



# SAINT PAUL



## 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 (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.

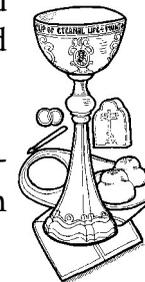
All Eastern Orthodox Christians are expected to prepare for the receiving of the Body and Blood of Christ through recent confession, prayer, and fasting from all food/drink approximately mid-night the night before. Please speak with Fr. Paul if medical conditions preclude it.



“...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, the newly departed Jean Sam, Mary Ann Thomas, and Doris Hessney. Please 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. Vince has been moved to an Acute Care Facility called Landmark near Immokalee & Goodlette. He continues to be on an anti-biotic for his blood infection. May God grant him and Irene strength!



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

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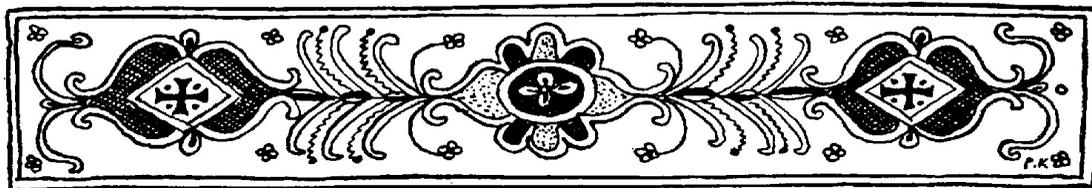
## 2019 FOUNDERS' DAY FLOWER DONATIONS

This year, at the end of the Divine Liturgy, we will pray for all of the departed Founders of St. Paul Church.

As such, in an effort to further beautify this annual event, we are now accepting donations towards flowers to decorate the church Nave (worship space).

**Simply earmark your check, or donation envelope, and drop-it in one of the offering trays or candle box.**

*If you have any questions contact Julianna Agoritsas (508-410-0746; julianna616@icloud.com)*



### 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")*

<b><u>Saturday*</u></b>	<b><u>Sunday</u></b>
Great Vespers 6:00PM	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

- Founders' Day Brunch March 3 - Get your tickets from Barbara Hebeke or Marilyn Edge - See the invitation & "Angel Letter"!
  - Now accepting "Flower Donations" for Departed Founders' Memorial Service (March 3)
- "Specialty Bread Sale": Visit the bread sale table in Narthex.
- "Spiritual Saturday" - Saturday March 16 - See flyer & mark your calendar!
- "Sunday of Orthodoxy" Great Vespers - 5:00PM Sunday March 17, 2019 @ St. Paul
- Blessing Homes - contact Fr. Paul to get on the schedule before Great Lent (March 11)

Fellowship Coffee Hour is hosted by Demetri & Julianna Agoritsas - please join us in the Pavilion!

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

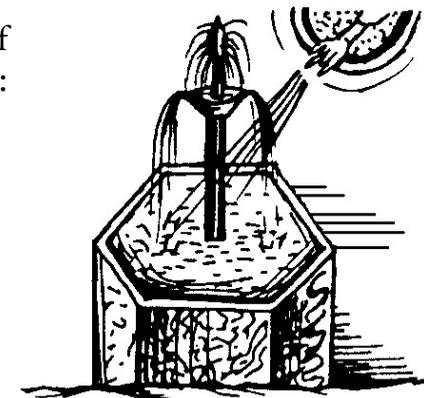
*(source: [orthodoxwiki.org](http://orthodoxwiki.org))*

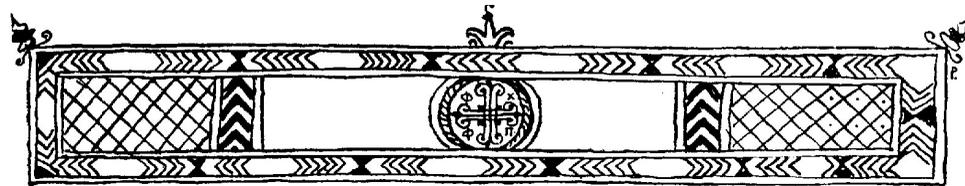
### WHAT DO YOU GET WHEN THE PRIEST BRINGS THE WATERS OF THEOPHANY INTO YOUR HOME?

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**  
**[frpaulgiris@gmail.com](mailto:frpaulgiris@gmail.com)**  
**239-348-0828 (office)**





## THE SYNAXARION

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

On February 24 in the Holy Orthodox Church we commemorate the First and Second Discoveries of the Honorable Head of the holy Prophet, Forerunner and Baptist John.

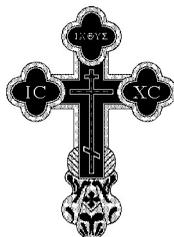
On this day, we make remembrance of the Parable of the Pharisee and the Publican, which occurs in the Holy Gospel according to Luke the Evangelist.

### Verses

*From the earth, the Forerunner showeth forth his august head,  
Exhorting us once again to bring forth fruits that are worthy.  
Thou who didst once baptize the throngs in springs of waters,  
Appearing from the earth, baptize with springs of wonders.  
On the twenty-fourth the Precursor's head appeared.*

When John was beheaded, Herodias—the wicked wife of Herod—ordered that his head not be buried with his body for she feared that this awesome prophet, somehow, would resurrect. Therefore, she took his head and buried it deep in the ground in a secluded and dishonorable place. Her maidservant, the good and devout Johanna, could not tolerate this. Secretly she unearthed it, translated it to Jerusalem and buried it on the Mount of Olives. After a considerable period of time, the monk Innocent took up abode there, exactly in the place where the head of the Baptist was buried. Wanting to build himself a cell for himself, he dug deep and discovered an earthen vessel and in it a head, which was mysteriously revealed to him to be the head of the Baptizer. He revered it and reburied it in the same spot. Later, according to God's Providence, this miracle-working head of St. John traveled from place to place, sunk into the darkness of forgetfulness and again was rediscovered. Finally, during the reign of the pious Empress Theodora, it was translated to Constantinople. It now rests in the Omayyad Mosque in Damascus, Syria near the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Patriarchate.

On this day, we make remembrance of the Parable of the Prodigal Son, which occurs in the noble Gospel and which our deified Fathers re-instituted in the Triodion.



SUNDAY - FEBRUARY 24, 2019

FIRST AND SECOND DISCOVERIES OF THE FORERUNNER'S HONORABLE HEAD  
& SUNDAY OF THE PRODIGAL SON

+DIVINE LITURGY OF ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM

### RESURRECTIONAL APOLYTIKION IN TONE SIX

When Mary stood at Thy grave, looking for Thy sacred body, angelic powers shone above Thy revered tomb; and the soldiers who were to keep guard became as dead men. Thou led Hades captive and wast not tempted thereby. Thou didst meet the Virgin and didst give life to the world, O Thou, Who art risen from the dead, O Lord, glory to Thee.

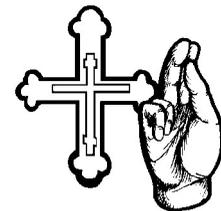
### APOLYTIKION FOR ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST IN TONE FOUR

The Forerunner's sacred head, having dawned forth from the earth, \* doth send incorruption's rays unto the faithful, whereby they find healings of their ills. \* From on high he gathereth the choirs of the Angels \* and on earth he summoneth the whole race of mankind, \* that they with one voice might send up glory to Christ our God.

+Now sing the apolytikion of the holy Apostle Paul+

### KONTAKION FOR THE PRODIGAL SON IN TONE THREE

Foolishly I sprang away from Thy great fatherly glory, and dispersed in wicked deeds the riches that Thou didst give me. With the Prodigal I therefore cry unto Thee now: I have sinned against Thee, O compassionate Father. But receive me in repentance; make me as one of Thy hired servants, O Lord.



## THE EPISTLE

(For the Discovery of the Forerunner's Honorable Head)

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

### **The Reading from the Second Epistle of St. Paul to the Corinthians. (4:6-15)**

Brethren, it is the God Who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," Who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ. But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, to show that the transcendent power belongs to God and not to us. We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be manifested in our bodies. While we live we are always being given up to death for Jesus' sake, so that the life of Jesus may be manifested in our mortal flesh. So death is at work in us, but life in you. Since we have the same spirit of faith as he had who wrote, "I believed, and so I spoke," we too believe, and so we speak, knowing that He Who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus and bring us with you into His presence. For it is all for your sake, so that as grace extends to more and more people it may increase thanksgiving, to the glory of God.

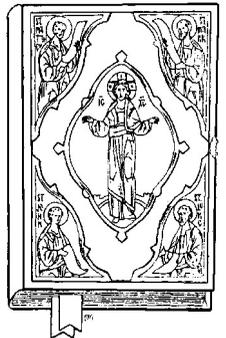


## THE GOSPEL

(For Sunday of the Prodigal Son)

### **The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Luke. (15:11-32)**

The Lord spoke this parable: "There was a man who had two sons; and the younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of property that falls to me.' And he divided his living between them. Not many days later, the younger son gathered all he had and took his journey into a far country, and there he squandered his property in loose living. And when he had spent everything, a great famine arose in that country, and he began to be in want. So he went and joined himself to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him into his fields to feed swine. And he would gladly have fed on the pods that the swine ate; and no one gave him anything. But when he came to himself he said, 'How many of my father's hired servants have bread enough and to spare, but I perish here with hunger! I will arise and go to my father, and I will say to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me as one of your hired servants.'" And he arose and came to his father. But while he was yet at a distance, his father saw him and had compassion, and ran and embraced him and kissed him. And the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' But the father said to his servants, 'Bring quickly the best robe, and put it on him; and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet; and bring the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and make merry; for this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found.' And they began to make merry. Now his elder son was in the field; and as he came and drew near to the house, he heard music and dancing. And he called one of the servants and asked what this meant. And he said to him, 'Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has received him safe and sound.' But he was angry and refused to go in. His father came out and entreated him, but he answered his father, 'Lo, these many years I have served you, and I never disobeyed your command; yet you never gave me a kid that I might make merry with my friends. But when this son of yours came, who has devoured your living with harlots, you killed for him the fatted calf!' And he said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. It was fitting to make merry and be glad, for this your brother was dead, and is alive; he was lost, and is found.'"





**ANTIOCHIAN WOMEN OF ST. PAUL ARE PLEASED TO  
EXTEND AN INVITATION TO ALL:**

**\*ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN WOMEN OF SOUTHWEST FLORIDA TO  
PARTICIPATE IN:**

## **The Third Annual Spiritual Saturday**

(First Saturday of Great Lent)

*“The Journey to the Resurrection”*

**March 16, 2019**

**St. Paul Orthodox Christian Church**

**2425 Rivers Road, Naples, FL 34120**

The day will begin at 9:00 AM with Registration followed by Morning Prayers  
& end with Great Vespers at 3:30 pm.

Registration Fee will be \$10 (this will include snacks, lunch and paper supplies)

Full schedule will be sent out early next week.

\*Men will not be turned away – if space permits!

*For questions or reservations please contact:  
Diane Shaheen at 239.248.0119 – [diane\\_shaheen@comcast.net](mailto:diane_shaheen@comcast.net)*



## **AC 2019 IS FOR ALL PEOPLE OF ALL AGES**

No matter who you are, how old you are, or how long you've been Antiochian Orthodox... this convention is for you. You **“can do all things through Christ who strengthens”** you.

**KIDS' CLUB** for children ages 4-12 has day after day of fun activities that explore our faith and explore downtown Grand Rapids. You'll all wish you were a kid again.

**TEENS** will be going non-stop with SOYO and VILLAGE celebrations and reunions. There will be a Leadership Conference, Retreat, Teen Bible Bowl and Oratorical Festival, Teen Dance, Humanitarian Project, Trip to Lake Michigan and Scavenger Hunt.

**YAMS**, our Young Adults will do what they love to do: go-out-and-about experiencing the Downtown Market, Breweries, Lake Michigan, attending Workshops and holding a Seminar on Relationships.

**THE ORDER OF ST. IGNATIUS** will hold a Dinner Recognizing the importance of Philanthropy in the Archdiocese and Celebrating SOYO and the Antiochian Village.

**NAB WOMEN** will hold a Brunch recognizing Past and Current Presidents and the formal role women have played in the Life of the Church the past 45 years.

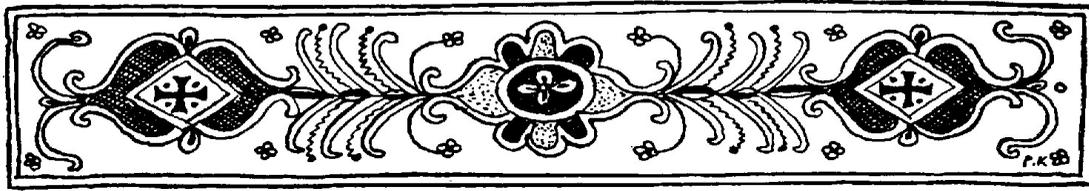
**Something for Everyone:  
THINGS TO DO, PEOPLE TO MEET**



**BOOK YOUR HOTEL, PURCHASE YOUR  
EVENT PACKAGE & EXCURSION TICKETS,  
AND EXPERIENCE GRAND RAPIDS!**

**GO TO [AC2019GR.ORG](http://AC2019GR.ORG)**





**MAY GOD REMEMBER THE STEWARDS OF ST. PAUL IN HIS  
HEAVENLY KINGDOM**

*"If the Church will do its job, Jesus has promised to be faithful and do His. Sacrificial giving for the Christian is not an option, but a joyful obligation. St. John Chrysostom in the 4th century speaks of this joyful obligation in his book 'On Wealth and Poverty' when he writes that the 'Christian owns nothing because God owns everything'."*

*-Fr. George Florovsky (20th C. Orthodox Christian Theologian)*

Aber, Robert & Michaelene  
Ablan, Joe & Julie  
Abraham, Alan & Debbie  
Agoritsas, Demetri & Juliana  
Ayoub, Philip A. & Bette A.  
Ayoub, Philip G.  
Badwey, Dr. Robert & Mrs. Thelma  
Bard, Victor & Lucy  
Benfatti, Vincent & Irene  
Bojrab, David & Betty  
Bourdon, Susan Khoury  
Caleshu, Peter & Rita  
Castley, Albert & Anna  
Collins, Keith & Pamela  
Corey, George A. & Judy  
Darany, George & Dorothy  
Edge, Ed & Marilyn  
Ferris, Nick  
Gorab, Nicholas & Somaya  
Hebeka, Elias & Barbara  
Jabbour, Boushra & Saaloukeh, Michael  
Jackson, David & Lydia  
Jarjoura, George & Bessie

Maragus, John & Anne  
Mizhir, Al & Gloria  
Nader, Robert & Barbara  
Nicholas, Louis & Shirley  
Nosal, Andrew & Olga  
Pagedas Family  
Pechazis, Faddoul & Samia  
Powers, Gerald R.  
Ripley, Elena  
Salem, John  
Shady, Joe & Linda  
Shaheen, Fr. Joe & Diane  
Skaf, Robert & Florence  
Staley, Wendy & Wayne  
Tirakis, Judith  
Touma, Joseph & Omayya  
Trabulsi, Ray & Leila  
Yurkovac, Bill & Leslie  
Zain, George & Lorraine

Karrip, Eugene & Carolyn  
Krevinko, Steve & Jo  
Mansour, Raymond & Vincenza



**2019 STEWARDSHIP PLEDGE UPDATE**  
**"STEWARDSHIP IS FAITH IN ACTION."**

**45 Pledges received; Goal: 80 Pledges**

**\$96,930 Pledged; Goal: \$130,000**

**Average Pledge To-date: \$2,154**

Thank you to those who have submitted their 2019 Stewardship Pledges.

Become a Steward of St. Paul by submitting your pledge card - our goal is 100% participation.

+Cards are located on the banister in the back of the Nave (worship space)+

**Please return your card:**

**Through mail to St. Paul Church, in the offering plate, or drop it in a 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.

## 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

## WE WILL BE JOINED BY HIS GRACE BISHOP +NICHOLAS OF MIAMI AND THE SOUTHEAST



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



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

*Teach me, and I will be silent; make me understand how I have gone wrong. How forceful are honest words! But your reproof, what does it reprove?*

*Job 6:24-25*

Abba Paul the Barber and his brother Timothy frequently argued with each other. One day, Abba Paul asked, “How long shall we continue to argue like this?” Abba Timothy had an idea. “From now on, you take my side of an argument, and I will take your side.” They did this for the remainder of their lives.

**Make me understand how I have gone wrong.**

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