



# SAINT PAUL



## ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH



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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.



## 2019 STEWARDSHIP PLEDGE UPDATE

**“STEWARDSHIP IS FAITH IN ACTION.”**

**48 Pledges received; Goal: 80 Pledges**  
**\$98,630 Pledged; Goal: \$130,000**  
**Average Pledge To-date: \$2,055**

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]**

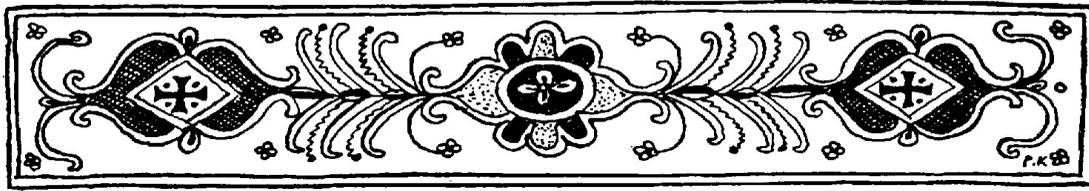
Thank you,

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.*



## 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  
Girgis, Fr. Paul & Kh. Dana  
Gorab, Nicholas & Somaya  
Hebeka, Elias & Barbara  
Jabbour, Boushra & Saaloukeh, Michael  
Jackson, David & Lydia  
Jarjoura, George & Bessie

Karrip, Eugene & Carolyn  
Krevinko, Steve & Jo  
Mansour, Raymond & Vincenza  
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  
Samra, Joseph & Marlene  
Shady, Joe & Linda  
Shaheen, Fr. Joe & Diane  
Shaheen, Elias & Nicole  
Skaf, Robert & Florence  
Staley, Wendy & Wayne  
Tirakis, Judith  
Touma, Joseph & Omayya  
Trabulsi, Ray & Leila  
Yurkovac, Bill & Leslie  
Zain, George & Lorraine



**"...PRAY ONE FOR ANOTHER, THAT YOU MAY BE HEALED.  
THE EFFECTIVE, FERVENT PRAYER OF A RIGHTEOUS MAN AVAILS MUCH."  
(JAMES 5:16)**

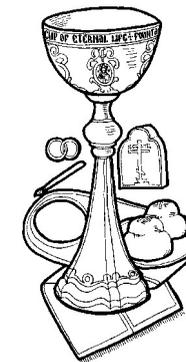
Please continue to pray for Fr. Joe and Kh. Diane Shaheen, Joe and the Hessney family, Christopher and the Sapp family, Al and Anna Castley, Victor and the Bard family, Ed and Marilyn Edge, Robert and Michaelene Aber. Please keep Margaret Mourad and Carol Simone in your prayers asking that the Lord may grant them continued patience, strength, and consolation in this life.

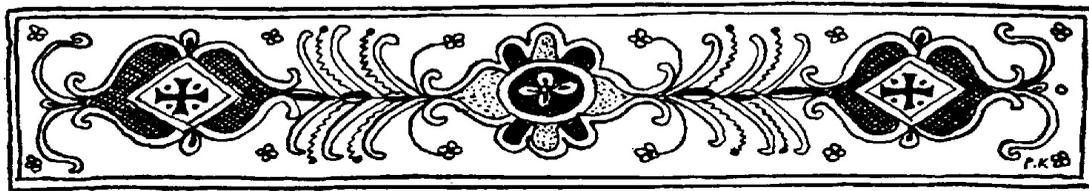
Pray for Vincent and Irene Benfatti. Vince is at the Acute Care Facility "Landmark" and continues to be on an antibiotic for his blood infection. May God grant him and Irene strength! God willing, he will be discharged soon.

Prayers for memory of the departed servant of God George Pappas, the brother of Rita Caleshu, are requested by Flora Popovici.

Prayers for the health of David and Betty June Bojrab, George and Lorraine Zain, and Nicholas and Somaya Gorab, are requested by Joe and Elaine Darany.

**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

**NO Bible Study on 3/14** - we will pray “Great Compline w/Canon of St. Andrew of Crete”

**GREAT LENT IS UPON US! GOOD STRENGTH!**

### HIGHLIGHTS

- 2019 Great Lent Schedule print-out now available or visit [stpaulnaples.org/calendar](http://stpaulnaples.org/calendar)
- **FINAL DAY TO REGISTER:** “Spiritual Saturday” - March 16 – Schedule available on visitors table in Narthex. Speak with Diane Shaheen (239.248.0119 or [diane\\_shaheen@comcast.net](mailto:diane_shaheen@comcast.net))
- “Sunday of Orthodoxy” Great Vespers - 5:00PM Sunday March 17, 2019 @ St. Paul

Fellowship Coffee Hour is hosted by Joe and Julie Ablan - please join us in the Pavilion!

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

## 2019 GREAT LENT SCHEDULE

*(In addition to normal weekly schedule)*

### **Sun, Mar 10 Forgiveness Sunday (Cheese-Fare)**

Forgiveness Vespers (Following Fellowship Coffee Hour) 12:00PM

Mon, Mar 11 GREAT LENT BEGINS - Great Compline w/Canon of St. Andrew 6:00PM

Tues, Mar 12 Great Compline w/Canon of St. Andrew 6:00PM

Wed, Mar 13 3rd Hour w/Canon of St. Andrew 9:00AM

Wed, Mar 13 Presanctified Liturgy 6:00PM

Thu, Mar 14 Great Compline w/Canon of St. Andrew 6:00PM

Fri, Mar 15 Little Compline w/Akathist to Theotokos (1st Stanza) 6:00PM

Sat, Mar 16 "Spiritual Saturday" Women's Retreat (Hosted by St. Paul) 9:00AM

### **Sun, Mar 17 Sunday of Orthodoxy**

Sunday of Orthodoxy Great Vespers & Fellowship (Hosted by St. Paul) 5:00PM

Mon, Mar 18 Great Compline 6:00PM

Wed, Mar 20 Presanctified Liturgy 6:00PM

Fri, Mar 22 Little Compline w/Akathist to Theotokos (2nd Stanza) 6:00PM

*Complete Great Lent & Holy Week Schedule print-out available on the visitors table in the Narthex or visit*

*[www.stpaulnaples.org/calendar](http://www.stpaulnaples.org/calendar)*



**+LAST DAY TO REGISTER+**

**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**

*“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)

**+Pickup the full schedule on the visitors table in Narthex+**

\*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)*

**SUNDAY - MARCH 10, 2019**

**SUNDAY OF FORGIVENESS (CHEESE FARE)**

**+DIVINE LITURGY OF ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM**

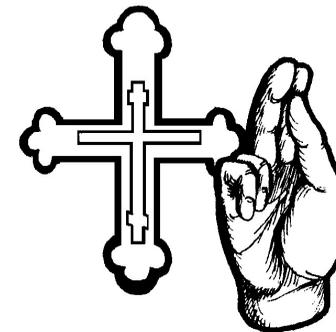
#### **RESURRECTIONAL APOLYTIKION IN TONE EIGHT**

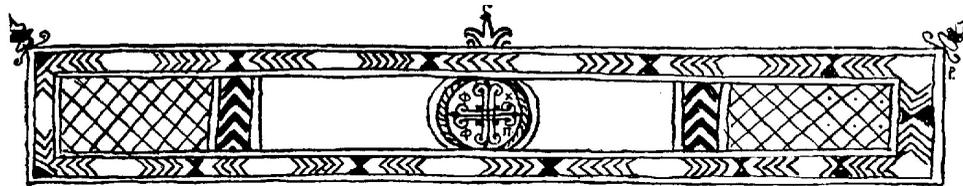
From the heights Thou didst descend, O compassionate One, and Thou didst submit to the threeday burial, that Thou might deliver us from passion; Thou art our life and our Resurrection, O Lord, glory to Thee

*+Now sing the below apolytikion of the Patron of the parish (St. Paul)*

#### **KONTAKION FOR FORGIVENESS SUNDAY IN TONE SIX**

O Thou Who guidest to wisdom, and givest understanding and intelligence, the Instructor of the ignorant, and Helper of the poor, strengthen my heart and grant it understanding, O Master. Give me word, O Word of the Father; for behold, I shall not refrain my lips from crying to Thee, O merciful One, have mercy upon me who am fallen.





## THE SYNAXARION

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

On March 10 in the Holy Orthodox Church, we commemorate the Martyr Kodratos of Corinth and his five companions; Anastasia the patrician of Alexandria; and New-martyr Michael of Thessalonica.

On this day, we make remembrance of the exile of the first-fashioned, Adam, from the Paradise of delight.

### Verses

*Let the world mourn bitterly along with ages past;  
As, by sweet eating, it hath fallen along with those who had fallen.*

It is the Sunday of Forgiveness, known also as Cheese Fare Sunday. Today's lesson from the Holy Gospel teaches us about forgiveness and fasting, and how both are crucial to our own return to Paradise. The divine Fathers also set the anniversary of the exile of Adam from the Paradise of bliss on this day, at the entrance of Great Lent, to show us by deed as well as word how great is the benefit that accrues to man from fasting and repenting; and, on the contrary, how great the harm that comes from destructive gluttony and from disobedience to the divine commandments. The sin of gluttony resulted in Adam and Eve's banishment from Paradise, because they disobeyed God by eating from the tree which He had forbidden them. The Church reminds us of this event to encourage us to return to that ancient glory and primeval happiness by means of fasting and obedience to God and His commandments.

By Thine ineffable compassion, O Christ our God, make us worthy of the delight of Paradise and have mercy on us, as Thou art alone the Lover of mankind. Amen.

## 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.



**IOCC** *Helping others help themselves*  
INTERNATIONAL ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CHARITIES

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

## THE EPISTLE

(For Sunday of Forgiveness)

*Sing praises to our God, sing praises. Sing praises to our King, sing praises.  
O clap your hands, all ye nations.*

### **The Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Romans. (13:11-14:4)**

Brethren, salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed; the night is far gone, the day is at hand. Let us then cast off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; let us conduct ourselves becomingly as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires. As for the man who is weak in faith, welcome him, but not for disputes over opinions. One believes he may eat anything, while the weak man eats only vegetables. Let not him who eats despise him who abstains, and let not him who abstains pass judgment on him who eats; for God has welcomed him. Who are you to pass judgment on the servant of another? It is before his own master that he stands or falls. And he will be upheld, for the Master is able to make him stand.

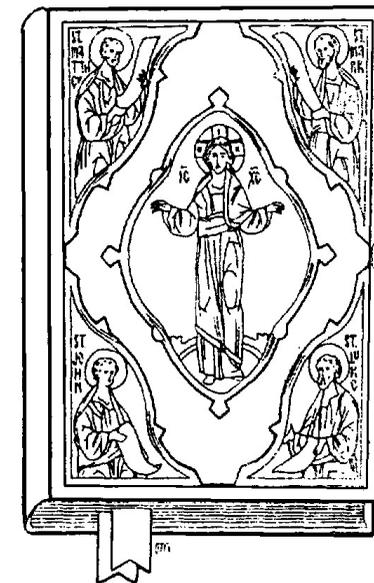


## THE GOSPEL

(For Sunday of Forgiveness)

### **The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew. (6:14-21)**

The Lord said to His Disciples: If you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father also will forgive you; but if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses. And when you fast, do not look dismal, like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces that their fasting may be seen by men. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, that your fasting may not be seen by men but by your Father Who is in secret; and your Father Who sees in secret will reward you. Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.





## “SUNDAY OF THE TRIUMPH OF ORTHODOXY”



**MARCH 17, 2019**

**PAN-ORTHODOX GREAT VESPERS @ 5:00PM**

*Immediately followed by Fellowship and light refreshments in the Pavilion*

Gather at St. Paul with fellow Orthodox Christians from our sister parishes in Naples and celebrate the victory of the Orthodox faith, defended at the Seventh Ecumenical Council, over the “Iconoclasts” (Icon smashers).



## FORGIVENESS VESPERS (CHEESE FARE SUNDAY)

After the Divine Liturgy, please join us in the Pavilion for the Fellowship Coffee Hour. We will gather again in the church Temple for Forgiveness Vespers at about 12PM.

**Please DO NOT leave for home without participating in the rite of Forgiveness, which is the most appropriate way to enter Great Lent.**

At Forgiveness Vespers, we hear the Lord’s teaching about fasting and forgiveness and enter the Lenten season of the fast forgiving one another so that God will forgive us. *“If you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will forgive you; but if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your heavenly Father forgive you your trespasses.”* (Matthew 6:14)

On this last Sunday before Great Lent, the last day Orthodox Christians eat dairy products until PASCHA, the Church remembers the expulsion of Adam and Eve from Paradise. God commanded them to fast from the fruit of a tree (Gen. 2:16), but they did not obey. In this way Adam and Eve and their descendants became heirs of death and corruption.

Great Lent is about our return to Paradise.



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

*When words are many, transgression is not lacking, but the prudent are restrained in speech.*

*Proverbs 10:19*

Abba Ammonas said, “Scrutinize yourself carefully. Then if anyone harms you in any way, you will remain silent. You will not say anything at all until constant prayer has softened your heart. Later, you will be able to console the one who offended you.”

**The prudent restrain their speech.**

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