



St. Basil Antiochian Orthodox Church

The Very Reverend Father Peter Nugent, Pastor

3916 Hudson St. Metairie, LA 70006

www.stbasilneworleans.org * 504-888-8114 * sbno@att.net

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

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



December 20, 2015

The Forefeast of, and the Sunday before, the Nativity of Christ

Tone 4 ~ Eothinon 7 ~ 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 20)

Hieromartyr Ignatios the God-bearer of Antioch; New-martyr John the tailor of Thasos; Daniel II, archbishop of Serbia.

Apolytikion of the Resurrection – Tone 4: Having learned the joyful message of the resurrection from the angel the women disciples of the Lord cast from them their parental condemnation and proudly broke the news to the disciples saying: Death hath been spoiled; Christ God is risen, granting the world great mercy.

Apolytikion of the Forefeast – Tone 4: Make ready, O Bethlehem; for Eden hath been opened for all. Prepare, O Ephratha; for the Tree of life hath blossomed forth in the cave from the Virgin; for her belly did appear as a supersensual paradise in which is planted the divine Plant, whereof eating we shall live and not die as Adam. Verily, Christ shall be born, raising the likeness that fell of old.

Apolytikion of the Fathers – Tone 2: Great are the accomplishments of faith; for the three holy youths rejoiced in the fountain of flames as though at waters of rest. And the Prophet Daniel appeared a shepherd to the lions as though they were sheep. Wherefore, by their pleadings, O Christ God, have mercy upon us.

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: Blessed are You, O Lord, the God of our Fathers.

Verse: For You are just in all You have done.

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

(Chapter 11:9-10, 32-40)

BRETHREN, by faith Abraham sojourned in the land of promise, as in a foreign land, living in tents with Isaac and Jacob, heirs with him of the same promise. For he looked forward to the city, which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God.

And what more shall I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets – who through faith conquered kingdoms, enforced justice, received promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched raging fire, escaped the edge of the sword, won strength out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight. Women received their dead by resurrection. Some were tortured, refusing to accept release that they might rise again to a better life. Others suffered mocking and scourging, and even chains and imprisonment. They were stoned, they were sawn in two, they were tempted, they were killed with the sword; they went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, afflicted, ill-treated – of whom the world was not worthy – wandering over deserts and mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth. And all these, though well attested by their faith, did not receive what was promised, since God had foreseen something better for us, that apart from us they should not be made perfect.

Gospel: The reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew
(Chapter 1:1-25)

The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham:
Abraham was the father of Isaac, and Isaac the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers, and Judah the father of Perez and Zerah by Tamar, and Perez the father of Hezron, and Hezron the father of Aram, and Aram the father of Amminadab, and Amminadab the father of Nahshon, and Nahshon the father of Salmon, and Salmon the father of Boaz by Rahab, and Boaz the father of Obed by Ruth, and Obed the father Jesse, and Jesse the father of David the king.

And David was the father of Solomon by the wife of Uriah, and Solomon the father of Rehoboam, and Rehoboam the father of Abijah, and Abijah the father of Asa, and Asa the father of Jehoshaphat, and Jehoshaphat the father of Joram, and Joram the father of Uzziah, and Uzziah the father of Jotham, and Jotham the father of Ahaz, and Ahaz the father of Hezekiah, and Hezekiah the father of Manasseh, and Manasseh the father of Amon, and Amon the father of Josiah, and Josiah the father of Jechoniah and his brothers at the time of the deportation to Babylon.

And after the deportation to Babylon: Jechoniah was the father of Shealtiel, and Shealtiel the father of Zerubbabel, and Zerubbabel the father of Abiud, and Abiud the father of Eliakim, and Eliakim the father of Azor, and Azor the father of Zadok, and Zadok the father of Achim, and Achim the father of Eliud, and Eliud the father of Eleazar, and Eleazar the father of Matthan, and Matthan the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom Jesus was born, who is called Christ.

So all generations from Abraham to David were fourteen generations, and from David to the deportation to Babylon fourteen generations, and from the deportation to Babylon to the Christ fourteen generations.

Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child of the Holy Spirit; and her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. But as he considered this, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit; she will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: “Behold, a virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and his name shall be called Emmanuel” (which means, God with us). When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took his wife, but knew her not until she had borne a son; and he called his name Jesus.

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Thursday, Dec. 24th – Orthros & Divine Liturgy, Orthros, 7:00 P.M.; Divine Liturgy, 8:00 P.M.
Saturday, Dec. 26th – Great Vespers & Confessions, 5:00 P.M.
Sunday, Dec. 27th – Orthros, 8:30 A.M.; Divine Liturgy, 9:30 A.M.
Thursday, Dec. 31st – Vesperal Divine Liturgy, 6:30 P.M. (St. Basil the Great)
Saturday, Jan. 2nd – Great Vespers & Confessions, 5:00 P.M.
Sunday, Jan. 3rd – Orthros, 8:30 A.M.; Divine Liturgy, 9:30 A.M.
Tuesday, Jan. 5th – Vesperal Divine Liturgy, 6:30 P.M. (Theophany of our Lord)

WORSHIP SCHEDULE CONTINUED

Saturday, Jan. 9th – Great Vespers & Confessions, 5:00 P.M.
Sunday, Jan. 10th – Orthros, 8:30 A.M.; Divine Liturgy, 9:30 A.M.
Saturday, Jan. 16th – Great Vespers & Confessions, 5:00 P.M.
Sunday, Jan. 17th – Orthros, 8:30 A.M.; Divine Liturgy, 9:30 A.M.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today’s Ushers: Ter Mehari & Tania Russell; **Next Sunday:** Stephen Zelesnik & Kume Mamo.

Please note: End-of-year announcements, and 2016 calendars, offering envelopes and pledge forms are available today in the Church Hall. Please be sure to get them during coffee hour. Thank you.

The **Parish Council** shall hold their monthly meeting today after Divine Liturgy. All council members please attend.

Our annual **Christmas Pageant** will be held after Divine Liturgy today. Parents who are interested in having their children participate in the pageant should see **Khouriyeh Pam Nugent**.

The **Advent Fast** began Sunday, November 15th, 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.

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 large refrigerator 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 December 13, 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 December 13, 2015, totaled \$1,291.00 for a year-to-date total of \$124,331.61.

Spiritual Counsels...

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

POINSETTIAS

Our poinsettias were graciously provided by the following persons and families:

David & Subdeacon Gregory Abramson in memory of **Mark & Emily Abramson**;

Mariam Ammari for the health of **Fouad, Jawdat, Bishara, Jawad Mousa, Shaker, Raed** & their families, & in memory of **Rakad, Tamam, Fouzi & Akram**;

The **DiGiovanni** family for the health of **Baby Ruckert, Katie Ruckert**, the **Whittemore, Williams, Matthews, DiGiovanni & Ferre** families, & in memory of the departed members of the **DiGiovanni, Borrás, Accardo & Ferre** families;

The **El-Hajj** family for the health of **Najla, Jamal, Cesar, Leila, Stephanie, Elia, Milad, & Rabih, Yasmine, Lebnan, Argeh, Ghantous, Assaad, Dolly, Marlene** & their families, & in memory of **Milad, Ramzi, Elia, Vaguar, Peter & Boulos**;

Zaher Halteh for the health of **Zaher, Zeina, Carlos, Joyce & Nadia Khouri**, & in memory of **Abdalah Jaafar, Mary Jaafar, Issa Jaafar, Yosaf Khouri & Bahai Bitar**;

Alexa Hamauei for the health of **Alexa, & John & Albert** & their families, & for in memory of **Margaret, Mike**, & the departed members of the **Hamauei & Kyame** families;

Charles & Yazmin Incaprera for the health of **Iris, Nicolas, Namra, Michael** & the **Incaprera** family, & in memory of **Mary Kiam, Henry Kiam, Namer, Ruth & Sara**;

The **Ioup** family for the health of the **Ioup, Kattouf, Wingfield, Robey, Whisenhunt, Shealy & Sidorovskaia** families, and in memory of the departed members of the **Ioup, Kattouf, Wingfield, Robey, Whisenhunt, Shealy & Sidorovskaia** families;

The **Khoury** family for the health of the **Khoury** family, **Ghassan, Ghada, & Layan, Salwa & Mesleh** & their families; & in memory of **Yousef, Ibrahim, Bahyeh, Farah, Issa, Philip, Maryanah** and the departed members of the **Khoury** family;

The **Kocic** family for the health of **Paulina, Vljako, Ljiljana, Nikola, Ljubomir, Lauren, Bella, Maximus, & Karen** & family, and in memory of the departed members of the **Kocic, Djordjevic, Piskulic, Stevanovic, Pavasovic & Lebedina** families;

Sophia Hashek in memory of **Nicholas & Barbara Kogos**;

Michael & Nancy McSween for the health of **Mildred, Winfred, Michael & Nancy**, and in memory of **James, Marion & John**;

Solange Nakhoul for the health of **Nazih, Hani, Ramzi, Solange** & the **Nakhoul & Abdunour** families, & in memory of **Michel, Marie, Labib** & the departed members of the **Nakhoul & Abdunour** families;

Naheel Rafeedie for the health of **Naheel, Nadeem, Helen, Victor, Manal, Michael, Matthew, Abby, Michael Jr. & Steven**, & in memory of **Basem, Michael, Nijmeh, Nicola, Zaheya, Essa, Richard & Ellen**.

The Hieromartyr Ignatius the God-bearer

This holy man is called “the God-bearer” because he constantly bore the name of the Living God in his heart and on his lips. According to tradition, he was thus named because he was held in the arms of God Incarnate, Jesus Christ. On a day when the Lord was teaching His disciples humility, He took a child and placed him among them, saying: *Whosoever therefore shall humble himself as this little child, the same is greatest in the Kingdom of Heaven* (Matthew 18:4). This child was Ignatius. Later, Ignatius was a disciple of St. John the Theologian, together with Polycarp, Bishop of Smyrna. As Bishop of Antioch, Ignatius governed the Church of God as a good shepherd and was the first to introduce antiphonal chanting in the Church, in which two choirs alternate the chanting. This manner of chanting was revealed to St. Ignatius by the angels in heaven. When Emperor Trajan was passing through Antioch on his way to do battle with the Persians, he heard of Ignatius, summoned him and counseled him to offer sacrifice to the idols. If Ignatius would do so, Trajan would bestow upon him the rank of senator. As the counsels and threats of the emperor were in vain, St. Ignatius was shackled in irons and sent to Rome in the company of ten merciless soldiers, to be thrown to the wild beasts. Ignatius rejoiced in suffering for his Lord, only praying to God that the wild beasts would become the tomb for his body and that no one would prevent him from this death. After a long and difficult journey from Asia through Thrace, Macedonia and Epirus, Ignatius arrived in Rome, where he was thrown to the lions in the circus. The lions tore him to pieces and devoured him, leaving only several of the larger bones and his heart. This glorious lover of the Lord Christ suffered in the year 106 in Rome at the time of the Christ-hating Emperor Trajan. Ignatius has appeared many times from the other world and worked miracles, even to this day helping all who call upon him for help.

from: The Prologue from Ochrid