

NOVEMBER 3, 2019



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

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

+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?

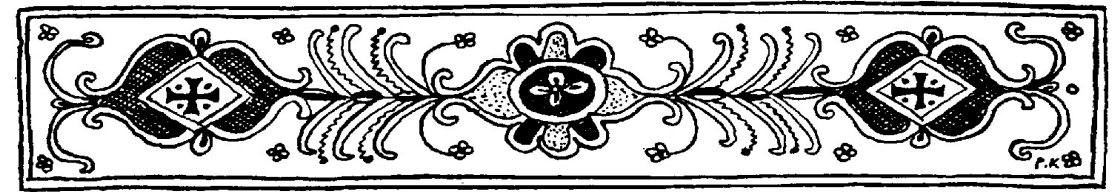
+HOLY COMMUNION (EUCHARIST)+

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

Thursday - Moleban 7:00PM (Following Bible Study)

Saturday - Great Vespers 6:00PM-6:45PM

Sunday - Orthros 8:30AM ; Divine Liturgy 9:30AM

Fr. Paul is available to hear confessions throughout the week - simply make an appointment Don't know anything about confession? Don't worry, Fr. Paul is ready to help (frpaulgirgis@gmail.com).

+WEEKLY COMMUNITY BIBLE STUDY & MOLEBAN (PRAYER FOR HEALING FROM ILLNESS)

Thursday's 6:00PM-7:15PM

+ST. THEOPHAN ORTHODOX ENRICHMENT YOUTH PROGRAM (AGES 4-13)

Every Wednesday 5:00PM-7:00PM (Dinner Provided)

Visit stpaulnaples.org/youthprogram for details and registration

+LOOKING AHEAD

Specialty Bread & Cheese — Pita, Zaatar, Spinach pies, Cheese pies, and more will be available for purchase after the Divine Services.

November 10 — Sunday — Pancake Breakfast @ Fellowship Hour; For tickets see Bessie Jarjoura - \$10 donation (Children under 10 free!)

SAVE THE DATE: Annual Parish Meeting - Sunday March 1, 2020

+Today's Fellowship Coffee Hour is sponsored by Marilyn Edge and Jo Krevinko +



**“...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 (newly departed) and Lucy Bard, Ed and Marilyn Edge, Robert (newly departed) and Michaelene Aber, Margaret Mourad, Carol Simone, Vincent and Irene Benfatti, Al and Gloria Mizhir, Raymond and Vincenza Mansour, as well as Thelma and Robert Badwey.

Prayers for the health of Fr. Joe and Kh. Diane Shaheen, Al and Anna Castley, as well as Jenny “Vincenza” Mansour are requested by Ed and Marilyn Edge.

A Memorial Service will be prayed at the end of the Divine Liturgy on occasion of the 40th Day since the repose of the servant of God Michael Hebeka. May God remember him in His Kingdom.

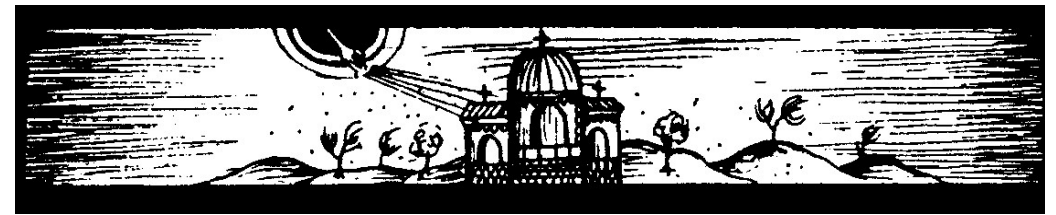
Prayers for the memory of Michael Hebeka are requested by Flora Popovici.

Prayers for the memory of Michael Hebeka, as well as Bob Aber are requested by Ed and Marilyn Edge.

**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*



SPIRITUAL MORSELS FOR THE SPIRITUAL LIFE

“Every holy church is a piece of Heave on earth . And when you’re in church, look — you’re already in Heaven. When the earth torments you with its hell, hurry to church, go inside, and behold — you have entered into Paradise. And if it happens that you are attacked by entire legions of demons, then run to church — stand among the holy angels, for the church is always full of angels, and the angels of God will protect you from every demon of this world. And nothing will be able to hurt you. Do not forget, brothers: We, Christians, are strong by God. Who then can be stronger than us? No one, no one!”

+St. Justin Popovic

“Do not undertake to explain the Gospels or the other books of Holy Scripture yourself... The Holy Spirit, having expressed the Word of God through the prophets and apostles, explained it through the Holy Fathers. Both the Word of God and its explanation are a gift of the Holy Spirit.”

+St. Ignatius Brianchaninov, On Reading the Gospel)



SUNDAY - NOVEMBER 3, 2019

TWENTIETH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST & FIFTH SUNDAY OF LUKE

**MARTYRS AKEPSIMAS, JOSEPH & AEITHALAS OF PERSIA; DEDICATION OF ST.
GEORGE CHURCH IN LYDDA OF PALESTINE**

HIEROMARTYR GEORGE OF NEAPOLIS; THEODORE THE CONFESSOR, BISHOP OF ANCYRA

+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.

APOLYTIKION FOR THE PERSIAN MARTYRS IN TONE FOUR

Thy martyrs, O Lord, in their courageous contest for Thee received as the prize the crowns of incorruption and life from Thee, our immortal God. For, since they possessed Thy strength, they cast down the tyrants and wholly destroyed the demons' strengthless presumption. O Christ God, by their prayers, save our souls, since Thou art merciful.

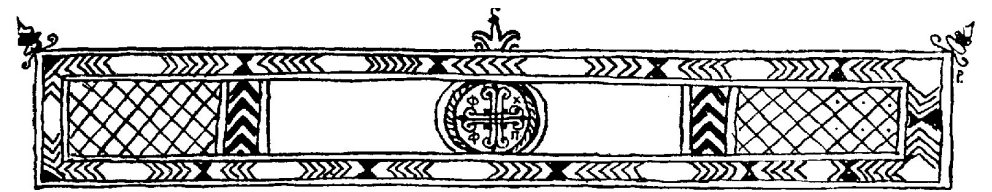
APOLYTIKION FOR ST. GEORGE THE GREAT-MARTYR IN TONE FOUR

Since thou art a liberator and deliverer of captives, a help and support of the poor and needy, a healing physician of the sick, a contender and fighter for kings, O great among Martyrs, the victory-clad George; intercede with Christ God for the salvation of our souls

Now sing the apolytikion of the patron of the parish (Holy Apostle Paul)

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.



THE SYNAXARION

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

On November 3 in the Holy Orthodox Church we commemorate the holy Martyrs Akepsimas the bishop, Joseph the priest and Aeithalas the deacon of Persia.

A child prophesied that 80-year-old Bishop Akepsimas would suffer for Christ. He told a member of his household that he would not return home, but instead go to his "home on high." King Sapor raised a bitter persecution of Christians throughout Persia, and Akepsimas was apprehended and thrown into prison. The following day Joseph, a 70-year-old priest, and Aeithalas, a deacon, were also imprisoned. After three years of imprisonment and many tortures, Akepsimas was beheaded. Joseph and Aeithalas were buried up to their waists in the ground and stoned to death. That night, by God's providence, Joseph's body disappeared, and a myrtle tree grew over Aeithalas' body that healed all diseases and pain. This tree stood for five years before the wicked pagans cut it down. These soldiers of Christ suffered in Persia in the fourth century.

On this day, we also commemorate the Consecration of the Temple of the holy GreatMartyr George in Lydda in Palestine, as well as the deposition of his holy body therein. George's relics came from Nicomedia, where he suffered at the time of Emperor Diocletian. Anticipating his martyrdom, George begged his servant to take his relics to Palestine, where his mother had been born, and where he had distributed his large estate to the poor. The servant did so. During the reign of Emperor Constantine, pious Christians built the beautiful church to house the miracleworking relics of the Great Martyr.

On this day, we also commemorate the Hieromartyr George of Neapolis; and Venerable Theodore the Confessor, bishop of Ancyra. By their intercessions, O Christ God, have mercy upon us. Amen

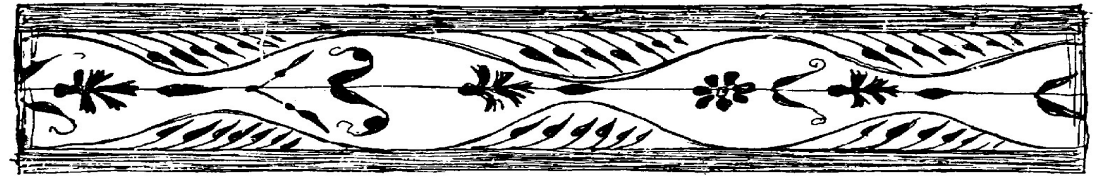
THE EPISTLE

(For the Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost)

Sing praises to our God, sing praises. Clap your hands, all ye peoples.

The Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Galatians. (1:11-19)

Brethren, I would have you know that the Gospel which was preached by me is not man's gospel. For I did not receive it from man, nor was I taught it, but it came through a revelation of Jesus Christ. For you have heard of my former life in Judaism, how I persecuted the Church of God violently and tried to destroy it; and I advanced in Judaism beyond many of my own age among my people; so extremely zealous was I for the traditions of my fathers. But when He Who had set me apart before I was born, and had called me through His grace, was pleased to reveal His Son to me, in order that I might preach Him among the Gentiles, I did not confer with flesh and blood, nor did I go up to Jerusalem to those who were Apostles before me, but I went away into Arabia; and again I returned to Damascus. Then after three years I went up to Jerusalem to visit Cephas, and remained with him fifteen days. But I saw none of the other Apostles except James the Lord's brother.



THE GOSPEL

(For the Fifth Sunday of Luke)

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Luke. (16:19-31)

The Lord said, "There was a rich man, who was clothed in purple and fine linen and who feasted sumptuously every day. And at his gate lay a poor man named Lazarus, full of sores, who desired to be fed with what fell from the rich man's table; moreover the dogs came and licked his sores. The poor man died and was carried by the angels to Abraham's bosom. The rich man also died and was buried; and in Hades, being in torment, he lifted up his eyes, and saw Abraham far off and Lazarus in his bosom. And he called out, 'Father Abraham, have mercy upon me, and send Lazarus to dip the end of his finger in water and cool my tongue; for I am in anguish in this flame.' But Abraham said, 'Son, remember that you in your lifetime received your good things, and Lazarus in like manner evil things; but now he is comforted here, and you are in anguish. And besides all this, between us and you a great chasm has been fixed, in order that those who would pass from here to you may not be able, and none may cross from there to us.' And he said, 'Then I beg you, father, to send him to my father's house, for I have five brothers, so that he may warn them, lest they also come into this place of torment.' But Abraham said, 'They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them.' And he said, 'No, father Abraham; but if someone goes to them from the dead, they will repent.' He said to him, 'If they do not hear Moses and the prophets, neither will they be convinced if someone should rise from the dead.'"



PARISH STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

Dear Brothers and sisters,

Your Stewardship Commitment in 2019 is greatly appreciated. Thank you for supporting the parish through the St. Paul Orthodox Christian Church Stewardship Program.

Stewardship is an opportunity to examine our priorities and values, to express our thankfulness, to give ourselves and to grow in grace. It allows us to participate in the work of God. Bearing fruit in the world is the visible result of our abiding in Christ, the True Vine.

Your Stewardship Commitment is a testimony of your dedication to your own spiritual growth and the spreading of our beloved Orthodox Faith.

As we bring 2019 to a close and approach year end, please be reminded to fulfill your annual Stewardship Commitment (pledge) and if possible help us meet a balanced budget with any additional contributions the Lord has inspired in your heart.

Yours in Christ,

+St. Paul Stewardship Committee



“PARISH COUNCIL CORNER”

PARISH FELLOWSHIP HALL

The Parish Council has appointed a committee to collaborate in prayerfully addressing the needs of our growing community in terms of a Parish Fellowship Hall.

This continues to be a work-in-progress as we are in the early stages.

Current considerations:

- Functional 5,000 sq. ft. w/ability for future expansion
- Efficient Climate Control
- Rest Rooms, Storage, Kitchen (relocated)
- Design and materials will match church Temple
- "Social space" (space to gather) approx. three (3) times the size of Pavilion
 - Seating for approximately 200 people
 - Facilitates countless opportunities for:
 - Parish Events
 - Family Activities
 - Community Outreach, Education, etc.

This beautiful "next step" involves the entire St. Paul parish family. Your input will be specifically requested and most welcome within the next two (2) to three (3) months as more information becomes available.

The Lord is preparing all of us for the fulfillment of His vision for our growing parish. This is the next step in further establishing St. Paul and putting us “on the map” within the greater community.

Please pray for the Lord’s guiding hand and stay tuned for more information.

+Fr. Paul & the St. Paul Parish Council



A LITTLE DAILY WISDOM FROM THE EARLY CHURCH

Those who are wise understand these things; those who are discerning know them. (Hosea 14:9)

A brother who had committed a serious sin decided to confess it to another monk. Instead of openly stating what he had done, the brother asked, “If a thought like this came into someone’s mind, would he be saved?” The monk told him, “There is no hope for you.” Hearing this, the brother thought, “If I am going to perish, I might as well do it in the world.”

As he was abandoning the solitary life, the brother thought of Abba Silvanus and turned aside to visit him. Again, without reporting the nature of his sin, he asked the same oblique question. Silvanus quoted Scripture and said, “That judgement falls on everyone, whether or not they have sinned.” This moved the brother to confess his sin. Like a skilled physician, Silvanus applied ointment of Scripture texts to the wounded one, observing that repentance is available for everyone who turns to God.

Years later, Silvanus encountered the monk who had discouraged the brother. “That brother, who was crushed by your response and was returning to the world, is now a bright star among us.”

Those who are wise understand these things.

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