



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.

December 23, 2018

The Fore-Feast of and the Sunday before the Nativity of Christ

Plagal Tone 1 ~ Eothinon 8

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 (December 23)

Forefeast of the Nativity of Our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ; Ten martyrs of Crete; New-martyr Nicholas; Venerable Nahum of Ochrid, enlightener of the Bulgarians; Paul, Archbishop of Neo-Caesarea; Remembrance of the Founding of the Holy and Great Church of Christ, Hagia Sophia in Constantinople; Nicholas and John the New Martyrs.

Apolytikion of the Resurrection – Plagal Tone 1: Let us believers praise and worship the Word, coeternal with the Father and the Spirit, born of a virgin for our salvation. For He took pleasure in ascending the cross in the flesh to suffer death, and to raise the dead by His glorious resurrection.

Apolytikion of the Forefeast – Tone 4: Make ready, O Bethlehem; for Eden hath been opened for all. Prepare, O Ephratha; for the Tree of life hath blossomed forth in the cave from the Virgin; for her belly did appear as a supersensual paradise in which is planted the divine Plant, whereof eating we shall live and not die as Adam. Verily, Christ shall be born, raising the likeness that fell of old.

Apolytikion of the Fathers – Tone 2: Great are the accomplishments of faith; for the three holy youths rejoiced in the fountain of flames as though at waters of rest. And the Prophet Daniel appeared a shepherd to the lions as though they were sheep. Wherefore, by their pleadings, O Christ God, have mercy upon us.

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 Hebrews.
(Chapter 11:9-10, 32-40)

BRETHREN, by faith Abraham sojourned in the land of promise, as in a foreign land, living in tents with Isaac and Jacob, heirs with him of the same promise. For he looked forward to the city, which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God.

And what more shall I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets – who through faith conquered kingdoms, enforced justice, received promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched raging fire, escaped the edge of the sword, won strength out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight. Women received their dead by resurrection. Some were tortured, refusing to accept release that they might rise again to a better life. Others suffered mocking and scourging, and even chains and imprisonment. They were stoned, they were sawn in two, they were tempted, they were killed with the sword; they went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, afflicted, ill-treated – of whom the world was not worthy – wandering over deserts and mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth. And all these, though

EPISTLE CONTINUED

well attested by their faith, did not receive what was promised, since God had foreseen something better for us, that apart from us they should not be made perfect.

Gospel: The reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew
(Chapter 1:1-25)

The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham: Abraham was the father of Isaac, and Isaac the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers, and Judah the father of Perez and Zerah by Tamar, and Perez the father of Hezron, and Hezron the father of Aram, and Aram the father of Amminadab, and Amminadab the father of Nahshon, and Nahshon the father of Salmon, and Salmon the father of Boaz by Rahab, and Boaz the father of Obed by Ruth, and Obed the father Jesse, and Jesse the father of David the king.

And David was the father of Solomon by the wife of Uriah, and Solomon the father of Rehoboam, and Rehoboam the father of Abijah, and Abijah the father of Asa, and Asa the father of Jehoshaphat, and Jehoshaphat the father of Joram, and Joram the father of Uzziah, and Uzziah the father of Jotham, and Jotham the father of Ahaz, and Ahaz the father of Hezekiah, and Hezekiah the father of Manasseh, and Manasseh the father of Amon, and Amon the father of Josiah, and Josiah the father of Jechoniah and his brothers at the time of the deportation to Babylon.

And after the deportation to Babylon: Jechoniah was the father of Shealtiel, and Shealtiel the father of Zerubbabel, and Zerubbabel the father of Abiud, and Abiud the father of Eliakim, and Eliakim the father of Azor, and Azor the father of Zadok, and Zadok the father of Achim, and Achim the father of Eliud, and Eliud the father of Eleazar, and Eleazar the father of Matthan, and Matthan the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom Jesus was born, who is called Christ.

So all generations from Abraham to David were fourteen generations, and from David to the deportation to Babylon fourteen generations, and from the deportation to Babylon to the Christ fourteen generations.

Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child of the Holy Spirit; and her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. But as he considered this, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit; she will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: “Behold, a virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and his name shall be called Emmanuel” (which means, God with us). When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took his wife, but knew her not until she had borne a son; and he called his name Jesus.

Spiritual Counsels...

“Life lies along the path of virtue, the way of the wicked leads to death.” – Prov. 12:28

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Monday, Dec. 24th – Royal Hours & Typica, 8:30 A.M.; Vesperal Divine Liturgy, 10:00 A.M.

Tuesday, Dec. 25th – Orthros, 9:00 A.M.; Divine Liturgy, 10:00 A.M. (Nativity of our Lord)

Saturday, Dec. 29th – No Great Vespers & Confessions

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

Monday, Dec. 31st – Vesperal Divine Liturgy, 6:30 P.M. (St. Basil the Great)

Friday, Jan. 4th – Royal Hours & Typica, 8:30 A.M.

Saturday, Jan. 5th – Orthros, 9:00 A.M.; Divine Liturgy, 10:00 A.M.

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

Sunday, Jan. 6th – Orthros, 8:30 A.M.; Divine Liturgy, 9:30 A.M. (Theophany)

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

Monday, Jan. 7th – Orthros, 9:00 A.M.; Divine Liturgy, 10:00 A.M. (Synaxis of St. John the Baptist)

Saturday, Jan. 12th – Great Vespers & Confessions, 5:00 P.M.

Sunday, Jan. 13th – Orthros, 8:30 A.M.; Divine Liturgy, 9:30 A.M.

Thursday, Jan. 17th – Orthros, 9:00 A.M.; Divine Liturgy, 10:00 A.M. (St. Anthony the Great)

Saturday, Jan. 19th – Great Vespers & Confessions, 5:00 P.M.

Sunday, Jan. 20th – Orthros, 8:30 A.M.; Divine Liturgy, 9:30 A.M.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please remember to **silence your cell phones** before you come into the church temple. Thank you.

Today’s Ushers: Michael Zelesnik. **Next Sunday:** Rose Hrabar and Mihai Leustean.

Today’s **coffee hour:** Team 24. Thank you. **Next Sunday:** Team 3.

The **Advent Fast** began Thursday, 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.

Donations for **poinsettias** are currently being accepted. If you would like to make a donation, please fill out one of the envelopes in the narthex and on the “Special Occasion” line, please write, “Poinsettias.” Donations are a minimum of \$12.00 per plant. Checks should be made payable to **St. Basil Ladies Guild**. Thank you.

Only a few containers of lentil soup remain. Please purchase your lentil soup today from the Ladies Guild. Thank you!

The **altar candle** is offered today by **Cesar** and **Leila El-Hajj** in memory of Leila’s father, **Milad Chedid**, for the health of **Jamal, Najla, Cesar, Leila, Stephanie, Elia, Milad, Rabih, Maria, Amelia, Nicholas, Christopher, Milad, Yasmine, Lebnan, Arzeh, Ghantous, Dolly, Assad, Marlene** and their families (many years), and for the repose of **Milad, Ramzi, Elia, Vagar**, and **Peter Boulos** (memory eternal).

ANNOUNCEMENTS CONTINUED

The holy oblation is offered today by **Mariam Ammari** for the health of **Fouad, Jawdat, Jawad, Mousa, Shaker, Raed** and their families (many years), **Rakad, Tamam, Fouzy, Akram, Shoufah** and **Alex** (memory eternal);

Our annual **Christmas Pageant** will be held after Divine Liturgy today, Dec. 23rd. Parents who are interested in having their children participate in the pageant should see **Kh. Pam Nugent**.

NEW YEAR'S BASKET RAFFLE - Ladies Guild has 3 baskets to raffle to help you ring in 2019!! These are Adult only: two with Champagne/glasses and one with the popular Moscow Mule drink!! Raffle will be held DEC 30 at coffee hour. Purchase tickets \$2 each or 3 for \$5.

LADIES CHRISTMAS SOCIAL will be January 6 after Liturgy. All ladies are invited. Please bring a snack to share and a gift to exchange (value no more than \$15). We have fun playing a gift exchange game!

An **Orthodoxy 101/Inquirers' Class** shall be offered on the first Tuesday of each month. Our next gathering is on Jan. 8 at 6:30 P.M. A potluck meal shall be served followed by a presentation and discussion. Everyone is welcome!

Russian lessons for beginners started on September 17. The group meets at 12 P.M. on Mondays. Please contact **Oksana Mehecha** for more questions.

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

As of Dec. 18, 2018, 43 pledges were received totaling \$100,750. The collection for Dec. 16, 2018, totaled \$2,942.00 for a year-to-date total of \$128,335.88, a weekly average of \$2,566.72. As of Dec. 18, 2018, our expenses are \$133,761.65, a weekly average of \$2,684.63.

The Ten Holy Martyrs of Crete

They suffered for Christ the Lord during the persecution of Decius in the year 250 A.D. Their names were Theodulus, Saturnicus, Euporus, Gelasius, Eunician, Zoticus, Pompeius, Agathopous, Basilides and Evaristus. They were all eminent and honored citizens, the best among the best. When they were brought to the place of execution they were elated, and they discussed among themselves which of them would be the first to be beheaded, for each one of them wanted to be the first to go to his beloved Christ. Then they prayed: "O Lord, forgive Thy servants and accept our blood, which is about to be shed, as an offering on our behalf and for our kinsmen and friends and for all of our fatherland, that all may be freed from the darkness of ignorance and may know Thee, the True Light, O Eternal King!" They were beheaded and entered into the Kingdom of Glory to rejoice eternally.

from: The Prologue from Ochrid

From Rob Booms, Chairman of Parish Council

We have a new Parish registration form! It allows you to update your contact information. It's also for visitors who are interested in becoming members of St. Basil. Finally, it's the new pledge form for 2019, not just for your financial support but also for volunteering. Please help the Parish Council plan for the new year by completing this form. It is located in the back of the church, next to the weekly bulletins. The completed form should be returned to the church in a sealed envelope. Thanks and God bless. -- Rob

POINSETTIAS

Our poinsettias are graciously provided by:

Mariam Ammari for the health of **Fouad, Jawdat, Jawad, Mousa, Shaker, Raed** and their families (many years), **Rakad, Tamam, Fouzy, Akram, Shoufah** and **Alex** (memory eternal);

Cesar and **Leila El-Hajj** for the health of **Jamal, Najla, Cesar, Leila, Stephanie, Elia, Milad, Rabih, Maria, Amelia, Nicholas, Christopher, Milad, Yasmine, Lebnan, Arzeh, Ghantous, Dolly, Assad, Marlene** and their families (many years), and in memory of **Milad, Ramzi, Elia, Vagar** and **Peter Boulos** (memory eternal);

Alexa Hamauei for the health of **Albert** and **John** and their families, and **Alexa** (many years), and in memory of **Mike, Margaret** and the departed members of the **Hamauei** and **Kyame** families (memory eternal);

Philip and **Rose Hrabar** for the health of **Philip, Rose** and the **Hrabar** family (many years), and in memory of the departed members of the **Hrabar** and **Duddish** families (memory eternal);

Charles and **Yazmin Incaprera** for the health of **Frank, Iris, Nicholas, Mary, Namra, Mike, Lisa** and **Vasily** (many years), and in memory of **Mary, Ruth, Henry Michael, Habous, Kamel, Namer** and **David** (memory eternal);

Ghassan and **Majeda Khoury** for the health of **Ghassan** and **Philip** and their families (many years), and in memory of **Yousef, Farideh, Majed, Ibrahim, Osama, Philip, Fareh, Abed, Bahyeh** and **Issa** (memory eternal);

Nazih and **Solange Nakhoul** for the health of **Solange, Nazih, Hani, Ramzi** and the **Abdulnour** and **Nakhoul** families (many years), and in memory of **Marie, Michel, Labib, Nasri** and the departed members of the **Abdulnour** and **Nakhoul** families (memory eternal);

The **Yordanov** family for the health of the **Yordanov** family, **Iordan Bossev, Penka, Yordanka** and **Jack** (many years), and in memory of **Rayko, Yordan Rusanov, Yordan Kochev, Boyanka** and **Ghina**.

The Sunday of the Holy Forefathers of Christ

On this day, the Sunday before the Nativity of Christ, we have been enjoined by our holy and God-bearing Fathers to make commemoration of all them that from the beginning of time have been well-pleasing unto God, from Adam even unto Joseph the Betrothed of the Most Holy Theotokos, according to genealogy, as Luke the Evangelist hath recounted historically; and likewise for the Prophets and Prophetesses, especially of Daniel the Prophet and the three holy youths.

It is also known as the Sunday of the Holy Genealogy. We remember the aforementioned names, those in the Old Testament who were related to Christ by blood, and those who spoke of His Birth as a man. In the Divine Liturgy, we shall read of Jesus Christ's lineage from the Gospel of Saint Matthew. In this way, the Church shows us that Christ truly became a man, taking on human nature. He was not a ghost, an apparition, a myth, a distant imagined god, or the abstract god of philosophers; such a god does not have a family tree. Our God is the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. He has flesh and blood, human ancestors—many of whom sinned greatly, but like David, also repented greatly. Yet, all of these righteous ones in every age had been well-pleasing to God because they loved Him. By taking on human nature, the Son of God became like us in all ways, in flesh and blood, in mind and soul, and in heart and will. He differed from us in only one way: He could not sin. Since we know that Christ's human nature remained sinless, He is also fully divine, and He shows us the way in which we can avoid sin, and so improve and transform our human nature.

Diocese Of Miami & the SouthEast

2019 Winter Retreat

~ Bishop NICHOLAS, presiding, cordially invites you to attend ~



DOMSE 2nd Annual Winter Retreat

Hosted at St. Elias Church in Atlanta, GA

Pastors Only: Jan. 23 - 24, 2019; all Pastors to arrive in Atlanta by Jan. 22

Attached Clergy & Assistant Pastors are strongly encouraged to participate & arrive on the same date!

Clergy, Antiochian Men, Women, & Young Adults: Jan. 25 - 27, 2019

Note: Teen SOYO's part in the Winter Retreat will be moved to the Spring to accommodate for Winter Camp

ALL must register! \$50 fee per person to cover meals & all other retreat expenses

REGISTER HERE (includes hotel info): <http://bit.ly/DMC-Winter-Retreat>

FOLLOW US on FaceBook ~ <https://www.facebook.com/DMCDOMSE/>

