



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

## 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?

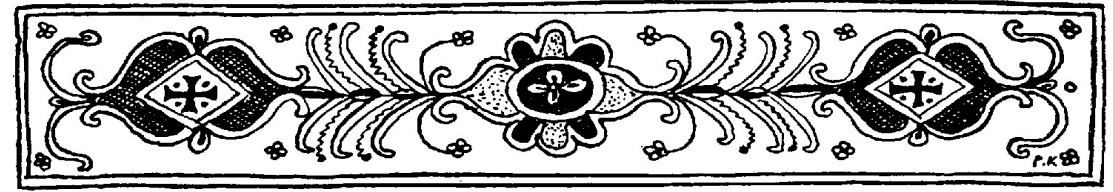
## +HOLY COMMUNION (EUCARIST)+

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.



## 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

NO Great Vespers on 6/15

### Sunday

Orthros 8:30AM

Divine Liturgy 9:30AM

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

## WEEKLY COMMUNITY BIBLE STUDY

Fr. Paul attending PLC - NO Bible Study on 6/13

## HIGHLIGHTS

**Diocese of Miami and the Southeast Parish Life Conference - Note Weekly Schedule above**

June 12 -15. For more info visit: <https://www.antiochianevents.com/miami.html>

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

**Feast of Sts. Peter and Paul** - June 29 - Divine Liturgy 6:00PM w/light refreshments immediately following @ St. Peter in Bonita Springs.

+Today's Fellowship Coffee Hour is sponsored Ed Kappaz, Jo Krevinko, and Shirley Nicholas+

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

**SUNDAY - JUNE 09, 2019**

**SUNDAY OF THE AFTER-FEAST OF THE ASCENSION**

**COMMEMORATION OF THE HOLY FATHERS OF THE FIRST ECUMENICAL COUNCIL**

**CYRIL, ARCHBISHOP OF ALEXANDRIA; PELAGIA AND THE THREE VIRGIN-MARTYRS OF CHIOS; VENERABLE CYRIL OF BELOZERSK; VENERABLE COLUMBA, ENLIGHTENER OF SCOTLAND**

**+DIVINE LITURGY OF ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM+**

**RESURRECTIONAL APOLYTIKION IN TONE SIX**

When Mary stood at Thy grave, looking for Thy sacred body, angelic powers shone above Thy revered tomb. And the soldiers who were to keep guard became as dead men. Thou led Hades captive and wast not tempted thereby. Thou didst meet the Virgin and didst give life to the world, O Thou, Who art risen from the dead, O Lord, glory to Thee.

**APOLYTIKION OF THE ASCENSION IN TONE FOUR**

Thou hast ascended in glory, O Christ our God, and gladdened Thy Disciples with the promise of the Holy Spirit, making them confident through the blessing that Thou art the Son of God, and Deliverer of the world.

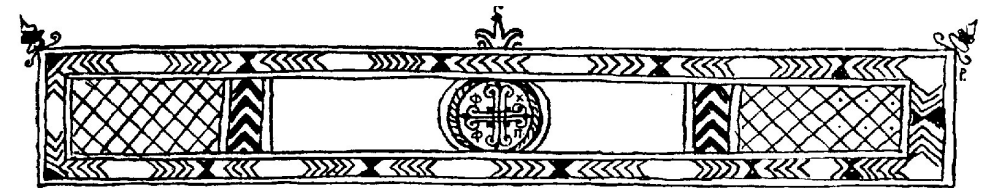
**APOLYTIKION OF THE HOLY FATHERS IN TONE EIGHT**

Thou, O Christ, art our God of exceeding praise Who didst establish our holy Fathers as luminous stars upon earth, and through them didst guide us unto the true Faith, O most merciful One, glory to Thee.

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

**KONTAKION OF THE ASCENSION IN TONE SIX**

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.



**THE SYNAXARION**

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

On June 9 in the Holy Orthodox Church, we commemorate our father among the saints Cyril, archbishop of Alexandria; Pelagia and the three Virgin-martyrs of Chios; Venerable Cyril of Belozersk; and Venerable Columba, enlightener of Scotland.

On this day, the seventh Sunday of Pascha, we celebrate the first Ecumenical Council of the 318 God-bearing Fathers, which took place in Nicaea in Bithynia.

**Verses**

*O ye light-bearing stars of the spiritual firmament, enlighten my mind with your rays.*

**Verses Against Arius**

*Calling the Son a stranger to the Father's essence, Arius proved to be a stranger to God's glory.*

Arius, the notorious heretic, began to blaspheme against God and His Son the Word, saying that the latter was not God consubstantial with the Father, but that He was created as a stranger to the Substance of the Father and His glory. Alexander, the Archbishop of Alexandria, tried to constrain Arius from disturbing the faithful with this teaching; even though Alexander excommunicated him, Arius did not cease his blasphemy, which spread throughout the Church in all nations. Thus, Emperor Constantine the Great called the First Ecumenical Council, which gathered bishops and teachers in the Church from all lands. They all proclaimed, as by one mouth, the equality of the Son of God with the Father in Substance, thus laying down the noble Confession of Faith, The Creed, which we Orthodox Christians recite to this day. The Church regards these divine Fathers as preachers of the Faith next to the holy Apostles.

By the intercessions of the 318 God-bearing Fathers, O Christ God, have mercy on us. Amen.

## THE EPISTLE

*Blessed are Thou, O Lord, the God of our Fathers. For Thou art just in all Thou has done.*

### **The Reading from the Acts of the Apostles. (20:16-18, 28-36)**

In those days, Paul had decided to sail past Ephesus, so that he might not have to spend time in Asia; for he was hastening to be at Jerusalem, if possible, on the day of Pentecost. And from Miletus he sent to Ephesus and called to him the elders of the church. And when they came to him, he said to them: "Take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for the church of God which he obtained with the blood of his own Son. I know that after my departure fierce wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock; and from among your own selves will arise men speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after them. Therefore, be alert, remembering that for three years I did not cease night or day to admonish everyone with tears. And now I commend you to God and to the word of His grace, which is able to build you up and to give you the inheritance among all those who are sanctified. I coveted no one's silver or gold or apparel. You yourselves know that these hands ministered to my necessities, and to those who were with me. In all things I have shown you that by so toiling one must help the weak, remembering the words of the Lord Jesus, how He said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'" And when he had spoken thus, he knelt down and prayed with them all.



## THE GOSPEL

### **The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. John. (17:1-13)**

At that time, Jesus lifted up His eyes to heaven and said, "Father, the hour has come; glorify Thy Son that the Son may glorify Thee, since Thou hast given Him power over all flesh, to give eternal life to all whom Thou hast given Him. And this is eternal life, that they know Thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ Whom Thou hast sent. I glorified Thee on earth, having accomplished the work which Thou gavest Me to do; and now, Father, glorify Thou Me in Thy own presence with the glory which I had with Thee before the world was made. I have manifested Thy Name to the men whom Thou gavest Me out of the world; Thine they were, and Thou gavest them to Me, and they have kept Thy word. Now they know that everything that Thou hast given Me is from Thee; for I have given them the words which Thou gavest Me, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from Thee; and they have believed that Thou didst send Me. I am praying for them; I am not praying for the world but for those whom Thou hast given Me, for they are Thine; all Mine are Thine, and Thine are Mine, and I am glorified in them. And now I am no more in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to Thee. Holy Father, keep them in Thy Name, which Thou hast given Me, that they may be one, even as We are one. While I was with them, I kept them in Thy Name, which Thou have given Me; I have guarded them, and none of them is lost but the son of perdition, that the scripture might be fulfilled. But now I am coming to Thee; and these things I speak in the world, that they may have My joy fulfilled in themselves."







“...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.

**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))



## 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](http://AC2019GR.ORG)**





## SPIRITUAL MORSELS FOR THE SPIRITUAL LIFE

*"A flower of a rose does not make a sound, but its fragrance disperses far in silence... So all Christians must live!"*

*+St. Theophan the Recluse*

*"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*

*"Just as people do not enter a war in order to enjoy war, but in order to be saved from war, so we do not enter this world in order to enjoy this world, but in order to be saved from it. People go to war for the sake of something greater than war. So we also enter this temporal life for the sake of something greater: for eternal life. And as soldiers think with joy about returning home, so also Christians constantly remember the end of their lives and their return to their heavenly fatherland."*

*+St. Nikolai Velimerovich*



## A LITTLE DAILY WISDOM FROM THE EARLY CHURCH

*How long will you torment me, and break me in pieces with words?  
Job 19:2*

Evagrius Ponticus wrote, "Focus your attention on your prayer. Do not allow any other thoughts to distract you. All they will do is interrupt your prayer. When the devils understand that you are serious about fervent prayer, they will suggest subtle things that seem important. Soon enough, you will be unable to continue praying. This will discourage you."

**Focus your attention on your prayer.**

*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*