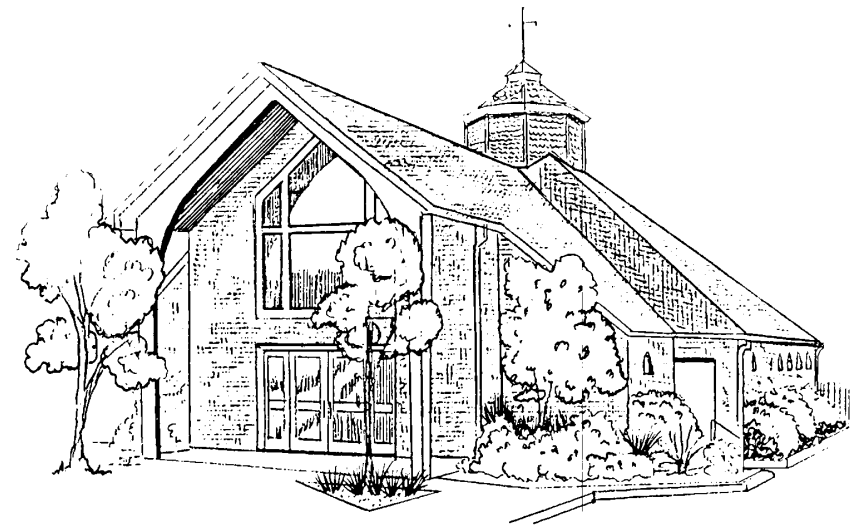


**St. Basil Antiochian Orthodox Church**  
**The Most Reverend Metropolitan SABA, Archbishop of New York**  
**And Metropolitan of all North America**  
**The Right Reverend Bishop NICHOLAS, Auxiliary Bishop**  
**Of the Diocese of Miami and the Southeast**  
**The Very Reverend Father Peter Nugent, Pastor**  
**3916 Hudson St., Metairie, LA 70006**  
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**The Holy Martyr Agathocleia**

Agathocleia was a servant of a certain Nicholas and his wife Paulina, who had been Christians, but turned back from the Faith to worship idols. Holy Agathocleia refused to follow the error of her masters and was subsequently tortured cruelly by them, and by the pagan judges. Her mistress killed her by pouring hot coals on her neck, but this handmaiden of God was glorified in His Heavenly Kingdom.

**St. Basil**  
**Antiochian**  
**Orthodox Church**



**September 17, 2023**  
**The Sunday After The Holy Cross**

# Welcome!

## To Our Guests:

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. In our tradition, **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.** Please do not be offended by this if you are not an Orthodox Christian or in good standing with the Church. We welcome you to our church and invite you to receive a blessing and partake of the blessed bread at the end of the Divine Liturgy.

*In our tradition... the church temple is a house of prayer. Upon entering it, please refrain from unnecessary conversation before, during and after church services, most especially during the Divine Liturgy from the time of the consecration of the Gifts until the last person has received the Eucharist. At the end of the Divine Liturgy, please come quietly forward to receive a piece of the antidoron and exit the church temple without talking. During coffee hour in the Church Hall is the appropriate place to exchange personal greetings and converse with one another. May God bless your reverence and piety.*

**Epistle Reading:** Galatians 2:16-20

**Gospel Reading:** Mark 8:34-38; 9:1

## Saints of the Day

Martyrs Sophia and her daughters Faith, Love and Hope; Martyr Agathokleia; Hieromartyrs Herakleidos of Cyprus and Myron, bishops of Tamasus in Cyprus; Venerable Anastasios, peristeron of Cyprus; Euxiphios of Cyprus, the bishop.

## A Message from the Parish Council

Dear Parishioners, as we anticipated in the budget, our new property insurance premiums are going to exceed \$40,000 during the next 12 months. The premiums are paid quarterly and will put a strain on our ability to pay for the regular monthly expenses of approximately \$10,000. As we enter the summer months, when our income is generally less, please assist us by keeping up your regular pledge payments. Thank you for your generous support of the Parish. We are confident that the Lord will provide for our needs with your assistance, as always--Rob Booms.

## WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Saturday, Sept. 16<sup>th</sup> – Great Vespers & Confessions, 5:00 P.M.  
Sunday, Sept. 17<sup>th</sup> – Orthros, 8:30 A.M.; Divine Liturgy, 9:30 A.M.  
Saturday, Sept. 23<sup>rd</sup> – No Great Vespers & Confessions  
Sunday, Sept. 24<sup>th</sup> – Typica Service, 9:30 A.M.  
Saturday, Sept. 30<sup>th</sup> – Great Vespers & Confessions, 5:00 P.M.  
Sunday, Oct. 1<sup>st</sup> – Orthros, 8:30 A.M.; Divine Liturgy, 9:30 A.M.  
Saturday, Oct. 7<sup>th</sup> – Great Vespers & Confessions, 5:00 P.M.  
Sunday, Oct. 8<sup>th</sup> – Orthros, 8:30 A.M.; Divine Liturgy, 9:30 A.M.

## **Orthodox Thoughts from Theo, the Parish Possum**



A bearded St. Basil looks upon us from his icon in the iconostasis and from another icon behind the altar. Our patron saint lived during the fourth century in Cappadocia, now in Turkey. St. Basil became a monk in 356 A.D. and later a Bishop. He wrote extensively, including the Divine Liturgy which we use on feast days, Sundays in Great Lent and on his commemoration day, January 1. St. Basil was a famous preacher, known for his care of the needy. He is referred to as St. Basil “the Great” because of his authoritative teaching of the doctrines of the Church. Much of his life was spent fighting the Arian heresy, which contended that Christ was not divine. He was known for his strong defense of the theology reflected in the Nicene Creed. Always in poor health and depicted as very serious in his icons, yet he was optimistic, tender, and even playful. However, he did not waver in his commitment to the poor: “At this very moment, what prevents you from giving? Are not the needy near at hand? Are your barns not already full? Is not your heavenly reward waiting? Is not the commandment crystal clear? The hungry are perishing, the naked are freezing to death, the debtors cannot breathe, and will you put off showing mercy until tomorrow? Make your brothers and sisters sharers of your wealth; give to the needy today what rots away tomorrow.” --- Theo

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## ***Spiritual Counsels...***

“All a poor man’s brothers hate him; how much more do his friends go far from him! He pursues them with words, but does not have them.”  
Proverbs 19:7

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## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Parents and teachers, please note that **Church School** began on Sunday, Sept. 10 and, God willing, shall resume on Oct. 1.

**Today's Coffee Hour:** Potluck. Thank you.    **Next Week:** Team 4.

The Ladies Guild will be collecting donations for Love Moved First during the year of 2023. Love Moved First is a home for woman in crisis to recover and heal. We will have a collection bin set out and a list of needs next to it. There is much needed so even a little is a big help. If you have any questions about Love Moved First, please see Cheryl Pituch or Tania Russell. Thank you for your support.

### **Itinerary for Bishop NICHOLAS' visit this weekend:**

- Friday, Sept. 15<sup>th</sup> – Arrival of His Grace, Check-in at hotel.
- Saturday, Sept. 16<sup>th</sup>, 9:00 A.M. – Morning Prayers with the youth (Preschool – 12 year olds) of the parish in the Church.
- Saturday, Sept. 16<sup>th</sup>, 9:30-11:30 A.M. – Retreat time with His Grace and the Youth. Topic: Prayer
- Saturday, Sept. 16<sup>th</sup>, 11:30 A.M.-12:30 P.M. – Lunch with His Grace, the Youth and Teens of the Parish.
- Saturday, Sept. 16<sup>th</sup>, 12:30-2:30 P.M. – Retreat time with His Grace and the Teens. Topic: Gender Identity & Social Media.
- Saturday, Sept. 16<sup>th</sup>, 2:30-4:30 P.M. – Retreat time with His Grace and the Seniors & Middle-aged Adults. Topic: Prayer and Silence.
- Saturday, Sept. 16<sup>th</sup>, 5:00 P.M. – Great Vespers
- Sunday, Sept. 17<sup>th</sup>, 8:30 A.M. – Orthros
- Sunday, Sept. 17<sup>th</sup>, 9:30 A.M. – Hierarchical Divine Liturgy
- Sunday, Sept. 17<sup>th</sup>, 11:30 A.M. – Coffee Hour
- Sunday, Sept. 17<sup>th</sup>, 12:30 P.M. – Retreat time with His Grace and the Young Adults. Topic: Gender Identity and Social Media.