



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



2019 STEWARDSHIP PLEDGE UPDATE

“STEWARDSHIP IS FAITH IN ACTION.”

50 Pledges received; Goal: 80 Pledges
\$100,630 Pledged; Goal: \$130,000

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]

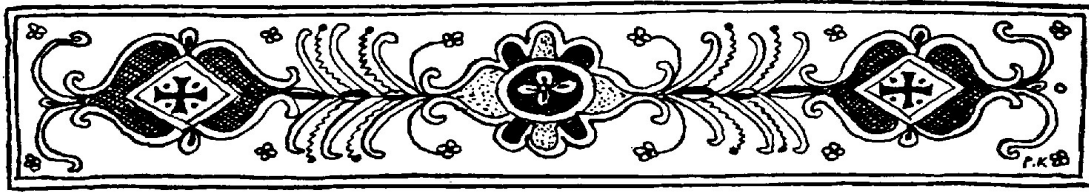
Thank you,

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
Karrrip, Eugene & Carolyn

Krevinko, Steve & Jo
Mansour, Raymond & Vincenza
Maragus, John & Anne
Mizhir, Al & Gloria
Mourad, Margaret
Nader, Robert & Barbara
Nicholas, Louis & Shirley
Nosal, Andrew & Olga
Pagedas Family
Pechazis, Faddoul & Samia
Poppe, Marianne
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, George and Lorraine Zain. 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.

By the grace of God, Vincent Benfatti was discharged from the Acute Care Facility and arrived back home last Tuesday to continue his recovery—he will still require medical treatment for a number of issues. May God grant Vincent and Irene continued strength, patience, and a full recovery.

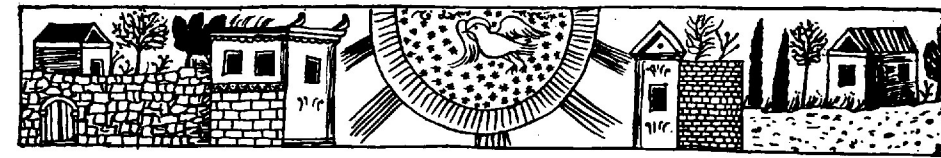
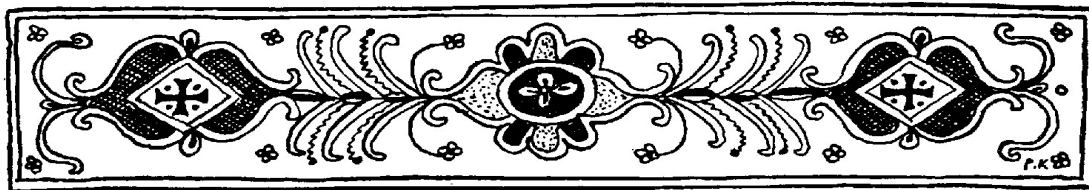
Prayers for the health of Al and Gloria Mizhir, Samy and Helen Morcos, as well as Amad and Alexa Taibi are requested by Philip and Bette Ayoub

At the end of the liturgy, we will pray the Memorial Service for the departed servant of God His Eminence Metropolitan Philip (thrice-blessed memory) on occasion of the 5th anniversary of his repose.

May his memory be eternal!

**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 COMMUNITY BIBLE STUDY

Every Thursday at 6:00PM (*Note: Great Lent Schedule*)

GREAT LENT IS UPON US! GOOD STRENGTH!

HIGHLIGHTS

- 2019 Great Lent Schedule print-out now available or visit stpaulnaples.org/calendar
- **TODAY**—“Sunday of Orthodoxy” Pan-Orthodox Great Vespers & Fellowship
 - 5:00PM Sunday March 17, 2019 @ St. Paul - Immediately followed by light refreshments
- March 25 - 6:00PM Monday - Vespersal-Divine Liturgy for the Feast of the Annunciation

Fellowship Coffee Hour is hosted by Barbara Hebeka and Anna Castley - please join us in the Pavilion!

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

2019 GREAT LENT SCHEDULE

(In addition to the normal weekly schedule)

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

Sun, Mar 24 Sunday of St. Gregory Palamas

	Great Vespers for the Annunciation (at Annunciation OC in Ft. Myers)	6:00PM
Mon, Mar 25	Orthros for the Annunciation	8:30AM
Mon, Mar 25	Vespersal-Divine Liturgy for the Annunciation	6:00PM
Wed, Mar 27	Presanctified Liturgy	6:00PM
Fri, Mar 29	St. Peter OC (Bonita Springs): Orthodox Christian Laity Event	
	Little Compline w/Akathist to Theotokos (3rd Stanza)	5:30PM
	Fellowship & Refreshments	6:30PM
	OCL Presentation and Talk	7:00PM

Sun, Mar 31 Veneration of the Cross

Mon, Apr 1	Great Compline	6:00PM
Wed, Apr 3	Presanctified Liturgy	6:00PM
Fri, Apr 5	Little Compline w/Akathist to Theotokos (4th Stanza)	6:00PM
Sat, Apr 6	"Saturday of the Souls" Divine Liturgy of St. John (For the departed)	9:30AM

Complete Great Lent & Holy Week Schedule print-out available on the visitors table in the Narthex or visit www.stpaulnaples.org/calendar



SUNDAY - MARCH 17, 2019

FIRST SUNDAY OF GREAT LENT (SUNDAY OF ORTHODOXY)

VENERABLE ALEXIOS THE 'MAN OF GOD;' PATRICK, BISHOP OF ARMAGH AND ENLIGHTENER OF IRELAND; VENERABLE THEOSTERIKTOS THE CONFESSOR OF PELECETE MONASTERY; VENERABLE MAKARIOS OF KALYAZIN

+DIVINE LITURGY OF ST. BASIL THE GREAT

**PASCHAL Needs
2019 Great Lent & Holy Week**

Flowers for the Icon – Friday Akathist service	4 weeks at \$50.00 a week
Flowers for the Feast of Annunciation Icon (for 3/25)	\$75
Flowers for the Veneration of the Holy Cross	\$75
Candles for the Cross (six sets)	\$15/set
12 Candles for Holy Thursday	\$7 each
Saturday of Lazarus	\$75
Palm Sunday Icon	\$75
Palms for Palm Sunday	\$75
Bridegroom Icon (Holy Week: Sun-Tues)	\$75
Wreaths for the Cross (Holy Friday)	DONATED
Christ's Bier (Tomb - Holy Friday)	\$400
Resurrection Icon	\$75

To make your donation "in memory of", for "the health of", or "prayers for", contact Father Paul to claim a donation-slot (frpaulgirgis@gmail.com; 239.348.0828) or Juliana Agoritsas: julianna616@icloud.com; 508.481.0746

Basic Church – Life Needs

A very natural and loving manner in which Orthodox Christians can participate in the life of the Church is by simply providing even the most basic items. If we provide our own home with the necessities, how much more should we take care that the House of God is properly supplied? This is not to replace monetary stewardship but rather a beautiful opportunity to keep The House of God, in all aspects of our life, the top priority. Please consider, the next time you are buying for yourself, to also buy for God's house:

Extra Virgin Olive Oil (for altar)	\$30 or purchase on your own & bring to church
Communion Wine	\$150/case (see Father Paul)
Incense	\$40/lb

RESURRECTIONAL APOLYTIKION IN TONE ONE

While the stone was sealed by the Jews, and the soldiers were guarding Thy most pure body, Thou didst arise on the third day, O Savior, granting life to the world. For which cause the heavenly powers cried aloud unto Thee, O giver of life. Glory to Thy Resurrection, O Christ, glory to Thy kingdom, glory to Thy providence, O Thou Who alone art the lover of mankind.

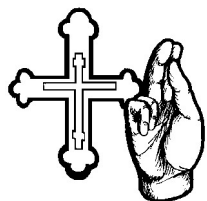
APOLYTIKION OF FIRST SUNDAY OF GREAT LENT IN TONE TWO

Thy pure image do we venerate, O good One, asking forgiveness of our sins, O Christ our God; for by Thine own will Thou didst ascend the Cross in Thy body, to save Thy creatures from the bondage of the enemy. Thou hast verily filled all with joy, since Thou didst come, O our Savior, to save the world.

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

KONTAKION FOR SUNDAYS IN GREAT LENT IN TONE EIGHT

To thee, the Champion Leader, do I offer thanks of victory, O Theotokos, thou who hast delivered me from terror; but as thou that hast that power invincible, O Theotokos, thou alone can set me free: from all forms of danger free me and deliver me, that I may cry unto thee: Hail, O Bride without Bridegroom.





“SUNDAY OF THE TRIUMPH OF ORTHODOXY”



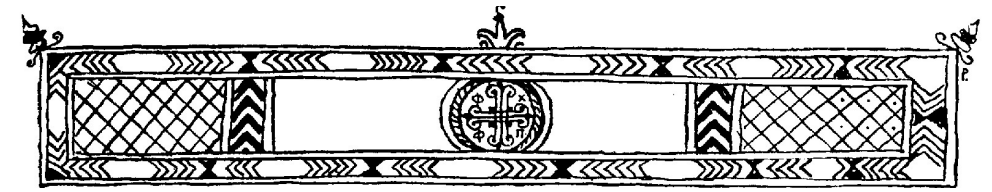
MARCH 17, 2019

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).

+Join us and participate in the Procession around the interior of the church nave and after which we will read the “Synodicon of Orthodoxy” (Affirmation of the Orthodox faith)+



THE SYNAXARION

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

On March 17 in the Holy Orthodox Church, we commemorate the Venerable Alexios the “Man of God”; Patrick, bishop of Armagh and enlightener of Ireland; Venerable Theosteriktos the Confessor of the Pelecete Monastery; and Venerable Makarios of Kalyazin.

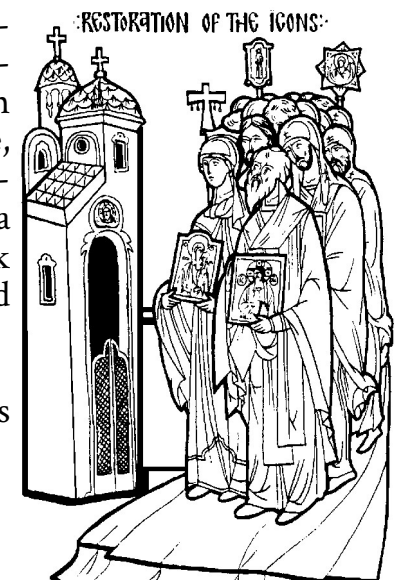
On this same day, the First Sunday of the Fast, we make remembrance of the restoration of the holy and venerable Icons, which took place through the ever-memorable Sovereigns of Constantinople, Michael and his mother, Theodora, during the patriarchate of Saint Methodios the Confessor.

Verses

*I rejoice, as I see them fittingly reverence
The icons formerly unfittingly banished.*

This restoration was accomplished in the year 842. Theodora’s husband was an iconoclast. After his death, Theodora venerated an icon of the Theotokos in front of Patriarch Methodios. The other faithful in the church did the same, venerating all the icons, considering them to be representations of their original elements, not idols. Theodora prayed to God to forgive her husband during the first week of Great Lent; and on the First Sunday of the Fast, she led the way in hanging up the icons to adorn the churches.

O invariant Icon of the Father, through the intercessions of Thy holy Confessors, have mercy on us. Amen.



THE EPISTLE

*Blessed art Thou, O Lord, the God of our fathers.
For Thou art just in all that Thou hast done for us.*

The Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Hebrews. (11:24-26, 32-40)

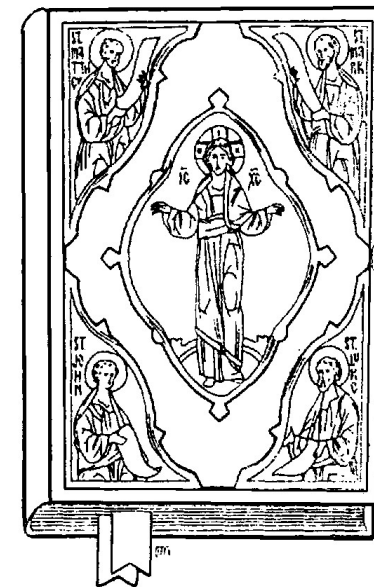
Brethren, by faith Moses, when he was grown up, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, choosing rather to share ill-treatment with the people of God than to enjoy the fleeting pleasures of sin. And what more shall I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets; who through faith conquered kingdoms, enforced justice, received promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched raging fire, escaped the edge of the sword, won strength out of weakness, became mighty in war, and put foreign armies to flight. Women received their dead by resurrection. Some were tortured, refusing to accept release that they might rise again to a better life. Others suffered mocking and scourging, and even chains and imprisonment. They were stoned, they were sawn in two, they were killed with the sword; they went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, afflicted, ill-treated—of whom the world was not worthy—wandering over deserts and mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth. And all these, though well attested by their faith, did not receive what was promised, since God had foreseen something better for us, that apart from us they should not be made perfect.



THE GOSPEL

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. John. (1:43-51)

At that time, Jesus decided to go to Galilee. And He found Philip and said to him, "Follow Me." Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. Philip found Nathanael, and said to him, "We have found Him of Whom Moses in the Law and also the Prophets wrote, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph." Nathanael said to him, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" Philip said to him, "Come and see." Jesus saw Nathanael coming to Him, and said of him, "Behold, an Israelite indeed, in whom is no guile!" Nathanael said to Jesus, "How do you know me?" Jesus answered him, "Before Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree, I saw you." Nathanael answered Him, "Rabbi, Thou art the Son of God! Thou art the King of Israel!" Jesus answered him, "Because I said to you, I saw you under the fig tree, do you believe? You shall see greater things than these." And Jesus said to him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, you will see heaven opened, and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of man."



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.



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





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

*Now listen to me. I will give you counsel, and God be with you!
Exodus 18:19*

A brother visited Abba Moses to ask his advice. Moses told him, “Go and sit alone in your cell. Your cell will teach you everything.”

Your cell will teach you everything.

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