



St. Basil Antiochian Orthodox Church

His Eminence Metropolitan JOSEPH, Archbishop of New York

And Metropolitan of all North America

His Grace Bishop NICHOLAS, Auxiliary Bishop

Of the Diocese of Miami and the Southeast

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 4, 2018

The Second Sunday of Great Lent

Plagal Tone 2 ~ Eothinon 6

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.

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 (March 4)

Venerable Gerasimos of the Jordan; Gregory, bishop of Constantios in Cyprus; Martyrs Paul and Juliana of Syria; Daniel the wonderworker, prince of Moscow.

Apolytikion of the Resurrection – Plagal Tone 2: When Mary stood at Thy grave looking for Thy sacred Body angelic pow'rs shown above Thy revered tomb, and the soldiers, who were to keep guard, became as dead men. Thou led Hades captive and wast not tempted thereby. Thou didst meet the Virgin, and didst give life to the world, O Thou, Who art risen from the dead, O Lord, 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

GOSPEL CONTINUED

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 7th – Presanctified Liturgy, 6:30 P.M.
Friday, March 9th – Akathist Hymn, 6:30 P.M (3rd Stasis)
Saturday, March 10th – Great Vespers & Confessions, 5:00 P.M.
Sunday, March 11th – Orthros, 8:30 A.M.; Divine Liturgy, 9:30 A.M. (Sunday of the Holy Cross)
Wednesday, March 14th – Presanctified Liturgy, 6:30 P.M.
Friday, March 16th – Akathist Hymn, 6:30 P.M (4th Stasis)
Saturday, March 17th – Orthros, 9:00 A.M.; Divine Liturgy (Saturday of Souls)
Saturday, March 17th – Great Vespers & Confessions, 5:00 P.M.
Sunday, March 18th – Orthros, 8:30 A.M.; Divine Liturgy, 9:30 A.M. (St. John Climacus)
Wednesday, March 21st – Presanctified Liturgy, 6:30 P.M.
Friday, March 23rd – Akathist Hymn, 6:30 P.M. (All Stases)
Saturday, March 24th – Great Vespers & Confessions, 5:00 P.M.
Sunday, March 25th – Orthros, 8:30 A.M.; Divine Liturgy, 9:30 A.M. (Annunciation of Theotokos)
Wednesday, March 28th – Presanctified Liturgy, 6:30 P.M.
Saturday, March 31st – Orthros, 9:00 A.M.; Divine Liturgy, 10:00 A.M. (Lazarus Saturday)
Sunday, April 1st – Orthros, 8:30 A.M.; Divine Liturgy, 9:30 A.M. (Palm Sunday)
Sunday, April 1st – Bridegroom Orthros, 6:30 P.M.
Monday, April 2nd – Bridegroom Orthros, 6:30 P.M.
Tuesday, April 3rd – Bridegroom Orthros, 6:30 P.M.
Wednesday, April 4th – Sacrament of Holy Unction, 6:30 P.M.
Thursday, April 5th – Vesperal Divine Liturgy, 10:00 A.M.
Thursday, April 5th – Orthros of the 12 Passion Gospels, 6:30 P.M.
Friday, April 6th – Royal Hours, 9:00 A.M.
Friday, April 6th – Unnailing Vespers, 3:00 P.M.
Friday, April 6th – Lamentations Orthros, 6:30 P.M.
Saturday, April 7th – Vesperal Divine Liturgy & Chrismations, 10:00 A.M.
Saturday, April 7th – Rush Procession & Orthros, 11:00 P.M.
Sunday, April 8th – Divine Liturgy of Great & Holy PASCHA, 12:00 A.M.
Sunday, April 8th – Agape Vespers, 1:00 P.M.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today’s Ushers: Pam Nugent & Emma Nugent. **Next Sunday:** Tania Russell & Zarah Russell. The **Epistle reader** is Paulina Kocic.

Today’s **coffee hour:** Team 5. Thank you. **Next Sunday:** Team 6.

Our **Annual Pledge Drive** is currently underway for the calendar year 2018. 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.

The **2018 Parish Life Conference** for the Diocese of Miami and the Southeast is scheduled for Wednesday, June 13 – Saturday, June 16, 2018. The Conference is at the Hilton Palm Beach Airport Hotel in West Palm Beach, Florida. For more information, please see the flyers in the narthex.

Meatfare Week began on Monday, Feb. 12. From that date until PASCHA it is our tradition to refrain from eating meat and meat products. From Pure Monday, Feb. 19, 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 and including 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 1.

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 donated to Ozanam Inn, a New Orleans-based shelter for the homeless. 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.

ICON DISCUSSION GROUP: Join the Ladies Guild on March 4 for a 30 minutes talk about icons. Cheryl Pituch who has been an iconographer for many years and is currently writing icons for a monastery in Pennsylvania will discuss her work, talk about icons, and answer questions. The ladies invite all who are interested in learning about one of Orthodoxy’s very sacred traditions. This will be held in the meeting room. The ladies will hold a very short meeting before the talk. Ladies please bring your food/drink into the meeting room so that we can start our short meeting right after Church.

ANNOUNCEMENTS CONTINUED

Lenten potluck meals shall be served after Presanctified Liturgies on Wednesday evenings during Great Lent.

Lentil Soup prepared by the Ladies Guild will be available for sale during the month of March. Bring this delicious Lenten soup home to enjoy and support the Ladies' many charitable works as well!

Approximately 100 **Red Carnations** are needed for the veneration of the Holy Cross on Sunday, March 11. 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.

Parents and Church School Teachers, please note there is no Church School on April 1 & April 8.

An Easter Egg Hunt for the little people in our parish shall be held after Liturgy on Palm Sunday, April 5th. For more information, please see **Khouriyeh Pam Nugent**.

Twelve dozen boiled, **red eggs** are needed for the Paschal Liturgy. If you would like to bring one or two dozen, please place them in the bowl provided on the auxiliary table at the front of the church temple prior to the beginning of the Paschal services. 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 Feb. 27, 2018, 37 pledges were received totaling \$97,320. The collection for Feb. 25, 2018, totaled \$2,227.31, for a year-to-date total of \$21,127.12, a weekly average of \$2,640.89. As of Feb. 26, 2018, our expenses are \$27,873.18, a weekly average of \$3,484.15.

Spiritual Counsels...

"Be sure of it, a wicked man will not go unpunished, but the race of the virtuous will come to no harm." – Proverbs 11:21

The Venerable Gerasimus

This remarkable and famous saint first learned about the ascetical life in the Egyptian Thebaid. He then went to the Jordan and there founded a community in which there were 70 monks. This community still exists today. He instituted a special Constitution [Rule] for his monastery by which the monks spent five days in their cells weaving baskets, reeds and rush mats. They were never allowed to light a fire in their cells. For five days they ate only a little dry bread and dates. The monks were required to keep their cells open so that when they went out, anyone could enter and remove whatever he needed from their cells. On Saturdays and Sundays they gathered in the monastic church. They had a common meal with a few vegetables and a little wine to the glory of God. Each monk would then bring in and place before the feet of the abbot that which he had made during the past five days. Each monk had only one robe. St. Gerasimus was an example to all. During the Great Lenten Fast he did not eat anything except what he received in Holy Communion. On one occasion, he saw a lion roaring from pain because there was a thorn in his paw. Gerasimus drew near to the lion, crossed himself, and removed the thorn in the animal's paw. The lion became so tame that he returned with Gerasimus to the monastery and remained there until the elder's death. When Gerasimus died, the lion succumbed from sorrow for him. Gerasimus attended the Fourth Ecumenical Council [Chalcedon, 451 A.D.] during the reign of Marcian and Plucheria. Even though in the beginning, Gerasimus leaned toward the Monophysite heresy of Eutyches and Dioscorus, he was a great defender and champion of Orthodoxy at the Council. St. Euthymius dissuaded him from this heresy. Of all of the disciples of Gerasimus, the most famous was St. Cyriacus the Recluse. St. Gerasimus died in the year 475 A.D., and was translated into the eternal joy of his Lord.

from: The Prologue from Ochrid