



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 (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.

Pray for Vincent and Irene Benfatti. Vincent is to be transported to a rehab facility but remains under careful watch as he recently endured an episode of internal bleeding and other complications. Vincent and Irene send their “thank you” to all for the kind thoughts and prayers for his recovery.

Prayers for the souls of Eduardo and Angelina Pentella, parents of Jennie Mansour, as well as a speedy recovery to Vincent Benfatti, are requested by Ray and Jennie Mansour.

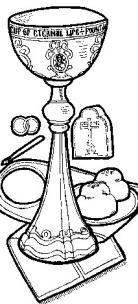
The Prospora (leavened bread) used at this Divine Liturgy was offered by Joe and Linda Shady for the health of Dorothy Darany and in memory of the recently departed handmaiden of God Mary Ann Thomas.

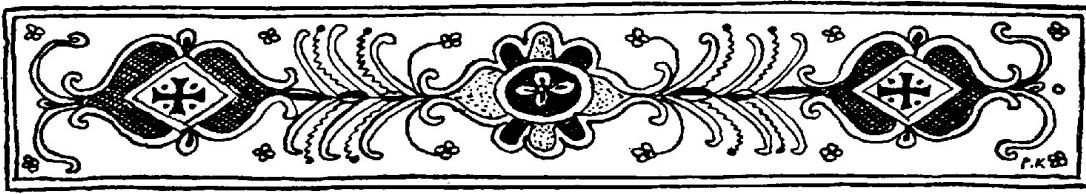
Prayers in memory of Mary Ann Thomas and Tatiana Bob are requested by Flora Popovici.

Prayers in memory of Stan Eberflus are requested by Joanna Eberflus on occasion of the 4-year anniversary of his repose.

Prayers in memory of Naseem Ayoub, brother of Philip Ayoub, and Tatiana Bob, are requested by Elias and Barbara Hebeka.

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





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

Thursday 6PM-7PM

HIGHLIGHTS

- Today - Annual Parish Meeting— No Fellowship Coffee Hour - Light lunch provided by the Parish Council (PC) and Antiochian Women (AW) to be enjoyed after the meeting.
 - Very important to attend in order to review the past year, learn of plans for the coming year and approve the new budget and revised constitution.
- Sweet & Savory Bake Sale - Sunday Feb. 10 after liturgy. Donated baked goods are to be brought to the kitchen prior to the Divine Liturgy that Sunday.
- 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

For more info, calendar of special services/events, visit: 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?

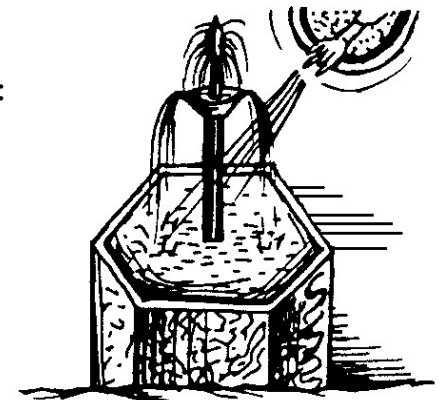
Fr. Paul will come with the angels, with the water of the Jordan and the blessing of Christ, to distribute holiness, encouragement, strength, joy, and grace, for the peace and purification of your life. This is why every Orthodox Christian should bless their home.

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

Fr. Paul Girgis

frpaulgirgis@gmail.com

239-348-0828 (office)



THE EPISTLE

(For the Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost)

The Lord will give strength to His people. Ascribe to the Lord, O sons of God, ascribe to the Lord honor and glory.

The Reading from the Second Epistle of St. Paul to the Corinthians. (6:1-10)

Brethren, working together with Him, then, we entreat you not to accept the grace of God in vain. For He says, "At the acceptable time I have listened to you, and helped you on the day of salvation." Behold, now is the acceptable time; behold, now is the day of salvation. We put no obstacle in anyone's way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, but as servants of God we commend ourselves in every way: through great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, beatings, imprisonments, tumults, labors, watching, hunger; by purity, knowledge, forbearance, kindness, the Holy Spirit, genuine love, truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; in honor and dishonor, in ill repute and good repute. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; as unknown, and yet well known; as dying, and behold we live; as punished, and yet not killed; as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing everything.

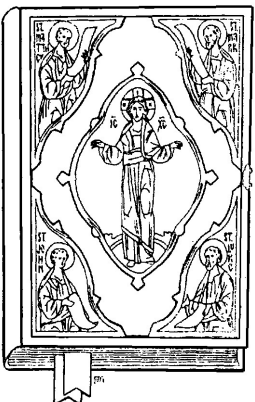


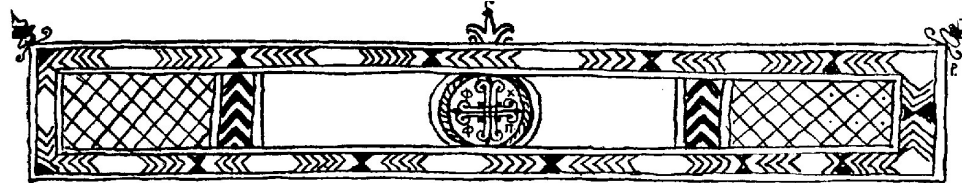
THE GOSPEL

(For the Sixteenth Sunday of Matthew)

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew. (25:14-30)

The Lord spoke this parable: A man going on a journey called his servants and entrusted to them his property; to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. He who had received the five talents went at once and traded with them; and he made five talents more. So also, he who had the two talents made two talents more. But he who had received the one talent went and dug in the ground and hid his master's money. Now after a long time the master of those servants came and settled accounts with them. And he who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five talents more, saying: "Master, you delivered to me five talents; here I have made five talents more." His master said to him, "Well done, good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a little, I will set you over much; enter into the joy of your master." And he also who had the two talents came forward, saying: "Master, you delivered to me two talents; here I have made two talents more." His master said to him, "Well done, good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a little, I will set you over much; enter into the joy of your master." He also who had received the one talent came forward, saying: "Master, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not winnow; so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours." But his master answered him, "You wicked and slothful servant! You knew that I reap where I have not sowed, and gather where I have not winnowed? Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and at my coming I should have received what was my own with interest. So take the talent from him, and give it to him who has the ten talents. For to everyone who has will more be given, and he will have abundance; but from him who has not, even what he has will be taken away. And cast the worthless servant into the outer darkness; there men will weep and gnash their teeth." As Jesus said these things He cried out: "He who has ears to hear, let him hear!"





THE SYNAXARION

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

On February 3 in the Holy Orthodox Church we continue to celebrate the Presentation (Meeting) of our Lord Jesus Christ in the Temple. On this day, we celebrate the Synaxis (gathering) for the Holy and Righteous Simeon the God-receiver and Anna the Prophetess.

Verses

*The Elder proclaimed to the dead that God the Word
Would reach even them, since He appeared as man.*

*No departure from earth for Phanuel's daughter, until she beheld on the earth God as an infant.
On the third, Simeon was loosed from the bond of life.*

Simeon had the task of translating the Bible from the Hebrew language into the Greek language (The Septuagint). As he conscientiously translated the book of the Prophet Isaiah, he came upon the prophecy: “Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and will give birth to a son” (Isaiah 7:14). Simeon became confused and took a knife to remove the word “virgin” and to replace it with the words, “young woman.” At that moment, an angel of God appeared to Simeon and restrained him, explaining that the prophecy is correct. The messenger of God also said that Simeon would be convinced of it personally for, according to the Will of God, he will not die until he sees the Messiah born of the Virgin. At the Presentation (Meeting) of the Lord in the temple, the grateful Simeon quickly recognized both the Virgin and the Child Jesus. The joyful Simeon took Christ into his hands and prayed to God his famous words: “Lord, now lettest thou Thy servant depart in peace, according to Thy word; for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation.” Simeon died shortly thereafter, and is considered the Protector of young children. Anna the Prophetess, the educated and pious daughter of Phanuel, lived in the temple as a widow. At age 84, she also recognized the Messiah and proclaimed Him to the people (Luke 2). On this day, we also commemorate the New-martyrs Nicholas, Stamatios and John of Spetson; Anschar, enlightener of Denmark and Sweden; Nicholas, equal-to-the-Apostles, bishop and evangelizer of Japan; and James, archbishop of Serbia. On the Sunday which falls during the After-feast of the Presentation (Meeting) of our Lord, we commemorate the Holy and Righteous Mothers of the Three Hierarchs: Emmelia (Basil the Great), Nona (Gregory the Theologian) and Anthousa (John Chrysostom). By their intercessions, O Christ God, have mercy upon us. Amen.

SUNDAY - FEBRUARY 3, 2019

SIXTEENTH SUNDAY OF PENTECOST & SIXTEENTH SUNDAY OF MATTHEW

SYNAXIS OF HOLY AND RIGHTEOUS SIMEON THE GOD-RECEIVER & ANNA THE PROPHETESS

+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.

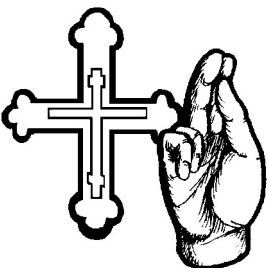
APOLYTIKION OF ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM IN TONE ONE

Rejoice, O Virgin Theotokos, full of grace, for from thee arose the Sun of justice, Christ our God, lighting those who are in darkness. Rejoice and be glad, O righteous elder, carrying in thine arms the Deliverer of our souls, Who granteth us Resurrection.

+Now sing the apolytikion of the holy Apostle Paul+

KONTAKION OF THE PRESENTATION OF CHRIST IN TONE ONE

Thou, O Christ God, Who by Thy Birth, didst sanctify the Virgin's womb, and, as is meet, didst bless Simeon's arms, and didst also come to save us; preserve Thy fold in wars, and confirm them whom Thou didst love, for Thou alone art the Lover of mankind.



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.

STEWARDSHIP 2019 UPDATE

“STEWARDSHIP IS FAITH IN ACTION.”

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

\$90,230 Pledged; Goal: \$130,000 (by Feb. 15)

Average Pledge To-date: \$2,255.75

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.



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

*After Jesus had left that place, he passed along the Sea of Galilee,
and he went up the mountain, where he sat down.
+Matthew 15:29*

Anthony the Great said, “In the same way that fish will die if they remain out of water, monks who linger outside their cells or socialize too much diminish the force of their inner peace.”

**Those who socialize too much diminish the force of
their inner peace.**

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