One nail clipper**
- ❖ **One bar of soap (bath size)**
- ❖ **One toothbrush (NO TOOTHPASTE)**
- ❖ **Six Band-Aids**

We recommend that you then place them inside the zippered bag & drop them into the clearly marked box in the Conference Room.

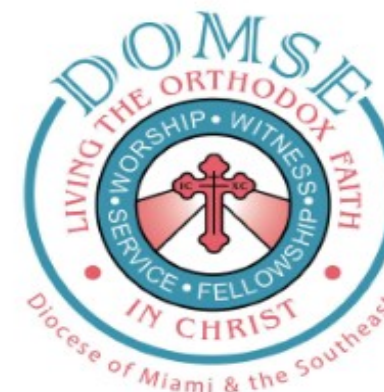


Any cash donations to offset mailing costs will be gratefully accepted.

**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/>





**A LITTLE DAILY WISDOM  
FROM THE EARLY CHURCH**

*You guide me with your counsel, and afterward you will receive me  
with honor. Whom have I in heaven but you? And there is nothing on  
earth that I desire other than you. My flesh and my heart may fail,  
but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever.  
Psalm 73:24-26*

**A** brother asked Euprepus, “How does the fear of God live  
in the soul?” The old man replied, “If you have humility, live in  
poverty, and do not pass judgement on others, the fear of God  
will come to you.”

**God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever.**

*Source: “A Little Daily Wisdom from the Early Church” compiled by Bernard Bangely*