



## **St. Basil Antiochian Orthodox Church**

**The Very Reverend Father Peter Nugent, Pastor**

**3916 Hudson St. Metairie, LA 70006**

**[www.stbasilneworleans.org](http://www.stbasilneworleans.org) \* 504-888-8114 \* [sbno@att.net](mailto:sbno@att.net)**

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

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



**March 26, 2017**

**The Fourth Sunday of Great Lent (St. John Climacus)**

**And the Leave-taking of the Annunciation**

**Varys Tone ~ Eothinon 7**

*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 26)**

The Synaxis of the Archangel Gabriel; Stephen the Confessor, Abbot of Triglia.

***Apolytikion of the Resurrection – Varys Tone:*** Thou didst shatter death by Thy cross. Thou didst open paradise to the thief. Thou didst turn the sadness of the ointment-bearing women into joy, and didst bid Thine apostles proclaim a warning that Thou hast risen, O Christ, granting to the world the great mercy.

***Apolytikion of the Annunciation of the Theotokos – Tone 4:*** Today is the beginning of our salvation, and the manifestation of the mystery from the ages; for the Son of God becometh the Son of the Virgin, and Gabriel proclaimeth grace. Wherefore, do we shout with him to the Theotokos: Hail, O full of grace. The Lord is with 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 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:*** The Lord will give strength to His people.

***Verse:*** Bring to the Lord, O sons of God, bring to the Lord honor and glory.

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

(Chapter 6:13-20)

BRETHREN, when God made a promise to Abraham, since He had no one greater by whom to swear, He swore to Himself, saying, "Surely I will bless you and multiply you." And thus Abraham, having patiently endured, obtained the promise. Men indeed swear by a greater than themselves, and in all their disputes and oath is final for confirmation. So when God desired to show more convincingly to the heirs of the promise the unchangeable character of his purpose, He interposed with an oath, so that through two changeable things, in which it is impossible that God should prove false, we who have fled for refuge might have strong encouragement to seize the hope set before us. We have this as a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul, a hope that enters into the inner shrine behind the curtain where Jesus has gone as a forerunner on our behalf, having become a high priest forever after the order of Melchizedek.

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

(Chapter 9:17-31)

At that time, a man came to Jesus, kneeling down and saying unto Him, "Teacher, I brought my son to You, for he has a dumb spirit; and wherever it seizes him, it dashes him down; and he foams and grinds his teeth and becomes rigid; and I asked Your disciples to cast it out, and they were not able." And Jesus answered him, "O faithless generation, how long am I to be with you? How long am I to bear with you? Bring him to Me." And they brought the boy to Him; and when the spirit saw Jesus, immediately it convulsed the boy, and he fell on the ground and rolled about, foaming at the mouth. And Jesus asked his father, "How long has he had this?" And he said, "From childhood. And it has often cast him into the fire and into the water, to destroy him; but if You can do anything, have pity on us and help us." And Jesus said to him, "If you can believe, all things are possible to him who believes." Immediately the father of the child cried out and said with tears, "Lord, I believe; help my unbelief!" And when Jesus saw that a crowd came running together, He rebuked the unclean spirit, saying to it, "You dumb and deaf spirit, I command you, come out of him, and never enter him again." And after crying out and convulsing him terribly, it came out, and the boy was like a corpse;

### **GOSPEL CONTINUED**

so that most of them said, “He is dead.” But Jesus took him by the hand and lifted him up, and he arose. And when Jesus had entered the house, His disciples asked Him privately, “Why could we not cast it out?” And Jesus said to them, “This kind cannot be driven out by anything but prayer and fasting.”

They went out from there and passed through Galilee. And Jesus would not have anyone know it; for He was teaching His disciples, saying to them, “The Son of man will be delivered into the hands of men, and they will kill Him; and after He is killed, He will rise on the third day.”

### **WORSHIP SCHEDULE**

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)

Sunday, April 9<sup>th</sup> – Bridegroom Service, 6:30 P.M.

Monday, April 10<sup>th</sup> – Bridegroom Service, 6:30 P.M.

Tuesday, April 11<sup>th</sup> – Bridegroom Service, 6:30 P.M.

Wednesday, April 12<sup>th</sup> – Holy Unction, 6:30 P.M.

Thursday, April 13<sup>th</sup> – Vespereal Divine Liturgy, 10:00 A.M.

Thursday, April 13<sup>th</sup> – Orthros of the 12 Passion Gospels, 6:30 P.M.

Friday, April 14<sup>th</sup> – Royal Hours, 10 A.M.

Friday, April 14<sup>th</sup> – Unnailing Vespers, 3:00 P.M.

Friday, April 14<sup>th</sup> – Lamentations Orthros, 6:30 P.M.

Saturday, April 15<sup>th</sup> – Vespereal Divine Liturgy, 10:00 A.M.

Saturday, April 15<sup>th</sup> – Rush Procession & Orthros, 11:00 P.M.

Sunday, April 16<sup>th</sup> – Divine Liturgy of Great & Holy PASCHA, 12:00 A.M.

Sunday, April 16<sup>th</sup> – Agape Vespers, 1:00 P.M.

Saturday, April 22<sup>nd</sup> – Great Vespers & Confessions, 5:00 P.M.

Sunday, April 23<sup>rd</sup> – Orthros, 8:30 A.M.; Divine Liturgy, 9:30 A.M.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Today’s Ushers:** Helen Merid & Sandy Yazigi. **Next Week:** Tania Russell & Dwight Gillis.

**Coffee hour** is provided today by Team 6. Thank you. **Next Sunday:** Team 1.

**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. The Rev. Fr. Mark McNary, pastor of St. Peter Church in Fort Worth, Texas, and The Rev. Deacon Dan Gray and Theresa Gray shall also join us. Activities include Great Vespers at 5:00 P.M. on Saturday, May 20, followed by a catered meal in the Church Hall. Tickets are \$35 per person. Children under 12 eat for free. The menu includes chicken with rice, kibbe, salad, vegetables and dessert, with water, tea or soft drinks. A cash bar will also be available for wine or beer. On Sunday, Orthros is scheduled for 8:30 A.M. followed by an hierarchical divine liturgy. A potluck coffee hour shall be served afterwards.

As of March 19, 2017, 36 pledges were received totaling \$83,150. The collection for March 19, 2017, totaled \$4,030.00 for a year-to-date total of \$30,283.86, a weekly average of \$2,523.66. As of March 17, 2017, our expenses are \$31,985.65, a weekly average of \$2,665.47.

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

***Spiritual Counsels...***

“Hatred provokes disputes, love covers over all offenses.” – Proverbs 10:12

### **The Holy Archangel Gabriel**

Gabriel is the announcer of the Incarnation of the Son of God. He is one of the seven archangels who stand before the Throne of God. He appeared to Zacharias about the birth of the Forerunner. Gabriel said of himself, "I am Gabriel, who stand before God" (St. Luke 1:19). His name Gabriel means "Man - God." The Holy Fathers, in speaking about the Annunciation, interpret that an archangel with such a name was sent to signify who and what He would be like, who must be born of the All-Pure One. Therefore, He will be Man-God, mighty and powerful God. Some of the Fathers understood that this same Gabriel appeared to Joachim and Anna concerning the birth of the Virgin Mary and that Gabriel instructed Moses in the wilderness to write the Book of Genesis. The Holy Fathers think that Gabriel has pre-eminence in the first and greatest order of heavenly powers, that is, the Seraphic Order, since the Seraphim stand closest to God. He is, therefore, one of the seven Seraphim, closest to God. The names of the seven are MICHAEL, GABRIEL, RAPHAEL, URIEL, SALATHIEL, JEGUDIEL, BARACHIEL. To this number some even add JEREMIEL. Each one has their own particular service and all are equal in honor. Why did God not send Michael? Because Michael's service is to suppress the enemies of the Faith of God while Gabriel's is the mission of announcing the salvation of mankind.

*from: The Prologue from Ochrid*