

**St. Nicholas Antiochian Orthodox Church**

6447 76<sup>th</sup> Avenue, North, Pinellas Park, St. Petersburg, Florida 33781

His Eminence Metropolitan JOSEPH, Archbishop of New York and Metropolitan of North America

His Grace Bishop NICHOLAS, Auxiliary Bishop of Miami & the Southeast

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**March 15, 2020-Gregory Palamas Sunday**

**Welcome to St. Nicholas Antiochian Orthodox Church**

We greet you in the Name of the Lord, and are thankful for your visit to pray with us. Your participation in the work of all who enter here with faith, reverence and the fear of God makes the Divine Liturgy alive. For the “lit-orgia” is truly the “work of the people.”

St. Nicholas Orthodox Church’s mission is to assist people of all races, cultures and backgrounds on their journey to God’s Kingdom by standing firm in the Gospel handed down to us by Christ and His Apostles. We will accomplish this mission by a) living a full liturgical and sacramental life, b) proclaiming the Orthodox Christian faith to all people, c) providing effective charitable and social programs, and d) establishing strong spiritual leadership and educational resources. St. Nicholas is a living reflection of Christ and shines as a light to all people.

Communion is reserved for those Orthodox Christians who prepared themselves through regular confession and fasting from the night before. Others may approach the chalice for a blessing and partake of the antidoron (blessed bread).

To encourage a proper spirit of prayer and devotion, we respectfully ask that you enter the sanctuary quietly during the Diving Liturgy. Please, do NOT enter or exit the sanctuary at the following times:

- When the priest censes the church
- During the Little Entrance with the Gospel
- During the reading of the Epistle and Gospel. (*You may enter the nave immediately after the reading of each is completed*).
- During the delivery of the Sermon
- During the Great Entrance with the Holy Gifts
- During the Prayers of Consecration. *You may enter the nave after the Hymn to the Theotokos “It Is Truly Meet.”*

**REGULAR SERVICE SCHEDULE**

**Saturday 5:00 PM Vespers**

**Sunday 9:30 AM Orthros**

**10:30 AM Divine Liturgy**

**PLEASE PRAY FOR THE FOLLOWING BROTHERS & SISTERS:**

**Departed:** Metropolitan PHILIP, Fr. Alexander Atty, Ronald Paul, Thomas Joseph, Robert Lewis, Charles Misoyianis, George Salem, Zarifeh Jacob Kassis, Lillian Toney, Bill Brennan, Daniel Zorich, Julia Ibrahim, Monsour Georges, Daniel Kobasa, Zeno Ohlinger, Fayek Kassis, George Jacob, Rose Brickwood, Loretta Lahoot

**Shut-Ins/Sick:** Metropolitan PAUL, Archbishop YOHANNAH, Annette Haddad, Nicholas Hughes, Schauki Kassis, John Bennett, Rose Beede, Alice Flaherty, Theodora Ohlinger, Sally Bell, Bob Bostley, Bill Yopp, George Joseph Rolfes, Aurelia Buda, Evelyn Lonack, Richard Pippy, Diane Zorich, Lisa McCoy, Viola Haddad, Susana Kassis, Mary Semaan

**For the Health of:** Fr. Lazarus Sucanto, Kh. Virginia Massouh, Pf. Margot Siniari, Angela Jacob, Farhat David, Helen Massarelli, Carole Massarelli, Evelyn Salem, Helen Salem, Ruth & Evern Hazel, Georgette Abraham, Mariam Haddad, Bryan Haddad, Nasir Kassis, Mitch & Geri Kanaan, Mary Ellen James, Alice Faccenda, David & Eva Szabo, Marion Bostley, Theodore Todorow, Alex Gimon, Leo Poirier, Collin Lamkin, Sophie Massouh, Stephen Bove’, Leila Bashara, Natalie Floreancig, Mary Magdalene Foltz, Marie Miller, Diane Karns, Paula Massouh, Charlene Toney, Gail & Charlie Barnett, Suha Mansour, Bob Poirier, Anna Jacob, Bruce Bingham, Dorothy Mihelic, Loretta Karpelenia

**Service Members:** Christopher Salem (USAF): Nephew of Helen Salem, Peter McIntire (Army): Grand Nephew of Viola Haddad, Curtis Brickwood (Navy): Fr Michael’s Cousin, David Butler (Navy): Son of Joanna Kassis Butler, Trenton Wesley (Army): grandson of Leila Bashara

*God grant you many years...*

**BIRTHDAYS**

March 16	Daniel Atik, Paul Gipson
March 17	Patrick Poirier
March 21	Ruth Hazel

### VOLUNTEERS NEEDED DURING LENT & HOLY WEEK

Great Lent is here and your church needs helpers to perform various duties for the additional services and meals. If you are able to help and want more information please see any of the Parish Council members.

### DOMSE SOYO CYBER SPRING RETREAT SATURDAY, MARCH 28, 2020

From 10:30 AM to 12:30 PM, March 28 there is a fun event in our Fellowship Hall scheduled for our youth who are nine years of age and older. We will livestream Father Paul Girgis along with all of the other DOMSE churches. Lunch will be provided. There is no charge for this event. If interested in attending please sign up with Deena Graves or Kyrena Capshaw.

### EVERYONE IS INVITED FOR COFFEE & SNACKS FOLLOWING DIVINE LITURGY

***Show hospitality to one another..." 1Peter 4:9***

*We welcome all of those who are visiting with us this morning.*

*Please join us following the Divine Liturgy for coffee hour.*

*We pray that your experience here this morning was uplifting.*

*We look forward to seeing you again soon.*

Today's Luncheon is Sponsored by David & Alex Stronko

### UPCOMING EVENTS (See calendar on website):

**TODAY-5:00 PM**-Lenten Vespers at St. Nicholas

**Monday, March 16, 2020-6:00 PM**-Compline Service at St. Nicholas

**Monday, March 16, 2020**-Parish Council Meeting Following Compline

**Wednesday, March 18, 2020-6:00 PM**-Pre-Sanctified Liturgy at St. Nicholas

**Friday, March 20, 2020-6:30 PM**-Akathist to the Theotokos at St. Nicholas

**Saturday, March 21, 2020-10:30 AM**-Koliva Saturday, Divine Liturgy

**Saturday, March 28, 2020-9:00 AM**-Lenten Retreat with Archimandrite Sergius

**Tuesday, May 5, 2020, 6:00 PM**-Women's Book Club & Pot Luck Dinner

**Weekend of May 22 & 23, 2020**-Visit from Bishop NICHOLAS-Details to Follow

### WOMEN'S BOOK CLUB & POTLUCK DINNER

On May 5 at 6:00 PM the ladies of the parish will be getting together once again to discuss Rebecca by Daphne du Maurier. This is a melodramatic tale with great psychological insight-a story of jealousy that resonated with many readers, hugely popular upon publication and later adapted for TV, film and the stage. If you haven't attended one of these events in the past we hope you will join us. The evening is open to all ladies of the parish, and you can bring a friend!

### Mission Vespers Schedule

TODAY, Gregory Palamas Sunday at St Nicholas Antiochian Orthodox Church,  
6447-76<sup>th</sup> Avenue, North, Pinellas Park

March 22, 2020, Sunday of the Cross at St Philip the Apostle,  
9100 El Portal Drive, Tampa

March 29, 2020, Sunday of John of the Ladder at St George Greek Orthodox Church,  
9426 Little Road, New Port Richey

April 5, 2020, Sunday of Mary of Egypt, St Michael Ukrainain Orthodox Church,  
9201 60<sup>th</sup> Street, North, Pinellas Park

***All services start at 5:00 PM followed by a Lenten Meal***

### 2020 ARCHDIOCESE DUES

If you have not already done so please consider paying your 2020 archdiocese dues of \$50 per person to help offset the assessment we have to pay the archdiocese. Many thanks to the following individuals and families who have already paid their dues:

Bob & Marion Bostley, Chris & Kyrena Capshaw & family, Deena Graves, Susan & Jack Helms, Erin Lauer, Lance & Mary Jean Lubin, Edouard & Yvonne Matar, Philip & Nadine Matar, John & Denice Poole, Doreen Radich, Evelyn Salem, Helen Salem, David Yopp.

### 2020 STEWARDSHIP PLEDGE

If you have not already done so please consider making a 2020 stewardship pledge to St. Nicholas. Many thanks to the following individuals and family who have already made a stewardship pledge:

Bob & Marion Bostley, Chris & Kyrena Capshaw, Marc & Helene Galloway, Deena Graves, Viola Haddad, Darrel Hanna, Susan Helms, Patrick & Erin Lauer, Lance & Mary Jean Lubin, Edouard & Yvonne Matar, Philip & Nadine Matar, John & Denice Poole, Luis & Janet Rodriguez, Helen Salem, Samya Semaan.

### BOOKSTORE NEWS

**Stop by the bookstore & see our NEW LOOK!!!**

A BIG THANK YOU TO SERAPHIM FOLTZ for his donation of bookshelves & books &

A BIG THANK YOU TO ANDI BUDO for getting the job done...

Lenten items such as books, cookbooks, & prayer ropes / bracelets are now on display.

## **SPECIAL COLLECTION FOR THE SEMINARIANS**

Last week we had a second tray to help the seminarians. If you were absent from church or were unable to donate last week and would like to contribute please put your offering in the collection basket and designate it as “Seminarians”. Please be as generous as you can to help defray the cost of their studies to enter the holy priesthood.

### **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 FOR ST. GREGORY PALAMAS IN TONE EIGHT**

O Star of Orthodoxy, support of the Church and its teacher, O comeliness of ascetics, and incontestable champion of those who speak in theology, Gregory the wonder-worker, the pride of Thessalonica and preacher of grace, implore thou constantly for the salvation of our souls.

### **KONTAKION FOR SUNDAYS IN GREAT LENT**

To thee, the Champion Leader, do I offer thanks of victory, O Theotokos, thou who hast delivered me from terror; but as thou that hast that power invincible, O Theotokos, thou alone can set me free: from all forms of danger free me and deliver me, that I may cry unto thee: Hail, O Bride without Bridegroom.

### **THE EPISTLE**

*O Lord, Thou wilt preserve us and keep us from this generation.  
Save me, O Lord, for the godly man hath disappeared.*

### **The Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Hebrews. (1:10-2:3)**

“In the beginning, Thou, O Lord, didst found the earth, and the heavens are the work of Thy hands; they will perish, but Thou remainest; they will all grow old like a garment, like a mantle Thou wilt roll them up, and they will be changed. But Thou art the same, and Thy years will never end.” But to what angel has He ever said, “Sit at My right hand, until I make Thine enemies a stool for thy feet”? Are they not all ministering spirits sent forth to serve, for the sake of those who are to obtain salvation? Therefore, we must pay closer attention to what we have heard, lest we drift away from it. For if the message, declared by angels, was valid and every transgression or disobedience received a just retribution, how shall we escape if we neglect such a great salvation? It was declared at first by the Lord, and it was attested to us by those who heard Him.

## **THE GOSPEL**

### **The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Mark. (2:1-12)**

At that time, when Jesus returned to Capernaum after some days, it was reported that He was at home. And many were gathered together, so that there was no longer room for them, not even about the door; and He was preaching the Word to them. And they came, bringing to Jesus a paralytic carried by four men. And when they could not get near Jesus because of the crowd, they removed the roof above Him; and when they had made an opening, they let down the pallet on which the paralytic lay. And when Jesus saw their faith, He said to the paralytic, “Son, your sins are forgiven.” Now, some of the scribes were sitting there, reasoning in their hearts, “Why does this man speak thus? It is blasphemy! Who can forgive sins but God alone?” And immediately Jesus, perceiving in His spirit that they thus reasoned within themselves, said to them, “Why do you reason thus in your hearts? Which is easier, to say to the paralytic, ‘Your sins are forgiven,’ or to say, ‘Rise, take up your pallet and walk’? But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins” – He said to the paralytic – “I say to you, rise, take up your pallet and go home.” And he rose, and immediately took up the pallet and went out before them all. So that they were all amazed and glorified God, saying, “We never saw anything like this!”

### **THE SYNAXARION**

On March 15 in the Holy Orthodox Church, we commemorate the Martyr Agapios of Palestine and those with him; Apostle Aristoboulos of the Seventy, first bishop of Britain; New-martyrs Manuel of Crete and Parthenios. On this same day, the Second Sunday of the Fast, we make remembrance of our father among the saints, Gregory Palamas, archbishop of Thessalonica.

#### *Verses*

*The Spring of Light now leadeth to light unwaning  
The Light’s own truly great and resplendent herald.*

This divine father was born in Asia and was brought up from infancy in the royal palace of Constantinople. When he was of age, Gregory left the palace and gave himself to asceticism on Mount Athos. He eventually moved to Thessalonica to seek cure for the diseases he contracted because of his asceticism and piety. In 1349, he was elevated to the episcopacy, tending to his people in an Apostolic fashion for 13 years. He is glorified as an ascetic, a theologian, a hierarch and a miracle-worker, who forsook a prominent, secular lifestyle to take up his cross and follow Christ. The Most-Holy Theotokos, St. John the Theologian, St. Demetrius, St. Anthony the Great, St. John Chrysostom and angels of God appeared to him at different times.

Through his intercessions, O Lord Jesus Christ our God, have mercy upon us. Amen.