



ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX
CHURCH

REV. FR. PAUL GIRGIS
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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

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 midnight the night before. Please speak with Fr. Paul if medical conditions preclude it.



STEWARDSHIP 2019 UPDATE

“STEWARDSHIP IS FAITH IN ACTION.”

44 Pledges received; Goal: 80 Pledges (by Feb. 15)

\$92,830 Pledged; Goal: \$130,000 (by Feb. 15)

Average Pledge To-date: \$2,109.77

Thank you to those who have submitted their 2019 Stewardship Pledges. So far we have received \$90,230 in pledges from approximately 50% of our parish family. Our goal is to have 100% participation.

Please submit your pledge card as soon as possible. If you have misplaced the information, cards are located on banister in back of Nave (worship space).

Please return your card:

Through mail to St. Paul Church, in offering plate, or drop it in candle box.

[All pledges are confidential]

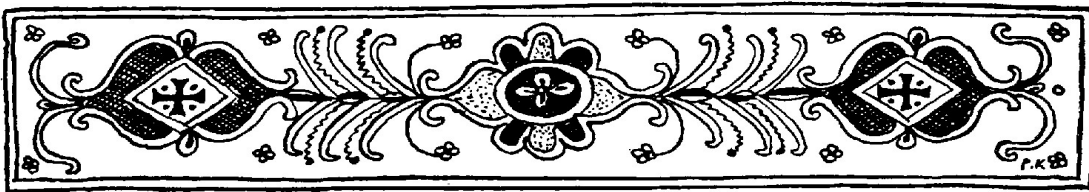
Thank you,

The Stewardship Team

Stewardship is the offering of our God-given **time, talent, and treasure** not simply to the parish for any specific purpose, but through the parish and back to God. This is how we shape the world as Christians - starting with our own heart.

It is not about a “clever” program or appeal but rather a way of life. The Christian life is not a “mindless commitment” but rather a constant confession of faith in the Living God.

Christian Stewardship, our giving, is a visible symbol of the inner disposition of the soul towards the Creator of the Universe – how we respond matters.



PARISH CLERGY

REV. FR. PAUL GIRGIS, PRESIDING PRIEST
V. REV. FR. JOSEPH SHAHEEN, 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

Thursday 6PM-7PM

HIGHLIGHTS

- Sweet & Savory Bake Sale - TODAY after service during Fellowship Coffee Hour in the Pavilion.
- Stewardship Cards are located on banister in back of Nave (worship space).
- Blessing Homes - contact Fr. Paul to get on the schedule!
- "Specialty Bread Sale": Visit the bread sale table in Narthex

Today's Fellowship Coffee Hour is sponsored by the Girgis Family - please join us in the Pavilion and peruse the various baked goods in support of the parish (and your sweet tooth)!

For more info, calendar of special services/ events, visit: stpaulnaples.org or "facebook.com/stpaulnaples"



**"...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, the newly departed Jean Sam, Mary Ann Thomas, and Doris Hessney.

Please continue to keep Margaret Mourad and Carol Simone in your prayers asking that the Lord may grant them continued patience, strength, and consolation in this life.

Pray for Vincent and Irene Benfatti. Vincent has been transported to a rehab facility where he is on the road to recovery but still under careful watch. Vincent and Irene send their "thank you" to all for the kind thoughts and prayers for his recovery.

A Memorial Service ("Trisagion Prayers of Mercy for the Departed") for Beatrice Davis, the mother of Kh. Diane Shaheen and Laila Corey, and for Katherine John, their dear cousin, is requested by Fr. Joe and Kh. Diane Shaheen, and Laila Corey. May Beatrice and Katherine's memory be eternal.

Prayers for the health of Michelle Morcos Smith and the family are requested by Samy and Helen Morcos.

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





**CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR NEWLY ELECTED
AND APPOINTED PARISH COUNCIL MEMBERS:**

Elias Hebeka

Chairman

Nick Ferris

Vice Chairman

Bill Yurkovac

Treasurer

Joe Ablan

Secretary

Steve Jackson

Appointed Member



A brief formal installation will take place at the end of the Divine Liturgy Sunday.

SUNDAY - FEBRUARY 10, 2019

**HIEROMARTYR CHARALAMPOS, BISHOP OF MAGNESIA
& SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY OF MATTHEW**

THE COMPANIONS OF CHARALAMPOS; VENERABLE ZENON THE ASCETIC OF ANTIOCH

+DIVINE LITURGY OF ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM

RESURRECTIONAL APOLYTIKION IN TONE FOUR

Having learned the joyful message of the Resurrection from the angel the women disciples of the Lord cast from them their parental condemnation. And proudly broke the news to the Disciples, saying: Death hath been spoiled; Christ God is risen, granting the world Great Mercy.

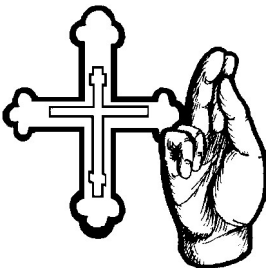
APOLYTIKION OF ST. CHARALAMPOS IN TONE FOUR

An unshaken pillar of the Church of Christ God art thou, an ever-resplendent lamp, O Charalampos most wise, which shineth throughout the earth; in martyric contest thou hast shined on the whole world, and thou hast dispelled the moonless night of the idols. Now boldly intercede thou with Christ that we may all be saved.

+Now sing the apolytikion of the holy Apostle Paul+

ORDINARY KONTAKION 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

(For St. Charalampos)

The righteous shall rejoice in the Lord. O God, hear my prayer.

The Reading from the Second Epistle of St. Paul to St. Timothy. (2:1-10)

Timothy, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus; and what you have heard from me before many witnesses entrust to faithful men who will be able to teach others also. Share in suffering as a good soldier of Christ Jesus. No soldier on service gets entangled in civilian pursuits, since his aim is to satisfy the one who enlisted him. An athlete is not crowned unless he competes according to the rules. It is the hard-working farmer who ought to have the first share of the crops. Think over what I say, for the Lord will grant you understanding in everything. Remember Jesus Christ, risen from the dead, descended from David, as preached in my gospel, the gospel for which I am suffering and wearing fetters like a criminal. But the word of God is not fettered. Therefore, I endure everything for the sake of the elect, that they also may obtain salvation in Christ Jesus with its eternal glory.

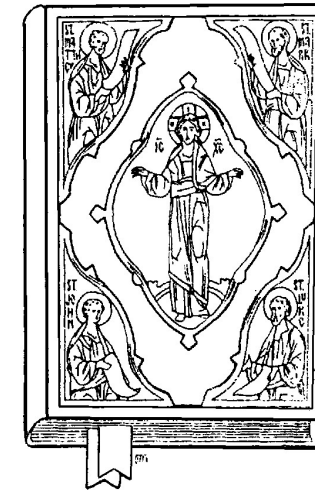


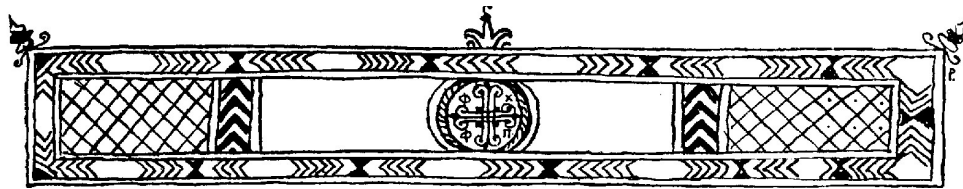
THE GOSPEL

(For the Seventeenth Sunday of Matthew)

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew. (15:21-28)

At that time, Jesus went to the district of Tyre and Sidon. And behold, a Canaanite woman from that region came out and cried, "Have mercy on me, O Lord, Son of David; my daughter is severely possessed by a demon." But He did not answer her one word. And His disciples came and begged Him, saying, "Send her away, for she is crying after us." He answered, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel." But she came and knelt before Him, saying, "Lord, help me." And He answered, "It is not fair to take the children's bread and throw it to the dogs." She said, "Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their master's table." Then Jesus answered her, "O woman, great is your faith! Be it done for you as you desire." And her daughter was healed instantly.





THE SYNAXARION

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

On February 10 in the Holy Orthodox Church we commemorate the holy Hieromartyr Charalampos, bishop of Magnesia.

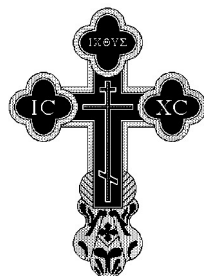
Verses

*Through the sword, O Charalampos, wast thou deemed worthy
Of the brightness and exceeding joy of the Martyrs.
On the tenth, O Charalampos, thou wast cut from thine own neck.*

He suffered for Christ at the age of 113. When a terrible persecution began during the reign of Emperor Septimius Severus, the Elder Charalampos did not hide from the persecutors but freely and openly preached the Faith of Christ. When they skinned him alive, the forgiving elder said to the emperor’s soldiers: “Thank you, my brethren, for in scraping my old body you renew my spirit for a new eternal life.” He worked many miracles and converted many to the Faith. Even the emperor’s daughter, Galina, abandoned the idolatry of her father and become a Christian. Condemned to death and brought to the place of execution, Charalampos raised his hands to heaven and prayed to God for all people that God grant them bodily health and spiritual salvation and that He multiply their fruits of the earth. He was beheaded in 202. Galina took his body and honorably buried it.

On this day, we also commemorate the Martyrs Baptus and Porphyrius, the former torturers of Charalampos and the Three Holy Women Martyrs who believed through him; and Venerable Zenon the courtier from Caesarea in Cappadocia.

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



CHRISTIANITY 101

THE BIBLE ALONE?

“What does the Church have to do with it? Isn’t the Bible alone all that matters?”

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)

ANGEL LETTER - FOUNDERS' DAY

Each year our lovely community jubilantly commemorates the founding of St. Paul Church here in Naples, FL. This year the event will take place on **Sunday, March 3, 2019** and we will be joined by our local hierarch His Grace Bishop +NICHOLAS of Miami and the Southeast as well as various clergy and faithful from all over.

Tickets to attend are available through Joe or Julie Ablan – their contact info can be found on the event invitation.

In the past we have depended on our “angels”, who have given with great enthusiasm and joy, to support this God-given parish by extending their help to cover basic expenses related to this social event. God bless your generosity and care for St. Paul Church. It is this spirit of giving, supporting, encouraging, and participating, that continues to make our parish the wonderful, friendly, and loving community that it is.

"Angelic" Donation Levels:



Other
Angels

\$250
Archangels

\$500
Cherubim

\$1000
Seraphim



All donors will be listed in the event program

By God's grace, with the understanding that “**Stewardship is faith in action**”, may our willingness to support the 2019 St. Paul Church Founders' Day be another avenue in which we grow deeper in the virtue of almsgiving during this life.

While I thank all of you who have so faithfully donated in the past, and continue to do so, the true fulfillment of your reward is found in the life to come.

May the Lord bless you.

With love in Christ,
Rev. Fr. Paul Girgis



Founders' Weekend

Honoring
Our founders, those who opened the door

Sunday, March 3, 2019

Join us for brunch
immediately following Hierarchical Divine Liturgy

Quail Creek Country Club
13300 Valewood Drive, Naples, FL

Adults \$40
Kids 12 and under \$15



For reservations and tickets,
contact Joe or Julie Ablan
ablan.joseph@gmail.com
913-484-8047

St. Paul Antiochian Orthodox Church
Naples, FL

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.

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.

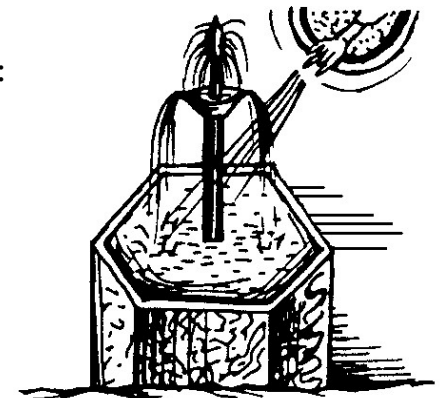
(source: orthodoxwiki.org)

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
239-348-0828 (office)





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

*I have found the book of the law in the house of the Lord.
2 Kings 22:8*

Epiphanius said, “It is important to acquire Christian books. The very sight of them on the shelf will make you more likely to avoid sin. They encourage us to put more value on righteousness.”

**I have found the book of the law in the house of the
Lord.**

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