



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.



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]

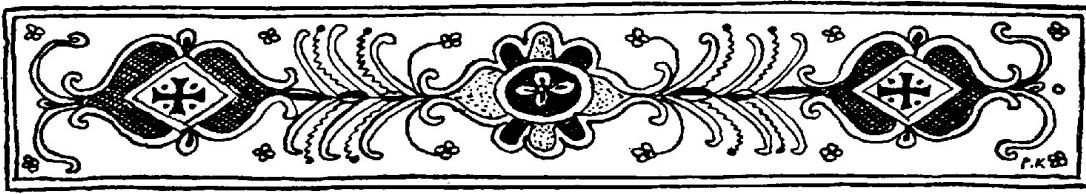
Thank you,

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.



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

**WE JOYFULLY WELCOME HIS GRACE BISHOP +NICHOLAS
OF MIAMI AND THE SOUTHEAST**

HIGHLIGHTS

- Forgiveness Vespers - Sunday March 10 @ 11:30AM - Following Fellowship Coffee Hour.
- "Spiritual Saturday" - Saturday March 16 – Pickup schedule on visitors table in Narthex.
- "Sunday of Orthodoxy" Great Vespers - Sunday March 17 @ 5:00PM (At St. Paul)
- Blessing Homes - contact Fr. Paul to get on the schedule before Great Lent (March 11)

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

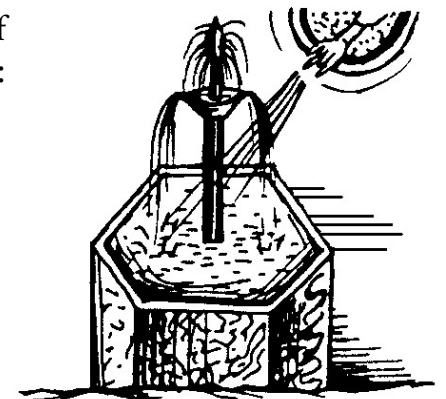
(source: orthodoxwiki.org)

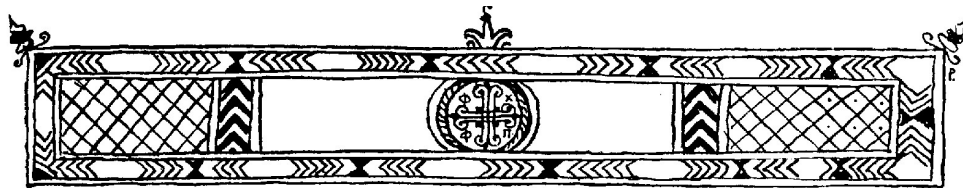
WHAT DO YOU GET WHEN THE PRIEST BRINGS THE WATERS OF THEOPHANY INTO YOUR HOME?

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 SYNAXARION

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

On March 3 in the Holy Orthodox Church, we commemorate the Martyrs Eutropios, Kleonikos, and Basilikos of Amasea; and the Hieromartyr Theodoretos of Antioch.

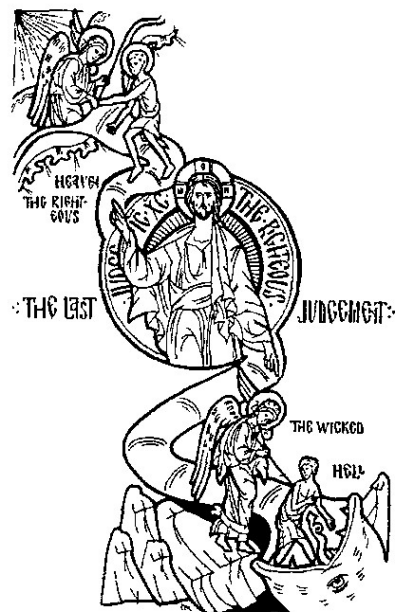
Today, we commemorate the Second and impartial Coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Verses

*When the Judge of all sitteth to judge the earth,
Come now! Mayest Thou judge me worthy of Thy voice!*

It is the Sunday of the Last Judgment—known also as Meat Fare Sunday—the lesson of which occurs in today’s Holy Gospel. Jesus illustrates to us God’s ineffable goodness and His great love for mankind. And so lest some who are lazy should loiter and spend the time appropriate to their salvation in the pursuit of sin, and be suddenly overtaken by death, the divine Fathers decree that on this day the remembrance of the Second Appearance of Christ may be celebrated. The intention is to remind them that, as God is good and loving to mankind, He is also a very righteous Judge Who recompenses each according to his deeds. Our Lord teaches us that when we minister to our brother or sister, we really minister to Him. This brings us righteousness and life eternal.

By Thine ineffable love for mankind, O Christ God, make us worthy of Thy devoted voice, number us among Thy righteous ones and have mercy on us. Amen.



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





**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)

+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*

SUNDAY - MARCH 03, 2019

SUNDAY OF THE LAST JUDGMENT (MEAT FARE)

+DIVINE LITURGY OF ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM

RESURRECTIONAL APOLYTIKION IN TONE SEVEN

Thou didst shatter death by Thy Cross, Thou didst open paradise to the thief; Thou didst turn the sadness of the ointment-bearing women into joy. And didst bid Thine Apostles proclaim a warning, that Thou hast risen O Christ, granting to the world the Great Mercy.

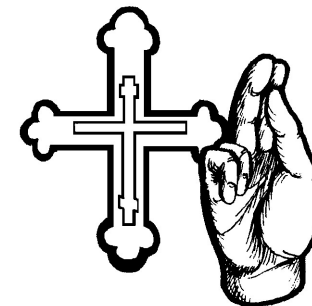
+Now sing the below apolytikion of the Patron of the parish (St. Paul)

APOLYTIKION FOR THE HOLY APOSTLE PAUL IN TONE FOUR

First-enthroned of the apostles, teachers of the universe: Entreat the Master of all to grant peace to the world, and to our souls great mercy.

KONTAKION FOR SUNDAY OF LAST JUDGMENT IN TONE ONE

When Thou comest, O God, to earth with glory, and all creatures tremble before Thee, and the river of fire floweth before the Altar, and the books are opened and sins revealed, deliver me then from that unquenchable fire, and make me worthy to stand at Thy right hand, O righteous Judge.



THE EPISTLE

(For Sunday of the Last Judgment)

The Lord is my strength and my praise.

The Lord chastising hath chastised me, but He hath not delivered me over to death.

The Reading from the First Epistle of St. Paul to the Corinthians. (8:8-9:2)

Brethren, food will not commend us to God. We are no worse off if we do not eat, and no better off if we do. Only take care, lest this liberty of yours somehow become a stumbling block to the weak. For if any one sees you—a man of knowledge—at table in an idol's temple, might he not be encouraged, if his conscience is weak, to eat food offered to idols? And so by your knowledge this weak man is destroyed, the brother for whom Christ died. Thus, sinning against your brethren and wounding their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ. Therefore, if food is a cause of my brother's falling, I will never eat meat, lest I cause my brother to fall. Am I not free? Am I not an apostle? Have I not seen Jesus our Lord? Are not you my workmanship in the Lord? If to others I am not an apostle, at least I am to you; for you are the seal of my apostleship in the Lord.

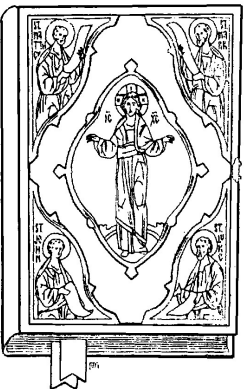


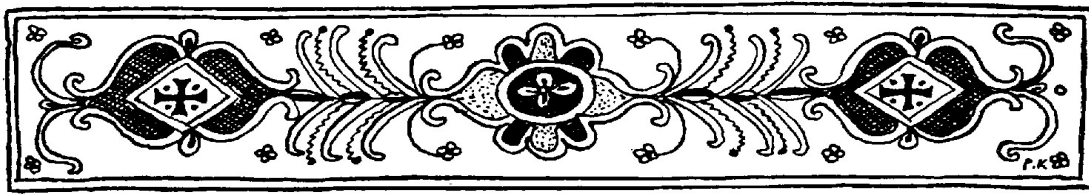
THE GOSPEL

(For Sunday of the Last Judgment)

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew. (25:31-46)

The Lord said, “When the Son of man comes in His glory, and all the angels with Him, then He will sit on His glorious throne. Before Him will be gathered all the nations, and He will separate them one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, and He will place the sheep at His right hand, but the goats at the left. Then the King will say to those at His right hand, ‘Come, O blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave Me food, I was thirsty and you gave Me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed Me, I was naked and you clothed Me, I was sick and you visited Me, I was in prison and you came to Me.’ Then the righteous will answer Him, ‘Lord, when did we see Thee hungry and feed Thee, or thirsty and give Thee drink? And when did we see Thee a stranger and welcome Thee, or naked and clothe Thee? And when did we see Thee sick or in prison and visit Thee?’ And the King will answer them, ‘Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me.’ Then He will say to those at his left hand, ‘Depart from Me, you cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels; for I was hungry and you gave Me no food, I was thirsty and you gave Me no drink, I was a stranger and you did not welcome Me, naked and you did not clothe Me, sick and in prison and you did not visit Me.’ Then they also will answer, ‘Lord, when did we see Thee hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to Thee?’ Then He will answer them, ‘Truly, I say to you, as you did it not to one of the least of these, you did it not to Me.’ And they will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.”





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 & Omay



“...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”. Doctors are determining when to discharge him. He continues to be on an anti-biotic for his blood infection. May God grant him and Irene strength!

Prayers for the departed servants of God Alexander and Marilyn Salem are requested by John Salem.

Prayers for the health of Philip and Bette Ayoub, Elias and Barbara Hebeka, Ray and Leila Trabulsi, and Walid and Merna Nakhoul, as well as for the departed servants of God George and Nora David, are offered by Samy and Helen Morcos.

Prayers for the departed servant of God John Fred Kennan, on occasion of the two year anniversary since his repose are requested by Mary Alvanette, Marian, and Katherine Kennan.

Today we especially remember all of the departed Founders of this loving community:

Charles Abbood	Gwena Haddad	Richard Popovici
Annette Abbood	George Henney	Olga Sahley
Fr Basil Banyasz	JoAnn Henney	James Sahley
Janice Banyasz	Albert Joseph	Alexander Salem
Dan Cleaver	George Joseph	Marilyn Salem
George David	Larry Morrison	William Sophiea
Nora David	Robert Maurad	Edward Thomas
Philip Haddad	Elsie Nassor	Mary Ann Thomas



“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 Church 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).

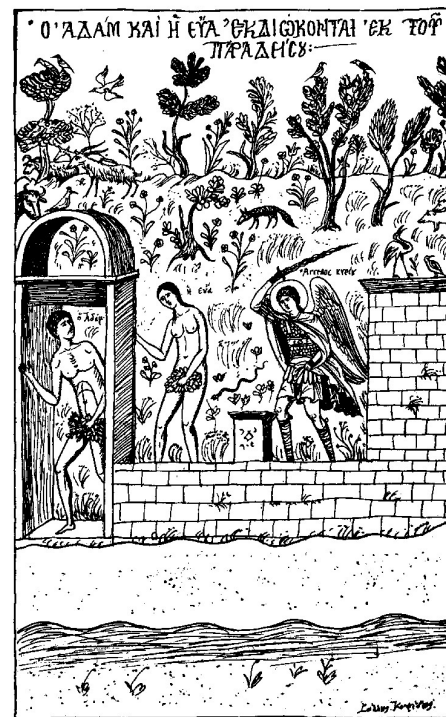
FORGIVENESS VESPERS

(CHEESE-FARE SUNDAY)

SUNDAY, MARCH 10 @ 11:30AM

Enjoy Fellowship & Refreshments in the Pavilion but return to the church for Forgiveness Vespers at about 11:30AM.

At Forgiveness Vespers on the eve of Great Lent 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

Then they brought to him a demoniac who was blind and mute; and he cured him, so that the one who had been mute could speak and see. All the crowds were amazed and said, "Can this be the Son of David?" But when the Pharisees heard it, they said, "It is only by Beelzebul, the ruler of the demons, that this fellow casts out the demons." Matthew 12:22-24

Abba Isaiah said, "The most helpful thing for a beginner in prayer is insults. The neophyte (beginner) who regularly bears insults is like a tree planted by water."

The one who bears insults is like a tree planted by water.

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