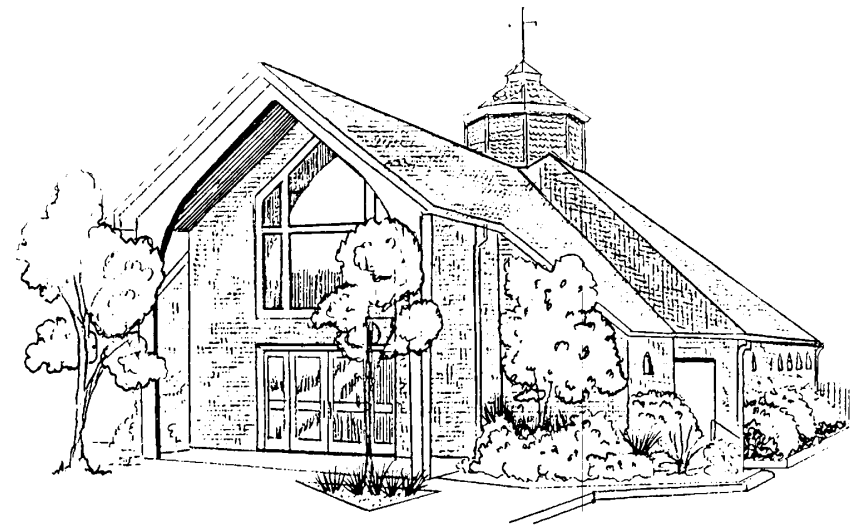


**St. Basil Antiochian Orthodox Church**  
**The Most Reverend Metropolitan SABA, Archbishop of New York**  
**And Metropolitan of all North America**  
**The Right Reverend Bishop NICHOLAS, Auxiliary Bishop**  
**Of Miami and the Southeast**  
**The Very Reverend Father Peter Nugent, Pastor**  
**3916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

Coming from a wealthy home in Alexandria, she had a good father who suffered much and came to an evil end, and an evil mother who lived well, died peacefully and was buried with honors. Perplexed as to whether she should live according to the example of her father or her mother, this maiden had a vision, which revealed to her the conditions of her mother and her father in the other world. She saw her father in the Kingdom of God and her mother in darkness and in torment. This vision helped the maiden to decide that she would dedicate her whole life to God and, like her father, would adhere to the commandments of God, without considering all the adversities and the misfortunes which she would have to endure. She was faithful to the will of God to the end and, with the help of God, was made worthy of the Kingdom of Heaven where she was reunited with her God-loving father.

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



**March 3, 2024**  
**Sunday of the Prodigal Son**

# 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:** 1 Corinthians 6:12-20

**Gospel Reading:** Luke 15:11-32

## Saints of the Day

Martyrs Eutropios, Kleonikos, and Basilikos of Amasea;  
Hieromartyr Theodoretos of Antioch; Nonnita, mother of St. David.

## A Message from the Parish Council

Dear Parishioners, note that the Annual Parish meeting will take place on Sunday, March 18, after the Liturgy. At that time, we will approve reports, elect Parish Council members and vote on the budget for the year. If you wish to submit your name nor any other names for nomination to the Parish Council, please give them to me or Father Peter no later than February 18. To vote at the meeting, you must be a member of the parish for at least one year, have completed the Parish Registration/ Pledge Form and return it to the church office, and be in good sacramental standing with the Church and good financial standing with the parish—  
Rob Booms, Council Chairman.

## WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Saturday, March 2<sup>nd</sup> – Great Vespers & Confessions, 5:00 P.M.  
Sunday, March 3<sup>rd</sup> – Orthros, 8:30 A.M.; Divine Liturgy, 9:30 A.M.  
Saturday, March 9<sup>th</sup> – Great Vespers & Confessions, 5:00 P.M.  
Sunday, March 10<sup>th</sup> – Orthros, 8:30 A.M.; Divine Liturgy, 9:30 A.M.  
Saturday, March 16<sup>th</sup> – Great Vespers & Confessions, 5:00 P.M.  
Sunday, March 17<sup>th</sup> – Orthros, 8:30 A.M.; Divine Liturgy, 9:30 A.M.  
Wednesday, March 20<sup>th</sup> – Presanctified Liturgy 6:30 P.M.  
Friday, March 22<sup>nd</sup> – Akathist Hymn (1<sup>st</sup> Stasis) 6:30 P.M.  
Saturday, March 23<sup>rd</sup> – Great Vespers & Confessions, 5:00 P.M.  
Sunday, March 24<sup>th</sup> – Orthros, 8:30 A.M.; Divine Liturgy, 9:30 A.M.  
Wednesday, March 27<sup>th</sup> – Presanctified Liturgy 6:30 P.M.  
Friday, March 29<sup>th</sup> – Akathist Hymn (2<sup>nd</sup> Stasis) 6:30 P.M.

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



Another Mardi Gras has passed in New Orleans. Partying and parades ended for many Roman Catholics and other Christians with the imposition of ashes on Ash Wednesday. As they start Lent, believers are called to penitence and reminded that they are made of ashes and ultimately will return to ashes. Orthodox people are sometimes asked why this somber ritual is not observed in Orthodoxy. The so-called Great Lent for Orthodox people starts on “Clean Monday”, March 18 this year, the day after Cheesefare or Forgiveness Sunday. There are no ashes given because the emphasis in the Orthodox faith is not on death or bodily mortification. It is not about displaying one’s piety to others with a cross marked on the forehead. As Father Thomas Hopko said, Lent is not “a season of morbidity and gloominess” but “a time of joyfulness and purification.” Orthodox believers are sad because they have sinned. Yet, they are also glad because they have found the true faith which promises salvation. In the words of one of the hymns for Clean Monday: “Let us joyfully begin the all-hallowed season of abstinence; and let us shine with the bright radiance of the holy commandments of Christ our God. So clothed in raiment of light, let us hasten to the Holy Resurrection.” Father Hopko rightly teaches us that “it is our repentance that God desires, not our remorse. We sorrow for our sins, but we do so in the joy of God’s mercy.”—Theo

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

"The dread wrath of a king is like the growling of a lion; he who provokes him to anger forfeits his life." Proverbs 20:2

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### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The **Ladies Guild** is having their second annual Breakfast Bonanza!!! Please join us on Meat Fare Sunday, March 10, for a breakfast feast to enter into the Great Fast. \$13 age 13 & up, \$6 age 7 to 12, 6 and under eat free.

**Meatfare Week** begins on Monday, March 11. From that date until PASCHA it is our tradition to refrain from eating meat and meat products. From Pure Monday, March 18, we observe the traditional fasting discipline of Great and Holy Lent (no meat, poultry, eggs, dairy, fish, alcohol and oil) during the entire Great Fast, which lasts from Pure Monday through Great and Holy Saturday. On Saturdays and Sundays, however, alcohol and oil are allowed, except on Great and Holy Saturday when no oil is permitted. Fish, alcohol and oil are permitted on the Feast of the Annunciation (March 25) and Palm Sunday (April 28).

Our **Annual General Parish Meeting** is scheduled for March 17, 2024, after Divine Liturgy and shall convene in the Church Hall. All members of the parish are encouraged to attend the meeting. Those adults, who have been a member of the parish for at least one year, have completed the Parish Registration/Pledge Form and returned it to the church office, and are in good sacramental with the Church and good financial standing with the parish, are eligible to vote.

Our annual **Wine and Cheese Social** shall be held on Cheesefare Sunday, March 17th, in the Church Hall after Divine Liturgy. Please bring enough wine, cheese and crackers for yourself and friends.

There is no Church School on Sundays, March 24, April 7 & 28.

Sunday School classes are now gearing up to get ready for the **PLC Creative Festivals**. They have been learning about this year's theme "And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose." This year we will hold three workshops after church to give them time to get their submissions ready. The next workshop is March 24 from 12pm to 4pm.

Fr. Peter will meet with all catechumens in the church after coffee hour on Sunday, March 24.

Approximately 100 **Red Carnations** are needed for the veneration of the Holy Cross on Sunday, April 7. If you are interested in donating all or part of these flowers, please fill out one of the envelopes in the narthex and on the "Special Occasion" line, please write, "Red Carnations." Include your commemorations, donation and turn the envelope in to the church office. Thank you.

The **Sacrament of Holy Confession** is good for the health and salvation of the soul and body. For long-term, good, physical health, regular visits to the family doctor are appropriate. Likewise, care for our souls is a necessity. If it is your desire to receive the Eucharist at Great and Holy PASCHA, then please make every effort to care for your soul and have confession at least once during Great Lent.

Lenten potluck meals shall be served after Presanctified Liturgies on Wednesday evenings during Great Lent.

**Today's Coffee Hour:** Team 1. Thank you.      **Next Week:** Team 2