



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.



March 27, 2016

The Second Sunday of Great Lent And the Commemoration of St. Gregory Palamas

Tone 2 ~ Eothinon 10 ~ 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 27)

Martyr Matrona of Thessalonica; Martyrs Philetos the senator, his wife Lydia of Rome and those with them; Paul, bishop of Corinth.

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. Gregory Palamas – Plagal Tone 4: O star of Orthodoxy, support of the Church and its teacher, O comeliness of ascetics, and incontestable champion of those who speak in theology, Gregory the wonder-worker, the pride of Thessalonica and preacher of grace, implore thou constantly for the salvation of 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 of Great Lent – Plagal Tone 4: To thee the champion leader, I thy servant offer thanks for victory, O Theotokos, thou who hast delivered me from terror. As thou hast power invincible, free me from every danger that I may cry unto thee: Rejoice, O bride without bridegroom.

Prokeimenon: You, O Lord, shall keep us and preserve us.

Verse: Save me, O Lord, for the godly man has failed.

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

(Chapters 1:10-14; 2:1-3)

“IN THE BEGINNING, You, O Lord, didst found the earth, and the heavens are the work of Thy hands; they will perish, but Thou remainest; they will all grow old like a garment, like a mantle Thou wilt roll them up and they will be changed. But Thou art the same and Thy years will never end.” But to what angel has He ever said, “Sit at My right hand till I make Thy enemies a stool for Thy feet?” Are not they all ministering spirits sent forth to serve for the sake of those who are to obtain salvation? Therefore, we must pay closer attention to what we have heard, lest we drift away from it. For if the message declared by angels was valid and every transgression or disobedience received a just retribution, how shall we escape if we neglect such a great salvation? It was declared at first by the Lord and it was attested to us by those who heard Him.

Gospel: The reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Mark

(Chapter 2:1-12)

At that time, when Jesus returned to Capernaum after some days it was reported that He was at home. And many were gathered together so that there was no longer room for them, not even about the door; and He was preaching the word to them. And they came, bringing to Jesus a paralytic carried by four men. And when they could not get near Jesus because of the crowd, they removed the roof above Him; and when they had made an opening they let down the pallet on which the paralytic lay. And when Jesus saw their faith, He said to the paralytic, “Son, your sins are forgiven.” Now some of the scribes were sitting there reasoning in their hearts, “Why does this man speak thus? It is blasphemy! Who can forgive sins but God alone?” And immediately Jesus, perceiving in His spirit that they thus reasoned within themselves, said to them, “Why do you reason thus in your hearts? Which is easier to say to the paralytic, ‘Your sins are forgiven?’ or to say, ‘Rise, take up your pallet

GOSPEL CONTINUED

and walk?’ But that you may know that the Son of man has authority on earth to forgive sins” – He said to the paralytic – “I say to you, rise, take up your pallet and go home.” And he rose, and immediately took up the pallet and went out before them all; so that they were all amazed and glorified God, saying, “We never saw anything like this!”

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Wednesday, March 30th – Presanctified Liturgy, 6:30 P.M.
Friday, April 1st – Presanctified Liturgy, 10:00 A.M.
Friday, April 1st – Akathist Hymn (3rd Stasis), 6:30 P.M.
Saturday, April 2nd – Great Vespers & Confessions, 5:00 P.M.
Sunday, April 3rd – Orthros, 8:30 A.M.; Divine Liturgy, 9:30 A.M.
Wednesday, April 6th – Presanctified Liturgy, 6:30 P.M.
Friday, April 8th – Presanctified Liturgy, 10:00 A.M.
Friday, April 8th – Akathist Hymn (4th Stasis), 6:30 P.M.
Saturday, April 9th – Orthros, 9:00 A.M.; Divine Liturgy, 10:00 A.M. (Saturday of Souls)
Saturday, April 9th – Great Vespers & Confessions, 5:00 P.M.
Sunday, April 10th – Orthros, 8:30 A.M.; Divine Liturgy, 9:30 A.M.
Wednesday, April 13th – Presanctified Liturgy, 6:30 P.M.
Friday, April 15th – Presanctified Liturgy, 10:00 A.M.
Friday, April 15th – Akathist Hymn, 6:30 P.M.
Saturday, April 16th – Great Vespers & Confessions, 5:00 P.M.
Sunday, April 17th – Orthros, 8:30 A.M.; Divine Liturgy, 9:30 A.M.
Wednesday, April 20th – Presanctified Liturgy, 6:30 P.M.
Friday, April 22nd – Presanctified Liturgy, 10:00 A.M.
Saturday, April 23rd – Orthros, 9:00 A.M.; Divine Liturgy, 10:00 A.M. (Lazarus Saturday)
Saturday, April 23rd – Great Vespers & Confessions, 5:00 P.M.
Sunday, April 24th – Orthros, 8:30 A.M.; Divine Liturgy, 9:30 A.M. (Palm Sunday)

Spiritual Counsels...

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today’s Usherettes: Naheel Rafeedie and Mariam Ammari.

Today’s Epistle Reader: Rose Hrabar.

The **St. Basil Youth Group** shall hold their monthly meeting next Sunday, April 3, after Divine Liturgy. All teens and tweens are invited to attend.

Attention parents and church school teachers: There is no church school next Sunday, April 3.

ANNOUNCEMENTS CONTINUED

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.

Approximately 8 dozen **red carnations** are needed for next Sunday’s procession of the Holy Cross. If you are interested in sponsoring all or part of these flowers, please fill out one of the white envelopes in the narthex. On the bottom line write, “Red Carnations.” Thank you.

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**.

On Saturday, April 9th, the **St. Basil Youth Group** will have lunch together after Liturgy that morning. After lunch, they will distribute church post cards to our neighbors in the surrounding area. Chaparones are needed. If you have 1-1½ hours to help them, your time is most appreciated.

On Sunday, April 17th, we shall hold an **Open House** after Divine Liturgy that morning. The neighbors from the surrounding neighborhood are invited to visit our parish. Your assistance in welcoming them is requested.

A **book and icon sale** will be held during our open house on Sunday, April 17th. Donations of gently used or unwanted Orthodox books are welcome.

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.

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

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

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.

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. Each book is \$16/copy and may be purchased through the church bookstore. Please see **Rob Booms** or **Fr. Peter** for more information.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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

As of March 20, 2016, 41 pledges were received totaling \$84,050. Approximately \$2,811/week is needed in donations to meet our budgetary obligation. The collection for March 20, 2016, totaled \$2,166.00 for a year-to-date total of \$32,191.82. The second collection designated for the seminarians totaled \$257.00. The proceeds shall be forwarded to the Archdiocese Chancery. Thank you for your generosity.

The Holy Martyr, Matrona

As an orphan girl Matrona was a servant in the home of a Jew in Thessalonica. The wife of the Jew continuously mocked Matrona because of her faith in Christ and tried to persuade her to deny Christ and to attend the synagogue. But the meek Matrona went about her work conscientiously and did not say anything to her mistress. But in secret she prayed to Christ the God. On one occasion the Jewess discovered that Matrona was attending church unbeknown to her and, in anger, questioned her as to why she did not attend the synagogue rather than the church? To that, Matrona replied, "Because in the Christian churches, God lives and He withdraws from the Jewish synagogues." Furious, because of this type of bold reply, the Jewess beat Matrona, locked her up in a dark room, and, in addition to that, bound her hands. The next day as she was kneeling in prayer and glorifying God, her ropes had fallen off by the power of God. Afterwards, on two occasions, she was locked up again and, in the end, died of starvation. This evil Jewish woman then took the body of this holy maiden and hurled it to the ground from the heights of her home. Christians took the body of this martyr and buried it with honors. Alexander the bishop, learning of the many miraculous works of this holy martyr, erected a church over her grave. The evil Jewess received her just punishment when she slipped, fell to the pavement, and was smashed to death from the same spot at the top of the house from which she hurled down Matrona's body.

from: The Prologue from Ochrid