



## St. Basil Antiochian Orthodox Church

The Very Reverend Father Peter Nugent, Pastor

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Saturday: Great Vespers & Confessions, 5:00 P.M.

Sunday: Orthros, 8:30 A.M.; Divine Liturgy, 9:30 A.M.



September 20, 2015

The Sunday after the Elevation of the Holy Cross

Varys Tone ~ Eothion 5 ~ Psalm 109:8

*Christ Is In Our Midst! He Is And Ever Shall Be!*

### To Our Guests:

Holy Communion is open only to those Orthodox Christians who are in good standing with the Church and have prepared themselves by prayer, fasting and a recent confession. If you are not in good standing with the Church or are not an Orthodox Christian please do not be offended by this. While we are not yet in formal inter-communion with other faith traditions, we have much respect for their rites of worship and sanctuaries of prayer. We welcome you to our church and invite you to receive a blessing and partake of the antidoron at the end of the Divine Liturgy.

### *The Mission of St. Basil Antiochian Orthodox Church...*

We love and worship God, proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ through the teachings of the Holy Orthodox Christian Faith, and serve those in our parish, our larger community, and God's people everywhere through worship, prayer, fellowship, education, charity, and outreach.

### *The Vision of St. Basil Antiochian Orthodox Church...*

St. Basil Church is committed to growth: growth of our members spiritually, and growth of our members in the participation of parish life. We are committed to the education in the faith of our members and non-members. We will identify and initiate strategies to increase the involvement of the teens and the 20-40 age group of the parish. We will reach out to the larger community with invitations and messages about the Holy Orthodox Christian Faith and St. Basil Church. We will identify and implement strategies to enhance our financial stability.

### *Saints du Jour (Sept. 20)*

Great-martyr Eustathios and his family; Venerable-martyr Hilarion of St. Anne Skete on Athos; Venerable John of Crete; Martyrs Michael, prince of Chernigov, and his councilor Theodore.

### *Spiritual Counsels...*

"When virtuous men are in power, the people are joyful, when the wicked rule, the people groan."  
Proverbs 29:2

*Apolytikion of the Resurrection – Varys Tone:* 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 the Holy Cross – Tone 1:* O Lord, save Thy people, and bless Thine inheritance, granting to Thy people victory over all adversaries, and by the power of Thy Cross preserving Thine estate.

*Apolytikion of St. Eustathios and his family – Tone 4:* Thy martyrs, O Lord, by their struggles have received from Thee, our God, imperishable crowns; because, acquiring Thy strength, they demolished usurpers and crushed the powerless might of Satan. Therefore, through their intercessions, O Christ God, save our souls.

*Apolytikion of St. Basil the Great – Tone 1:* Into all the world that received thy word went out thy voice; thereby didst thou divinely teach, explaining the nature of existing things and ordering the conduct of men. O venerable father, royal priesthood Basil, intercede with Christ our God for the salvation of our souls.

*Kontakion of the Holy Cross – Tone 4:* Do Thou, Who of Thine Own good will wast lifted up upon the Cross, O Christ our God, bestow Thy bounties upon the new nation, which is called by Thy name. Make glad in Thy might those who lawfully govern, that with them we may be led to victory over our adversaries, having in Thine aid a weapon of peace and a trophy invincible.

*Prokeimenon:* The Lord will give strength to His people.

*Verse:* Bring to the Lord, O sons of God, bring to the Lord honor and glory.

**Epistle:** The reading is from St. Paul's Letter to the Galatians.

(Chapter 2:16-20)

BRETHREN, you know that a man is not justified by works of the law, but through faith in Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Christ Jesus in order to be justified by faith in Christ and not by works of the law because by works of the law shall no one be justified. But if, in our endeavor to be justified in Christ, we ourselves were found to be sinners, is Christ then an agent of sin? Certainly not! But if I build up again those things, which I tore down, then I prove myself a transgressor. For I through the law died to the law that I might live to God. I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me; and the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.

**Gospel:** The reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Mark

(Chapters 8:34-38; 9:1)

The Lord said, "If any man would come after Me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow Me. For whoever would save his life will lose it; and whoever loses his life for My sake and the gospel's will save it. For what does it profit a man to gain the whole world and forfeit his soul? For what can a man give in return for his soul? For whoever is ashamed of Me and of My words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him will the Son of man also be ashamed when He comes in the glory of His Father with the holy angels." And He said to them, "Truly I say to you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the Kingdom of God come with power."

### WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Saturday, Sept. 26<sup>th</sup> – Great Vespers & Confessions, 5:00 P.M.  
Sunday, Sept. 27<sup>th</sup> – Orthros, 8:30 A.M.; Divine Liturgy, 9:30 A.M.  
Saturday, Oct. 3<sup>rd</sup> – Great Vespers & Confessions, 5:00 P.M.  
Sunday, Oct. 4<sup>th</sup> – Orthros, 8:30 A.M.; Divine Liturgy, 9:30 A.M.  
Saturday, Oct. 10<sup>th</sup> – Great Vespers & Confessions, 5:00 P.M.  
Sunday, Oct. 11<sup>th</sup> – Orthros, 8:30 A.M.; Divine Liturgy, 9:30 A.M.  
Saturday, Oct. 17<sup>th</sup> – Great Vespers & Confessions, 5:00 P.M.  
Sunday, Oct. 18<sup>th</sup> – Orthros, 8:30 A.M.; Divine Liturgy, 9:30 A.M.

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Today's Ushers:** Terr Mehari and Tania Russell; **Ushers for next Sunday:** Fitsum Ejigu and Emma Nugent.

Trisagion prayers are offered today by **Kumie Mamo** for the repose of her father, **Fetene Mamo** (40 day). May his memory be eternal.

Coffee hour is sponsored by **Kumie Mamo** in memory of her father, **Fetene Mamo**. Thank you.

Two of our festal icons were damaged during Hurricane Gustav several years ago, the icons of the Sunday of St. Thomas and the dormition of the Theotokos. We are attempting to replace those icons at this time. If you are interested in donating one or both of them, please see Fr. Peter. The cost of each icon is \$85.

A special party for the young girls of our parish—Mary's Angels—shall be held on Saturday, Oct. 3<sup>rd</sup>, from 3-4:30 P.M. Those girls of our parish from Pre-K through 5<sup>th</sup> grade are invited to join us. Drinks and treats shall be served. For more information, please see **Fr. Peter** or **Tania Russell**.

St. Basil Church shall host a **Hafli** at Holy Trinity Cathedral (corner of St. Bernard & Robert E. Lee in NOLA) on Saturday, Nov. 14, 2015, at 7:00 P.M. Tickets are selling quickly. Please see **Cesar El-Hajj** for more information. Three adult volunteers are needed to help serve beverages and two other adults are needed to assist with sales during the evening. There is no charge for the meals of these volunteers. Those members of the parish who wish to attend, but have hardship circumstances should see Fr. Peter for additional information.

The **Ladies Guild** has a new project. During the coming months, they shall sponsor several coffee hours in order to ask parishioners to donate to a collection basket to help fund very needed repairs to the parish kitchen. Of note, the huge double refrigerator/freezer is on its last legs and needs to be replaced soon. Please support them with this worthwhile project.

The church bulletin is available by email. Please tell Fr. Peter if you would like to receive it.

As of September 13, 2015, 46 pledges were received totaling \$97,752. Approximately \$2,660/week is needed in donations to meet our budgetary obligation. The collection for the week ending Sept. 13, 2015, totaled \$2,077.50 for a year-to-date total of \$96,595.07.

### **The Holy Great-martyr Eustathius (Placidus)**

Eustathius was a great Roman general during the reigns of Emperors Titus and Trajan. Though he was a pagan, Placidus (for that was his pagan name) was a just and merciful man, similar to Cornelius the Centurion, who was baptized by the Apostle Peter (Acts 10). Out hunting one day, he pursued a stag. By God's providence, a cross appeared between the antlers of the stag and the voice of the Lord came to Placidus, directing him to go to a Christian priest and become baptized. Placidus was baptized, along with his wife and two sons. At baptism, he received the name Eustathius; his wife, Theopiste (“faithful to God”); and his sons, Agapitus and Theopistus. After his baptism, he returned to the place where he had experienced the revelation of the stag and, kneeling, gave thanks to God that He had brought him to the truth. Just then, the voice of the Lord again manifested itself to him, foretold that he would suffer for His name, and strengthened him. Then Eustathius secretly left Rome with his family, intending to hide among the simple people and serve God in humble and unknown surroundings. Arriving in Egypt, he was immediately beset by trials. An evil barbarian abducted his wife, and both of his sons were seized by wild beasts and carried away. However, the barbarian soon lost his life, and the children were saved from the wild beasts by shepherds. Eustathius settled in the Egyptian village of Vadisis and lived there for 15 years as a hired laborer. Then barbarians attacked the Roman Empire, and Emperor Trajan grieved that he did not have the brave General Placidus, who had carried the victory whenever he fought. The emperor sent two of his officers to seek the great commander throughout the empire. By God's providence, these officers (who were once companions of Eustathius), came to the village of Vadisis, found Eustathius and brought him back to the emperor. Eustathius amassed an army and defeated the barbarians. On the way back to Rome, Eustathius found his wife and both sons. Meanwhile, Emperor Trajan had died and Emperor Hadrian was on the throne. When Hadrian summoned General Eustathius to offer sacrifices to the gods, Eustathius declined, declaring himself a Christian. The emperor subjected him and his wife and sons to torture. They were thrown to the wild beasts, but this did them no harm. Then they were cast into a red-hot metal ox. On the third day their dead bodies were removed, but they were unharmed by the fire. Thus, this glorious commander rendered *unto Caesar the things which are Caesar's, and unto God the things that are God's* (Luke 20:25), and took up his habitation in the Eternal Kingdom of Christ our God.

*from: The Prologue from Ochrid*