



SAINT PAUL



ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH



REV. FR. PAUL GIRGIS
509.845.4540 :: FRPAULGIRGIS@GMAIL.COM

2425 RIVERS ROAD, NAPLES, FLORIDA 34120
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

JULY 7, 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?

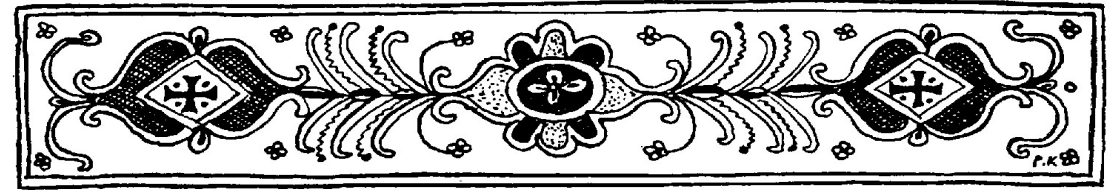
+HOLY COMMUNION (EUCHARIST)+

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

COMING UP:

July 12 (Thursday)

Feast of St. Paisios the Athonite

Preparation Prayers: 9:30AM

Divine Liturgy: 10:00AM

+Today's Fellowship Coffee Hour is sponsored by Bessie Jarjoura and Judy Tirakis+

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

SUNDAY - JULY 7, 2019

GREAT-MARTYR KYRIAKI OF NICOMEDIA

VENERABLE THOMAS OF MT. MALEON; HIEROMARTYR EVANGELOS, BISHOP OF TOMI (CONSTANTA) IN ROMANIA; NEW-MARTYR POLYCARP; EUDOKIA, PRINCESS OF MOSCOW

+DIVINE LITURGY OF ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM+

RESURRECTIONAL APOLYTIKION OF IN TONE TWO

When Thou didst submit Thyself unto death, O Thou deathless and immortal One, then Thou didst destroy hell with Thy Godly power. And when Thou didst raise the dead from beneath the earth, all the powers of Heaven did cry aloud unto Thee: O Christ, Thou giver of life, glory to Thee.

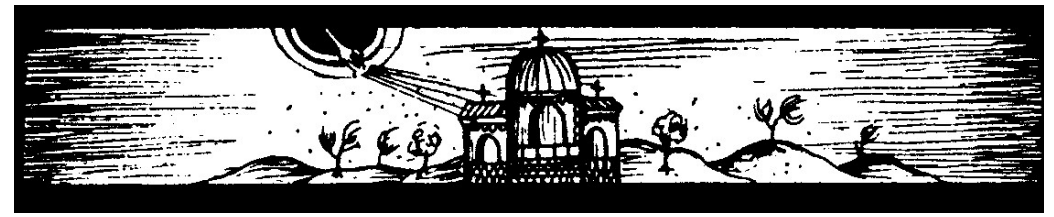
APOLYTIKION FOR ST. KYRIAKI IN TONE FIVE

Thou didst prove an auspicious and pleasing sacrifice, a holy offering, O valiant prizewinner Kyriaki, when thou broughtest thy Creator thine own spotless soul; which Christ in turn hath glorified, for through thee, He poureth forth divine gifts and endless graces upon the faithful who praise thee, since He is the Friend of man.

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

ORDINARY KONTAKION IN TONE TWO

O protection of Christians that cannot be put to shame, mediation unto the Creator most constant, O despise not the suppliant voices of those who have sinned; but be thou quick, O good one, to come unto our aid, who in faith cry unto thee: Hasten to intercession, and speed thou to make supplication, thou who dost ever protect, O Theotokos, them that honor thee.



SPIRITUAL MORSELS FOR THE SPIRITUAL LIFE

“You should be joyful! Jesus holds a sculptor's chisel in His hands. He wants to make you into a statue for the Heavenly Palace.”

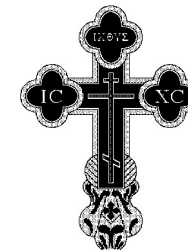
+St. Amphilochios of Patmos

“It is a fact that the Eternal God listens to us -- corruptible as we are -- more than we listen to Him.”

+St. Nikolai Velimirovich

“A fish that is alive swims against the flow of water. One that is dead floats down with the water. A true Christian goes against the current of sinful age. A false one is swept away by its swiftness.”

+St. Philaret of Moscow





**“...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, Lazarus (Lou) and Shirley Nicholas, as well as Thelma and Robert Badwey.

“Trisagion Prayers of Mercy” (*Memorial Service*) for the departed servants of God Michael and Janet Khairallah, as well as the servant of God Aziz Salibi are requested by Naila (Khairallah) Salibi, Julie Salibi and their family. We pray that God grant Maurice and Naila Salibi, Julie Salibi, Dana Salibi and their families many more years.

**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)



THE SYNAXARION

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

On July 7 in the Holy Orthodox Church, we commemorate the holy and glorious Great-Martyr Kyriaki of Nicomedia.

Verses

Though Kyriaki dieth before beheading, she is perfected by the sword in volition. On the seventh, Kyriaki ascended to her Betrothed.

Kyriaki means “the Lord’s day” in Greek. Her devoutly Christian parents, Doretheus and Eusebia, gave their only child this name because she was born on a Sunday. From her childhood, Kyriaki consecrated herself to God, restraining from everything that unruly children do. When she matured, beautiful in body and soul, many suitors came to ask for her hand in marriage. Kyriaki refused them all, saying that she betrothed herself to Christ the Lord and desired to die as a virgin. One of the rejected suitors denounced Kyriaki and her parents to Emperor Diocletian as being Christians. The emperor ordered that her parents be tortured and banished to the town of Melitene where they died for Christ. Kyriaki endured trial and similar tortures. When Kyriaki lay in her prison cell, completely covered with wounds, Christ the Lord appeared to her, healed her and said: “Kyriaki, do not be afraid of torture. My grace is with you.” When she was taken from there for beheading, Kyriaki—bearing in mind all of the glorious martyrs before her—offered one last prayer that God would have mercy and save all those who would celebrate her memory, and to give rest to her soul together with the souls of her parents. Kyriaki rendered her soul to God just before the sword was lowered on her head. Many pagans believed in Christ through her, and also received martyrdom. Kyriaki was received into eternal joy in 289 in Nicomedia.

On this day, we also commemorate Venerable Thomas of Mount Maleon; Hieromartyr Evangelos, bishop of Tomi (Constanta) in Romania; New-martyr Polycarp; and Eudokia, princess of Moscow.

By the intercessions of Thy Saints, O Christ God, have mercy upon us. Amen.

THE EPISTLE

God is wondrous in His saints. Bless God in the congregations.

The Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Galatians. (3:23-4:5)

Brethren, before faith came, we were confined under the Law, kept under restraint until faith should be revealed. So that the Law was our custodian until Christ came, that we might be justified by faith. But now that faith has come, we are no longer under a custodian; for in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, through faith. For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus. And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to promise. I mean that the heir, as long as he is a child, is no better than a slave, though he is the owner of all the estate; but he is under guardians and trustees until the date set by the father. So with us; when we were children, we were slaves to the elemental spirits of the universe. But when the time had fully come, God sent forth His Son, to redeem those who were under the Law, so that we might receive adoption as sons.



THE GOSPEL

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew. (6:22-33)

The Lord said, "The eye is the lamp of the body. So, if your eye is sound, your whole body will be full of light; but if your eye is evil, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light in you is darkness, how great is the darkness! No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon. Therefore, I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you shall eat or what you shall drink; nor about your body, what you shall put on. Is not the soul more than food, and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of heaven: they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? And which of you by being anxious can add one cubit to his stature? And why are you anxious about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin; yet I tell you, even Solomon himself in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is alive and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will He not much more clothe you, O men of little faith? Therefore, do not be anxious, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' For the Gentiles seek all these things; and your heavenly Father knows that you need them all. But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things shall be yours as well."



Patriotism: Let Us Lead the World in a Spirit of Humility

July 4, 2019 | by Fr. Vladimir Berzonsky

“Let every person be subject to the governing authorities; for there is no authority except from God, and those authorities that exist have been instituted by God” (Romans 13:1)

It has always been true that the Christians were to pray for and to obey the civil authorities. That is both consistent through Church history and the official doctrine of the Church. It’s the official teaching, even when the ruler is a tyrant or a persecutor of Christians such as Diocletian and Nero. St. Paul insists on this rule for several reasons:

A. He is opposing the party of his fellow Hebrews called Zealots. We would term them terrorists in our times. Zealots wanted no king at all other than the Lord God. They felt no Jew should pay taxes except the temple tax. Their aim was to make any government impossible, and they were not content to wait for better conditions. They carried daggers and made vows to use them to rebel against the Roman powers. We see their like in al Qaida, the followers of bin Laden, who used Afghanistan to organize and prepare for their war against the West, and specifically the USA. A poor and even wicked government is better than the chaos of no government at all.

B. There is more in St. Paul’s words. Christianity is a social faith, not a refuge for individualists. Jesus Christ did not hide from society; He went among the crowds and persuaded any who would listen to Him. Christians have a responsibility to the country they live in. During the terrible persecutions of the Russian Orthodox Church under Communism, when many believers fled the country and set up a Church in exile, the Patriarch Sergius insisted that the place of the clergy was with the suffering people, regardless of the cost.

C. St. Paul’s primary point was that despite appearances to the contrary, God is in charge of the world and society. Ultimately everything that happens is part of His grand design for our salvation. Hope, faith and confidence in His will for our lives are always open to us, and the traumas of difficult times even offer opportunities that good times may not.

America today is flush with the victory over Iraq. We are a proud nation; but pride is a risky business, perilous for spiritual growth. The Greek term hubris always portends a plunge downward. In St. Paul’s time Rome was the aggressor and suppressor of Christians. Today many of our fellow citizens feel that we should act like Rome. Who cares what other nations think—we proved that we don’t need them. And we are blind to the evidence screaming out at us that we are hated throughout the Muslim world including Iraq which we “liberated.” It’s not a time for cockiness or arrogance. It’s time to get over pique and “punishing” France for daring to oppose our invasion of Iraq.

The good side, for those old enough to remember, is the love of their country expressed by those who proved their patriotism with their lives—not many of our military personnel did die, but they were prepared to do so. In the past half century, our nation has had a roller coaster ride of loyalty. Selfishness, ungratefulness and mockery of all values marked the Sixties. Our flag was burned in our homeland, or worn on the seats of pants. Now it flies from our autos, homes and buildings everywhere. How glorious is the contrast. Young people are eager to serve their nation, women and men celebrating the life they earned the right to honor, and a bond of unity washes over the land like a cleansing stream, purifying us all as it rinses us from the dust of the 9/11 tragedy in Wall Street, New York City.

This is the best part of who we are. It is not the time to change our values. God and country, in that order. Yes, let us lead the world—but let us do so in a spirit of cooperation, friendliness and humility.



A LITTLE DAILY WISDOM FROM THE EARLY CHURCH

Abraham, having patiently endured, obtained the promise.

Hebrews 6:15

Abba Poemen said, “Put a snake or scorpion in a box and it will eventually die. Evil thoughts planted by the demons will gradually lose their influence if you resist them long enough.”

Abraham patiently endured and obtained the promise.

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



*“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*