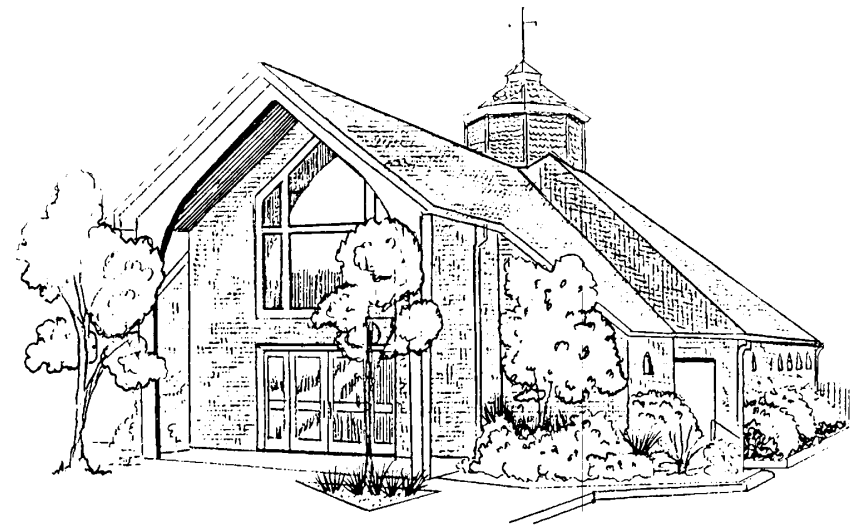


St. Basil Antiochian Orthodox Church
The Most Reverend Metropolitan SABA, Archbishop of New York
And Metropolitan of all North America
The Right Reverend Bishop NICHOLAS, Auxiliary Bishop
Of the Diocese of Miami and the Southeast
The Very Reverend Father Peter Nugent, Pastor
3916 Hudson St., Metairie,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

All three were pagans and, at first, were fire worshippers. All of them were servants in the palace of the Lithuanian Prince Olgard in Vilna. They were formerly called: KRUGLETZ, KUMETZ AND NEZILO. All three were baptized by Nestor, the priest. All three were hanged, one after the other on the same oak tree in the year 1347 A.D. Christians cut down the tree and erected a church in honor of the Holy Trinity. The revered relics of these martyrs were then placed in this church and a holy altar table was carved from the stump of the oak tree. Their relics repose in Vilna.

St. Basil
Antiochian
Orthodox Church



April 14, 2024
Sunday of St. John Climacus

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 6:13-20

Gospel Reading: Mark 9:17-31

Saints of the Day

Apostles Aristarechos, Pudens and Trophymos of the Seventy; Martyr Thomais of Alexandria; New-martyr Demetrios of the Peloponnesos; Martyr Ardalion the Actor; Demetrios the New-martyr of Arcadia.

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 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 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.
Sunday, Apr. 28th – Bridegroom Orthros, 6:30 P.M.
Monday, Mar. 29th – Bridegroom Orthros, 6:30 P.M.
Tuesday, Apr. 30th – Bridegroom Orthros, 6:30 P.M.
Wednesday, May 1st – Sacrament of Holy Unction, 6:30 P.M.
Thursday, May 2nd – Vespereal Divine Liturgy, 10:00 A.M.
Thursday, May 2nd – Orthros of the 12 Passion Gospels, 6:30 P.M.
Friday, May 3rd – Royal Hours, 9:00 A.M.
Friday, May 3rd – Unnailing Vespers, 3:00 P.M.
Friday, May 3rd – Lamentations Orthros, 6:30 P.M.
Saturday, May 4th – Vespereal Divine Liturgy, 10:00 A.M.
Saturday, May 4th – Rush Procession & Orthros, 11:00 P.M.
Sunday, May 5th – Divine Liturgy of Great & Holy PASCHA, 12:00 A.M.
Sunday, May 5th – Agape Vespers, 11:00 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 king who sits on the throne of judgment winnows all evil with his eyes.” 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.

The **Ladies Guild** is scheduled to hold their April meeting today, 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.

The **Parish Council** is scheduled to hold their April meeting next Sunday, April 21, after Divine Liturgy. All ladies of the parish are invited to attend.

In anticipation of Great and Holy PASCHA, **clean-up days** are scheduled for the Church Hall on Thursday, April 25th, at 9:00 A.M. On Friday, April 26th, the Church will be cleaned at 1:00 P.M.

An **Easter Egg Hunt** for the little people in our parish shall be held after Liturgy on Palm Sunday, April 28th. For more information, please see Pam Nugent.

Twelve dozen boiled, **red eggs** are needed for the Paschal Liturgy. If you would like to bring one or two dozen, please place them in the bowl provided on the auxiliary table at the front of the church temple prior to the beginning of the Paschal services. Thank you.

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

Today’s Coffee Hour: Team 2. Thank you. **Next Week:** Team 3.