



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

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

February 24, 2019

The 1st & 2nd Discoveries of the Forerunner's Honorable Head

Sunday of the Prodigal Son

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 (February 24)

The first and second discoveries of the honorable head of the Forerunner and Baptist John; Romanos, prince of Uglich; Boswell, abbot of Melrose Abbey; Cumine the White, abbot of Iona.

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 the First & Second Discoveries of the Head of the Forerunner –Tone 4: Verily, from the earth rose the head of the Forerunner, bequeathing to believers incorruptible rays of healing, gathering the crowds of angels from above and calling below the races of mankind to address their voices in unison in glory to Christ 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 Sunday of the Prodigal Son – Tone 3: I have foolishly run away from thy fatherly glory, and I have wasted in evil deeds the wealth which Thou gavest me. Wherefore, I cry to Thee with the voice of the prodigal: I have sinned before Thee, O merciful Father. Receive me who repent and make me as one of Thy hired servants.

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 Second Letter to the Corinthians.

(Chapter 4:6-15)

BRETHREN, it is the God Who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," Who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ.

But we have this treasure in earthen vessels to show that the transcendent power belongs to God and not to us. We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be manifested in our bodies. For while we live we are always being given up to death for Jesus' sake, so that the life of Jesus may be manifested in our mortal flesh. So death is at work in us, but life in you.

Since we have the same spirit of faith as he had who wrote, "I believed, and so I spoke," we too believed and so we speak, knowing that He Who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus and bring us with you into His presence. For it is all for your sake, so that as grace extends to more and more people it may increase thanksgiving to the glory of God.

Gospel: The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Luke
(Chapter 15:11-32)

The Lord spoke this parable: “There was a man who had two sons; and the younger of them said to his father, ‘Father, give me the share of the property that falls to me.’ And he divided his living between them. Not many days later the younger son gathered all he had and took his journey into a far country and there he squandered his property in loose living. And when he had spent everything a great famine arose in that country and he began to be in want. So he went and joined himself to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him into his fields to feed swine. And he would gladly have fed on the pods that the swine ate, and no one gave him anything. But when he came to himself he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired servants have bread enough and to spare, but I perish here with hunger! I will arise and go to my father and I will say to him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me as one of your hired servants.”’ And he arose and came to his father. But while he was yet at a distance his father saw him and had compassion and ran and embraced him and kissed him. And the son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’ But the father said to his servants, ‘Bring quickly the best robe and put it on him; and put a ring on his hand and shoes on his feet; and bring the fatted calf and kill it and let us eat and make merry; for this my son was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.’ And they began to make merry.

Now his elder son was in the field; and as he came and drew near to the house he heard music and dancing. And he called one of the servants and asked what this meant. And he said to him, ‘Your brother has come and your father has killed the fatted calf because he has received him safe and sound.’ But the son was angry and refused to go in. His father came out and entreated him, but he answered his father, ‘Lo, these many years I have served you and I never disobeyed your command; yet you never gave me a kid that I might make merry with my friends. But when this son of yours came, who has devoured your living with harlots you killed for him the fatted calf!’ And he said to him, ‘Son, you are always with me and all that is mine is yours. It was fitting to make merry and be glad, for this your brother was dead and is alive; he was lost and is found.’”

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Saturday, Mar. 2nd – Great Vespers & Confessions, 5:00 P.M.
Sunday, Mar. 3rd – Orthros, 8:30 A.M.; Divine Liturgy, 9:30 A.M.
Saturday, Mar. 9th – Great Vespers & Confessions, 5:00 P.M.
Sunday, Mar. 10th – Orthros, 8:30 A.M.; Divine Liturgy, 9:30 A.M.
Sunday, Mar. 10th – Forgiveness Vespers, 6:30 P.M.
Wednesday, Mar. 13th – Presanctified Liturgy, 6:30 P.M.
Friday, Mar. 15th – Presanctified Liturgy, 9:00 A.M.
Friday, Mar. 15th – Akathist Hymn, 6:30 P.M.
Saturday, Mar. 16th – Great Vespers & Confessions, 5:00 P.M.
Sunday, Mar. 17th – Orthros, 8:30 A.M.; Divine Liturgy, 9:30 A.M.
Wednesday, Mar. 20th – Presanctified Liturgy, 6:30 P.M.
Friday, Mar. 22nd – Presanctified Liturgy, 9:00 A.M.
Friday, Mar. 22nd – Akathist Hymn, 6:30 P.M.

WORSHIP SCHEDULE CONTINUED

Saturday, Mar. 23rd – Great Vespers & Confessions, 5:00 P.M.
Sunday, Mar. 24th – Orthros, 8:30 A.M.; Divine Liturgy, 9:30 A.M.

SUNDAY SCHEDULE WITH BISHOP NICHOLAS

8:30 – 9:30 A.M.: Orthros
9:30 – 11:30 A.M.: Hierarchical Divine Liturgy
11:30 A.M. – 12:30 P.M.: Coffee Hour & Annual General Parish Meeting
12:30 – 2:30 P.M.: Meeting with the men

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please welcome **His Grace Bishop NICHOLAS**, who is visiting us today.

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

Today’s Ushers: Rose Hrabar and Mihai Leustean. **Next Sunday:** Ladies Guild.

Today’s **coffee hour:** Parish-wide potluck. Thank you. **Next Sunday:** Team 1.

On behalf of His Grace Bishop NICHOLAS, the faithful of our parish and Fr. Peter, many thanks to our outgoing Council members, **Yazmin Incaprera** and **Kumie Mamo**. Thank you.

Our **Annual Pledge Drive** is currently underway for the calendar year 2019. 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.

Our **Annual General Parish Meeting** is scheduled for today after Divine Liturgy. All members of the parish are encouraged to attend the meeting. Those adults, who have been a member of the parish for at least one year and are in good sacramental and financial standing with the parish, are eligible to vote.

We fast Wednesday and Friday this week.

The **Antiochian Men** meeting is scheduled for next Sunday, March 3, after liturgy. All Antiochian Men are welcome to attend.

Our annual **Wine** and **Cheese Social** shall be held on Cheesefare Sunday, March 10th, in the Church Hall after Divine Liturgy. Please bring enough wine, cheese and crackers for yourself and friends.

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The traditional fasting discipline of Great and Holy Lent (no meat, poultry, eggs, dairy, fish, alcohol and oil) is observed during the entire Great Fast, which lasts from Pure Monday through 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.

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.

An **Orthodoxy 101/Inquirers' Class** shall be offered on the first Tuesday of each month. Due to Great Lent, our next gathering is on May 7 at 6:30 P.M. A potluck meal shall be served followed by a presentation and discussion. Everyone is welcome! Using the text, Beginning to Pray, a series of discussions on prayer will occur after the Wednesday Presanctified Liturgies during Great Lent.

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

As of Feb. 12, 2019, 37 pledges were received for 2019 totaling \$87,016. The collection for Feb. 17, 2019, totaled \$2,298.50 for a year-to-date amount of \$26,783.58, a weekly average of \$3,826.23. For the week of Feb. 19, 2019, our expenses are \$11.76, for a year-to-date amount of \$20,133.19, a weekly average of \$2,876.17.

From Rob Booms, Chairman of Parish Council

Ask what you can do for your Parish. At the direction of His Grace Bishop NICHOLAS, we changed the next annual Parish Annual meeting to February so that he can join us. At that time, we will be adding new members to the Parish Council. The Council meets once a month after church for about an hour. Please consider serving on the Council. There are three open positions to be elected, two for a 3-year term and one for a one-year term. If you wish to have your name placed in nomination, please let Fr. Peter or me know by January 20. If you do not want to be involved in an election, our Parish Constitution also permits Fr. Peter to appoint one member for a 3-year term and one for a one-year term. Let him know if you would like to be considered for an appointment. We anticipate continued growth in 2019 and need your participation and prayers for the challenges that lie ahead. Thanks and God Bless--Rob

Spiritual Counsels...

“A man’s wealth may ransom his life, but the poor man sees no threat.” – Prov. 13:8

The Finding of the Head of St John the Baptist

The great and glorious Forerunner was beheaded at the wish and request of the wicked Herodias, wife of Herod. When John had been beheaded, Herodias ordered that his head should not be buried with his body, for she feared that the terrible prophet would somehow rise from the dead. So she took his head and buried it in some hidden and unworthy place, deep in the earth. Her lady-in-waiting was Joanna the wife of Chuza, a courtier of Herod's. This good and God-fearing Joanna could not bear that the head of the godly man should remain in an unworthy place, so she disinterred it secretly, took it to Jerusalem and buried it on the Mount of Olives. Not knowing about all this, King Herod, when he heard about Christ and His great miracles, was afraid and said: 'It is John, whom I beheaded; he is risen from the dead!' (Mk. 6:16). After a considerable time, an eminent government official came to believe in Christ, left his position in the world and became a monk. Under the name Innocent, he settled on the Mount of Olives, in precisely the place where the Baptist's head had been buried. Deciding to build himself a cell, he dug deep and found an earthen pot containing a head, which, it was revealed to him secretly, was that of the Baptist. He venerated it and re-buried it in the same place. By God's providence, that wonder-working head went from hand to hand, disappearing into the darkness of forgetfulness and then being once more revealed, until it was finally taken to Constantinople in the middle of the 9th century, in the time of Patriarch Ignatius and the God-fearing Empress Theodora, mother of Michael and wife of Theophilus. Many miracles were performed by the head of the Forerunner. It is important and interesting to note that, while he was alive, John did not work a single miracle (Jn. 10:41), but to his relics was given the blessed power of working miracles.

from: The Prologue from Ochrid