



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

APRIL 07, 2019

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

1ST ANNUAL PALM SUNDAY FISH LUNCHEON

KAREEM'S LEBANESE KITCHEN
BY CHEF RACHID



TRADITIONALLY SPICED WHITE FISH & RICE
TABOULEH, HUMMUS, FRESHLY BAKED ARABIC BREAD
& MORE

[IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE DIVINE LITURGY APRIL 21, 2019]

DONATION: \$15 EACH

CHILDREN UNDER 12: FREE
(FISH NUGGETS & FRIES AVAILABLE)

For tickets see the following PC members:
Elias Hebeka, Nick Ferris or Joe Ablan

LIMITED SPACE (80 tickets)



“...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 Lorrain Zain, Vincent and Irene Benfatti 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.

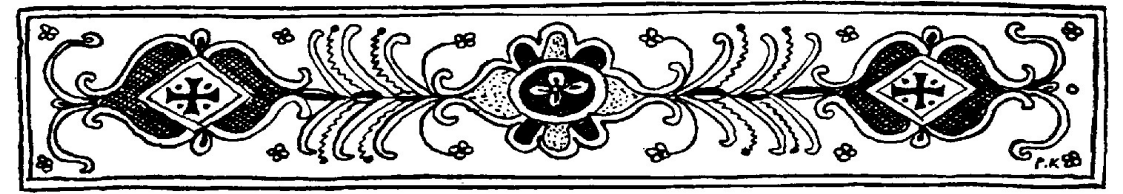
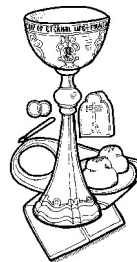
Prayers for the health of Al and Gloria Mizhir, Al and Anna Castley, Vincent and Irene Benfatti, as well as Mary Alvanette Kennan are requested by Elias and Barbara Hebeka.

Prayers for Mary Alvanette Kennan are also requested by Ray and Vincenza (Jennie) Mansour on occasion of Mary's birthday.

Prayers for the health of David Vailancourt and Sam Barkett are requested by Alan and Debbie Abraham.

Prayers in memory of Richard Popovici are requested by Flora Popovici. 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 SHAHEEN, 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

Resumes Thursday May 30 at 6:00PM

GOOD STRENGTH TO YOU ALL THIS GREAT LENT!

HIGHLIGHTS

GREAT LENT SCHEDULE - Note special service schedule this week – it means we're getting close!

April 21 - PALM SUNDAY - “1st Annual Palm Sunday Luncheon” - See flier! Limited space!

May 1/Wednesday - St. Paul Fellowship Golf Outing - see flier!

Food for the Hungry - Take a donation box home and fill-it up throughout Great Lent!

Fellowship Coffee Hour today is hosted by Drs. Joseph & Omayma Touma - please join us!

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

SUNDAY - APRIL 07, 2019

FOURTH SUNDAY OF GREAT LENT

COMMEMORATION OF JOHN CLIMACUS, AUTHOR OF “THE LADDER”
MARTYR KALLIOPIOS OF CILICIA; VENERABLE GEORGE, BISHOP OF MITYLENE; REPOSE
OF TIKHON, PATRIARCH OF MOSCOW AND ENLIGHTENER OF NORTH AMERICA

+DIVINE LITURGY OF ST. BASIL THE GREAT

RESURRECTIONAL APOLYTIKION IN TONE FOUR

Having learned the joyful message of the Resurrection from the angel the women disciples of the Lord cast from them their parental condemnation. And proudly broke the news to the Disciples, saying: Death hath been spoiled; Christ God is risen, granting the world Great Mercy.

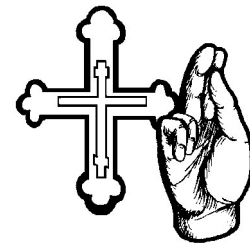
APOLYTIKION OF ST. JOHN CLIMACUS IN TONE EIGHT

The barren wilderness thou didst make fertile with the streams of thy tears; and by thy deep sighing thou hast given fruit through thy struggles a hundredfold. Accordingly, thou hast become a star for the universe, sparkling with miracles. Therefore, O righteous Father John Climacus, intercede with Christ God to save our souls.

+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.



2019 Great Lent & Holy Week
Stewardship Opportunities

Flowers for the Icon – (4) Friday Akathist service	DONATED
Flowers for the Feast of Annunciation Icon (for 3/25)	DONATED
Flowers for the Veneration of the Holy Cross	DONATED
Candles for the Cross (six sets)	DONATED
12 Candles for Holy Thursday	DONATED
Saturday of Lazarus	DONATED
Palm Sunday Icon	DONATED
Palms for Palm Sunday	DONATED
Bridegroom Icon (Holy Week: Sun-Tues)	
Sunday	DONATED
Holy Monday	DONATED
Holy Tuesday	DONATED
Wreaths for the Cross (Holy Friday)	DONATED
Christ’s Bier (Tomb - Holy Friday)	DONATED
Resurrection Icon	DONATED
Priest PASCHAL Candle	DONATED

To make a general Lenten donation “in memory of”, for “the health of”, or “prayers for” contact:
Fr. Paul Girgis (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:

Olive Oil (Extra Virgin)	On-going
Lighters (Long BBQ style)	On-going
Communion Wine	On-going (Contact Fr. Paul first)
Incense	\$40/lb



A LITTLE DAILY WISDOM FROM THE EARLY CHURCH

I tell you, on the day of judgement you will have to give an account for every careless word you utter; for by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned.”
Matthew 12:36-37

Abba Ammon said, “Meditate as though you were a criminal in prison. Keep asking, ‘Where is my judge? When will he come? What will be my punishment?’ You should always be awaiting trial. Reproach your soul. Imagine what it will be like to stand before Christ’s judgement seat and give an account of your behavior. If you meditate this way, you will be saved.”

Always be awaiting trial.

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

THE EPISTLE

The Lord will give strength to His people. The Lord will bless His people with peace.

The Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Hebrews. (6:13-20)

Brethren, when God made a promise to Abraham, since He had no one greater by whom to swear, He swore by Himself, saying, “Surely I will bless you and multiply you.” And thus Abraham, having patiently endured, obtained the promise. Men indeed swear by one greater than themselves, and in all their disputes an oath is final for confirmation. So when God desired to show more convincingly to the heirs of the promise the unchangeable character of His purpose, He interposed with an oath. So that through two unchangeable things, in which it is impossible that God should prove false, we who have fled for refuge might have strong encouragement to seize the hope set before us. We have this as a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul, a hope that enters into the inner shrine behind the curtain, where Jesus has gone as a forerunner on our behalf, having become a high priest forever after the order of Melchizedek

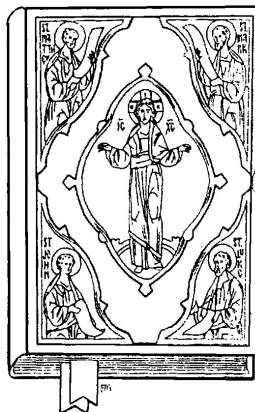


THE GOSPEL

(For the Third Sunday of Great Lent)

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Mark. (9:17-31)

At that time, a man came to Jesus, kneeling down and saying unto him, “Teacher, I brought my son to you, for he has a dumb spirit. And wherever it seizes him, it dashes him down; and he foams and grinds his teeth and becomes rigid; and I asked Thy Disciples to cast it out, and they were not able.” And Jesus answered them, “O faithless generation, how long am I to be with you? How long am I to bear with you? Bring him to Me.” And they brought the boy to Him; and when the spirit saw Jesus, immediately it convulsed the boy, and he fell on the ground and rolled about, foaming at the mouth. And Jesus asked his father, “How long has he had this?” And he said, “From childhood. And it has often cast him into the fire and into the water, to destroy him; but if Thou canst do anything, have pity on us and help us.” And Jesus said to him, “If you can believe, all things are possible to him who believes.” Immediately the father of the child cried out and said with tears, “Lord, I believe; help my unbelief!” And when Jesus saw that a crowd came running together, he rebuked the unclean spirit, saying to it, “You dumb and deaf spirit, I command you, come out of him, and never enter him again.” And after crying out and convulsing him terribly, it came out, and the boy was like a corpse; so that most of them said, “He is dead.” But Jesus took him by the hand and lifted him up, and he arose. And when Jesus had entered the house, His Disciples asked Him privately, “Why could we not cast it out?” And Jesus said to them, “This kind cannot be driven out by anything but prayer and fasting.” They went on from there and passed through Galilee. And Jesus would not have anyone know it; for He was teaching His Disciples, saying to them, “The Son of man will be delivered into the hands of men, and they will kill Him; and after He is killed, He will rise on the third day.”



WHAT IS THE DIVINE LITURGY AND WHAT IS OUR ROLE?

As the late Protopresbyter Thomas Hopko wrote, “The word liturgy means common work or common action. The Divine Liturgy is the common work of the Orthodox Church. It is the official action of the Church formally gathered together as the chosen People of God. The word church, as we remember, means a gathering or assembly of people specifically chosen and called apart to perform a particular task.” In the case of the Divine Liturgy, then, the “particular task” is to gather with the angels and the saints, who surround the throne of God, to offer thanks corporately to God for all that has been accomplished for our sake and salvation; to express our thanks through the celebration and reception of the Eucharist, His very Body and Blood; and to anticipate His second and glorious coming, when His eternal Kingdom—already fully present in the life of the Church—will be fully revealed to us. As such, we are called, first and foremost, to be a “worshipping people,” called to join “with one mind and heart” with the angels and saints who have gone before us in worshipping Father, Son and Holy Spirit, with Whom we enter into a “common union” through the reception of Holy Communion—as a community, and not as isolated individuals.

Since the Liturgy is the “common action” of the People of God, it is not something merely “performed” by the clergy for the benefit of a “passive audience,” so to speak. While the bishop or priest, as the “president of the Eucharistic Assembly,” certainly has a central function in the Liturgy, so do all of the members of the Church—including children, whose “holy noise” is a joyous sign of the ongoing life of the Church as it “marches through time”—especially through the singing of the liturgical responses and hymns, the various actions and gestures expressed in worship, and the collective offering of ourselves—as a worshipping community—to carry on the Lord’s work after the Liturgy formally ends. As some have said, the Liturgy only truly ends when the next Liturgy begins.

(Source: oca.org)

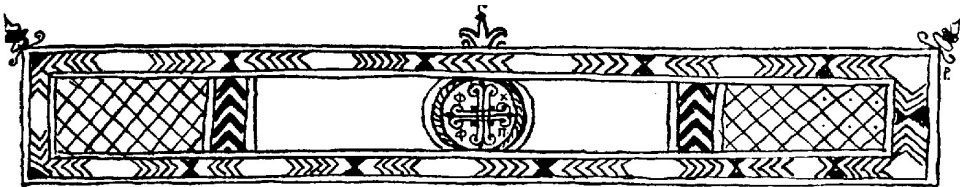


2019 GREAT LENT SCHEDULE

(In addition to the normal weekly schedule)

TODAY	Sunday of St. John of the Ladder	
Mon, Apr 8	Great Compline	6:00PM
Wed, Apr 10	Little Compline w/Life of St. Mary & Great Canon of St. Andrew	6:00PM
Thu, Apr 11	Presanctified Liturgy	6:00PM
Fri, Apr 12	Little Compline w/COMPLETE Akathist to the Theotokos	6:00PM
Sun, Apr 14	Sunday of St. Mary of Egypt	
Mon, Apr 15	Great Compline	6:00PM
Wed, Apr 17	Presanctified Liturgy	6:00PM
Fri, Apr 19	Little Compline w/Canon of the Raising of Lazarus	6:00PM
Sat, Apr 20	Lazarus Saturday	
	Orthros	8:30AM
	Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom	9:30AM
	Fellowship Breakfast & Making of Palm Crosses	10:30AM
	Great Vespers for Palm Sunday	6:00PM
Sun, Apr 21	Palm Sunday	
	Festal Orthros	8:30AM
	Divine Liturgy	9:30AM
	"1st Annual St. Paul Palm Sunday Feast"	11:00AM
	<i>Fish, Tabouleh, Hummus and Fresh Arabic bread by Chef Rachid of Kareem's Lebanese Kitchen</i>	
	<i>\$15 donation/ticket</i>	

Schedule print-out available on the visitors table in the Narthex or visit www.stpaulnaples.org/calendar



THE SYNAXARION

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

On April 7 in the Holy Orthodox Church, we commemorate the Martyr Kalliopios of Cilicia; Venerable George, bishop of Mitylene; and Tikhon, patriarch of Moscow and Enlightener of North America.

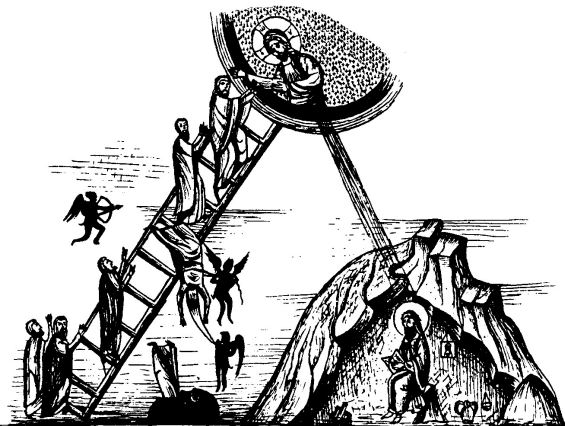
On this same day, the Fourth Sunday of Great Lent, we make remembrance of our godly father, John, the author of The Ladder of Divine Ascent (or Climacus).

Verses

*John, dead in the flesh and also living,
Liveth eternally, even though appearing dead and without breath.
Leaving letters, a ladder for the journey upwards,
He showeth forth his pursuit of the journey upwards.*

The celebration of his feast on this day arose from the custom prevalent in the honorable monasteries of starting Great Lent with the reading of his lessons. John describes the method of elevating the soul to God as ascending a ladder. He teaches those who seek salvation how to lay a firm foundation for struggles, how to detect and fight every passion, how to avoid demonic snares, and how to rise from the rudimental virtues to the heights of Godlike love and humility. John of the Ladder came to Mount Sinai at age 16 and remained there, first as a novice under obedience, then as a recluse, and finally as abbot until his eightieth year. One time, his disciple, Moses, fell asleep under the shade of a large stone. John, in prayer in his cell, saw that his disciple was in danger and prayed to God for him. Later, when Moses returned, he fell on his knees and gave thanks to his spiritual father for saving him from certain death. He related how, in a dream, he heard John calling him and he jumped up and, at that moment, the stone tumbled. Had he not jumped, the stone would have crushed him. John Climacus died on March 30, 606.

Through his intercessions, O Christ God, have mercy upon us. Amen.





GRAND RAPIDS:
YOU'LL LOVE IT HERE!

ANTIOCHIAN
ORTHODOX
ARCHDIOCESE
CONVENTION 2019

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



CALLING all GOLFERS

Sign Up for the St Paul Fellowship Golf Outing

Open to men & women who would like to spend a day with fellow parishioners while enjoying golf. This is not a fundraiser, just a fun day of golf, lunch and fellowship. Father Paul will be joining us for lunch.

When:	Wednesday, May 1, 2019
Where:	Vasari Country Club
Time:	8:30 AM tee times
Lunch:	Immediately following golf
Cost:	\$56.00 includes 18 holes with cart, lunch at the clubhouse and sleeve of balls

RSVP by: Thursday, April 26 Nick Ferris 317-201-9002 nferris15@gmail.com



"Don't be troubled if you don't feel the love of God in yourself, but think about the Lord, that He is merciful, and guard yourself from sins. And the Grace of God will teach you."
+St. Silouan the Athonite