

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

December 1, 2019, Nahum The Prophet

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: Almaza Samara, Adeebe Massouh, Donald Thorpe, Gene Jacox Roy, Leon Victor, Ibrahim Abu Hanna, Victoria Massouh, Sylvia Jean Jospheh, Shirley Helms, Elizabeth Rae, Emily Albert, Jack Ibrahim Ayoub, Richard Braswell

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, 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

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

December 2 Bob Poirier, Amanda Kassis

December 3 Marie Miller, Sofia Nassif

December 5 Morgan Liss, Edna Mason, Cora Grace Raynovich

ANNIVERSARIES

December 5 Peter & Jaymelyn 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 Luncheon is Sponsored by Michael & Randa Jacob

LADIES SOCIETY YARD SALE & BAKE SALE, 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 need volunteers to bake and we would also like to be able to sell hamburgers and hot dogs and need volunteers to help at the grill.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

TODAY-Annual Parish Meeting Following Liturgy

TODAY-Special Collection for Pack A Sak

Wednesday, December 4, 2019, 6:30 PM-Bible Study in the Fellowship Hall

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

Tuesday, December 10, 2019-Registration for Summer Camp at Antiochian Village Begins

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

January 17 to January 20, 2020-Winter Family Camp at Antiochian Village

Sunday, January 19, 2020-Ladies Society Meeting Following Liturgy

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

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 for everyone's support for the PAK A SACK ministry.

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, \$3,000 Fady Hakim & Mary Guirguis, \$1,000-Anonymous donor, \$1,000-Anonymous donor, \$500-Alice Flaherty, \$500 Viola Haddad, \$500 Dean Smuro, \$200 Steve & Lisa Spears. 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 Gerald 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.

BEQUEST FROM THE MISOIYANNIS ESTATE

St. Nicholas recently received a bequest of \$40,326.84 from the estate of Charles & Stella Misoyiannis both of whom passed away. We are very grateful for their generosity. May their memory be eternal.

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. So far we have received a single donation of \$500 from one of our generous parishioners. 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.

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. First prize is \$1,000, Second prize is \$500 and Third and Fourth prizes are \$250 each. Your support is greatly appreciated.

ST. NICHOLAS FEAST DAY LUNCHEON

Please don't make any plans for after Liturgy next week so that you can attend our annual St. Nicholas Feast Day Luncheon sponsored by our Ladies Society. There will be fish and rice provided by Parkside Café, and lots of other side dishes and desserts prepared by the ladies of our parish. During the luncheon we will also be drawing the for the raffle.

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.

KONTAKION OF PREPARATION OF CHRIST'S NATIVITY IN TONE THREE

On this day the Virgin cometh to the cave to give birth to God the Word ineffably, Who was before all the ages. Dance for joy, O earth, on hearing the gladsome tidings; with the Angels and the shepherds now glorify Him Who is willing to be gazed on as a young Child Who before the ages is God.

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

The Lord will give strength to His people.

Ascribe to the Lord, O sons of God, ascribe to the Lord honor and glory.

The Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Ephesians. (2:14-22)

Brethren, Christ is our peace, Who has made us both one, and has broken down the dividing wall of hostility, by abolishing in His flesh the law of commandments and ordinances, that He might create in Himself one new man in place of the two, so making peace, and might reconcile us both to God in one body through the Cross, thereby bringing the hostility to an end. And He came and preached peace to you, who were far off, and peace to those who were near; for through Him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father. So then you are no longer strangers and sojourners, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the cornerstone, in Whom the whole structure is joined together and grows into a holy temple in the Lord; in Whom you also are built into it for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit.

THE GOSPEL (For the Fourteenth Sunday of Luke)

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Luke. (18:35-43)

At that time, when Jesus drew near to Jericho, a blind man was sitting by the roadside begging; and hearing a multitude going by, he inquired what this meant. They told him, "Jesus of Nazareth is passing by." And he cried, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" And those who were in front rebuked him, telling him to be silent; but he cried out all the more, "Son of David, have mercy on me!" And Jesus stopped, and commanded him to be brought to him; and when he came near, Jesus asked him, "What do you want me to do for you?" He said, "Lord, let me receive my sight." And Jesus said to him, "Receive your sight; your faith has made you well." And immediately he received his sight and followed Jesus, glorifying God; and all the people, when they saw it, gave praise to God.

THE SYNAXARION

On December 1 in the Holy Orthodox Church we commemorate the holy and glorious Prophet Nahum.

Verses

Longing doth draw me to anoint with the myrrh of discourse

Nahum the Elkoshite, who hath yielded up his spirit.

On the first, Nahum was conveyed out of life.

Nahum was born of the tribe of Simeon in a place called Elkosh on the far side of the Jordan. He lived about seven hundred years before Christ and prophesied the destruction of Nineveh about two hundred years after the Prophet Jonah had warned the Ninevites. Because of Jonah's preaching, the Ninevites had repented, and God had spared them and not destroyed them. In time, however, they forgot God's mercy and again became corrupt. The Prophet Nahum prophesied their destruction, and since there was no repentance, God did not spare them. The entire city was destroyed by earthquake, flood and fire, so that its location is no longer known. The Prophet Nahum lived for forty-five years and entered into rest in the Lord, leaving us a small book of his true prophecies.

On this day, we also commemorate the Venerable Philaret the Almsgiver of Amnia; Martyr Ananias the Persian; and Theoklitos, archbishop of Lakedaemonia. By their intercessions, O Christ God, have mercy upon us. Amen.