



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
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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 25, 2018

The Fifth Sunday of Great Lent & The Annunciation of the Theotokos
Tone 1 ~ Eothinon 9

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 25)

The Annunciation of the Theotokos; Nine Disciples of Hieromartyr Christopher, patriarch of Antioch.

Apolytikion of the Resurrection – Tone 1: While the stone was sealed by the Jews and the soldiers were guarding Thy most pure body, Thou didst arise on the third day, O Savior, granting life to the world, for which cause the heavenly powers cried aloud unto Thee, O Giver of life: Glory to Thy resurrection, O Christ; glory to Thy kingdom; glory to Thy providence, O Thou, Who alone art the Lover of mankind.

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.

Kontakion of the Theotokos – Tone 2: O undisputed Intercessor of Christians, constant Advocate before the Creator, do not despise the cry of us sinners, but in thy goodness come speedily to help us who call on thee in faith. Hasten to hear our petition and to intercede for us, O Theotokos, for thou always protect those who honor thee.

Prokeimenon: My soul magnifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior.

Verse: For he has regarded the humility of His servant.

Epistle: The reading is from St. Paul's Letter to the Hebrews.
 (Chapter 2:11-18)

BRETHREN, He Who sanctifies and those who are sanctified have all one origin. That is why He is not ashamed to call them brethren, saying, "I will proclaim Thy Name to My brethren, in the midst of the congregation I will praise thee." And again, "I will put my trust in Him." And again, "Here am I and the children God has given me."

Since, therefore, the children share in flesh and blood, He Himself likewise partook of the same nature, that through death he might destroy him who has the power of death, that is, the devil, and deliver all those who through fear of death were subject to lifelong bondage. For surely it is not with angels that he is concerned, but with the descendants of Abraham. Therefore, He had to be made like his brethren in every respect, so that He might become a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God to make expiation for the sins of the people. For, because, He Himself has suffered and been tempted, He is able to help those who are tempted.

Gospel: The reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Luke
 (Chapter 1:24-38)

At that time, Elizabeth, the wife of Zachariah, conceived and for five months she hid herself, saying, "Thus the Lord has done to me in the days when he looked on me to take away my reproach among men."

In the sixth month the angel, Gabriel, was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. And the angel came to her and said, "Hail, O favored one, the Lord is with you! Blessed are

GOSPEL CONTINUED

you among women!” But she was greatly troubled at the saying and considered in her mind what sort of greeting this might be. And the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son and you shall call His name Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High; and the Lord God will give to Him the throne of His father, David, and He will reign over the house of Jacob forever; and of His kingdom there will be no end.”

And Mary said to the angel, “How shall this be, since I have known no man? And the angel said to her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore, the Child to be born will be called holy, the Son of God. And behold, your kinswoman, Elizabeth, in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. For, with God, nothing will be impossible.” And Mary said, “Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word.” And the angel departed from her.

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

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 – Vespertal 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 – Vespertal 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.

Saturday, April 14th – Great Vespers & Confessions, 5:00 P.M.

Sunday, April 15th – Orthros, 8:30 A.M.; Divine Liturgy, 9:30 A.M.

Saturday, April 21st – Great Vespers & Confessions, 5:00 P.M.

Sunday, April 22nd – Orthros, 8:30 A.M.; Divine Liturgy, 9:30 A.M.

Saturday, April 28th – Great Vespers & Confessions, 5:00 P.M.

Sunday, April 29th – Orthros, 8:30 A.M.; Divine Liturgy, 9:30 A.M.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today’s Ushers: Olga Donea & Paris Russell **Next Sunday:** Dwight Gillis & Tania or Sevin Russell
Epistle reader is Alexa Hamauei.

Today’s **coffee hour:** The Ladies Guild. Thank you. **Next Sunday:** Pascha/The Parish.

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.

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

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 1st. 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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS CONTINUED

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 March 20, 2018, 40 pledges were received totaling \$99,150. The collection for March 18, 2018, totaled \$1,699.50, for a year-to-date total of \$30,948.62, a weekly average of \$2,813.51. As of March 17, 2018, our expenses are \$33,876.61, a weekly average of \$3,079.69.

Spiritual Counsels...

“One is extravagant, yet his riches grow, another excessively mean, but only grows the poorer.” – Proverbs 11:24

The Annunciation of the Mother of God

When the All-Holy Virgin completed the 14 year after her birth and was entering her 15 year, after having spent 11 years of living and serving in the Temple of Jerusalem, the priests informed her that, according to the Law, she could not remain in the Temple but was required to be betrothed and enter into marriage. What a great surprise to the priests was the answer of the All-Holy Virgin that she had dedicated her life to God and that she desired to remain a Virgin until death, not wanting to enter into marriage with anyone! Then, according to Divine Providence, Zacharias, the high priest and father of the Forerunner, under the inspiration of God, and in agreement with the other priests, gathered 12 unwed men from the Tribe of David to betroth the Virgin Mary to one of them to preserve her virginity and to care for her. She was betrothed to Joseph of Nazareth who was her kinsman. In the house of Joseph, the All-Holy Virgin continued to live as she did in the Temple of Solomon, occupying her time in the reading of Sacred Scripture, in prayer, in Godly-thoughts, in fasting and in handiwork. She rarely went anywhere outside the house nor was she interested in worldly things and events. She spoke very little to anyone, if at all, and never without special need. More frequently she communicated with both of Joseph's daughters. When the fullness of time had come, as prophesied by Daniel the Prophet, and when God was pleased to fulfill His promise to the banished Adam and to the Prophets, the great Archangel Gabriel appeared in the chamber of the All-Holy Virgin and, as some priestly writers wrote, precisely at that same moment when she held open the book of the Prophet Isaiah and was contemplating his great prophecy: "Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a son!" (Isaiah 7:13). Gabriel appeared in all of his angelic brightness and saluted her: "Rejoice, highly favored one! The Lord is with you" (St. Luke 1:28), and the rest in order as it is written in the Gospel of the saintly Luke. With this angelic annunciation and the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the Virgin, the salvation of mankind and restoration of all creation began. The history of the New Testament was opened by the words of the Archangel Gabriel: "Rejoice, highly favored one" This is to imply that the New Testament was to signify joy to mankind and to all created things. It is from this that the Annunciation is considered not only a great feast, but a joyful feast as well.

from: The Prologue from Ochrid