

****SPECIAL NOTE ON THE NATIVITY FAST****

On November 15, we began, with God's help, the forty-day *NATIVITY FAST* in preparation for the feast of the Nativity of Christ on December 25. The Nativity Fast is divided into two periods. During November 15 through December 19, the traditional fasting discipline (no meat, poultry, eggs, dairy, fish, wine and oil) is observed with allowance for wine and oil on Tuesdays and Thursdays, and for fish, wine and oil on Saturdays and Sundays. The second period is December 20 through 24 when the traditional fasting discipline (no meat, poultry, eggs, dairy, fish, wine and oil) is observed with allowance for wine and oil only, not fish, on Saturday and Sunday.

UPCOMING SERVICES, SPIRITUAL ENRICHMENT & EVENTS

- * Wednesday Evening Adult Study Group
 - * Will meet on Dec. 13 & 20, 6:45 pm following Paraklesis
- † Great Vespers, Saturday nights, 6:00 pm

Special Services

- † **Paraklesis of Advent Service**, Wednesday, December 20, 6:00 pm
A Service of Intercessory Prayer in Preparation for the Great Feast of the Nativity-in-the-Flesh of our Lord, God and Saviour Jesus Christ.
- † **Royal Hours for Nativity**, Friday, December 22, 9:00 am
- † **Christmas Eve morning, Sunday, December 24,**
Regular Sunday service times
Orthros - 8:50 am; Divine Liturgy - 10:00 am
- † **Feast of Nativity of Christ - Christmas services**
Sunday NIGHT, December 24, 9:00 PM - Orthros for Nativity
10:00 PM - Divine Liturgy for the Nativity of Christ

DATA SUMMARY for December 10, 2017

(including previous weekday services)

Wednesday Divine Liturgy for St. Nicholas	12/ 6
Saturday Great Vespers	12/ 9
Sunday Divine Liturgy	12/10
Annual Pledges, Candles & Trays	

Thank you for your continued financial support. Please remember to earmark your checks (annual pledge, capital campaign, Pascha, outreach, memorial, etc.).

For information on how to make an Annual Pledge for 2017 or a pledge to the Capital Campaign, please see Michael Papadelias or Pamela Kelley.

St. Andrew the Apostle Orthodox Church

5501 N "W" St., Pensacola, FL 32505

www.standrewpns.org (850) 469-9711

Week of

December 17, 2017

Sunday of Forefathers (Ancestors) of Christ

Prophet Daniel and the Three Holy Youths:

Ananias, Azarias and Mishael

TODAY	Dec. 17	Deadline for poinsettia orders for memory or honor of loved ones... see order form bulletin	
Wednesday	Dec. 20	Paraklesis for Advent Adult Study Group	6:00 pm 6:45 pm
Thursday	Dec. 21	Choir Rehearsal	5:45 pm
Friday	Dec. 22	Royal Hours for the Nativity of Christ	9:00 am
Saturday	Dec. 23	Vespers	6:00 pm
Sunday (morning)	Dec. 24	Orthros Divine Liturgy for Paramon (Eve) of the Nativity of Christ Youth Sunday School Coffee Fellowship	8:50 am 10:00 am 11:20 am 11:30 am
Sunday (evening)		Feast of the Nativity of Christ Orthros Divine Liturgy for the Nativity of Christ (Christmas)	9:00 pm 10:00 pm

Very Rev. Fr. David Bleam, Pastor

(850) 375-7765 dbleam@gmail.com

standrewpns.org

From the Desert Fathers

Pray night and day. Pray when you are happy, and pray when you are sad. Pray with fear and trembling, and with a watchful and vigilant mind, that your prayer might be acceptable to the Lord.

(from *The Philokalia*)

Please resubmit names for the month of January

Prayers Requested for Month of December

Your prayers are requested for the health and return of Archbishops Paul and John of Aleppo, Syria, who were abducted on Monday, May 22, 2013.

Please pray for peace for the people of Syria.

Syria is the home of our Patriarchate which is located on Straight Street in Damascus where St. Paul was taken to regain the sight he lost when encountering Jesus Christ (Acts 9) and has maintained continuous succession in the Apostolic Faith.

PLEASE NOTE: The names on the St. Andrew Prayer List will be listed through the month of December. If you have names of family or friends you would like to have listed in January, please write the name and your name on paper to give Dorothy or send it to her by email.

Kleoniki	Alice	Olga	Raymond
Dan & Joyce	John	Will	Nate
Lucille	Yves & Linda	Jesse	Lucy
Louann	Petrula	Erin	Thomas
Joni	Susan	Kelly	Brian
Patricia	Christine	Katie	Crystal
Tom & Mandy	Theresa	Ted	Jennifer

Thank you for your intercessions.

St. Andrew Food Pantry ...

is in need of the following items...

(Please remember to purchase pop-top/easy to open cans)

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Canned fruit (pop top) | Beef stew |
| Soups (pop top) | Canned veggies |
| Chef Boyardee, Spaghetti Os (pop top) | Tuna |
| Peanut butter & Jelly | Canned chicken |
| Spaghetti sauce (plastic container) | Parmalat (boxed milk) |
| Chewy granola bars | Mac N Cheese |

MEATS, ENTREÉS, PROTEINS ARE PARTICULARLY NEEDED.

Pop-Top & easy to open items, please.



**SIGN UP TO HOST A COFFEE FELLOWSHIP!
YES... YOU CAN DO IT!!**

You may want to join another family or two and host Coffee Fellowship. A birthday coming up? An anniversary?

Want to honor someone or remember a loved one?

All you need are some simple refreshments!

The coffee and lemonade are made ahead of time.

Please check with Janean with any questions.

You are requested to please handle the setup and clean up.

The sign-up sheet is in the Great Room.

December 17 - (Fasting) Tampary Family:

40-Day Memorial for Anthony (Bubba) Tampary

December 24 - (Fasting)

December 31 -



Coffee Fellowship



HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR DECEMBER

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY FOR DECEMBER

If a birthday or anniversary has been mistakenly omitted or listed incorrectly or if you are new to the parish, please place correction and additions in the Sisters of St. Photini mail drawer in Treasurer's office or give to Dorothy.

The holy New Martyr Avakum (Habakkuk)

The holy New Martyr Avakum (Habakkuk) was born in Bosnia in 1794, and was named Lepoje by his parents. Lepoje's father died when he was still a young boy, so his mother took him to the Mostanica monastery, where his uncle was the spiritual Father. He grew up in the monastery, and later became a monk with the name Avakum. When he was eighteen, he was ordained a deacon by Metropolitan Joseph (Sakabenta).

In 1809, the monks took part in an unsuccessful revolt against the Turks, and had to flee for their lives. They settled in the Annunciation monastery in Trnava near Cacak, where the igumen was Saint Paisius.

After the collapse of Karageorge's revolt in 1813, the Turks began a reign of terror against the Serbs. Disease also swept the area because of the many bodies left unburied. The people attempted another revolt under Hadj-Prodan Gligorijevic, and the monks of Trnava became involved in it. The rebellion took place on the Feast of the Cross (September 14), but it was crushed by the Turks. Many people were captured, and some were executed on the spot as a warning to others.

Some of the prisoners were sent to Suleiman Pasha in Belgrade, among whom were Saints Paisius and Avakum. The holy deacon Avakum sang "God is with us" (from Compline) in the prison cell, while Saint Paisius prayed. The Turks offered to free anyone who would convert to Islam. Some of the prisoners agreed to this, but the majority refused to deny Christ, and so they were put to death.

The Turks tried to pressure Avakum to save himself by embracing their religion, but he refused even to consider it. His former spiritual Father, Gennadius, accepted the offer of the Turks and urged Avakum to follow his example. The courageous deacon declared that he was a warrior of Christ, and preferred to die rather than deny Christ.

Saint Avakum was sentenced to be impaled on a stake, which he was forced to carry to the place of execution. His own mother urged him to embrace Islam, then to seek forgiveness later because he had been forced into it. The saint thanked her for giving him life, but not for her advice.

At the place of execution, the Turks asked him one more time to consider his youth and not to die before his time. Avakum laughed and asked, "Don't even Turks eventually die?" They replied, "Of course they do." "Well then," he said, "the sooner I die, the fewer sins I will have." Because of his courage and steadfastness in his faith, the Turks decided not to impale him. They killed him quickly by stabbing him in the heart with a sword on January 27, 1815.

Parish Council Election Results

The following persons were elected to the Parish Council to serve for the next two years:

Mike Papadelias Sam Waite

Anthony Tampary Sue Ann Young

Tanner Clanton was appointed by Fr. David to serve as well.

Thank you to all who are willing to serve and many thanks to John Drap for his years of service on the Parish Council.

REMINDER : 2018 STEWARDSHIP PLEDGE

Please remember to complete

your 2018 Stewardship Pledge Card.

You may place your card in the tray at church or mail it in.

Please take a moment to reflect on the gifts

you have received from God

and the importance of your church home.

See Stewardship Chairman Mike Papadelias or Fr. David if you have questions or need a card.

Remember that the **St. Photini Bookstore & Gift Shop** is a great place to find special gifts for special people:
Icons, Books, Crosses, Gifts, Gift Certificates, T-shirts

Or, stop in and purchase a gift certificate and let the special person choose his/her own gift:

Sisters of St. Photini Bookstore & Gift Shop
GIFT CERTIFICATE

OR IN THE AMOUNT OF \$ \$20

OR FROM Rudolph

ST. ANDREW THE APOSTLE ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH | 5501 NORTH W STREET | PENSACOLA, FLORIDA 32505

Sisterhood of St. Photini Antiochian Women

will sponsor

the Cutting of the Vasilopita (St. Basil's Bread) for January 1st

Anyone who plans to **bake a St. Basil's bread (Vasilopita)** for the Feast of St. Basil, celebrated on Monday, January 1, should contact **Syd Werthmuller** to obtain a gold dollar coin to place in the bread in keeping with St. Basil's tradition, or you may obtain your own.

Donations received at the cutting of the Vasilopita during Coffee Fellowship on January 1st will be given to Fr. David's Discretionary Fund.



**OUTDOOR BLESSING
of WATER
& CROSS DIVE
followed by Indoor Picnic**

SUNDAY, JANUARY 7, 2018, 1:00 pm

More Details Available Next Week

ATTENTION YOUNG AND OLD!

(There will be two categories of Divers based on age.)

Prepare to retrieve the Cross from
the Gulf of Mexico in
Celebration of Theophany!

Please let Fr. David or Betsy Werre (rbwerre@att.net or 516-0608) know ASAP who is participating in the Cross Dive in order to plan the event properly.

Fr. David will be blessing homes throughout January, following Theophany on January 6th. Please contact him to schedule the blessing of your home.

BLESSING OF HOMES

The central sign of our acceptance of God's sanctification of the creation is the blessing of the homes of faithful Orthodox Christians. We annually bless homes:

- a. To reveal the home as what God created it to be, a way to heaven.
- b. To rid the home of every evil.
- c. To show that the family is a small church unit in Christ.
- d. To consecrate the home and all activity in it to God, filling the home and all who live in it with the fullness of God.

Only the Church reveals what life is, and She alone is the Kingdom of God on earth. The Church lives within Christ, revealing Him to us. As the Church, we sprinkle blessed water throughout the home, as we chant, "By Thy baptism, O Lord, in the river Jordan worship of the Trinity hath made its appearance, for the voice of the Lord did come forth to Thee with the testimony naming Thee beloved Son; and the Spirit, in the likeness of a dove, confirming the truth of the word. Wherefore, O Thou Who didst appear and lighted the world, O Christ, glory to Thee." The priest consecrates the home to the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit and, in this act, the Church blesses, reveals and sanctifies.

When the priest comes for the house blessing, please be mindful of these guidelines:

1. *Have as many family members present as possible.*
2. *Set up a place for prayers, in the dining room or kitchen, with an icon and a candle. (or this can be done at your family's icon corner)*
3. *Print the first names of those for whom special prayers are to be offered, including all family members on a sheet of paper.*
4. *Take this time to get to know the priest better; asking any questions you may have.*
5. *If a child wants some time to talk to the priest alone, respect his/her privacy and make the opportunity.*
6. *Make the priest aware of any special needs you may have.*
7. *Tell the priest about any family members who are in nursing homes or in need of a visit.*

Fr. David will begin the Blessing of Homes during the following the Feast of Theophany celebrated on Friday, January 6th.

*St. Andrew the Apostle Antiochian Orthodox Church
Services & Events Calendar*

December 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
17 Holy Bread Sue Ann Orthros 8:50am Divine Liturgy 10:00am Anthony "Bubba" Tampary Sr 40-day Memorial 11:15am Sunday School 11:15am	18	19	20 Adult Study Group 6:00pm Paraklesis of Advert 6:00pm	21 Choir Rehearsal 5:45pm	22 Royal Hours for Nativity 9:00am	23 Vespers 6:00pm
24 Christmas Eve Holy Bread Dorothy Orthros 8:50am Divine Liturgy 10:00am Sunday School 11:15am Orthros for Nativity 9:00pm Divine Liturgy for the Nativity of Christ 10:00pm	25 Christmas Day	26	27 Vespers 6:00pm	28 Choir Rehearsal 5:45pm	29	30 Vespers 6:00pm
31 New Year's Eve Holy Bread Stacy Orthros 8:50am Divine Liturgy 10:00am Sunday School 11:15am						

January 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 <small>New Year's Day</small> Orthros for Circumcision of Christ & St Basil 9:00am Divine Liturgy for the Circumcision of Christ & St Basil the Great 10:00am Cutting of Vasilopita 11:20am	2	3 Vespers 6:00pm	4	5 Royal Hours of Theophany 9:00am	6 Orthros for Theophany 9:00am Divine Liturgy for Theophany 10:00am Great Blessing of Water 11:00am Vespers 6:00pm

Diocese Of Miami & the SouthEast

DOMSE WINTER RETREAT

January 25 - 28, 2018

Hosted at St. Elias Orthodox Church, Atlanta, GA

Bishop NICHOLAS, presiding, cordially invites you to attend the Winter Retreat in Atlanta.

During our weekend together, there will be workshops, fellowship time, guest speakers, events, and a special time with Bishop NICHOLAS himself, as he shares his vision for our Diocese.

All are encouraged to attend: Clergy, Antiochian Men, Antiochian Women, Teens, and Young Adults. Mark your calendar now and plan to participate.

Hotel accommodations are at the Emory Conference Center, 1615 Clifton Road, Atlanta, GA 30329. Go to the following website and make your reservations now:

<https://aws.passkey.com/go/StEliasofAtlanta>

Also, like us on Facebook! There you can connect with others and gather more information, details, and updates about the retreat.

<https://www.facebook.com/DMCDOMSE/>

The Diocese of Miami & the Southeast



Diocese Of Miami & the SouthEast

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Emory Conference
Center Hotel

Hotel Accommodations at Emory Conference Center Hotel

1615 Clifton Road, Atlanta, GA 30329

\$125/night plus \$15 per car parked/night

To make reservations: <https://aws.passkey.com/go/StEliasofAtlanta>

Schedule of Events:

Thursday January 25 * - Child care educational workshops provided during this time (5 years to 12 years old)

5:00pm	Vespers
6:00pm *	Clergy & Clergy Wives Dinner and Fellowship Time with Bishop NICHOLAS provided by Saint Elias

Friday January 26

9:00am	Morning Prayers
9:30am	Coffee & Donuts Breakfast for all provided by Saint Elias
10:00am	Antiochian Women Meeting with Bishop NICHOLAS
10:00am	Clergy Workshop "Starting the Process of Retirement" with Fr. John Troy Mashburn
12:00pm	Lunch for all provided by Antiochian Women of the Diocese of Miami and the Southeast
1:00pm	Diocese Ministry Council (DMC) Meeting: BISHOP NICHOLAS' VISION FOR THE DIOCESE with Q & A
4:00pm	Fellowship Time for all; Coffee & Cookies provided by Saint Elias
5:00pm	Vespers
6:00pm	Teen SOYO Gathering with pizza provided by the Diocese Ministry Council (DMC)
6:00pm	Young Adult Ministry (YAM) Meeting (Bishop NICHOLAS attending)
6:00pm	Clergy/Antiochian Women/Antiochian Men - Dinner on your own
8:00pm	Teen SOYO Retreat Opening, Games, and Small Group Sessions (Bishop NICHOLAS attending)
8:30pm	Young Adult Ministry (YAM) Dinner at Aladdin's Emory Pointe
10:30pm	Compline

Saturday January 27

9:00am	Divine Liturgy followed by Coffee & Donuts Breakfast for all provided by Saint Elias
10:30am	Teen SOYO Hangout and Movie
10:30am	Young Adult Ministry (YAM) Morning Workshop "The Face of Christ in the Church" with Fr. David Bloom
10:30am *	Spiritual Retreat Morning Session "God's Gardens: Eden & Gethsemane" for Clergy / Antiochian Women & Antiochian Men with Fr. Stephen Rogers
12:00pm	Lunch for all provided by the Diocese Ministry Council (DMC)
1:00pm	Teen SOYO Retreat "Developing Personal Prayer" with Bishop NICHOLAS & Service Project (LINUS) provided by St. Elias Teen SOYO
1:00pm *	Spiritual Retreat Afternoon Session "God's Gardens: Golgotha & The Church" for Clergy/Antiochian Women & Antiochian Men with Fr. Stephen Rogers
1:00pm	Young Adult Ministry (YAM) Afternoon Workshop "The Face of Christ in the World" with Fr. David Bloom
4:00pm	Fellowship Time for all; Coffee & Cookies provided by Saint Elias
5:00pm	Vespers
6:00pm	Dinner for all provided by Saint Elias
7:00pm	Teen SOYO Meeting
7:00pm	Young Adult Ministry (YAM) Social Outing at Big Escape Rooms provided by Diocese Ministry Council (DMC)
8:00pm	Teen SOYO free time and small groups
10:00pm	Compline

Sunday January 28

8:50am	Matins
10:00am	Hierarchical Divine Liturgy followed by Fellowship Hour for all provided by Saint Elias

"The disciples were first called Christians in Antioch" (Acts 11: 26)

590 Longwood Ln. Weston, Florida 33326

(304)804-2563 Cell

hp@choicemse@gmail.com



*Poinsettias
in memory or in honor
of loved ones*



To purchase a poinsettia to be used to decorate the church for Christmas, please complete the form below. Place the form and your donation in the basket on the table by the Sisters of St. Photini room or mail it to the church.

Poinsettias are \$15.00 each.

Make checks payable to St. Andrew AOC.

Earmark checks appropriately for POINSETTIA.

(Deadline is Sunday, December 17th)

In memory of

In honor of

Total number of poinsettias _____

Total amount of donation _____

Name of person(s)/family donating: *(please write exactly what you want listed in the Poinsettia Insert for the Christmas Bulletin*
