



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

**The Very Reverend Father Peter Nugent, Pastor**

**3916 Hudson St. Metairie, LA 70006**

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

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



**December 6, 2015**

**St. Nicholas the Wonderworker and the 10<sup>th</sup> Sunday of St. Luke**

**Tone 2 ~ Eothinon 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 Antiochian Orthodox 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 Antiochian Orthodox Church. We will identify and implement strategies to enhance our financial stability.

### ***Saints du Jour (December 6)***

Nicholas the Wonderworker, archbishop of Myra in Lycia; Nicholas, bishop of Patara; New-martyr Nicholas of Karamania in Aisa Minor.

***Apolytikion of the Resurrection – Tone 2:*** When Thou didst submit Thyself unto death, O Thou deathless and immortal One, then Thou didst destroy Hell with Thy Godly pow'r, and when Thou

didst raise the dead from beneath the earth all the pow'rs of heaven did cry aloud unto Thee: O Christ, Thou Giver of life, glory to Thee.

***Apolytikion of St. Nicholas the Wonderworker – Tone 4:*** Thy work of justice did show thee to thy congregation a canon of faith, the likeness of humility, a teacher of abstinence, O Father, Bishop Nicholas. Wherefore, by humility thou didst achieve exaltation, and by meekness, richness. Intercede, therefore, with Christ to 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 Preparatory for the Nativity of Christ – Tone 3:*** Today the Virgin cometh to the cave to give birth in an ineffable manner to the pre-eternal Word. Rejoice, therefore, O universe, when thou hearest, and glorify with the angels and shepherds Him Who shall appear by His Own will as a new Child, the pre-eternal God.

***Prokeimenon:*** Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of His saints.

***Verse:*** What shall I render to the Lord for all that He has given me?

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

(Chapter 13:17-21)

BRETHREN, obey your leaders and submit to them, for they are keeping watch over your souls as men who will have to give account. Let them do this joyfully, and not sadly, for that would be of no advantage to you. Pray for us, for we are sure that we have a clear conscience, desiring to act honorable in all things. I urge you the more earnestly to do this in order that I may be restored to you the sooner. Now may the God of peace Who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, equip you with everything good that you may do His will, working in you that which is pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ; to Whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.

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

(Chapter 13:10-17)

At that time, Jesus was teaching in one of the synagogues on the sabbath. And there was a woman who had had a spirit of infirmity for eighteen years; she was bent over and could not fully straighten herself. And when Jesus saw her, He called her and said to her, "Woman, you are freed from your infirmity." And He laid His hands upon her and immediately she was made straight and she praised God. But the ruler of the synagogue, indignant because Jesus had healed on the sabbath, said to the people, "There are six days on which work ought to be done; come on those days and be healed and not the sabbath day." Then the Lord answered him, "You hypocrite! Does not each of you on the sabbath untie his ox or his ass from the manger and lead it away to water it? And ought not this woman, a daughter of Abraham whom Satan bound for eighteen years, be loosed from this bond on the sabbath day?" As Jesus said this all His adversaries were put to shame; and all the people rejoiced at all the glorious things that were done by Him.

### **WORSHIP SCHEDULE**

Saturday, Dec. 5<sup>th</sup> – Great Vespers & Confessions, 5:00 P.M.  
Sunday, Dec. 6<sup>th</sup> – Orthros, 8:30 A.M.; Divine Liturgy, 9:30 A.M.  
Saturday, Dec. 12<sup>th</sup> – Great Vespers & Confessions, 5:00 P.M.  
Sunday, Dec. 13<sup>th</sup> – Orthros, 8:30 A.M.; Divine Liturgy, 9:30 A.M.  
Saturday, Dec. 19<sup>th</sup> – Great Vespers & Confessions, 5:00 P.M.  
Sunday, Dec. 20<sup>th</sup> – Orthros, 8:30 A.M.; Divine Liturgy, 9:30 A.M.  
Dec. 24<sup>th</sup> – Orthros & Divine Liturgy, TBA  
Saturday, Dec. 26<sup>th</sup> – Great Vespers & Confessions, 5:30 P.M.  
Sunday, Dec. 27<sup>th</sup> – Orthros, 8:30 A.M.; Divine Liturgy, 9:30 A.M.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Today’s Ushers:** Nick Ciucasu and Emma Nugent; **Ushers for next Sunday:** Dwight Gillis and Helen Merid.

Today is the last day to make donations for **poinsettias**. If you would like to make a donation, please fill out one of the envelopes in the narthex and on the “Special Occasion” line, please write, “Poinsettias.” Donations are \$10.00 per plant. Checks should be made payable to **St. Basil Ladies Guild**. Thank you.

The **St. Basil Youth Group** will be Christmas caroling today after Divine Liturgy. For more information, please see **Khouriyeh Pam Nugent** or one of the teens of the parish.

The **Ladies Guild** shall hold their monthly meeting next Sunday after Divine Liturgy. All ladies of the parish are welcome to attend.

Our annual **Cookies with St. Nicholas Party** is scheduled for Saturday, December 12, from 2:30-4:00 P.M. Youngsters of all ages are welcome. Please see **Khouriyeh Pam Nugent** for more details.

The **St. Joseph Men’s Fellowship** shall hold its monthly meeting next Saturday. All men in the parish are invited to attend.

The **Advent Fast** began Sunday, November 15<sup>th</sup>, and is divided into two periods. The first period is Nov. 15 – Dec. 19, with the traditional fasting discipline observed (no meat, poultry, dairy, eggs, fish, alcohol and oil). There is an allowance, however, for alcohol and oil on Tuesdays and Thursdays, and an allowance for alcohol, oil and fish on Saturdays and Sundays. The second period is Dec. 20 – 24, with the traditional fasting discipline observed. There is an allowance, however, for alcohol and oil only on Saturday and Sunday.

**Choir practice** is held on Sunday mornings at 8:30 A.M. Choir members and other members of the parish should see our choir director, **Andy Mahoney**, for more information.

Our annual **Christmas Pageant** will be held after Divine Liturgy on Sunday, Dec. 20<sup>th</sup>. Parents who are interested in having their children participate in the pageant should see **Khouriyeh Pam Nugent**.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS CONTINUED**

If you have moved recently and your mailing/street address has changed, please see Larry Jones to update your listing in our **church directory**. Thank you.

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 November 22, 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 November 22, 2015, totaled \$3,891.45 for a year-to-date total of \$116,709.51. A sum of \$7,315.00 from the hafli was also deposited into our general expense account.

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

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

### **Saint Nicholas the Wonderworker, Archbishop of Myra in Lycia**

This glorious saint, celebrated even today throughout the entire world, was the only son of his eminent and wealthy parents, Theophanes and Nona, citizens of the city of Patara in Lycia. Since he was the only son bestowed on them by God, the parents returned the gift to God by dedicating their son to Him. St. Nicholas learned of the spiritual life from his uncle Nicholas, Bishop of Patara, and was tonsured a monk in the Monastery of New Zion founded by his uncle. Following the death of his parents, Nicholas distributed all his inherited goods to the poor, not keeping anything for himself. As a priest in Patara, he was known for his charity, even though he carefully concealed his charitable works, fulfilling the words of the Lord: *Let not thy left hand know what thy right hand doeth* (Matthew 6:3). When he gave himself over to solitude and silence, thinking to live that way until his death, a voice from on high came to him: ``Nicholas, for your ascetic labor, work among the people, if thou desirest to be crowned by Me." Immediately after that, by God's wondrous providence, he was chosen archbishop of the city of Myra in Lycia. Merciful, wise and fearless, Nicholas was a true shepherd to his flock. During the persecution of Christians under Diocletian and Maximian, he was cast into prison, but even there he instructed the people in the Law of God. He was present at the First Ecumenical Council of Nicaea [325] and, out of great zeal for the truth, struck the heretic Arius with his hand. For this act he was removed from the Council and from his archiepiscopal duties, until the Lord Christ Himself and the Most-holy Theotokos appeared to several of the chief hierarchs and revealed their approval of Nicholas. A defender of God's truth, this wonderful saint was ever bold as a defender of justice among the people. On two occasions, he saved three men from an undeserved sentence of death. Merciful, truthful, and a lover of justice, he walked among the people as an angel of God. Even during his lifetime, the people considered him a saint and invoked his aid in difficulties and in distress. He appeared both in dreams and in person to those who called upon him, and he helped them easily and speedily, whether close at hand or far away. A light shone from his face as it did from the face of Moses, and he, by his presence alone, brought comfort, peace and good will among men. In old age he became ill for a short time and entered into the rest of the Lord, after a life full of labor and very fruitful toil, to rejoice eternally in the Kingdom of Heaven, continuing to help the faithful on earth by his miracles and to glorify his God. He entered into rest on December 6, 343.

*from: The Prologue from Ochrid*