



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

JUNE 2, 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?

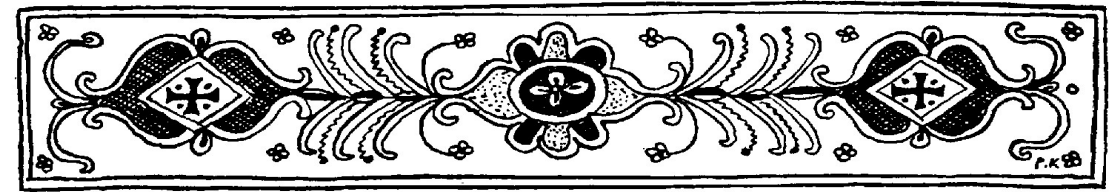
+HOLY COMMUNION (ECHARIST)+

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.



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

Thursday: 6:00PM - 7:00PM

HIGHLIGHTS

Wednesday (June 5): Leave-Taking of PASCHA

Prep. Prayers: 9:00AM; Divine Liturgy: 9:30AM

Thursday (June 6): GREAT & HOLY FEAST OF THE ASCENSION OF JESUS CHRIST

Festal Orthros: 8:30AM; Divine Liturgy: 9:30AM

Diocese of Miami and the Southeast Parish Life Conference June 12 -15. For more info visit:

<https://www.antiochianevents.com/miami.html>

+Today's Fellowship Coffee Hour is sponsored by Anna Castley+

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



“...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, Al and Gloria Mizhir, as well as Thelma and Robert Badwey.

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 Fr. Paul and his family as well as Dn. Nicholas and his family are requested by Larissa Smolen and John Cole.

Prayers for Dn. Nicholas, Dna. Elizabeth and “*their talented family, their beautiful voices are an inspiration to all who are fortunate to hear them*” are requested by Ray and Vincenza (Jennie) Mansour.

Prayers of thanks for the safe return of Fr. Paul, and a “*special prayer for Kh. Thekla as we await the arrival of our newest member, and for the children who are so special to us all*” are requested by Ray and Vincenza (Jennie) Mansour.

**MAY THE LORD OUR GOD HEAR OUR PRAYERS AND SEND DOWN UPON US
HIS DIVINE GRACE FOR HUMBLE-PATIENCE AND TRUST IN HIS MOST PERFECT WILL.**



THE SYNAXARION

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

On June 2 in the Holy Orthodox Church, we commemorate Nikephoros the Confessor, archbishop of Constantinople; New-martyrs Demetrios of Philadelphia, John of Trebizond, and Constantine of Athos.

On this day, the sixth Sunday of Pascha, we celebrate the miracle wrought by our Lord and God and Savior Jesus Christ upon the man who was blind from his birth.

Verses

*O Light of Light most perfect, and Light-provider,
On the blind from birth, O Word, eyes Thou bestowest.*

The Savior met this man, born blind and incurable after every human effort, while leaving the Temple on the Sabbath. Saints John Chrysostom, Basil the Great and Irenaeus teach that the man was born without eyes. Jesus spat into the dirt, made clay, rubbed it in his eye sockets and told him to wash in the pool of Siloam, a famous water spring in Jerusalem. The Savior did not send him there because his eye sockets were covered in clay, nor did the pool have healing power, but instead to test his faith and obedience. The blind man proclaimed that Jesus healed him, but this confession caused him to be cast out by the enemies of the truth. Even his own parents would not defend him. However, the blind man followed Jesus from that moment forward.

By Thine infinite mercy, O Christ our God, Giver of light, have mercy on us. Amen.



SUNDAY - JUNE 02, 2019

SIXTH SUNDAY OF PASCHA: SUNDAY OF THE BLIND MAN

**NIKEPHOROS THE CONFESSOR, ARCHBISHOP OF CONSTANTINOPLE; NEW-MARTYRS
DEMETRIOS OF PHILADELPHIA, JOHN OF TREBIZOND, AND CONSTANTINE OF ATHOS**

+DIVINE LITURGY OF ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM+

RESURRECTIONAL APOLYTIKION IN TONE FIVE

Let us believers praise and worship the Word; coeternal with the Father and the Spirit, born of the Virgin for our salvation. For, He took pleasure in ascending the Cross in the flesh to suffer death; and to raise the dead by His glorious Resurrection.

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

THE KONTAKION OF PASCHA IN TONE EIGHT

Though Thou didst descend into the grave, O Immortal One, yet didst Thou destroy the power of Hades, and didst arise as victor, O Christ God, calling to the myrrh-bearing women, Rejoice, and giving peace unto Thine Apostles, O Thou Who dost grant resurrection to the fallen.



CHRIST IS RISEN! TRULY HE IS RISEN!

AL MASSEH KAM! HAKAN KAM!

CHRISTOS ANESTI! ALITHOS ANESTI!

KHRISTOS VOSKRESE! VOISTINU VOSKRESE!

KHRISTOS VOZKRESE! VOISTINA VOZKRESE!

KHRISTOS VASKRSE! VAISTINU VASKRSE!

HRISTOS A ÎNVIAT! ADEVĂRAT A ÎNVIAT!

KRISHTI U NGJALL! VËRTET U NGJALL!

KRISTE AGSDGA! CHESHMARITAD AGSDGA!

CRISTO HA RESUCITADO! ¡EN VERDAD HA RESUCITADO!

THE EPISTLE

*Thou, O Lord, shalt keep us and preserve us.
Save me, O Lord, for the godly man hath disappeared.*

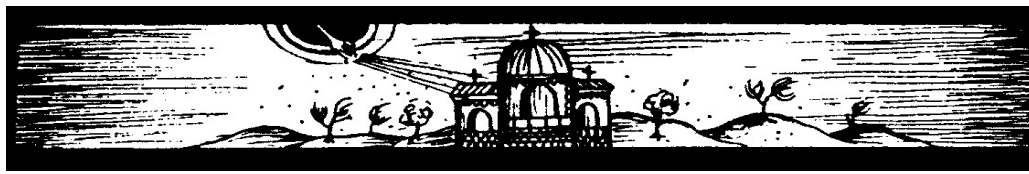
The Reading from the Acts of the Apostles. (16:16-34)

In those days, as we Apostles were going to the place of prayer, we were met by a slave girl who had a spirit of divination and brought her owners much gain by soothsaying. She followed Paul and us, crying, "These men are servants of the Most High God, who proclaim to you the way of salvation." And this she did for many days. But Paul was annoyed, and turned and said to the spirit, "I charge you in the Name of Jesus Christ to come out of her." And it came out that very hour. But when her owners saw that their hope of gain was gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the market place before the rulers; and when they had brought them to the magistrates they said, "These men are Jews and they are disturbing our city. They advocate customs which it is not lawful for us Romans to accept or practice." The crowd joined in attacking them; and the magistrates tore the garments off them and gave orders to beat them with rods. And when they had inflicted many blows upon them, they threw them into prison, charging the jailer to keep them safely. Having received this charge, he put them into the inner prison and fastened their feet in the stocks. But about midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them. And suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken. And immediately all the doors were opened and every one's fetters were unfastened. When the jailer woke and saw that the prison doors were open, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself, supposing that the prisoners had escaped. But Paul cried with a loud voice, "Do not harm yourself, for we are all here." And he called for lights and rushed in, and trembling with fear he fell down before Paul and Silas, and brought them out and said, "Men, what must I do to be saved?" And they said, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household." And they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all that were in his house. And he took them the same hour of the night, and washed their wounds, and he was baptized at once, with all his family. Then he brought them up into his house, and set food before them; and he rejoiced with all his household that he had believed in God.

THE GOSPEL

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. John. (9:1-38)

At that time, when Jesus was passing, He saw a man blind from his birth. And His Disciples asked Him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" Jesus answered, "It was not that this man sinned, or his parents, but that the works of God might be made manifest in him. I must work the works of Him Who sent me, while it is day; night comes, when no one can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." As He said this, he spat on the ground and made clay of the spittle and anointed the man's eyes with the clay, saying to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" [which means Sent]. So he went and washed and came back seeing. The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar, said, "Is not this the man who used to sit and beg?" Some said, "It is he"; others said, "No, but he is like him." He said, "I am the man." They said to him, "Then how were your eyes opened?" He answered, "The man called Jesus made clay and anointed my eyes and said to me, 'Go to Siloam and wash'; so I went and washed and received my sight." They said to him, "Where is He?" He said, "I do not know." They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. Now it was a Sabbath day when Jesus made the clay and opened his eyes. The Pharisees again asked him how he had received his sight. And he said to them, "He put clay on my eyes, and I washed, and I see." Some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, for He does not keep the Sabbath." But others said, "How can a man who is a sinner do such signs?" There was a division among them. So they again said to the blind man, "What do you say about Him, since He has opened your eyes?" He said, "He is a prophet." The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight, until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight, and asked them, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?" His parents answered, "We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; but how he now sees we do not know, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age, he will speak for himself." His parents said this because they feared the Jews, for the Jews had already agreed that if anyone should confess Him to be Christ, he was to be put out of the synagogue. Therefore his parents said, "He is of age, ask him." So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and said to him, "Give God the praise; we know that this man is a sinner." He answered, "Whether He is a sinner, I do not know; one thing I know, that though I was blind, now I see." They said to him, "What did He do to you? How did He open your eyes?" He answered them, "I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you too want to become His disciples?" And they reviled him, saying, "You are His disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where He comes from." The man answered, "Why, this is a marvel! You do not know where He comes from, and yet He opened my eyes. We know that God does not listen to sinners, but if anyone is a worshiper of God and does His will, God listens to him. Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a man born blind. If this man were not from God, He could do nothing." They answered him, "You were born in utter sin, and would you teach us?" And they cast him out. Jesus heard that they had cast him out, and having found him He said, "Do you believe in the Son of God?" He answered, "And Who is He, Sir, that I may believe in Him?" Jesus said to him, "You have seen Him, and it is He who speaks to you." He said, "Lord, I believe"; and he worshiped Him.



"BUILDING" OUR FUTURE

Dear St. Paul Church family,

Christ is risen! Truly He is risen!

Looking ahead to the promising future of St. Paul, the Parish Council has formed a Building Committee to explore the options available to accommodate the continued steady growth (spiritually, physically and socially) of our parish.

The Building Committee consists of:

Steve Jackson - Chair
Rdr. Demetri Agoristas
Philip Ayoub
Ray Mansour
Shirley Nicholas

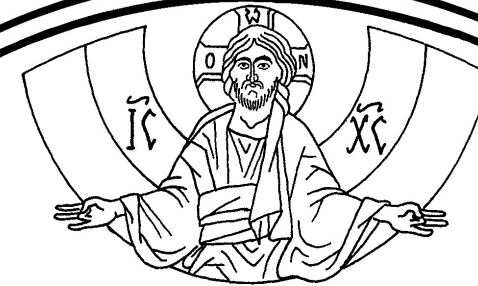
The goal of the committee is to explore the feasibility of building a climate-controlled Fellowship Hall, determine a suitable and convenient location, size, amenities and in a style that complements the architecture of our present beautiful church building. God willing, this new building will replace the pavilion as the main parish social space.

Through the prayers of the holy Apostle Paul - our patron and protector - the Building Committee is moving prayerfully, cautiously and responsibly. As such, periodic updates will be provided to the Parish family as the exploration and feasibility progresses.

May it be blessed.

Fr. Paul Girgis
Presiding Priest

Elias Hebeka
Parish Council Chair



A LITTLE DAILY WISDOM FROM THE EARLY CHURCH

If they were wise, they would understand this; they would discern what the end would be.
Deuteronomy 32:29

As a hermit lay on his deathbed in Scetis, the brothers stood around him, weeping. But three times the dying man opened his eyes and laughed. One of the brothers asked him, "Abba, why do you laugh when we are crying?"

He answered, "I laughed the first time because you are afraid of dying. I laughed the second time because you are not prepared to die. I laughed the third time because I am moving from labor to rest, and yet you weep." Then he closed his eyes and died.

I am moving from labor to rest, and yet you weep.

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



“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