



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

SEPTEMBER 8, 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.



A LITTLE DAILY WISDOM FROM THE EARLY CHURCH

As you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence, but much more now in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

Philippians 2:12-13

Abba Evagrius said, “When your attention wanders, pray. As Paul wrote, pray with fear and trembling, sincerely and carefully. This is the way we should pray, because evil forces are attempting to hold us back.”

God is at work in you.

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



“...PRAY ONE FOR ANOTHER, THAT YOU MAY BE HEALED.
THE EFFECTIVE, FERVENT PRAYER OF A RIGHTEOUS MAN AVAILS MUCH.”
(JAMES 5:16)

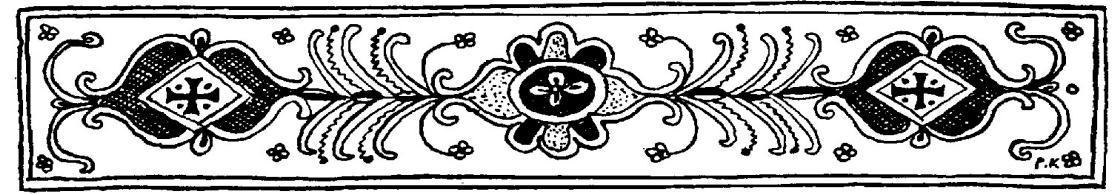
Please continue to pray for Fr. Joe and Kh. Diane, Joe and the Hessney family, Christopher and the Sapp family, Al and Anna Castley, Victor and Lucy Bard, Ed and Marilyn Edge, Robert and Michaelene Aber, Margaret Mourad, Carol Simone, Vincent and Irene Benfatti, Al and Gloria Mizhir, Lazarus (Lou) and Shirley Nicholas, as well as Thelma and Robert Badwey.

**MAY THE LORD OUR GOD HEAR OUR PRAYERS AND SEND DOWN UPON US
HIS DIVINE GRACE FOR HUMBLE-PATIENCE, STRENGTH AND CONSOLATION.**

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)



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 - RETURNS SEPTEMBER 12+

Join us! Thursday's 6:00PM-7:00PM

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Community Bible Study - We are back starting this Thursday (9/12) 6:00PM-7:00PM

Saturday - Sept. 14 - Feast of the Elevation of the Precious Cross

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

+Today's Fellowship Coffee Hour is sponsored by Barbara Hebeka & Marianne Poppe+

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

THE EPISTLE

(For the Sunday before the Elevation of the Holy Cross)

O Lord, save Thy people and bless Thine inheritance.

To Thee, O Lord, I have cried, O my God.

The Reading from the First Epistle of St. Paul to the Galatians. (6:11-18)

Brethren, see with what large letters I am writing to you with my own hand. It is those who want to make a good showing in the flesh that would compel you to be circumcised and only in order that they may not be persecuted for the cross of Christ. For even those who receive circumcision do not themselves keep the Law, but they desire to have you circumcised that they may glory in your flesh. But far be it from me to glory except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified to me and I to the world. For, neither circumcision counts for anything, nor uncircumcision, but a new creation. Peace and mercy be upon all, who walk by this rule, upon the Israel of God. Henceforth let no man trouble me; for I bear on my body the marks of Jesus. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit, brethren. Amen.



THE GOSPEL

(For the Sunday before the Elevation of the Holy Cross)

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. John. (3:13-17)

The Lord said, "No one has ascended into heaven but He who descended from heaven, the Son of man. And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of man be lifted up, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. For, God sent His Son into the world, not to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through Him."



SUNDAY - SEPTEMBER 8, 2019

SUNDAY BEFORE THE ELEVATION OF THE HOLY CROSS & FEAST OF
THE NATIVITY OF THE THEOTOKOS

+DIVINE LITURGY OF ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM+

RESURRECTIONAL APOLYTIKION IN TONE THREE

Let the heavens rejoice and the earth be glad, for the Lord hath done a mighty act with His own arm. He hath trampled down death by death, and become the first-born from the dead. He hath delivered us from the depths of Hades, granting the world the Great Mercy

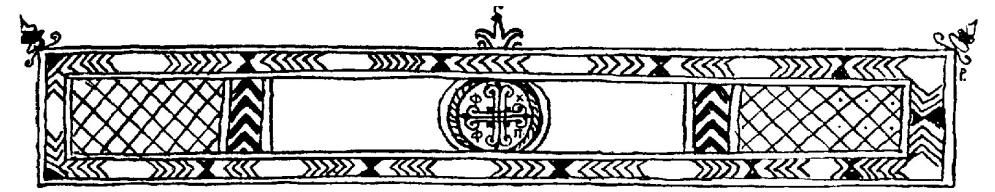
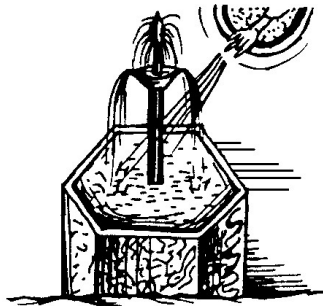
Do NOT sing the apolytikion of the Patron of the parish (St. Paul the Apostle)

APOLYTIKION 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.

KONTAKION OF THE INDICTION IN TONE FOUR

O God of all, Thou Who hast made all the ages, O Sovereign Lord, truly transcendent in essence, Bestow Thy grace and blessing on the year to come; and, O Most Compassionate, in Thine infinite mercy save all them that worship Thee, Who alone art our Master, and that with fear, O Savior, cry to Thee: Grant unto all men a fruitful and godly year.



THE SYNAXARION

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

On September 8 in the Holy Orthodox Church we celebrate the Nativity of our Most-holy Lady, the Theotokos and Ever-virgin Mary.

Verses

*Truly, O Anna, thou surpassest all mothers,
Until that day thy daughter shall become a mother.
On the eighth Anna brought God's Mother into the light.*

The Holy Virgin Mary was born of aged parents, Joachim and Anna. Her father was of the lineage of David, and her mother of the lineage of Aaron. Thus, she was of royal birth by her father and of priestly birth by her mother. In this, she foreshadowed Him Who would be born of her as King and High Priest. Her parents were quite old and had no children. Because of this they were ashamed before men and humble before God. In their humility they prayed to God with tears, to bring them joy in their old age by giving them a child, as He had once given joy to the aged Abraham and his wife Sarah by giving them Isaac. The Almighty and All-seeing God rewarded them with a joy that surpassed all their expectations and all their most beautiful dreams; for He gave them not just a daughter, but the Mother of God. She was Mary, Full of grace, Blessed among women, the Temple of the Holy Spirit, the Altar of the Living God, the Table of the Heavenly Bread, the Ark of God's Holiness, the Tree of the Sweetest Fruit, the Glory of the race of man, the Praise of womanhood, and the Fount of virginity and purity.

Through the intercessions of Thy Mother, O Christ God, have mercy upon us. Amen.

A TABLE IN THE PRESENCE

RETREAT FOR ORTHODOX COMBAT VETERANS



Orthodox Christian combat veterans of OEF and OIF:

The dust remains on your boots and in your rucksacks.

Your fallen brothers remain in your hearts and minds.

Combat is a threshold that cannot be uncrossed.

Your stories are not easy to tell. Who can bear them?

**BUT GOD KNOWS THEM ALL.
AND HIS LOVE FOR YOU ENDURES FOREVER.**

*Your Orthodox Military Chaplains
and some veteran clergy have planned a retreat.*

No cost – just get to us, if you can. We'll take care of the rest.

**WE GATHER TO TALK. WE GATHER TO PRAY.
TO STAND SHOULDER TO SHOULDER AND TO FACE GOD.**

Columbus Day Weekend 2019 at the Antiochian Village

Funding provided by the Order of Saint Ignatius of Antioch
To register, contact Barli Ross at barli@antiochianvillage.org



SPIRITUAL MORSELS FOR THE SPIRITUAL LIFE

“People say that if you feel no inclination to pray, it is better not to pray, but this is crafty, carnal sophistry. If you only pray when you are inclined to, you will completely cease praying; this is what the flesh desires. ‘The Kingdom of Heaven suffers violence’ (Mt. 11:12). You will not be able to work out your salvation without forcing yourself.”

+St. John of Kronstadt

“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