



## **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 25, 2016**

**The Nativity in the Flesh of our Lord, God and Savior, JESUS CHRIST**

**Tone: Of the Feast ~ Eothinon: Of the Feast**

*Christ Is Born! Glorify Him!*

### **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 25)**

The Nativity in the Flesh of our Lord, God and Savior, Jesus Christ.

***Apolytikion of the Nativity of Christ – Tone 4:*** Thy Nativity, O Christ our God, hath given rise to the light of knowledge in the world; for they that worshiped the stars did learn therefrom to worship Thee, O Sun of justice, and to know that from the east of the Highest Thou didst come, O Lord, glory to Thee.

***Kontakion of the Nativity of Christ – Tone 3:*** Today the Virgin giveth birth to the Transcendent in essence. The earth offereth the cave to the unapproachable One. Angels with shepherds glorify, and magi, journey with a star; for a new Child hath been born for our sakes, the pre-eternal God.

***Prokeimenon:*** Let all the earth worship You, and sing to You.

***Verse:*** Shout with joy to God, all the earth.

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

(Chapter 4:4-7)

BRETHREN, when the time had fully come, God sent forth His Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then also an heir of God through Christ.

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

(Chapter 2:1-12)

When Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, saying, "Where is He Who has been born king of the Jews? For we have seen His star in the East and have come to worship Him." When Herod the king heard this he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it is written by the prophet, 'And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a Ruler Who will govern My people Israel.'"

Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star appeared; and he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found Him bring me word, that I, too, may come and worship Him." When they had heard the king they went their way; and lo, the star, which they had seen in the East, went before them till it came to rest over the place where the child was. When they saw the star they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy; and going into the house they saw the child with Mary, His mother, and they fell down and worshiped Him. Then, opening their treasures they offered Him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh. And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod they departed to their own country by another way.

### **WORSHIP SCHEDULE**

Saturday, Dec. 31<sup>st</sup> – No Great Vespers & Confessions

Sunday, Jan. 1<sup>st</sup> – Orthros, 8:30 A.M.; Divine Liturgy, 9:30 A.M.

Friday, Jan. 6<sup>th</sup> – Orthros, 9:00 A.M.; Divine Liturgy, 10:00 A.M. (Theophany)

Friday, Jan. 6<sup>th</sup> – Badnjak Service, 6:30 P.M.

Saturday, Jan. 7<sup>th</sup> – No Great Vespers & Confessions

Sunday, Jan. 8<sup>th</sup> – Orthros, 8:30 A.M.; Divine Liturgy, 9:30 A.M.

Saturday, Jan. 14<sup>th</sup> – Great Vespers & Confessions, 5:00 P.M.

Sunday, Jan. 15<sup>th</sup> – Orthros, 8:30 A.M.; Divine Liturgy, 9:30 A.M.

Saturday, Jan. 21<sup>st</sup> – Great Vespers & Confessions, 5:00 P.M.

Sunday, Jan. 22<sup>nd</sup> – Orthros, 8:30 A.M.; Divine Liturgy, 9:30 A.M.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Today’s Ushers:** Tania and Sevin Russell. **Next Week:** Pam Nugent & Terr Mehari.

Our Annual Pledge Drive is currently underway for the calendar year 2017. All adult members of the parish are encouraged to complete and return a pledge form to the church office. Pledge forms may be found in the narthex of the church building. All pledges are held in strict confidence. Only the total number of pledges and the total pledge amount is made available to the public. Your financial support of our church community is your support of yourself and your contribution to help insure you and your family has a place to worship. Thank you and God bless you.

Our **Annual General Parish Meeting** is scheduled for January 29, 2017, after Divine Liturgy and shall convene in the Church. All members of the parish are encouraged to attend the meeting. Only those adults, who have been a member of the parish for at least one year and are in good sacramental and financial standing with the parish, may vote.

**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.

On May 19-21, 2017, we shall celebrate the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our parish. His Grace Bishop ANTHONY of the Diocese of Toledo and the Midwest shall preside over our festivities. As gifts to the parish on this occasion, we are attempting to purchase a decorative chalice and discos set to use for Divine Liturgy during the festive periods of the year and on major feasts of the church. Approximately \$5,000.00 is needed to purchase this new set. Pictures of this chalice and discos set may be seen on the bulletin board outside the kitchen. Donations of any amount are welcome. Please see Fr. Peter if you are interested in helping with these items.

As of Dec. 22, 2016, 46 pledges were received totaling \$99,650. Our operating budget for this year is \$146,125.00. Approximately \$2,810/week is needed to meet this obligation. The collection for Dec. 18, 2016, totaled \$3,466.74 for a year-to-date total of \$122,859.11, a weekly average of \$2,409.00. As of Dec. 18, 2016, our expenses are \$139,480.78, a weekly average of \$2,734.92.

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

***Spiritual Counsels...***

“A wise son is his father’s joy, a foolish son his mother’s grief.” – Proverbs 10:1

If You Would Like Your Home Blessed,  
Please Provide the Following Information And Return It To The Church Office:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

When Would You like Your Home Blessed After Theophany (Jan. 6)?

Morning      Afternoon      Evening  
(Circle one)

Weekday   or   Weekend  
(Circle one)

### **The Nativity of Our Lord, God and Savior Jesus Christ**

*But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son* (Galatians 4:4) to save the human race. And when nine months were fulfilled from the Annunciation, when the Archangel Gabriel had appeared to the Most-holy Virgin in Nazareth, saying, *Rejoice, thou that art highly favored ... behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a Son* (Luke 1:28, 31), at that time there went forth a decree from Caesar Augustus that all the people of the Roman Empire should be taxed. In accordance with this decree, everyone had to go to his own town and be registered. That is why the righteous Joseph came with the Most-holy Virgin to Bethlehem, the city of David, for they were both of the royal lineage of David. Since many people descended on this small town for the census, Joseph and Mary were unable to find lodging in any house, and they sought shelter in a cave, which shepherds used as a sheepfold. In this cave-on the night between Saturday and Sunday, on the 25th of December-the Most-holy Virgin gave birth to the Savior of the world, the Lord Jesus Christ. Giving birth to Him without pain just as He was conceived without sin by the Holy Spirit and not by man, she herself wrapped Him in swaddling clothes, worshiped Him as God, and laid Him in a manger. Then the righteous Joseph drew near and worshiped Him as the Divine Fruit of the Virgin's womb. Then the shepherds came in from the fields, directed by an angel of God, and worshiped Him as the Messiah and Savior. The shepherds heard a multitude of God's angels singing: *Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men* (Luke 2:14). At that time three wise men arrived from the east, led by a wondrous star, bearing their gifts: gold, frankincense and myrrh. They worshiped Him as the King of kings, and offered Him their gifts (Matthew 2). Thus entered the world He Whose coming was foretold by the prophets, and Who was born in the same manner in which it had been prophesied: of a Most-holy Virgin, in the town of Bethlehem, of the lineage of David according to the flesh, at the time when there was no king in Jerusalem of the lineage of Judah, but rather when Herod, a foreigner, was reigning. After many types and prefigurings, messengers and heralds, prophets and righteous men, wise men and kings, finally He appeared, the Lord of the world and King of kings, to perform the work of the salvation of mankind, which could not be performed by His servants. To Him be eternal glory and praise! Amen.

*from: The Prologue from Ochrid*