



St. Basil Antiochian Orthodox Church

The Very Reverend Father Peter Nugent, Pastor

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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 17, 2017

The Sunday of the Holy Forefathers of Christ

Tone 3 ~ Eothinon 6

Glory to Jesus Christ. Glory to God forever.

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.

Please Note: Food and drinks in church are not appropriate except for life threatening circumstances. This includes, but is not limited to, snack items, cheerios, fruit, fruit snacks, sandwiches, meals, or drink items of any sort. If your child cannot wait until liturgy is over in order to eat, please take him or her to the church hall. Thank you.

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 17)

Prophet Daniel; The Three Holy Youths Ananias, Azarias and Mishael; Dionysios of Zakynthos, the wonderworker; New Martyrs Paisios the hieromonk and his disciple Habakkuk (Avvakum) the deacon of Belgrade.



Apolytikion of the Resurrection – Tone 3: Let the heavens rejoice and the earth be glad for the Lord hath done a mighty act with His own arm. He hath trampled down death by death and became the First-born from the dead. He hath delivered us from the depths of Hades, granting the world the great mercy.

Apolytikion of the Holy Forefathers – Tone 2: Thou hast justified by faith the ancient forefathers and through them Thou hast gone before and betrothed unto Thyself the Church of the Gentiles. Let the saints, therefore, take pride in glory; for from their seed sprouted forth a noble fruit, and she it was who gave birth to Thee without seed. Wherefore, by their pleadings, O Christ God, save 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 Preparatory for the Nativity of Christ – Tone 3: Today the Virgin cometh to the cave to give birth in an ineffable manner to the pre-eternal Word. Rejoice, therefore, O universe, when thou hearest, and glorify with the angels and shepherds Him Who shall appear by His Own will as a new Child, the pre-eternal God.

Prokeimenon: Blessed are You, O Lord, the God of our Fathers.

Verse: For You are just in all You have done.

Epistle: The reading is from St. Paul's Letter to the Colossians.
(Chapter 3:4-11)

BRETHREN, when Christ, Who is our life, appears then you also will appear with Him in glory. Put to death, therefore, what is earthly in you: fornication, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. On account of these the wrath of God is coming upon the sons of disobedience. In these you once walked, when you lived in them. But now put them all away; anger, wrath, malice, slander, and foul talk from your mouth. Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old nature with its practices and have put on the new nature, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator. Here there cannot be Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free man, but Christ is all, and in all.

Gospel: The reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Luke
(Chapter 14:16-24)

The Lord spoke this parable, "A man once gave a great banquet and invited many; and at the time for the banquet he sent his servant to say to those who had been invited, 'Come, for all is now ready.'

But, one by one, they all began to make excuses. The first said to him, 'I have bought a field and I must go out and see it; I pray you, have me excused.' And another said, 'I have bought five yoke of oxen and I go to examine them; I pray you, have me excused.' And another said, 'I have married a wife and, therefore, I cannot come.' So the servant came and reported this to his master. Then the householder in anger said to his servant, 'Go out quickly to the streets and lanes of the city and bring in the poor and maimed and blind and lame.' And the servant said, 'Sir, what you commanded has been done and still there is room.' And the master said to the servant, 'Go out to the highways and

GOSPEL CONTINUED

hedges and compel people to come in that my house may be filled. For I tell you, none of those men who were invited shall taste my banquet. For many are called, but few are chosen.””

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Friday, Dec. 22nd – Royal Hours of the Nativity, 10:00 A.M.

Saturday, Dec. 23rd – Great Vespers & Confessions, 5:00 P.M.

Sunday, Dec. 24th – Orthros, 8:30 A.M.; Divine Liturgy, 9:30 A.M.

Monday, Dec. 25th – Orthros, 9:00 A.M.; Divine Liturgy of St. Basil, 10:00 A.M. (Christmas)

Saturday, Dec. 30th – Great Vespers & Confessions, 5:00 P.M.

Sunday, Dec. 31st – Orthros, 8:30 A.M.; Divine Liturgy, 9:30 A.M.

Monday, Jan. 1st – Orthros, 9:00 A.M.; Divine Liturgy, 10:00 A.M. (Christ & St. Basil)

Friday, Jan. 5th – Royal Hours of Theophany, 10:00 A.M.

Friday, Jan. 5th – Vespers Divine Liturgy, 6:30 P.M.

Saturday, Jan. 6th – Orthros, 9:00 A.M.; Divine Liturgy, 10:00 A.M. (Theophany)

Saturday, Jan. 6th – Badnjak Service, 6:00 P.M.

Sunday, Jan. 7th – Orthros, 8:30 A.M.; Divine Liturgy, 9:30 A.M.

Saturday, Jan. 13th – Great Vespers & Confessions, 5:00 P.M.

Sunday, Jan. 14th – Orthros, 8:30 A.M.; Divine Liturgy, 9:30 A.M.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today’s Ushers: Michael Zelesnik & Someone Else. **Next Sunday:** Pam & Emma Nugent.

Today’s **coffee hour** is hosted by Team 6. Thank you. **Next Sunday:** Team 1.

The **Advent Fast** began Wednesday, November 15th, and is divided into two periods. The first period is Nov. 15 – Dec. 19, with the traditional fasting discipline observed (no meat, poultry, dairy, eggs, fish, alcohol and oil). There is an allowance, however, for alcohol and oil on Tuesdays and Thursdays, and an allowance for alcohol, oil and fish on Saturdays and Sundays. The second period is Dec. 20 – 24, with the traditional fasting discipline observed. There is an allowance, however, for alcohol and oil only on Saturday and Sunday.

The **holy bread** is offered today by **Mariam Ammari** for the health of **Mariam**, and **Fouad, Jawdat, Jawad, Moussa, Shaker, Raed and their families** (many years), and for the repose of the souls of **Shofa, Moussa, Rakad, Tamam, Fozi, Akram** and **Vera** (memory eternal).

Our annual **Cookies with St. Nicholas Party** is scheduled for today, December 17th, after Divine Liturgy. Youngsters of all ages are welcome. Please see **Pam Nugent** for more details.

Our annual **Christmas Pageant** will be held after Divine Liturgy today, Dec. 17th. Parents who are interested in having their children participate in the pageant should see **Pam Nugent**.

The **Ladies Guild** are accepting donations for poinsettias through and including Dec. 25. The poinsettias will be placed in the church for Dec. 23-25th. If you would like to make a donation for this, please see **Yazmin Incaprera**.

ANNOUNCEMENTS CONTINUED

A potluck coffee hour is available after Divine Liturgy on Christmas Day. Those persons interested are asked to bring hors d’oeuvres or light snacks/finger foods. Thank you.

Fr. George Wilson and the faithful of Holy Trinity Cathedral have invited us to join them for their annual **Epiphany Celebration**, which shall commence at 11:45 A.M. on Sunday, Jan. 7. An outdoors blessing of the waters and cross retrieval is planned, followed by a free community luncheon. Everyone is invited. Those persons 16 years of age or older, who wish to participate in the cross retrieval, please see Fr. Peter.

Save the date: On Sunday, Jan. 14, we shall hold an Arabic luncheon after Divine Liturgy. Tickets are \$10/person. No charge for children 10 years of age and under. For more information, please see **Alexa Hamauei**. Thank you.

Free English and Russian language classes started in October in the Church Hall. For more information, please see **Marianna Avery**. Thank you.

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

As of Dec. 14, 2017, 41 pledges were received totaling \$87,180. The collection for Dec. 3, 2017, totaled \$4,484.00 and the collection for Dec. 10, 2017 totaled \$1,659.00 for a year-to-date total of \$136,324.02, a weekly average of \$2,726.48. As of Dec. 12, 2017, our expenses are \$161,367.42, a weekly average of \$3,227.35. The second (choir) collection on Dec. 10, 2017, totaled \$197.17. Thank you for your generosity.

Spiritual Counsels...

“A tittle-tattler lets secrets out, a trustworthy man keeps things hidden.” – Proverbs 11:13

The Holy Prophet Daniel and the Three Children: Ananias, Azarias and Misael

All four were of the royal tribe of Judah. When Nebuchadnezzar destroyed and plundered Jerusalem, Daniel, as a boy, was carried away into slavery together with the Jewish King Jehoiachim and countless other Israelites. An account of his life, sufferings and prophecies can be found in detail in his book. Completely devoted to God, St. Daniel from his early youth received from God the gift of great discernment. His fame among the Jews in Babylon began when he denounced two lecherous and unrighteous elders, Jewish judges, and saved the chaste Susanna from an unjust death. But his fame among the Babylonians began from the day he deciphered and interpreted the dream of King Nebuchadnezzar. For this, the king made him a prince at his court. When the king made a golden idol on the Plain of Dura, the Three Children refused to worship it, and for this they were cast into a fiery furnace. But an angel of God appeared in the furnace and cooled the fire so that the children walked around the furnace unharmed by the fire, singing: *Blessed art Thou, Lord God of our fathers* (Daniel 3:26). The king saw this miracle and was amazed. He then brought the children out of the furnace and bestowed upon them great honors.

In the time of King Belshazzar, when the king was eating and drinking with his guests at a banquet from consecrated vessels taken from the Temple in Jerusalem, an invisible hand wrote three words on the wall: *Mene, Tekel, Upharsin* (Daniel 5:25-28). No one was able to interpret these words except Daniel. That night, King Belshazzar was killed. Daniel was twice thrown into the lions' den because of his faith in the One, Living God, and both times the Lord saved him and he remained alive. Daniel beheld God on a throne with the heavenly hosts; saw angels; discerned the future of certain people, of kingdoms, and of the whole human race; and prophesied the time of the coming of the Savior on earth. According to St. Cyril of Alexandria, Daniel and the three children lived to old age in Babylon and were beheaded for the true Faith. When they beheaded Ananias, Azarias stretched out his cloak and caught his head; following this, Misael caught Azarias's head and Daniel caught Misael's head. An angel of the God translated their bodies to Judea, to Mount Gebal, and placed them under a rock. According to tradition, these four God-pleasers arose at the time of the death of the Lord Christ, appeared to many and again fell asleep. Daniel is numbered among the four great prophets (Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel and Daniel). He lived and prophesied 500 years before Christ.

from: The Prologue from Ochrid