



## 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 12, 2017

The Second Sunday of Great Lent (Gregory Palamas)

Plagal Tone 1 ~ Eothinon 5

*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 12)*

Venerable Theophanes the Confessor of Sigriane; Gregory the Dialogist, pope of Rome; Venerable Simeon the New Theologian; Righteous Phineas, grandson of Aaron the High Priest.

***Apolytikion of the Resurrection – Plagal Tone 1:*** Let us believers praise and worship the Word, coeternal with the Father and the Spirit, born of a virgin for our salvation. For He took pleasure in ascending the cross in the flesh to suffer death, and to raise the dead by His glorious resurrection.

***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 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 15<sup>th</sup> – Presanctified Liturgy, 6:30 P.M.

Friday, March 17<sup>th</sup> – Presanctified Liturgy, 10:00 A.M.

Friday, March 17<sup>th</sup> – Akathist Hymn, 6:30 P.M. (3<sup>rd</sup> Stasis)

Saturday, March 18<sup>th</sup> – Orthros, 9:00 A.M.; Divine Liturgy, 10:00 A.M. (Saturday of Souls)

Saturday, March 18<sup>th</sup> – Great Vespers & Confessions, 5:00 P.M.

Sunday, March 19<sup>th</sup> – Orthros, 8:30 A.M.; Divine Liturgy, 9:30 A.M. (Holy Cross Sunday)

Wednesday, March 22<sup>nd</sup> – Presanctified Liturgy, 6:30 P.M.

Friday, March 24<sup>th</sup> – Presanctified Liturgy, 10:00 A.M.

Friday, March 24<sup>th</sup> – Great Vespers with Akathist Hymn, 6:30 P.M. (4<sup>th</sup> Stasis)

Saturday, March 25<sup>th</sup> – Orthros, 9:00 A.M.; Divine Liturgy, 10:00 A.M. (Annunciation)

Saturday, March 25<sup>th</sup> – Great Vespers & Confessions, 5:00 P.M.

Sunday, March 26<sup>th</sup> – Orthros, 8:30 A.M.; Divine Liturgy, 9:30 A.M. (St. John Climacus)

Wednesday, March 29<sup>th</sup> – Presanctified Liturgy, 6:30 P.M.

Friday, March 31<sup>st</sup> – Presanctified Liturgy, 10:00 A.M.

Friday, March 31<sup>st</sup> – Akathist Hymn, 6:30 P.M. (All Stases)

Saturday, April 1<sup>st</sup> – No Great Vespers & Confessions

Sunday, April 2<sup>nd</sup> – Orthros, 8:30 A.M.; Divine Liturgy, 9:30 A.M. (Mary of Egypt)

Wednesday, April 5<sup>th</sup> – Presanctified Liturgy, 6:30 P.M.

Saturday, April 8<sup>th</sup> – Orthros, 9:00 A.M.; Divine Liturgy, 10:00 A.M. (Lazarus Saturday)

Saturday, April 8<sup>th</sup> – Great Vespers & Confessions, 5:00 P.M.

Sunday, April 9<sup>th</sup> – Orthros, 8:30 A.M.; Divine Liturgy, 9:30 A.M. (Palm Sunday)

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Today's Ushers:** Marianna Avery & Tania Russell. **Next Week:** Naheel Rafeedie & Mariam Ammari.

**Coffee hour** is provided today by Team 4. Thank you. **Next Sunday:** Team 5.

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 19, after Divine Liturgy. All Council members please attend.

Last Sunday's second collection totaled \$504.00. The proceeds are being forwarded to the Archdiocese chancery for distribution. God bless you and thank you for your generosity.

Approximately 100 **Red Carnations** are needed for the veneration of the Holy Cross on Sunday, March 19. If you are interested in donating all or part of these flowers, please fill out one of the envelopes in the narthex and on the "Special Occasion" line, please write, "Red Carnations." Include your commemorations, donation and turn the envelope in to the church office. Thank you.

**Lenten potluck meals** shall be served after Presanctified Liturgies on Wednesdays in Great Lent.

**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

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.

Meatfare Week begins on Monday, Feb. 20. From that date until PASCHA it is our tradition to refrain from eating meat and meat products. From Pure Monday, Feb. 27, 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, only alcohol. Fish, alcohol and oil are permitted on the Feast of the Annunciation (March 25) and Palm Sunday, April 9.

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 distributed to the needy. May God bless your generosity and ascetic practice of almsgiving.

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.

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. To date we have \$4,425 in donations. A picture 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 wish to make a donation.

As of March 5, 2017, 35 pledges were received totaling \$82,700. The collection for March 5, 2017, totaled \$2,788.00 for a year-to-date total of \$24,610.27, a weekly average of \$2,461.03. As of March 4, 2017, our expenses are \$27,506.02, a weekly average of \$2,750.60.

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

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

"A wink of the eye, and a man makes trouble, a bold rebuke, and a man makes peace." – Proverbs 10:10

### **Venerable Theophanes the Confessor**

Theophanes is called the Sygrian [Sigrian] because of Sygriana [Sigriana], the place of his birth. He was a kinsman of the Emperor Leo Isaurian and his son Copronymos. He possessed great wealth and splendor. But all of this lost its worth for Theophanes when the Lord Christ began to reign in his soul. He resisted his own marriage and, when he was compelled to marry, succeeded in counseling his bride to live together in chastity, as brother and sister. As soon as his parents died, his wife entered a convent and he, a monastery. His monastery was located in the Sygrian Mountains in the Province of Cyzicus. The one-time glorious and wealthy Theophanes lived in this monastery as the least of the poor. All were amazed at the change in him. Having become renown because of his strong faith, abstinence, and wisdom, he was summoned to the Seventh Ecumenical Council [Nicaea, 783 A.D.] where the veneration of icons was confirmed. Because of his purity and chastity, God bestowed upon him the gift of performing miracles, by which he cured all diseases, especially maniacal disorders and insanity. He prayed to God for all the sick and the unfortunate and, through his prayers, helped them. Only when he became ill and his illness lingered for a while, did he refuse to pray to God for the restoration of his own health but endured his illness with gratitude. When the Iconoclastic persecution resumed again under the wicked Leo the Armenian, Theophanes was brought to Constantinople and cast into prison, where he languished for two years in hardships, pain and humiliation. Then the emperor banished him into exile to the island of Samothrace, which he had earlier foreseen in his spirit and had mentioned it to his jailers. After he arrived at Samothrace, he lived for 23 days and appeared before His Lord and Creator to receive his merited wreath of glory.

*from: The Prologue from Ochrid*