

*“Suddenly
a voice
came out
of the
cloud,
saying
‘This is
My
beloved
Son, in
Whom I
am well
pleased;
Listen to
Him!’ ”*

(Matthew 17:5)



St. Nicholas Antiochian Orthodox Church

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AUGUST 02, 2020

EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST & EIGHTH SUNDAY OF MATTHEW RELICS TRANSLATION OF PROTO-MARTYR STEPHEN THE ARCHDEACON

VENERABLE PHEOTINI THE WONDERWORKER OF CARPASIA IN CYPRUS;
BLESSED BASIL THE FOOL-FOR-CHRIST, WONDERWORKER OF MOSCOW

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 Divine Liturgy. Please, do NOT enter or exit the sanctuary at the following times:

- When the priest censens 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

THE SYNAXARION

On August 2 in the Holy Orthodox Church, we commemorate the recovery of the sacred relics of the holy Proto-martyr and Archdeacon Stephen.

Verses

A great many strange and divine things hast thou, O Zion:

So give Constantine's city the dead body of Stephen.

On the second Stephen's corpse was removed.

When the wicked Jews stoned Stephen to death, they left his body for the dogs to eat. After two nights Gamaliel, Paul's teacher and a secret follower of Christ, came and took his body to Caphargamala, and buried it in a cave. Eventually, Gamaliel's friend Nicodemus, his nephew Abibos and he were laid to rest in the same cave. The graves were forgotten, but in 415, in the time of Patriarch John of Jerusalem, Gamaliel appeared three times in a dream to the Priest Lucian, in Caphargamala, and told him the exact location of the burial place. With the Patriarch's blessing, Lucian and others dug up the graves. A strong and fragrant odor from the relics of these saints filled the cave. Stephen's relics were solemnly translated to Zion and there buried with ceremony, and the relics of the others were taken to a hill above the cave and laid to rest in a church there. Later, Stephen's healing relics were translated to Constantinople.

On this day, we also commemorate the Venerable Photeini the wonderworker of Carpasia in Cyprus; and Blessed Basil the fool-for-Christ, wonderworker of Moscow. By their holy intercessions, O God, have mercy on us. Amen.

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 OF ST. STEPHEN THE ARCHDEACON IN TONE FOUR

*(**Be quick to anticipate**)*

The crown of the Kingdom hath adorned the brow of thy head * because of the contests that thou hast endured for Christ God, thou first of the martyred Saints; * for when thou hadst censured the Jews' madness, thou sawest * Christ thy Savior standing at the right hand of the Father. * O Stephen, ever pray Him for us, that He would save our souls.

THE EPISTLE

(For the Eighth Sunday after Pentecost)

The Reading from the First Epistle of St. Paul to the Corinthians. (1:10-17)

Brethren, I appeal to you, by the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree and that there be no dissension among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same judgment. For it has been reported to me by Chloe's people that there is quarreling among you, my brethren. What I mean is that each one of you says, "I belong to Paul," or "I belong to Apollos," or "I belong to Cephas," or "I belong to Christ." Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized

in the name of Paul? I thank God that I baptized none of you except Crispos and Gaius; lest anyone should say that you were baptized in my name. (I did baptize also the household of Stephanas. Beyond that, I do not know whether I baptized anyone else.) For Christ did not send me to baptize but to preach the Gospel, and not with eloquent wisdom, lest the cross of Christ be emptied of its power.

THE GOSPEL

(For the Eighth Sunday of Matthew)

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew. (14:14-22)

At that time, when Jesus went ashore he saw a great throng; and he had compassion on them, and healed their sick. When it was evening, the disciples came to Him and said, "This is a lonely place, and the day is now over; send the crowds away to go into the villages and buy food for themselves." Jesus said, "They need not go away; you give them something to eat." They said to Him, "We have only five loaves here and two fish." And He said, "Bring them here to Me." Then He ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass; and taking the five loaves and the two fish He looked up to Heaven, and blessed, and broke and gave the loaves to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds. And they all ate and were satisfied. And they took up twelve baskets full of the broken pieces left over. And those who ate were about five thousand men, besides women and children. Then Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go before Him to the other side, while He dismissed the crowds.

God grant you many years....

BIRTHDAYS

Aug 02 Connie Metro
Aug 04 Grace Atik
Aug 05 Peter Kassis
Aug 07 Alex Boreman
Aug 08 Olivia Nahas

ANNIVERSARIES

Aug 5 Evern & Ruth Hazel

Upcoming Events

Wednesday, August 5 – Transfiguration of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ

5:30 pm - Great Vespers

6:15 pm – Divine Liturgy

Wednesday, August 12 – 6:30 pm – Little Paraklesis Supplicatory Canon to the Theotokos

Saturday, August 15 – The Dormition of our Lady Theotokos

9:30 am - Orthros

10:30 am – Divine Liturgy

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE FOLLOWING BROTHERS & SISTERS:

Departed: Fr. Paul Lazor, Fr. Elias Bitar, Fr. John Winfrey, Helen Lipscomb, Handumy Tahan, Fr. Spero Page, Louis Albert, Anne White, Hanna Tawfic, Fr. George Brunish, Wayne Massarelli, Lu'a Albert, Leila Kassis, Miriam Khoury, Bishop MAEL, Bobby Brickwood, Pr. Viola Soter, Fr. David Milligan, Leo George, George Abodeely, Johara David

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

For the Health & Needs of: Kh. Virginia Massouh, Pf. Margot Siniari, Angela Jacob, Farhat David, Helen Massarelli, Carole Massarelli, 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, Gail & Charlie Barnett, Suha Mansour, Bob Poirier, Bruce Bingham, Dorothy Mihelic, Loretta Karpelenia, Lydia Davidson, Joanne Kassis.

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

The Church has a new SECURE business address for receiving money, packages, and special deliveries. Please use:

St. Nicholas Orthodox Church
7780 49th Street N, #239
Pinellas Park FL 33781

❖ ❖ **THE GLORY OF THE TRANSFIGURATION** ❖ ❖

A moment of eternity in our world of time. A glimpse of the light of God's glory in our land of sinful darkness. A vision of the Kingdom to come in our blindness of the present. All this might be said of the Transfiguration of Our Lord, that great feastday which illuminates the month of August in our church calendar.

Our icon, faithful to the traditional iconographic rendition, vividly depicts the scene as recorded in the Gospel. Christ appears on the summit of Mount Tabor in garment "white as the light," flanked by Moses on the right, and Elijah (Elias) on the left, representing the Law and the Prophets, or as some say, representing the living and the dead. Christ is enveloped in geometric forms, representing the "bright cloud" that covered Him.

Beneath are the three Apostles whom the Lord took with Him up the mountain. They are overwhelmed by the vision of the Lord's Divinity, the Voice of the Father and the bright cloud as they fall to the ground. Peter, kneeling, is at the right; John, falling to earth, in the center; and James is on the left.

What we have in this feast is the revelation of the glory of God the Son and the manifestation of His majesty. We have an appearance of Christ's divine nature, and we have the mystery and splendor of the glory of light.

Why was Christ transfigured? A hymn tells us: "So that when Christ's apostles should see You crucified, they might understand Your suffering to be of Your own will and might proclaim to the world that You are truly the glorious light of the Father."