

**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

Fr. Michael Massouh, Pastor (727) 510-7657 • Fr. Stephen Siniari, Pastor (727) 503-5207

[www.stnicholasaoc.org](http://www.stnicholasaoc.org)

[info@stnicholasaoc.org](mailto:info@stnicholasaoc.org)

**May 5, 2019, Thomas 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:** Andrew Mamary, Fahd Kassis, Nasser Elias Kakesh, Kosta Radich, Helen Kirshy, Olga Kovalenko, Jennie Davis, Richard Austin, Daniel Karpelenia, Thekla Massouh

**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

**For the Health of:** Fr. Lazarus Sucanto, Kh. Loretta Karpelenia, Kh. Virginia Massouh, Pf. Margot Siniari, Angela Jacob, Farhat David, Helen Massarelli, Carole Massarelli, John & Evelyn Salem, Helen Salem, Ruth & Evern Hazel, Luann Ellias, Kay Varoutis, Georgette Abraham, Mariam Haddad, Bryan Haddad, Nasir Kassis, Mitch & Geri Kanaan, John & Stephanie See, Mary Ellen James, Alice Faccenda, Pat Salem, David & Eva Szabo, Andrew, Marion Bostley, Theodore Todorow, Alex Gimon, George Hooker, Fuad Mobayed, Leo Poirier, Collin Lamkin, Sophie Massouh, Stephen Bove’, Ted Liss, Leila Bashara, Natalie Floreancig, John Rollins, Millicent Palko, Trenton Wesley, Ray Nawas, Bill Stanley, Poppi Madalvano, David Berryhill, Barbara Penny, Michael Kritikos, Dolores Fry, Mary Magdalene Foltz, Carl Massouh

**Service Members:** Christopher Salem (USAF): Nephew of Helen Salem, Peter McIntire (Army): Grand Nephew of Viola Haddad, Curtis Brickwood (Navy): Fr Michael’s Cousin, Derek Voss (Army): Son of Carolyn & Joe Galluccio, David Butler (Navy): Son of Joanna Kassis Butler, Trenton Wesley (Army): grandson of Leila Bashara, Luka Dundua (Army): Grandson of Salome Rollins

*If you wish your name or the name of someone else to be placed on the prayer list please contact Doreen Radich at 727-367-1059*

**God grant you many years....**

**BIRTHDAYS**

May 5	Helen Salem, Anamay Rossomando
May 6	Seraphim Foltz, Mitch Kanaan
May 8	Alibek Dagley
May 9	Sophia Atik

**ANNIVERSARIES**

May 11	Jordan & Samantha Raynovich
--------	-----------------------------

## **PARISH DIRECTORY**

John Kozak has updated our Parish Directory and copies are now available for you to have. Please go to the bookstore after church to get your copy. They are free of charge. If you see any errors to your listing please let Bob Rolfes know or email your information to [info@stnicholasaoc.org](mailto:info@stnicholasaoc.org) as soon as possible so that future printings and the church mailing list is accurate.

## **BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES**

At each liturgy and in each weekly bulletin we recognize the birthdays and anniversaries of our parish family. If you would like your birthday and/or anniversary added to our list please email your information to [info@stnicholasaoc.org](mailto:info@stnicholasaoc.org) and we will be happy to add you to the list.

## **ST. NICHOLAS WEBSITE**

The website changes often. So check it out. It has our service calendar and other pertinent information specific to our parish and our faith. This is a great place to introduce a friend to our St. Nicholas family and our faith. There is also a means for you to donate to the church on-line with your credit card or through PayPal. One time donations and recurring donations are possible. Need a copy of the bulletin or the Wonder Worker? It's on line. The site address is [www.stnicholasaoc.org](http://www.stnicholasaoc.org).

For our Facebook fans, links are provided to bring you directly into our Facebook domain. So "like us" , "share us" , "and spread the good news". Everyone is encouraged to view our Facebook page and follow the church for ongoing and timely updates.

## **REMEMBERING OUR MOTHERS**

This week in your bulletin you have a form to fill out if you wish to remember our mothers and all special women on Mother's Day.

## **EVERYONE IS INVITED TO COFFEE HOUR FOLLOWING DIVINE LITURGY**

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

## **Today's Coffee Hour is Sponsored by Joe & Carolyn Galluccio**

*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.*

## **2019 ARCHDIOCESE DUES**

All parishioners are encouraged to contribute \$50 per person for the year to help offset the assessment our church has to pay the archdiocese. Our assessment for 2019 is approximately \$9,800 and we are hopeful that as many parishioners as possible will help fulfill this assessment by contributing \$50 per person. Payment can be made by check, cash or credit card. Please be sure to let Al or Doreen know that it is your archdiocese dues so that it is accounted for correctly. The total amount collected so far is \$2,750.

To date the following parishioners have made a contribution: Gaby & Alicia Atik, George & Sandra Baidurashvili, Leila Bashara, Andi & Alba Budo & Family, James Calamas, Charles & Christine Doerner, Koly & Mona Elkhoully, Deena Graves, Michael & Randa Jacob, Najib & Anna Jacob, Mitch & Geri Kanaan, George Kanalos, Loretta Karpelenia, Najla Kassis, Peter Kassis, Al & Cheryl Lipscomb, Mary Jean Lubin, Fr. Michael & Kh. Virginia Massouh, Matt Nassif & Family, Theodora Ohlinger, Ralph & Eleanore Parker, Bob & Jeanne Poirier, Doreen Radich, Jordan & Samantha Raynovich, Luis & Janet Rodriguez, Robert & Kay Rolfes, Anamay Rossomando, Helen Salem, John & Evelyn Salem, Sam Specian, Alexander Stronko, David Stronko, David Yopp.

## **2019 STEWARDSHIP TO ST NICHOLAS**

Many thanks to those families and individuals who have filled out their 2019 Stewardship forms designating their monetary pledge to the church for the year. Our church is 100% dependent upon the sacrificial giving of our parishioners and it is never too late to submit your Stewardship form with your pledge. The church also always welcomes its parishioners to give their time and talent, so if you are interested in volunteering in helping with the various necessary work that is required on a regular and consistent basis please make your willingness known.

So far the following parishioners have made a Stewardship commitment to St. Nicholas: Gaby & Alicia Atik & Family, Leila Bashara, Robert & Marion Bostley, Jim Calamas, Koly & Mona Elkhoully, Deena Graves, Viola Haddad, Don & JoAnn Hawkins, Subdeacon Najib & Anna Jacob, Peter & Jaymelyn Kassis & Family, Loretta Karpelenia, Lance & Mary Jean Lubin, Fr. Michael & Kh. Virginia Massouh, Ralph & Eleanore Parker, Bob & Jeanne Poirier, Robert & Kay Rolfes, Helen Salem, John & Evelyn Salem, Samya Semaan

### **APOLYTIKION FOR THOMAS SUNDAY IN TONE SEVEN**

While the tomb was sealed, Thou didst shine forth from it, O Life. While the doors were closed, Thou didst come in to Thy Disciples, O Christ God, Resurrection of all, renewing in us through them an upright spirit, according to the greatness of Thy mercy.

### **THE KONTAKION OF PASCHA IN TONE EIGHT**

Though Thou didst descend into the grave, O Immortal One, yet didst Thou destroy the power of Hades, and didst arise as victor, O Christ God, calling to the myrrh-bearing women, Rejoice, and giving peace unto Thine Apostles, O Thou Who dost grant resurrection to the fallen.

### **THE EPISTLE**

*Great is the Lord, and great is His power. Praise the Lord, for the Lord is good.*

### **The Reading from the Acts of the Saintly and Pure Apostles. (5:12-20)**

In those days, many signs and wonders were done among the people by the hands of the Apostles. And they were all together in Solomon's Portico. None of the rest dared join them, but the people held them in high honor. And more than ever believers were added to the Lord, multitudes both of men and women, so that they even carried out the sick into the streets, and laid them on beds and pallets, that as Peter came by at least his shadow might fall on some of them. The people also gathered from the towns around Jerusalem, bringing the sick and those afflicted with unclean spirits, and they were all healed. But the high priest rose up and all who were with him, that is, the party of the Sadducees, and filled with jealousy they arrested the Apostles and put them in the common prison. But at night an angel of the Lord opened the prison doors and brought them out and said, "Go and stand in the temple and speak to the people all the words of this Life."

### **THE GOSPEL**

### **The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. John. (20:19-31)**

On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being shut where the Disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you." When He had said this, He showed them His hands and His side. Then the Disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I send you." And when He had said this, He breathed on them, and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained." Now Thomas, one of the Twelve, called the Twin, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other Disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see in His hands the print of the nails, and place my finger in the mark of the nails, and place my hand in His side, I will not believe." Eight days later, His Disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. The doors were shut, but Jesus came and stood among them, and said, "Peace be with you." Then He said to Thomas, "Put your finger here, and see My hands; and put out your hand, and place it in my side; do not be faithless, but believing." Thomas answered Him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have

seen Me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe." Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the Disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His Name.

### **THE SYNAXARION**

On May 5 in the Holy Orthodox Church, we commemorate the Great-martyr Irene of Thessalonica; and Venerable Euthymios, bishop of Maditos in Thrace. On this day, the second Sunday of Pascha, we inaugurate the celebration of Christ's Resurrection, and the occasion whereon the Holy Apostle Thomas touched the Savior's side.

### *Verses*

*If the seals of the Virgin's womb and of the grave did not hinder Thee, How could the seals of the doors hinder Thy might, O Savior?*

This day is called New Sunday, Thomas Sunday or Anti-Pascha. The last term means "in place of Pascha" because Thomas did not immediately hear of Christ's Resurrection and disbelieved it. We remember his doubt but do not repeat it. After this Sunday, the Church dedicates Sunday to the Resurrection. As the Disciples were gathered together on the Sunday of the Resurrection, Jesus entered and greeted them in His usual way, saying, "Peace be unto you." Then He showed them His hands, feet and side. Jesus ate before His Disciples and reassured them of His Resurrection. However, Thomas was not with them at that time, and insisted upon seeing the Savior's scars—the print of the nails in His hands and feet, and the spear in His side—before he would believe that Jesus was risen. Eight days later Christ appeared again to the Disciples, this time with Thomas present. The Master told Thomas to see and feel. Then Thomas immediately cried out, "My Lord and my God!" But Jesus tells His Disciples, "Blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe." This event also clearly illustrates the human and divine Natures of Christ. By the intercessions of Thine Apostle Thomas, O Christ our God, have mercy on us. Amen.