



## **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.**



**March 13, 2016**

**The Sunday of Forgiveness**

**Plagal Tone 4 ~ Eothinon 8 ~ 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 (March 13)***

Translation of the relics of Nikephoros, patriarch of Constantinople; Bishops Poplias and Marios.

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

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

***Apolytikion of the Resurrection – Plagal Tone 4:*** From the heights Thou didst descend, O compassionate One, and Thou didst submit to the three-day burial, that Thou might deliver us from passion. Thou art our Life and our Resurrection, O Lord, glory to Thee.

***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 of the Sunday of Cheese Fare – Plagal Tone 2:*** Teacher of Wisdom, Bestower of virtue, who teachest the thoughtless and protectest the poor: Strengthen and enlighten my heart, O Master. Give me word, O Word of the Father, for behold my lips will not be restrained from crying to thee: Have mercy on me, the transgressor, O merciful Lord.

***Prokeimenon:*** Sing praises to our God, sing praises.

***Verse:*** Clap your hands, all you nations.

***Epistle:*** The reading is from St. Paul's Letter to the Romans.  
(Chapters 13:11-14; 14:1-4)

BRETHREN, salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed; the night is far gone, the day is at hand. Let us then cast off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; let us conduct ourselves becomingly as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

As for the man who is weak in faith, welcome him, but not for disputes over opinions. One believes he may eat anything, while the weak man eats only vegetables. Let not him who eats despise him who abstains, and let not him who abstains pass judgment on him who eats; for God has welcomed him. Who are you to pass judgment on the servant of another? It is before his own master that he stands or falls. And he will be upheld, for God is able to make him stand.

***Gospel:*** The reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew  
(Chapter 6:14-21)

The Lord said, “If you forgive men their trespasses your heavenly Father also will forgive you; but if you do not forgive men their trespasses neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.

And when you fast do not look dismal like the hypocrites for they disfigure their faces that their fasting may be seen by men. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you fast anoint your head and wash your face that your fasting may not be seen by men but by your Father Who is in secret; and your Father Who sees in secret will reward you openly.

Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasure in heaven where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is there will your heart be also.”

### **WORSHIP SCHEDULE**

Sunday, March 13<sup>th</sup> – Forgiveness Vespers, 5:00 P.M.  
Saturday, March 19<sup>th</sup> – Great Vespers & Confessions, 5:00 P.M.  
Sunday, March 20<sup>th</sup> – Orthros, 8:30 A.M.; Divine Liturgy, 9:30 A.M.  
Wednesday, March 23<sup>rd</sup> – Presanctified Liturgy, 6:30 P.M.  
Friday, March 25<sup>th</sup> – Orthros, 9:00 A.M.; Divine Liturgy, 10:00 A.M. (Annunciation)  
Friday, March 25<sup>th</sup> – Akathist Hymn (2<sup>nd</sup> Stasis), 6:30 P.M.  
Saturday, March 26<sup>th</sup> – Great Vespers & Confessions, 5:00 P.M.  
Sunday, March 27<sup>th</sup> – Orthros, 8:30 A.M.; Divine Liturgy, 9:30 A.M.  
Wednesday, March 30<sup>th</sup> – Presanctified Liturgy, 6:30 P.M.  
Friday, April 1<sup>st</sup> – Presanctified Liturgy, 10:00 A.M.  
Friday, April 1<sup>st</sup> – Akathist Hymn (3<sup>rd</sup> Stasis), 6:30 P.M.  
Saturday, April 2<sup>nd</sup> – Great Vespers & Confessions, 5:00 P.M.  
Sunday, April 3<sup>rd</sup> – Orthros, 8:30 A.M.; Divine Liturgy, 9:30 A.M.  
Wednesday, April 6<sup>th</sup> – Presanctified Liturgy, 6:30 P.M.  
Friday, April 8<sup>th</sup> – Presanctified Liturgy, 10:00 A.M.  
Friday, April 8<sup>th</sup> – Akathist Hymn (4<sup>th</sup> Stasis), 6:30 P.M.  
Saturday, April 9<sup>th</sup> – Orthros, 9:00 A.M.; Divine Liturgy, 10:00 A.M. (Saturday of Souls)  
Saturday, April 9<sup>th</sup> – Great Vespers & Confessions, 5:00 P.M.  
Sunday, April 10<sup>th</sup> – Orthros, 8:30 A.M.; Divine Liturgy, 9:30 A.M.  
Wednesday, April 13<sup>th</sup> – Presanctified Liturgy, 6:30 P.M.  
Friday, April 15<sup>th</sup> – Presanctified Liturgy, 10:00 A.M.  
Friday, April 15<sup>th</sup> – Akathist Hymn, 6:30 P.M.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Today's Usherettes:** Tania Russell and Sandy Yazigi. **Next Sunday:** Yazmin Incaprera and Marianna Avery.

**Today's Epistle Reader:** Bronwen Fitzpatrick. **Next Sunday:** Georgette Ioup.

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

The **Parish Council** shall hold their monthly meeting next Sunday, March 20, after Divine Liturgy. All council members please attend.

Please join us for **Sunday of Orthodoxy Vespers** at Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral (1200 Robert E. Lee Blvd., NOLA) on Sunday, March 20, 2016, at 6:00 P.M. Everyone is invited to bring an icon from home. Refreshments will be available after vespers.

**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.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS CONTINUED**

**Lenten potluck meals** may be served after Presanctified Liturgies on Wednesday evenings and Friday mornings during Great Lent.

Each year we begin our Archdiocese-wide **Food For Hungry People Campaign** at this time. This campaign has raised millions of dollars over the 30+ years of its existence. Please take one of the coin boxes in the narthex home with you and place your coins in it during Great Lent and return the boxes at PASCHA. The proceeds will be collected and forwarded to the Archdiocese Chancery for distribution to the needy. May God bless your generosity and ascetic practice of almsgiving.

Meatfare Week begins on Monday, March 7<sup>th</sup>. From that date until PASCHA it is our tradition to refrain from eating meat and meat products. From Pure Monday, March 14<sup>th</sup>, 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 24).

**Lentil Soup for Lent.** The Ladies Guild has delicious homemade lentil soup for sale during lent in frozen quart containers for only \$6 each. A real bargain. Great for when you need a quick healthy addition to your dinner.

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 Father expects you to make every effort to care for your soul and have confession at least once during Great Lent.

Our **Spring Parish Workshop** is scheduled for Saturday, April 2, 2016. If you have an interest in a particular activity or event, your interests, time, talent and expertise are welcomed and desired. For more information, please see the flyers in the Church Hall or speak with **Rob Booms** or **Fr. Peter**.

**St. Andrew Antiochian Orthodox Church** is the host parish for the **Parish Life Conference** for the Diocese of Miami and the Southeast. The conference is scheduled for June 15-18, 2016, in Pensacola, Florida, at the Crowne Plaza Pensacola Grand Hotel. All members of the parish are encouraged to attend the conference; it's easy driving distance from us! To register for the conference, please go to <https://www.antiochianevents.org/129>. To register with the hotel, please go to <http://www.ihg.com/crowneplaza/hotels/us/en/pensacola/pnsgh/hoteldetail>. The three letter, group block code is "PLC." Please enter your own specific arrival and departure dates between June 12-19, 2016. The cutoff date for the link is May 24, 2016. For telephone reservations at the hotel, contact 850-433-3336, Ext. 5527 & 5528. The hotel room rate is \$121/night. For additional information, please see Fr. Peter or contact St. Andrew Church at 850-469-9711.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS CONTINUED**

A **book study** on “Thirty Steps to Heaven” will be available after coffee hour on Sundays and after Presanctified Liturgy on Friday mornings. Please see **Rob Booms** or **Fr. Peter** for more information.

The **Orthodox Young Professionals Conference** will be held in New Orleans on August 18-21, 2016. “The Orthodox Young Professionals Conference is a 4 day, 3 night conference hosted by the Young Adult Ministry of the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese. Young Orthodox Christians from across the country and all jurisdictions are invited to join together in fellowship and fun. The conference committee has been working since 2015 to plan an amazing opportunity for spiritual growth, future friendships, lasting memories and more.” Young adults who are in their mid-twenties through thirties are invited to participate. For more information, please visit <http://www.oypc2016.com> or follow them on Facebook and Instagram.

**Baby Kits to be collected for needy in areas of crisis.** The IOCC distributes these emergency kits to people in areas of crisis and in emergency living conditions throughout the world. The IOCC is supported by the [Orthodox Bishops of the USA](#). Thanks to the Antiochian Women in our country, the IOCC has sent thousands of kits to the Middle East, including Syria and host country refugee camps. As you can imagine this is an ongoing need. See items listed below. **The Ladies Guild will have a box in the Church Hall to collect the following Baby Kit items during March and April** (PLEASE FOLLOW THE INSTRUCTIONS CLOSELY as these must go through Customs for inspection). **All items must be new and under 12 months in size:** cloth diapers, washcloths, gowns/sleepers, diaper pins, sweater or sweatshirt (can be crocheted or knit), receiving blanket (can be crocheted or knit).

**Ladies Guild Refrigerator Fund:** We have collected about two-thirds of the money needed to buy the needed professional refrigerator for our kitchen. We still need to raise about \$1000. It would be good to have it purchased before the summer heat arrives. Now we will make a special collection at coffee hour once a month, on the last Sunday of the month. Please help with whatever you can give when we announce these collections.

The church bulletin is available by email. Please tell Fr. Peter if you would like to receive it.

As of March 6, 2016, 39 pledges were received totaling \$80,600. Approximately \$2,811/week is needed in donations to meet our budgetary obligation. The collection for March 6, 2016, totaled \$2,179.50 for a year-to-date total of \$28,521.82.

**Saint Nicephorus, Patriarch of Constantinople**

Nicephorus governed the Holy Church wisely and zealously as one of the greatest Arch-pastors of Constantinople. When Leo the Armenian rose up against icons, Nicephorus alone defied the emperor. He first counseled the emperor and then later unmasked him. That is why the depraved emperor banished him to the island of Prokenesis. On this island there was a monastery, which Nicephorous had built in honor of Saint Theodore. This confessor of the Orthodox Faith remained in this monastery for 13 years and afterwards presented himself to the Lord in the year 827 A.D. Since all the iconoclastic emperors had perished, and Michael, with his mother Theodora, sat on the Imperial Throne, Patriarch Methodius then was restored to the Patriarchal Throne. The relics of St. Nicephorous were translated from Prokenesis to Constantinople in 846 A.D. and were reposed, first in the Church of the Divine Wisdom of God [St. Sophia], from which he was banished during his life, and later reposed in the Church of the Twelve Apostles. The principal feast of this great hierarch is commemorated on June 2 and again on March 13 when the discovery and translation of his incorruptible relics is commemorated. On March 13, St. Nicephorous was banished from Constantinople and then, again, on March 13, nineteen years later, his relics were returned to the Capitol.

*from: The Prologue from Ochrid*