



**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](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.**



**June 24, 2018**

**The Nativity of the Honorable, Glorious Prophet, Forerunner & Baptist John**  
**Tone 3 ~ Eothinon 4**

*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 (June 24)**

The Nativity of the Forerunner, New-martyr Panayiotis of Caesarea in Cappadocia.

***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 St. John the Baptist – Tone 4:*** We who eagerly honour thee are unable, O Prophet, Forerunner of the presence of Christ, to extol thee as it is meet to do; for by thy noble and solemn nativity the barrenness of thy mother was undone, and the tongue of thy father was loosened, and to the world was proclaimed the Incarnation of the Son of God.

***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 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:*** The righteous shall rejoice in the Lord.

***Verse:*** O God, hear my cry when I pray to you.

***Epistle:*** The reading is from St. Paul's Letter to the Romans.  
 (Chapters 13:11-14; 14:1-4)

BRETHREN, salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed; the night is far gone, the day is at hand. Let us then cast off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; let us conduct ourselves becomingly as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

As for the man who is weak in faith, welcome him, but not for disputes over opinions. One believes he may eat anything, while the weak man eats only vegetables. Let not him who eats despise him who abstains, and let not him who abstains pass judgment on him who eats; for God has welcomed him. Who are you to pass judgment on the servant of another? It is before his own master that he stands or falls. And he will be upheld, for God is able to make him stand.

***Gospel:*** The reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Luke  
 (Chapter 1:1-25,57-68,76,80)

Inasmuch as many have undertaken to compile a narrative of the things which have been accomplished among us, just as they were delivered to us by those who from the beginning were eyewitnesses and ministers of the word, it seemed good to me also, having followed all things closely for some time past, to write and orderly account for you, most excellent Theophilus, that you may know the truth concerning the things of which you have been informed.

### **GOSPEL CONTINUED**

In the days of Herod, king of Judea, there was a priest named Zachariah, of the division of Abijah; and he had a wife of the daughters of Aaron and her name was Elizabeth. And they were both righteous before God, walking in all the commandments and ordinances of the Lord blameless. But they had no child because Elizabeth was barren and both were advanced in years.

Now while he was serving as priest before God when his division was on duty, according to the custom of the priesthood, it fell to him by lot to enter the temple of the Lord and burn incense. And the whole multitude of the people were praying outside at the hour of incense. And there appeared to him an angel of the Lord standing on the right side of the altar of incense. And Zachariah was troubled when he saw him and fear fell upon him. But the angel said to him, “Do not be afraid, Zachariah, for your prayer is heard and your wife, Elizabeth, will bear you a son and you shall call his name John. And you will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth for he will be great before the Lord and he shall drink no wine nor strong drink and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit, even from his mother’s womb. And he will turn many of the sons of Israel to the Lord their God, and he will go before him in the spirit and power of Elijah to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, to make ready for the Lord a people prepared.”

And Zachariah said to the angel, “How shall I know this? For I am an old man and my wife is advanced in years.” And the angel answered him, “I am Gabriel, who stands in the presence of God and I was sent to speak to you and to bring you this good news. And behold, you will be silent and unable to speak until the day that these things come to pass because you did not believe my words, which will be fulfilled in their time.” And the people were waiting for Zachariah and they wondered at his delay in the temple. And when he came out he could not speak to them and they perceived that he had seen a vision in the temple, and he made signs to them and remained dumb. And when his time of service was ended he went to his home. After these days his wife, Elizabeth, 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.”

### **WORSHIP SCHEDULE**

Saturday, June 30<sup>th</sup> – Great Vespers & Confessions, 5:00 P.M.

Sunday, July 1<sup>st</sup> – Orthros, 8:30 A.M.; Divine Liturgy, 9:30 A.M.

Saturday, July 7<sup>th</sup> – Great Vespers & Confessions, 5:00 P.M.

Sunday, July 8<sup>th</sup> – Orthros, 8:30 A.M.; Divine Liturgy, 9:30 A.M.

Saturday, July 14<sup>th</sup> – Great Vespers & Confessions, 5:00 P.M.

Sunday, July 15<sup>th</sup> – Orthros, 8:30 A.M.; Divine Liturgy, 9:30 A.M.

Saturday, July 21<sup>st</sup> – Great Vespers & Confessions, 5:30 P.M.

Sunday, July 22<sup>nd</sup> – Orthros, 8:30 A.M.; Divine Liturgy, 9:30 A.M.

Saturday, July 28<sup>th</sup> – Great Vespers & Confessions, 5:00 P.M.

Sunday, July 29<sup>th</sup> – Orthros, 8:30 A.M.; Divine Liturgy, 9:30 A.M.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Today’s Ushers:** Michael Zelesnik. **Next Sunday:** Dwight Gillis & Tania or Sevin Russell.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS CONTINUED**

Today’s **coffee hour:** Team 2. Thank you. **Next Sunday:** Team 3.

The Apostle’s Fast began on Monday, June 3. It continues until Friday, June 29, at which time we break the fast.

The **Parish Council** are scheduled to hold their monthly meeting today, June 24. All Council members are asked to attend.

The Feast of Ss. Peter and Paul shall be concelebrated at Holy Trinity Cathedral in a joint service that includes the faithful of Holy Trinity Cathedral and St. Basil Church. Liturgy begins at 9 A.M. Everyone is welcome to attend.

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

As of June 5, 2018, 42 pledges were received totaling \$100,550. The collection for June 10, 2018, totaled \$1,148.00, and the collection for June 17, 2018, totaled \$825.00 for a year-to-date total of \$60,777.82, a weekly average of \$2,532.41. As of June 15, 2018, our expenses are \$72,352.26, a weekly average of \$3,014.68.

### **Parish Council News from our Parish Council Chairman, Rob Booms:**

The front of our church needs some sprucing up. Do you have a power washer we can borrow for a day or two? We could also use volunteers to help with this important clean-up project. Please contact Rob Booms or Dwight Gillis.

We are considering starting an **Inquirers Class** for adults who would like to have a deeper understanding of what is involved in being Orthodox. Newcomers, future catechumens and even cradle Orthodox will be welcome. Please let Fr. Peter or Rob Booms know if you are interested and, if so, what would be the best time for you to attend such a class.

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

“A good wife, her husband’s crown, a shameless wife, a cancer in his bones.” – Proverbs 12:4

### **The Nativity of Saint John the Forerunner and Baptizer of the Lord**

Six months before his appearance in Nazareth to the All-holy Virgin Mary, the great archangel of God, Gabriel appeared to Zacharias the high priest in the Temple at Jerusalem. Before he announced the miraculous conception to the unwed virgin [Mary], the archangel announced the miraculous conception to the childless old woman [Elizabeth]. Zacharias did not immediately believe the words of the herald of God and this is why his tongue was tied with dumbness and remained as such until eight days after the birth of John. On that day, the relatives of Zacharias and Elizabeth gathered for the young child's circumcision and for the sake of giving him a name. When they asked the father what name he wishes to give to his son and being dumb, he wrote on a tablet: "John." At that moment his tongue became loosed and he began to speak. The home of Zacharias was on the heights between Bethlehem and Hebron. The news of the appearance of the angel of God to Zacharias was spread throughout all of Israel, as well as of his dumbness and the loosening of his tongue at thee moment when he wrote the name "John." The news concerning this even reached Herod. Therefore, when Herod sent soldiers to slay the children throughout Bethlehem, he directed men to the hilly dwelling place of the family of Zacharias to kill John also. However, Elizabeth promptly hid the child. Enraged, at this King Herod sent his executioners to Zacharias in the Temple to slay him (for it happened that it was Zacharias' turn again to serve in the Temple of Jerusalem). Zacharias was slain between the court and the temple and his blood coagulated and petrified on the stone pavers and remained a perpetual witness against Herod. Elizabeth hid with the child in a cave where she died soon after. The young child John remained in the wilderness alone under the care of God and God's angels.

*from: The Prologue from Ochrid*