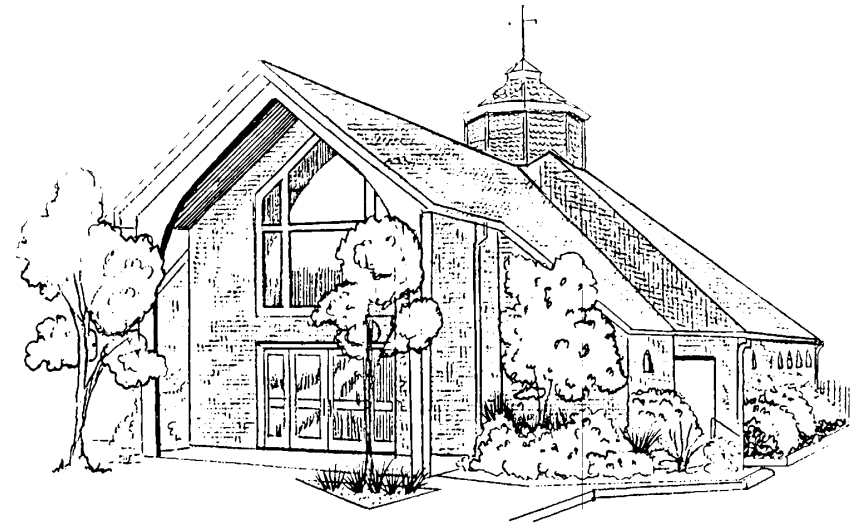


St. Basil Antiochian Orthodox Church
The Most Reverend Metropolitan SABA, Archbishop of New York
And Metropolitan of all North America
The Right Reverend Bishop NICHOLAS, Auxiliary Bishop
Of the Diocese of Miami and the Southeast
The Very Reverend Father Peter Nugent, Pastor
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St. George the Confessor

Because of his great virtues, which he attained through a long and difficult mortification, George was chosen and invested as Metropolitan of Mitylene. This saint governed his spiritual flock prudently and zealously to a ripe old age. When a persecution began under Leo V, the Armenian, who, in destroying holy icons, summoned this saintly elder to Constantinople to an assembly of bishops convened by him and, whose intention it was to discontinue the veneration of icons, George not only refused to carry out the wish of the wicked emperor but with other courageous bishops stood up in defense of holy icons. Not only was he ridiculed for that but he was also banished into exile by the emperor to the region of Cherson. Here he endured all sorts of physical afflictions and deprivations for the remaining years of his life. He died and was translated to eternal life about the year 816 A.D. Because of his great sanctity and love for the Lord Jesus, George was a great miracle-worker, both during his life and after his death.

St. Basil
Antiochian
Orthodox Church



April 07, 2024
Sunday of 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: Hebrews 4:14-16; 5:1-6

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

Saints of the Day

Martyrs Kalliopos & Akylina of Cilicia; Venerable George, bishop of Mitylene; repose of Tikhon, patriarch of Moscow and Enlightener of North America; Righteous Father Savvas the New of Kalymnos; George, bishop of Lesvos; Gerasimos the God-bearer of Byzantium.

A Message from the Parish Council

Dear Parishioners, the following persons will serve as your Parish Council until the next annual meeting in 2025: Fr. Peter Nugent, Sevin Russell (Chairman), Stephen Pituch (Vice-Chairman), Bill Harrison (Treasurer), Elias Ioup (Secretary), Laurie Bolanos, Therese Dagher, Mark Fleming, Natalia Flint and Yordan Yordanov. Please pray for them, support them in their work and contact them if you have any questions or concerns about the Parish.

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Friday, April 5th – Akathist Hymn (3rd Stasis) 6:30 P.M.

Saturday, April 6th – Orthros, 9:00 A.M.; Divine Liturgy, 10:00 A.M.

Saturday, April 6th – Great Vespers & Confessions, 5:00 P.M.

Sunday, April 7th – Orthros, 8:30 A.M.; Divine Liturgy, 9:30 A.M.

Wednesday, April 10th – Presanctified Liturgy 6:30 P.M.

Friday, April 12th – Akathist Hymn (4th Stasis) 6:30 P.M.

Saturday, April 13th – Great Vespers & Confessions, 5:00 P.M.

Sunday, April 14th – Orthros, 8:30 A.M.; Divine Liturgy, 9:30 A.M.

Wednesday, April 17th – Presanctified Liturgy 6:30 P.M.

Friday, April 19th – Akathist Hymn (5th Stasis) 6:30 P.M.

Saturday, April 20th – Great Vespers & Confessions, 5:00 P.M.

Sunday, April 21st – Orthros, 8:30 A.M.; Divine Liturgy, 9:30 A.M.

Wednesday, April 24th – Presanctified Liturgy 6:30 P.M.

Saturday, April 27th – Orthros, 8:30 A.M.; Divine Liturgy, 9:30 A.M.

Saturday, April 27th – Great Vespers & Confessions, 5:00 P.M.

Sunday, April 28th – Orthros, 8:30 A.M.; Divine Liturgy, 9:30 A.M.

Orthodox Thoughts from Theo, the Parish Possum



A constant refrain during the prayers of Great Lent is the Prayer of St. Ephraim the Syrian. It is read twice each day at the end of the Lenten services, including during the Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts. St. Ephraim lived in the fourth century near the Syrian/Turkish border. This was a time of great political upheaval and persecution of Christians. He was a prolific writer of hymns and, of course, the famous prayer that we use. The prayer's initial focus is on negative objects of repentance--the sins of sloth, meddling, lust of power and idle talk. These are spiritual diseases from which we can only be healed with God's help. Then the focus shifts to the positive aims of repentance--a spirit of chastity, humility, patience, love, the ability to recognize our own sins and to refrain from judging others for theirs. Each petition is followed by a prostration because, in the words of Father Alexander Schmemmann, "the body participates in the prayer of the soul just as the soul prays through and in the body." The prayer ends with everyone bowing twelve times saying, "O God, cleanse me a sinner." St. Ephraim teaches us "Prayer that rises up in someone's heart serves to open up for us the door of heaven: that person stands in converse with the Divinity and gives pleasure to the Son of God." O Holy Father Ephraim, pray to Christ our God to save our souls. — Theo

Spiritual Counsels...

“A righteous man who walks in his integrity – blessed are his sons after him!” Proverbs 20:7

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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).

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.

There is no Church School on Sundays, April 28 and May 5.

God willing, on Saturday, April 6, we shall have Orthros and Divine Liturgy at 9 and 10 A.M., respectively for the **Saturday of Souls**.

The **Ladies Guild** is scheduled to hold their April meeting next Sunday, April 14, after Divine Liturgy. All ladies of the parish are invited to attend.

Fr. Peter will meet with all **catechumens** in the church after coffee hour on Sunday, April 14.

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.