



# SAINT PAUL



## 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 23, 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?

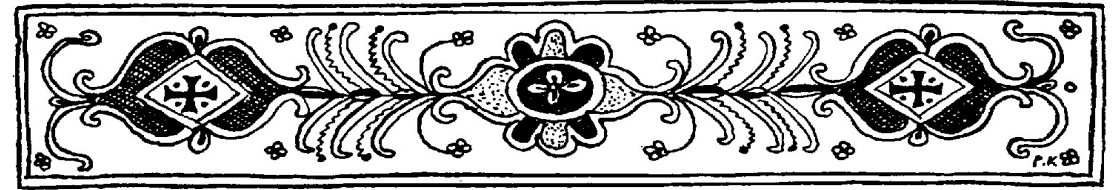
## +HOLY COMMUNION (EUCHARIST)+

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.



## 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-6:45PM

### Sunday

Orthros 8:30AM

Divine Liturgy 9:30AM

*\*Fr. Paul hears confessions after Great Vespers Saturday and by appointment.*

## WEEKLY COMMUNITY BIBLE STUDY

Thursday's 6:00PM-7:00PM

## HIGHLIGHTS

**Apostles Fast: June 24 - June 29**

**Feast of Sts. Peter and Paul Celebration—**Joining us is **His Grace Bishop +NICHOLAS**

Friday June 28 (Eve of Feast Day) @ St. Peter Orthodox Church in Bonita Springs

Orthros 6:00PM

Divine Liturgy 7:00PM

*Light refreshments immediately following*

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

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

SUNDAY - JUNE 23, 2019

## FIRST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST: ALL SAINTS SUNDAY

MARTYR AGRIPPINA OF ROME; HIEROMARTYRS ARISTOCLES THE PRESBYTER, DEMETRIOS THE DEACON, AND ATHANASIUS THE READER, OF CYPRUS

+DIVINE LITURGY OF ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM+

### RESURRECTIONAL APOLYTIKION OF 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.

### APOLYTIKION OF ALL SAINTS IN TONE FOUR

Thy Church, O Christ God, hath regaled herself in the blood of Thy Martyrs throughout the entire world, as in porphyry and purple. Through them she lifteth her voice crying: Turn with Thy compassion toward Thy people, and grant peace to Thy city, and to our souls the Great Mercy.

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

### KONTAKION OF ALL SAINTS IN TONE EIGHT

As first-fruits of our nature to the Planter of created things, \* the world presenteth the God-bearing martyred Saints in off'ring unto Thee, O Lord. \* Through their earnest entreaties, \* keep Thy Church in deep peace and divine tranquility, \* through the pure Theotokos, O Thou Who art greatly merciful.



## SNIPPETS ABOUT THE APOSTLES FAST

The canons of Nicephoros, Patriarch of Constantinople (806-816), mention the Apostle's Fast. The Typicon of St. Theodore the Studite from the Monastery of Studios in Constantinople speaks of the Forty Days Fast of the holy Apostles. St. Symeon of Thessalonica (†1429) explains the purpose of this fast in this manner:

*“The Fast of the Apostles is justly established in their honor, for through them we have received numerous benefits and for us they are exemplars and teachers of the fast ... For one week after the descent of the Holy Spirit, in accordance with the Apostolic Constitution composed by Clement, we celebrate, and then during the following week, we fast in honor of the Apostles.”*

The spiritual benefit derived from the Apostles' Fast is great. Saint Leo the Great noted that, “After the extended feast of Pentecost, the fast is particularly needed in order to cleanse our mind by ascetic labors, and to make us worthy of the gifts of the Holy Spirit.” Saint Leo also reminds us, “In the Apostolic canons inspired by God Himself, the Church fathers have, at the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, established first and foremost that all virtuous labors begin with fasting.”

Neglecting the fast is not the only pitfall to be avoided however. Those who fast may be tempted to judge those who do not fast, thus losing the efficacy of their labors. We should not concern ourselves with what others are doing but concentrate on our own spiritual life.

This is precisely why, in her wisdom, the holy Church offers us the period of the Apostles' Fast soon after Pentecost and just prior to the feast of the Holy Apostles Peter and Paul who were worthy to receive the Holy Spirit. If the aim of the Christian life is the acquisition of the Holy Spirit, we must engage in the struggle through fasting and continual prayer. It is only then that we may acquire the Holy Spirit and can properly appreciate and be joyous in the feast of the Holy Apostles Peter and Paul.

*(source: “The Fast and the Feast of Saints Peter and Paul” By Bishop Thomas Joseph and Peter Schweitzer, antiochian.org)*



“...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, Margaret Mourad, Carol Simone, Vincent and Irene Benfatti, Al and Gloria Mizhir, as well as Thelma and Robert Badwey.

Prayers for the recently departed servant of God Chaefick Mansour, brother of Ray Mansour, are requested by Ray and Vincenza (Jennie) Mansour. May the Lord remember Chaefick in His heavenly Kingdom.

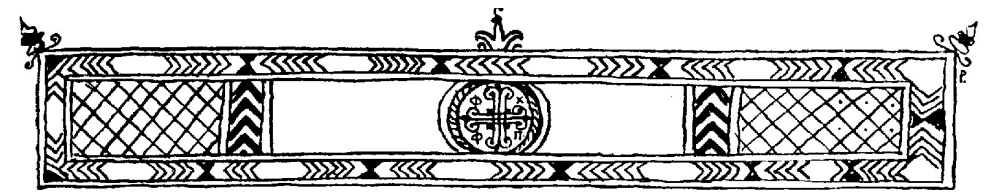
Prayers for the servant of God Neal Garton - a loving husband, son and father of four - fighting cancer, are requested by Elena Ripley.

**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.**

Early Christians expressed their concern for the repose of the souls of their beloved by works of charity and love and by personal and communal prayers. The Apostolic Constitutions recommended that part of the possessions of a dead person be distributed to the poor in his "memory". St. John Chrysostom, Jerome, Tertullian, and others also recommended alms giving in memory of the dead although they believe that this and other good works for the repose of the soul of the dead also benefit the doers.

In the Orthodox Church the various prayers for the departed have as their purpose to pray for the repose of the departed, to comfort the living, and to remind those who remain behind of their own mortality, and the brevity of this earthly life. For this reason, memorial services have an air of penitence about them and tend to be served more frequently during the four fasting seasons (Great Lent, Nativity Fast, Apostles' Fast and Dormition Fast).

(source: [orthodoxwiki.org](http://orthodoxwiki.org))



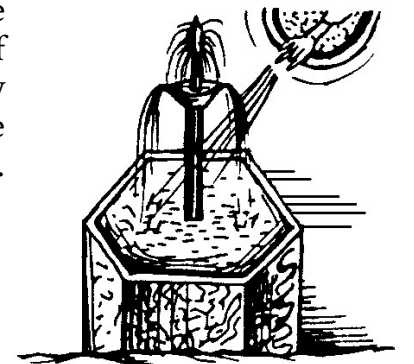
## THE SYNAXARION (AN ABRIDGED COLLECTION OF THE "LIVES OF THE SAINTS")

On June 23 in the Holy Orthodox Church, we commemorate the Martyr Agrippina of Rome; and Hieromartyrs Aristocles the Presbyter, Demetrios the Deacon, and Athanasius the Reader, of Cyprus.

On this day, the Sunday after Pentecost, we celebrate the feast of All Saints who shone forth throughout all the world, North and South, East and West.

*Verses*  
*Of all my Lord's friends, I laud and sing the praises;*  
*And let any to come, with them all be numbered.*

David the Prophet and king, who revered the beloved of God, and respected them because of his great piety, said in the Psalms, "How precious are Thy beloved unto me, O God" (138:17). And the Apostle Paul, in his Epistle to the Hebrews, recounted the lives of the saints, when he wrote, "Wherefore, seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin that so easily besets us; and let us run with patience the race that is set before us" (12:1). Therefore, as Orthodox Christians, we honor the beloved saints of God, respecting them as keepers of God's commandments, shining examples of virtue and benefactors of humanity. We commemorate all of the holy ones every year on this day, as the list of saints ever increases, even though some of their names escape us. Nevertheless, we honor them for their piety and strive to imitate their good works. By the intercessions of Thine immaculate Mother, O Christ God, and of all Thy Saints from the beginning of time, have mercy and save us, since Thou alone art good and the Lover of mankind. Amen.



## THE EPISTLE

*God is wonderful among His saints. Bless God in the congregations.*

### **The Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Hebrews. (11:33-12:2)**

Brethren, all the saints 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, put foreign armies to flight. Women received their dead by resurrection. Some were tortured, refusing to accept release, so 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 tempted, 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. Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfection of our faith.



## THE GOSPEL

### **The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew.**

**(10:32-33, 37—38; 19:27-30)**

The Lord said to His disciples, “Everyone who acknowledges Me before men, I also will acknowledge before my Father Who is in heaven; but whoever denies Me before men, I also will deny before My Father Who is in heaven. He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me; and he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me; and he who does not take his cross and follow Me is not worthy of Me.” Then Peter said in reply, “Lo, we have left everything and followed Thee. What then shall we have?” Jesus said to them, “Truly, I say to you, in the New World, when the Son of Man shall sit on His glorious throne, you who have followed Me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. And every one who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or wife or children or lands, for My Name’s sake, will receive a hundred fold, and inherit eternal life. But many that are first will be last, and the last first.”





## SPIRITUAL MORSELS FOR THE SPIRITUAL LIFE

*“Orthodoxy is life. If we don’t live Orthodoxy, we simply are not Orthodox, no matter what formal beliefs we might hold.”*

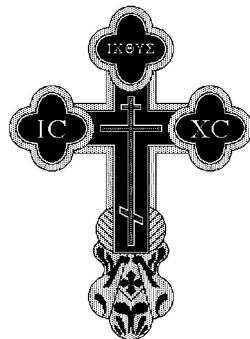
*+Fr. Seraphim Rose*

*“Learn to pray and endure everything, as the Lord Jesus Christ endured. If they abused and crucified Him, then how can we expect any kind of justice? There is no justice on earth and will not be. Righteousness and Truth were crucified on the cross.”*

*+Igumen Nikon Vorobiev*

*“The husband and wife should be like the hand and eye. When the hand hurts, the eyes should be crying, and when the eyes cry, the hand should wipe away the tears.”*

*+St. John Chrysostom*



## A LITTLE DAILY WISDOM FROM THE EARLY CHURCH

*“To all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.”*

*John 1:12-13*

The thought often occurred to a hermit to rest today and do penance tomorrow. He would challenge his thought by saying, “No! I will do penance today. May God’s will be done tomorrow.”

**To all who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God.**

*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*