



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

AUGUST 25, 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?

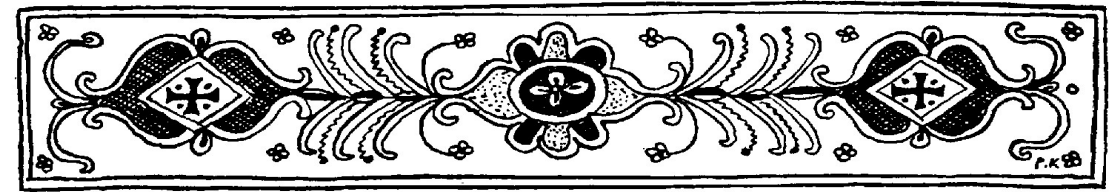
+HOLY COMMUNION (EUCARIST)+

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.



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	Sunday
Great Vespers 6:00PM-6:45PM	Orthros 8:30AM Divine Liturgy 9:30AM

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

WEEKLY COMMUNITY BIBLE STUDY - ON SUMMER BREAK!

God willing, we return Thursday September 12, 6:00PM-7:00PM

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2nd Annual Diocese Fall Retreat - September 6 & 7 - St. Ignatius Franklin, TN. Guest Speakers, Workshops, Fellowship, Child Care w/Activities, etc. Email info@stpaulnaples.org for more info.

Please keep John Filippakis in your prayers as he continues, by the grace of God, to beautify the church nave according to the ancient Orthodox Christian tradition of Byzantine Iconography.

+Today's Fellowship Coffee Hour is sponsored by Leslie Yurkovac+

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, Joe and the Hessney family, Christopher and the Sapp family, Al and Anna Castley, Victor and Lucy Bard, 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 - Thelma has a CAT scan on Tuesday to check on the “status” of her cancer-free health. Please pray for her.

Prayers for the health of Tatiana, Marina, Sofia, Kyra, Gregory, Irene, and Vincent Benfatti are requested by Vincent and Irene Benfatti.

Prayers in memory, and the peaceful repose, of Ludmila, Gregory, Marina, Maria, Ivan, and Vincent Sr. are requested by Vincent and Irene Benfatti.

Please keep Judy Tirakis in your prayers as she continues to be hospitalized for an intense episode of vertigo.

**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).

SUNDAY - AUGUST 25, 2019

**TENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
& TENTH SUNDAY OF MATTHEW**

**RETURN OF THE RELICS OF THE APOSTLE BARTHOLOMEW;
HOLY APOSTLE TITUS OF THE SEVENTY;
ARCHBISHOPS MENAS, EPIPHANIOS, GENNADIOS AND JOHN OF CONSTANTINOPLE**

+DIVINE LITURGY OF ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM+

RESURRECTIONAL APOLYTIKION IN TONE ONE

While the stone was sealed by the Jews, and the soldiers were guarding Thy most pure body, Thou didst arise on the third day, O Savior, granting life to the world. For which cause the heavenly powers cried aloud unto Thee, O giver of life. Glory to Thy Resurrection, O Christ, glory to Thy kingdom, glory to Thy providence, O Thou Who alone art the lover of mankind.

APOLYTIKION FOR SS. BARTHOLOMEW & TITUS IN TONE THREE

O Holy Apostles, intercede with our merciful God, to grant our souls forgiveness of sins.

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

KONTAKION OF THE NATIVITY OF THE THEOTOKOS IN TONE FOUR

By thy holy nativity, O pure one, Joachim and Anna were delivered from the reproach of barrenness; and Adam and Eve were delivered from the corruption of death; thy people do celebrate it, having been saved from the stain of iniquity, crying unto thee: The barren doth give birth to the Theotokos, who nourisheth our life.

THE EPISTLE

(For the Tenth Sunday after Pentecost)

Let Thy mercy, O Lord, be upon us. Rejoice in the Lord, O ye righteous.

The Reading from the First Epistle of St. Paul to the Corinthians. (4:9-16)

Brethren, God has exhibited us Apostles as last of all, like men sentenced to death; because we have become a spectacle to the world, to angels and to men. We are fools for Christ's sake, but you are wise in Christ. We are weak, but you are strong. You are held in honor, but we in disrepute. To the present hour we hunger and thirst, we are ill clad and buffeted and homeless; and we labor, working with our own hands. When reviled, we bless; when persecuted, we endure; when slandered, we try to conciliate; we have become, and are now, as the refuse of the world, the off scouring of all things. I do not write this to make you ashamed, but to admonish you as my beloved children. For though you have countless guides in Christ, you do not have many fathers. For I became your father in Christ Jesus through the Gospel. I urge you, then, be imitators of me.



THE GOSPEL

(For the Tenth Sunday of Pentecost)

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew. (17:14-23)

At that time, a man came up to Jesus and kneeling before Him said, "Lord, have mercy on my son, for he is an epileptic and he suffers terribly; for often he falls into the fire, and often into the water. And I brought him to Thy disciples, and they could not heal him." And Jesus answered, "O faithless and perverse generation, how long am I to be with you? How long am I to bear with you? Bring him here to me." And Jesus rebuked him, and the demon came out of him, and the boy was cured instantly. Then the disciples came to Jesus privately and said, "Why could we not cast it out?" Jesus said to them, "Because you have no faith. For truly, I say to you, if you have faith as a grain of mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move; and nothing will be impossible to you. This kind never comes out except by prayer and fasting." As they were traveling together through Galilee, Jesus said to them, "The Son of man is to be delivered into the hands of men, and they will kill Him, and He will rise on the third day."



FELLOWSHIP COFFEE HOUR

Join us immediately after the Divine Worship each Sunday for Fellowship Coffee Hour.

There is great joy in serving, offering hospitality, and "breaking bread" together, which are essential elements of the Christian life.

In order to avoid allowing this "labor of love" to fall upon the same few people week-after-week, please sign-up to sponsor the Fellowship Coffee Hour on any available Sunday.

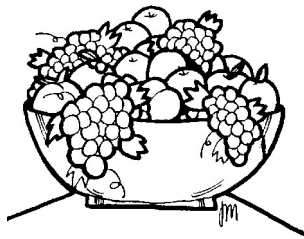
"Great - what exactly am I signing up for?"

Simply bring 1 1/2 - 2 dozen Bagels sliced in half (or specialty breads, breakfast cake, etc.) to the kitchen, upon arrival to service Sunday morning. After service, set the food out and then clean up at the end - there is help so you're not alone! We already have the toppers (peanut butter, jam, etc.), paper goods, and coffee at the parish!

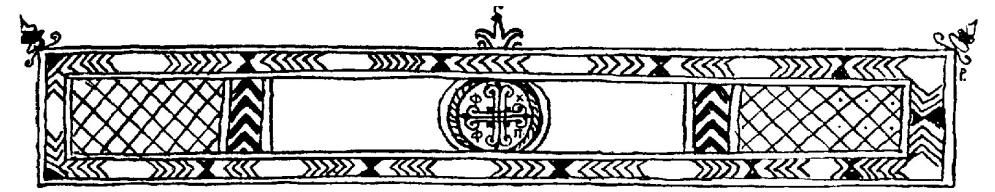
"Can I support Fellowship Coffee Hour in a different way?"

No problem - make an offering that would donate towards the bagels and we will handle the rest!

Either way, keep it simple and give it a shot!



Don't wait - there is a sign-up sheet on the announcement board or reach out to our Antiochian Women (AW) Chair, Anna Castley (anna@icsamerica.com), to learn which Sunday is available.



THE SYNAXARION

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

On August 25 in the Holy Orthodox Church we commemorate the return of the holy relics of the holy glorious Apostle Bartholomew.

Verses

*Bartholomew is found, though was hidden,
that we the faithful might reap grace in abundance.
They found thy body on the twenty-fifth, O Bartholomew.*

When Bartholomew was crucified in Albanopolis (Derbend) in Armenia, Christians removed his body and honorably buried it in a lead sarcophagus. When numerous miracles and healings occurred over the grave of the apostle—because of which the number of Christians increased—the pagans then took the sarcophagus containing the relics of Bartholomew and tossed it into the sea. They did the same to the sarcophagi of four other martyrs. However, by God's providence, none of them sank and the current carried them to separate but safe shores. Agathon, bishop of the island of Lipara, mystically learned of Bartholomew's approaching relics and, with the clergy and people, came to the shore to receive them with great joy. On that occasion, many healings of the sick occurred from the relics of the holy Bartholomew.

On this day, we commemorate the holy Apostle Titus of the Seventy, bishop of Gortynia in Crete. Titus was born in Crete and educated in Greek philosophy and poetry. Following a dream, he began reading the Prophet Isaiah and doubted all the wisdom of the Hellenes. Hearing about Christ the Lord, Titus traveled to Jerusalem with other Cretans and personally heard the words of the Savior and witnessed His mighty works. His young heart completely adhered to Christ. Later, he was baptized by the Apostle Paul whom he served as a son to a father in evangelization. Titus was present at the suffering and death of Paul in Rome and honorably buried his body. After that, Titus returned to Crete where, with great success, he baptized the pagans and prudently governed the Church of God until his repose at age 94.

On this day, we also commemorate our Holy Fathers Menas, Epiphanius, Gennadios and John, archbishops of Constantinople.

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



A LITTLE DAILY WISDOM FROM THE EARLY CHURCH

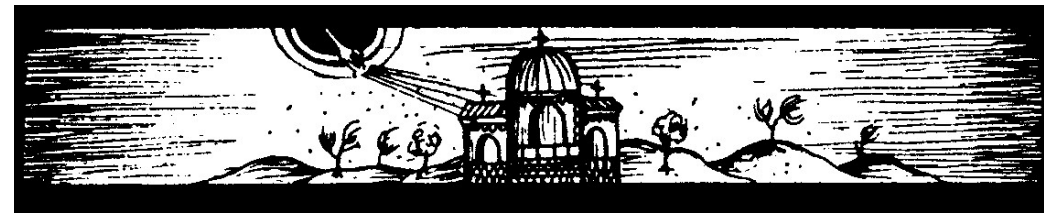
I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.

Romans 12:1

Evagrius Ponticus wrote, “If you want to pray in the spirit, use nothing from the flesh. This will prevent a cloud from obscuring your sight when you pray. Trust God to provide what your body needs. Then it will become evident that you also trust God for the needs of your spirit.”

Present your body as a living sacrifice.

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



SPIRITUAL MORSELS FOR THE SPIRITUAL LIFE

“If you do good, you must do it only for God. For this reason you must pay no attention to the ingratitude of people. Expect a reward not here, but from the Lord in Heaven. If you expect it here -- it will be in vain and you will endure deprivation.”

+St. Ambrose of Optina

“Do not think that you have the right to complain when your prayers are not answered. God fulfils your desires in a manner that you do not know.”

+St. Nektarios of Aegina

“There never was, and never will be a place on earth free from sorrows. The only sorrow-less place possible is the heart, when The Lord is present there.”

+St. Nikon of Optina

One man asked a priest:
"If God is everywhere, what do I go to Church for?"

To which the priest replied:
"The whole atmosphere is filled with water, but if you want to drink you have to go to a fountain or a well."



"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