



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 17, 2019

The First Sunday of Great Lent, The Sunday of Orthodoxy
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 17)

Venerable Alexios, the 'Man of God,' Theosteriktos the Confessor of Pelecete Monastery; Patrick, bishop of Armagh and enlightener of Ireland; Venerable Makarios of Kalyazin; Paul the righteous martyr.

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 First Sunday of Great Lent – Tone 2: Thy pure image do we venerate, O good One, asking forgiveness of our sins, O Christ our God; for by Thine own will Thou didst ascend the Cross in Thy body, to save Thy creatures from the bondage of the enemy. Thou hast verily filled all with joy, since Thou didst come, O our Savior, to save the world.

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: Blessed are You, O Lord, God of our Fathers.

Verse: For You are righteous in all things You have done.

Epistle: The reading is from St. Paul's Letter to the Hebrews.

(Chapter 11:24-26, 32-40)

BRETHREN, by faith Moses, when he was grown up, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, choosing rather to share ill treatment with the people of God than to enjoy the fleeting pleasures of sin. 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 enemies 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 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 in all these, though 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. John
(Chapter 1:43-51)

At that time, Jesus decided to go to Galilee. And He found Philip and said to him, “Follow Me.” Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. Philip found Nathanael and said to him, “We have found him of whom Moses in the law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph.” Nathanael said to him, “Can anything good come out of Nazareth?” Philip said to him, “Come and see.” Jesus saw Nathanael coming to Him and said of him, “Behold, an Israelite indeed, in whom is no guile!” Nathanael said to Jesus, “How do you know me?” Jesus answered him, “Before Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree, I saw you.” Nathanael answered Him, “Rabbi, You are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!” Jesus answered him, “Because I said to you, ‘I saw you under the fig tree,’ do you believe? You shall see greater things than these.” And Jesus said to him, “Truly, truly, I say to you, ‘You will see heaven opened and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of man.’”

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Wednesday, March 20th – Presanctified Liturgy, 6:30 P.M.
Friday, March 22nd – Presanctified Liturgy, 9:00 A.M.
Friday, March 22nd – Akathist Hymn (Stasis 2), 6:30 P.M.
Saturday, March 23rd – Great Vespers & Confessions, 5:00 P.M.
Sunday, March 24th – Orthros, 8:30 A.M.; Divine Liturgy, 9:30 A.M.
Monday, March 25th - Orthros, 9:00 A.M.; Divine Liturgy, 10:00 A.M. (Annunciation)
Wednesday, March 27th – Presanctified Liturgy, 6:30 P.M.
Friday, March 29th – Presanctified Liturgy, 9:00 A.M.
Friday, March 29th – Akathist Hymn (Stasis 3), 6:30 P.M.
Saturday, March 30th – Great Vespers & Confessions, 5:00 P.M.
Sunday, March 31st – Orthros, 8:30 A.M.; Divine Liturgy, 9:30 A.M.
Wednesday, April 3rd – Presanctified Liturgy, 6:30 P.M.
Friday, April 5th – Presanctified Liturgy, 9:00 A.M.
Friday, April 5th – Akathist Hymn (Stasis 4), 6:30 P.M.
Saturday, April 6th – Great Vespers & Confessions, 5:00 P.M.
Sunday, April 7th – Orthros, 8:30 A.M.; Divine Liturgy, 9:30 A.M.
Wednesday, April 10th – Presanctified Liturgy, 6:30 P.M.
Friday, April 12th – Presanctified Liturgy, 9:00 A.M.
Friday, April 12th – Akathist Hymn, 6:30 P.M.
Saturday, April 13th – Great Vespers & Confessions, 5:00 P.M.
Sunday, April 14th – 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 Usherettes: Tania Russell and Rose Hrabar. **Next Sunday:** Ladies Guild.

Today’s Epistle Reader: Paulina Kocic. **Next Sunday:** Ladies Guild.

ANNOUNCEMENTS CONTINUED

Today’s **coffee hour:** Team 3. Thank you. **Next Sunday:** Team 4.

The holy bread is offered today by **Phil** and **Rose Hrabar**.

The **Parish Council** meeting is scheduled for today, March 17, after liturgy. All Council members please attend.

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

The Diocese of Miami and the Southeast (DOMSE) is hosting a **Cyber Teen Retreat** on April 13, 2019. The teens of St. Basil Church are invited to gather here at our Church Hall for activities. Please see **Emma Nugent** for more information.

The **Parish Life Conference** for the Diocese of Miami and the Southeast (DOMSE) is scheduled for June 12-15, 2019. It is hosted by All Saints Antiochian Orthodox Church at the Sheraton Imperial Hotel in Raleigh, North Carolina. Please visit www.antiochianevents.com/miami.html for more information.

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 (March 11) through Great and Holy Saturday (April 27). 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 21).

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 forwarded to the Archdiocese Chancery for distribution to the needy. May God bless your generosity and ascetic practice of almsgiving.

Approximately 110 **Red Carnations** are needed for the veneration of the Holy Cross on Sunday, March 31. 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.

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS CONTINUED

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.

The **Antiochian Men** are making sandwiches after church on Sunday, March 31, and then will distribute them after. Anyone who would like to help please let **Subdeacon Stephen Zelesnik** know at stephenmz@yahoo.com. We need assistance in the following areas:

- 1) Making sandwiches after church in one of the meeting rooms. We hope to make between 75-100 of them.
- 2) Distributing the sandwiches in downtown NOLA. Must be at least 15 to do this. If younger than 15, you must be accompanied by a parent.
- 3) Donate some bread, chips, water, or lunchmeat. Thank you for your support.

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 March 12, 2019, 42 pledges were received for 2019 totaling \$88,616.00. The collection for March 3, 2019, totaled \$4,121.00, and the collection for March 10, 2019, totaled \$2,800.30 for a year-to-date amount of \$35,722.72, a weekly average of \$3,572.27. As of March 15, 2019, our expenses are \$4,936.34, for a year-to-date amount of \$29,778.42, a weekly average of \$2,977.84.

From Rob Booms, Chairman of Parish Council

Christian fellowship such as we enjoyed during the forgiveness line on Cheesefare Sunday is very precious. One way to benefit from it is to participate in our Parish organizations. We have a Ladies Guild, the Antiochian Men, a Teen SOYO and now a new Young Adult group. All of them are involved in interesting and worthy service and outreach projects. Please join one of them. The contact persons are: Ladies Guild-Tania Russell, Antiochian Men-Michael Zelesnik, Teen SOYO-Emma Nugent, and Young Adults-Emma Nugent.

Perhaps, you'd like to suggest another group. Let Fr. Peter or me know. Let's think of creative ways of engaging with each other to share in the Orthodox Way!
Thanks and God Bless--Rob

Spiritual Counsels...

"A sudden fortune will dwindle away, he grows rich who accumulates little by little." – Prov. 13:11



St. Alexis, the Man of God

Varied are the paths upon which God leads those who desire to please Him and to fulfill His Law. There lived in Rome at the time of Emperor Honorius a high-ranking dignitary, Euphemian, who was highly respected and extremely wealthy. He and his wife, Algae, led a God-pleasing life. Even though he was wealthy, Euphemian sat at the table once a day, only after the setting of the sun. He had an only son, Alexis, who, when he had reached the age of maturity, was compelled to marry. But on that same night, he left not only his wife but the home of his father as well. Alexis boarded a boat and arrived at the city of Edessa in Mesopotamia, where there was a renown image of our Lord, sent there by our Lord Himself to Emperor Abgar. Having venerated this image, Alexis clothed himself in the dress of a beggar and, as such, lived in the city for 17 years, continually praying to God in the vestibule of the Church of the Holy Mother of God. When it became public that he was a man of God, he became frightened of the praise of men, departed Edessa and boarded a boat and traveled to Laodicea. According to God's Providence, the boat was carried away and sailed all the way to Rome. Considering this to be the finger of God, Alexis decided to go to the house of his father and there, as an unknown, continued his life of self-denial. His father did not recognize him but out of charity allowed him to live in his courtyard in a hut. Alexis remained here for 17 years living only on bread and water. Mistreated by the servants in various ways, he endured all to the end. When his end approached, he wrote a letter, clenched it in his hand, laid down and died on March 17, 411 A.D. At the same time there was a revelation in the Church of the Twelve Apostles, and in the presence of the emperor and the patriarch, a voice was heard which said, "Seek out the Man of God." Shortly after that, it was revealed that this Man of God resided at the house of Euphemian. The emperor along with the pope and an entire retinue arrived at the home of Euphemian and after a lengthy discussion learned that the beggar was that "Man of God." When they entered his hut, they found Alexis dead but his face shown as the sun. From that letter his parents learned that it was their son Alexis. Also, his bride, who for 34 years lived without him, learned that he was her husband. All were overcome with immense grief and pain. Later, they were comforted after seeing how God glorified His chosen one. By touching his body, many of the sick were healed, and from his body flowed a sweet-smelling oil [Chrism]. His body was buried in a sarcophagus of marble and jasper. His head reposes in the Church of St. Laurus in the Peloponnese.

from: The Prologue from Ochrid

The Sunday of Orthodoxy

On this day, the First Sunday of the Fast, we make remembrance of the restoration of the holy and venerable Icons, which took place through the ever-memorable Sovereigns of Constantinople, Michael and his mother, Theodora, during the patriarchate of St. Methodios the Confessor.

Verses

I rejoice, as I see them fittingly reverence
The icons formerly unfittingly banished.

This restoration was accomplished in the year 842. Theodora's husband was an iconoclast. After his death, Theodora venerated an icon of the Theotokos in front of Patriarch Methodios. The other faithful in the church did the same, venerating all the icons, considering them to be representations of their original elements, not idols. Theodora prayed to God to forgive her husband during the first week of Great Lent; and on the First Sunday of the Fast, she led the way in hanging up the icons to adorn the churches.

O invariant Icon of the Father, through the intercessions of Thy holy Confessors, have mercy on us.
Amen.