

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

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November 17, 2019, Gregory of Neo-Caesarea

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: Fr. Michael Sotor, Kh. Josephine Courey, John Salem, Louis Jasmine, Esther Salem, Yousef Kassis, Anthony Faccenda, Katherine Maznek, Constantine Joseph, Betty Jacox Craft, Marion Jacox Minick, Anna Alexandroff, Richard Salem, Sandra Kotsopoulos, Romeo Poirier, Rene Mobayed, Hafeeza Massouh, Mary Larson, Betty Massouh, George Essey, Bernadette Patell, Jamil Kassis, Robert Aber

Shut-Ins/Sick: Metropolitan PAUL, Archbishop YOHANNAH, 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

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, Georgette Abraham, Thomas Joseph

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

November 17 Luis Rodriguez

November 20 Jaymelyn Kassis

November 21 Father Michael, Eleanore Parker, JoAnn Hawkins

November 22 Marline Kassis

November 23 Najla Kassis

EVERYONE IS INVITED TO COFFEE HOUR 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 Coffee Hour is Sponsored by The Ladies Society

LADIES SOCIETY YARD SALE & BAKE SALE, DECEMBER 14

At the Ladies Society meeting last week it was decided to have a yard sale and bake sale on Saturday, December 14. Everyone is encouraged to donate items that we can sell such as kitchen supplies, decorative items, toys, etc. **Please no clothing or shoes. You can start bringing your donations into the Fellowship Hall at any time.** Since we have several weeks to go until the sale we anticipate a lot of donations for a successful sale. We would also like to be able to sell hamburgers and hot dogs and need volunteers to help at the grill.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

TODAY-Ladies Society Meeting Following Liturgy

Wednesday, November 20, 2019, 6:30 PM-Bible Study in the Fellowship Hall

Sunday, November 24, 2019, Annual Parish Meeting after Liturgy

**Saturday, December 7, 2019, 11:30 AM-Ladies Society Christmas Party at Carrabas,
3530 Tyrone Boulevard, St. Petersburg**

Sunday, December 8, 2019-St. Nicholas Feast Day Luncheon & Raffle

Saturday, December 14-Ladies Society Yard Sale & Bake Sale

LADIES SOCIETY PAK A SACK MINISTRY

Our Ladies Society is resuming their support of chronically-hungry children of Fairmount Park and Melrose schools. Your donations of food and cash will be a blessing to these children.

Our efforts are combined with those of the First United Methodist Church again this school year. First United Methodist Church currently, serves 300 children at Fairmount Park and 268 children at Melrose Elementary Schools. They provide between 10 and 12 items per bag per week. These are the types of items we suggest that you donate.

Ramen noodle pouches	Small boxes of cereal
Capri sun or fruit juice pouches	Microwave oatmeal
Applesauce and/or fruit cups	Poptarts
Crackers and cheese or peanut butter individual packages	Pudding cups
Chef boyardee (microwaveable)	Microwave popcorn
Individual chips, crackers, cookie, pretzel bags	Granola or protein bars
Raisins, nuts (individual bags)	
Fruit chews (individually wrapped)	

A big thank you to everyone's support for the PAK A SACK ministry.

Last week we collected \$300 in addition to a lot of food donations.

Through your generosity we are able to support this effort to help feed local children.

MORTGAGE REDUCTION CAMPAIGN

The Mortgage balance as of October 31, 2019 is \$136,686.00 thanks to Helen & Carole Massarelli completing their pledge. We should be able to reach our interim goal of \$125,000.00 by December 31., 2019. We have received donations of \$40,000-Helen & Carole Massarelli, \$10,000-Anonymous donor, \$1,000-Anonymous donor, \$500-Alice Faccenda, \$500-Alice Flaherty, \$500 Viola Haddad. In addition we have received pledges from the following: Fr. Michael & Kh. Virginia, Gaby Atik, Pia Cummings, Darrel Hanna, Robert & Bonnie Guirguis, Luis & Janet Rodriguez, and Geral Vizvary. We plan to have a celebration after Pascha with His Grace, Bishop NICHOLAS in attendance. Will you consider making a pledge before the end of the calendar year? Please see Fr Michael or Bob Rolfes to discuss the amount you can afford to contribute.

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING DATE CHANGE

The Annual Parish Meeting will be held after Liturgy on Sunday, November 24, 2019 and not November 10 as was previously published. This once a year meeting's agenda is to hear reports from various groups and organizations of the Parish and to elect two members to the Parish Council. Each year we elect two members for three year terms, and the priest appoints two members for one year terms, The three year terms of Bob Rolfes and Bob Wiggins expire at the end of December 2019. If interested in running for a seat on the Parish Council see a member of the Nominating Committee: Sub Deacon Najib Jacob, Jim Calamas, or Father Michael.

AIR CONDITIONERS FOR NEW CHURCH

The wooden stands for the churches air conditioners collapsed and had to be replaced with concrete ones thanks to Bob Rolfes, Andi Budo, and John Kozak. In the process of replacing the stands it was discovered that one of the four air conditioners was malfunctioning. The cost of fixing the unit will be about \$2,000. Should you wish to assist in defraying this cost, please write on the memo section of your check "Air Conditioner". Thank you!

BOOKSTORE NEWS

Now that Anamay is back the bookstore is up and running as it should. More items have been added to the \$1.00 table, and there are new books, prayer ropes, icons and jewelry so stop by and browse around. Christmas is coming soon and our bookstore is the perfect place to find those perfect gifts for your family and friends.

BIBLE STUDY, WEDNESDAY EVENINGS AT 6:30 PM

Our current topic is Advent using Vassilios Papavassiliou. Meditations for Advent: Preparing for Christ's Birth. The book is available in our bookstore.

Fr Michael will also present the origins of the American version of Christmas. Everyone is welcome and encouraged to attend.

NOVEMBER 2019 EDITION OF THE WORD MAGAZINE

The November 2019 online edition of The Word magazine is now available at www.antiochian.org, and features an article about St. Joseph the Betrothed; reflections on the ministry of the clergy, the Divine Liturgy, icons, and the gospel readings; news stories and much more!

ST NICHOLAS FEAST DAY RAFFLE

In your Wonder Worker for November you received tickets for our annual St. Nicholas Feast Day Raffle. This is a big fundraiser for our community and we hope that you will by several tickets. If you would like to buy more tickets than you were given please see Anamay Rossomando or Doreen Radich and they will be happy to help you. The drawing will take place on Sunday, December 8th during the Feast Day Luncheon.

RESURRECTIONAL APOLYTIKION IN TONE FIVE

Let us believers praise and worship the Word; coeternal with the Father and the Spirit, born of the Virgin for our salvation. For, He took pleasure in ascending the Cross in the flesh to suffer death; and to raise the dead by His glorious Resurrection.

APOLYTIKION FOR ST. GREGORY OF NEO-CAESAREA IN TONE EIGHT

By vigilance in prayer, and continuance in the working of wonders, thou didst acquire thine achievements as a surname; wherefore, intercede with Christ our God, O Father Gregory, to enlighten our souls, lest we sleep in sin unto death.

KONTAKION OF ENTRANCE OF THE THEOTOKOS IN TONE FOUR

The sacred treasury of God's holy glory, * the greatly precious bridal chamber and Virgin, the Savior's most pure temple, free of stain and undefiled, into the House of the Lord on this day is brought forward and bringeth with herself the grace of the Most Divine Spirit; her do God's Angels hymn with songs of praise, for she is truly the heavenly tabernacle.

THE EPISTLE (For the Twenty-second Sunday after Pentecost)

Thou, O Lord, shalt 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 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 Ninth Sunday of Luke)

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Luke. (12:16-21)

The Lord spoke this parable: "The land of a rich man brought forth plentifully; and he thought to himself, 'What shall I do, for I have nowhere to store my crops?' And he said, 'I will do this: I will pull down my barns, and build larger ones; and there I will store all my grain and my goods. And I will say to my soul, Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; take your ease, eat, drink, be merry.' But God said to him, 'Fool! This night your soul is required of you; and the things you have prepared, whose will they be?' So is he who lays up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God." As He said this, Jesus called out, "He who has ears to hear, let him hear."

THE SYNAXARION

On November 17 in the Holy Orthodox Church we commemorate our father among the saints Gregory the wonderworker, bishop of Neo-Caesarea.

Verses

Gregory, who wrought many wonders aforesaid,

Standing in God's presence, worketh yet more wonders.

On the seventeenth the great Thaumaturge (wonderworker) died.

The miracle-working Gregory was called a second Moses. Although born a pagan, he became aware of the meagerness and insufficiency of pagan philosophy. Gregory then turned to Christian teachers with whom he studied and from whom he received baptism. To dedicate himself solely to Christ God, Gregory withdrew to the wilderness and lived in rigorous asceticism. Bishop Phaedimus of Amasea wanted to consecrate him Bishop of Neo-Caesarea. The clairvoyant Gregory perceived this intention and hid from the bishop's emissaries. Finally, Phaedimus consecrated him in absentia, and Gregory had to accept the office of bishop. The Most-holy Theotokos and St. John the Theologian appeared to him in a vision and gave him the Symbol of Faith—"The Creed"—which the First Ecumenical Council ratified. He died around the year 270 in great old age. When he arrived in Neo-Caesarea as bishop, he found only seventeen Christians in that pagan city. At the end, Gregory left the city Christian, with only seventeen pagans.

On this day, we also commemorate Gennadios and Maximos, patriarchs of Constantinople; Nikon the wonderworker, disciple of Sergios of Radonezh; and righteous mother Hilda, abbess of Whitby. By their intercessions, O Christ God, have mercy upon us. Amen.