

St. Nicholas Antiochian Orthodox Church

6447 76th 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

Fr. Michael Massouh, Pastor (727) 510-7657

Deacon Elias Haddy (951) 290-8825

www.stnicholasaoc.org

info@stnicholasaoc.org

March 22, 2020-Veneration of the Cross

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 22	Jack Helms, Benjamin Buda
March 24	James Hannush
March 27	Joyce Simon, Deena Graves

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.

THE RETREAT WITH ARCHMANDRITE SERGIUS THAT WAS SCHEDULED FOR SATURDAY, MARCH 28 HAS BEEN CANCELLED.

The DOMSE SOYO CYBER SPRING RETREAT SCHEDULED FOR SATURDAY, MARCH 28 HAS BEEN CANCELLED.

MISSION VESPERS FOR THE REMAINDER OF GREAT LENT HAVE BEEN CANCELLED

There will be no coffee hour today

UPCOMING EVENTS (See calendar on website):

Wednesday, March 25, 2020-6:00 PM-Vesperal Liturgy for The Annuciation
Friday, March 27, 2020-6:30 PM-Akathist to the Theotokos at St. Nicholas
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!

RESURRECTIONAL APOLYTIKION IN TONE SEVEN

Thou didst shatter death by Thy Cross, Thou didst open paradise to the thief; Thou didst turn the sadness of the ointment-bearing women into joy. And didst bid Thine Apostles proclaim a warning, that Thou hast risen O Christ, granting to the world the Great Mercy.

APOLYTIKION FOR THE HOLY CROSS IN TONE ONE

O Lord, save Thy people and bless Thine inheritance, granting to Thy people victory over all their enemies, and by the power of Thy Cross preserving Thy commonwealth.

KONTAKION FOR SUNDAYS IN GREAT LENT IN TONE EIGHT

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 (For the Third Sunday of Great Lent)

O Lord, save Thy people and bless Thine inheritance.

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

The Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Hebrews. (4:14-5:6)

Brethren, since we have a High Priest, Who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we have not a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but One Who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need. For every high priest chosen from among men is appointed to act on behalf of men in relation to God, to offer gifts and sacrifices for sins. He can deal gently with the ignorant and wayward, since he himself is beset with weakness. Because of this he is bound to offer sacrifice for his own sins as well as for those of the people. And one does not take the honor upon himself, but he is called by God, just as Aaron was. So also Christ did not exalt Himself to be made a high priest, but was appointed by Him Who said to Him, "Thou art My Son, today I have begotten Thee"; as He says also in another place, "Thou art a priest forever, after the order of Melchizedek."

THE GOSPEL (For the Third Sunday of Great Lent)

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Mark. (8:34-9:1)

The Lord said, "If any man would come after Me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow Me. For whoever would save his life will lose it; and whoever loses his life for My sake and the Gospel's will save it. For what does it profit a man, to gain the whole world and forfeit his soul? For what can a man give in return for his soul? For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him will the Son of man also be ashamed, when He comes in the glory of His Father with the holy angels." And Jesus said to them, "Truly, I say to you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the Kingdom of God come with power."

THE SYNAXARION

On March 22 in the Holy Orthodox Church, we commemorate the Hieromartyr Basil of Ancyra; Martyr Kallinika of Rome; and Venerable-martyr Euthymios of Prodromou Skete on Athos.

On this same day, the Third Sunday of the Fast, we keep the feast of the Veneration of the honorable and life-creating Cross.

Verses

*Let the whole world entire worship the
Cross through Which it truly knew to worship Thee, O Word.*

Every hard and strenuous work is accomplished with great difficulty, which appears especially in the middle of such work; for the effort in this performance brings with it fatigue which makes the accomplishment of the rest difficult. Having arrived with God's grace at the middle of the Fast, our compassionate Mother—the Holy Orthodox Church—thought fit to reveal to us the Holy Cross as the joy of the world and power of the faithful to help us carry on the struggles of the divine Fast.

By its power, O Christ God, preserve us from the crafty designs of the evil one and account us worthy to worship Thy divine Passion and life-giving Resurrection, as we achieve the course of the Forty Days with ease, and have mercy on us, as Thou alone art good and the Lover of mankind. Amen.