



## 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 2, 2019

The Sunday of the Blind Man

Plagal Tone 1 ~ Eothinon 8

*Christ is Risen! Indeed He is Risen!*

### 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.

*As we move into the summer months, the weather is always very warm. While we need to dress comfortably because of this please remember that **shorts or above-the-knee attire, strapless garments, "spaghetti" strap garments, sleeveless or "tanktop" type garments, and tight-fitting, open or low-cut garments are not appropriate, especially for men, women and teenagers. It has always been our tradition to dress modestly and without drawing attention to oneself. 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 2)

Nikephoros the Confessor, patriarch of Constantinople; Newmartyrs Demetrios of Philadelphia, John of Trebizond, and Constantine of Athos; Hieromartyr Pothinos bishop of Lyons and his companion Martyr Blandina; Erasmus of Ochrid and his companion 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 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 Pascha – Plagal Tone 4:** When Thou didst descend into the grave, O Immortal, Thou didst destroy the power of hades. In victory Thou didst arise, O Christ God, proclaiming 'Rejoice' to the myrrh-bearing women, granting peace to Thine apostles and bestowing resurrection on the fallen.

**Prokeimenon:** You, O Lord, shall keep us and preserve us.

**Verse:** Save me, O Lord, for the godly man has failed.

**Epistle:** The reading is from the Acts of the Apostles.

(Chapter 16:16-34)

IN THOSE DAYS, as we apostles were going to the place of prayer we were met by a slave girl who had a spirit of divination and brought her owners much gain by soothsaying. She followed Paul and us, crying, "These men are servants of the Most High God, who proclaim to you the way of salvation." And this she did for many days. But Paul was annoyed and turned and said to the spirit, "I charge you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her." And it came out that very hour. But when her owners saw that their hope of gain was gone they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the market place before the rulers; and when they had brought them to the magistrates they said, "These men are Jews and they are disturbing our city. They advocate customs which it is not lawful for us Romans to accept or practice." The crowd joined in attacking them; and the magistrates tore the garments off them and gave orders to beat them with rods. And when they had inflicted many blows upon them they threw them into prison charging the jailer to keep them safely. Having received this charge he put them into the inner prison and fastened their feet in the stocks.

But about midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God and the prisoners were listening to them, and suddenly there was a great earthquake so that the foundations of the prison were shaken; and immediately all the doors were opened and everyone's fetters were unfastened. When the jailer woke and saw that the prison doors were open he drew his sword and was about to kill himself, supposing that the prisoners had escaped. But Paul cried with a loud voice, "Do not harm yourself for we are all here." And he called for lights and rushed in and trembling with fear he fell down before Paul and Silas and brought them out and said, "Men, what must I do to be saved?" And they said, "Believe in the Lord Jesus and you will be saved, you and your household." And they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all that were in his house. And he took them the same hour of the night and washed their wounds, and he was baptized at once with all his family. Then he brought them up into his house and set food before them; and he rejoiced with all his household that he had believed in God.

**Gospel:** The reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. John  
(Chapter 9:1-38)

At that time, when Jesus was passing He saw a man blind from his birth. And His disciples asked Him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” Jesus answered, “It was not that this man sinned or his parents, but that the works of God might be made manifest in him. I must work the works of Him Who sent Me while it is day; night comes when no one can work. As long as I am in the world I am the light of the world.” As He said this He spat on the ground and made clay of the spittle and anointed the man’s eyes with clay, saying to him, “Go wash in the pool of Siloam” (which means Sent). So he went and washed and came back seeing. The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar said, “Is not this the man who used to sit and beg?” Some said, “It is he,” others said, “No, but he is like him.” He said, “I am the man.” They said to him, “Then how were your eyes opened?” He answered, “The man called Jesus made clay and anointed my eyes and said to me, ‘Go to Siloam and wash,’ so I went and washed and received my sight.” They said to him, “Where is He?” He said, I do not know.”

They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. Now it was a Sabbath day when Jesus made the clay and opened his eyes. The Pharisees again asked him how he had received his sight. And he said to them, “He put clay on my eyes and I washed and I see.” Some of the Pharisees said, “This man is not from God for He does not keep the Sabbath.” But others said, “How can a man who is a sinner do such signs?” There was a division among them. So they again said to the blind man, “What do you say about Him, since He has opened your eyes?” He said, “He is a prophet.” The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight and asked them, “Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?” His parents answered, “We know that this is our son and that he was born blind; but how he now sees we do not know, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him, he is of age; he will speak for himself.” His parents said this because they feared the Jews, for the Jews had already agreed that if anyone should confess Him to be Christ he was to be put out of the synagogue. Therefore, his parents said, “He is of age, ask him.”

So for the second time they called the man who had been blind and said to him, “Give God the praise; we know that this man is a sinner.” He answered, “Whether he is a sinner I do not know; one thing I know, that though I was blind, now I see.” They said to him, “What did He do to you? How did He open your eyes?” He answered them, “I have told you already and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you too want to become His disciples?” And they reviled him saying, “You are His disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man we do not know where He comes from.” The man answered, “Why this is a marvel! You do not know where He comes from and yet He opened my eyes. We know that God does not listen to sinners, but if anyone is a worshiper of God and does His will, God listens to him. Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a man born blind. If this man were not from God He could do nothing.” They answered him, “You were born in utter sin and would you teach us?” And they cast him out.

Jesus heard that they had cast him out and having found him He said, “Do you believe in the Son of God?” He answered, “And who is He, sir, that I may believe in Him?” Jesus said to him, “You have seen Him and it is He Who speaks to you.” He said, “Lord, I believe,” and he worshiped Him.

***Spiritual Counsels...***

“Misfortune dogs the sinner; good fortune rewards the virtuous.” – Prov. 13:21

***From Rob Booms, Chairman of Parish Council***

Your financial support of the Parish has been good this year. We’re paying the bills with a little to spare. Thanks be to God for enabling us to do this. However, giving usually lags during the summer. As you travel and vacation, please remember that our expenses roll on and we still need your regular gifts. God bless—Rob

#### **WORSHIP SCHEDULE**

Thursday, June 6<sup>th</sup> – Orthros, 9:00 A.M.; Divine Liturgy, 10:00 A.M. (Ascension of our Lord)

Saturday, June 8<sup>th</sup> – Great Vespers & Confessions, 5:00 P.M.

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

Saturday, June 15<sup>th</sup> – No Great Vespers & Confessions

Sunday, June 16<sup>th</sup> – Orthros, 8:30 A.M.; Divine Liturgy, 9:30 A.M. (Pentecost)

Sunday, June 16<sup>th</sup> – Kneeling Vespers of Pentecost, 30 min after the end of liturgy

Saturday, June 22<sup>nd</sup> – Great Vespers & Confessions, 5:00 P.M.

Sunday, June 23<sup>rd</sup> – Orthros, 8:30 A.M.; Divine Liturgy, 9:30 A.M.

#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Today’s Ushers:** Rose Hrabar and Mihai Leustean. **Next Week:** Tania and Sevin Russell.

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

We fast Wednesday and Friday this week.

**Trisagion prayers** are offered today by **Jim** and **Sophia Hashek** for the repose of the soul of **Barbara Kogos** (20 years). May her memory be eternal.

The **Ladies Guild** are scheduled to hold their June meeting next Sunday, June 9, after Divine Liturgy. All ladies of the parish are invited to attend.

Many thanks to all of you who helped with our annual **St. Basil Birthday Party** last Sunday, including our chef, Subdeacon Stephen Zelesnik and those of you who brought St. Basil Church a “birthday gift.” God bless you.

Fr. Peter will, God willing, attend the Diocese of Miami Parish Life Conference from June 12-15. Should you have a pastoral emergency and need the assistance of an Orthodox priest, please call Fr. George Wilson at Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral, 504-282-0259.

As of June 1, 2019, 47 pledges were received for 2019 totaling \$93,116.00. The collection for May 19, 2019, totaled \$2,794.46, for a year-to-date amount of \$65,836.72, a weekly average of \$3,135.08. As of May 31, 2019, our expenses are \$57,800.33, a weekly average of \$2,752.40.

### **The Sunday of the Blind Man**

On this day, the sixth Sunday of Pascha, we celebrate the miracle wrought by our Lord and God and Savior Jesus Christ upon the man who was blind from his birth.

#### **Verses**

O Light of Light most perfect, and Light-provider,  
On the blind from birth, O Word, eyes Thou bestowest.

The Savior met this man, born blind and incurable after every human effort, while leaving the Temple on the Sabbath. Saints John Chrysostom, Basil the Great and Irenaeus teach that the man was born without eyes. Jesus spat into the dirt, made clay, rubbed it in his eye sockets and told him to wash in the pool of Siloam, a famous water spring in Jerusalem. The Savior did not send him there because his eye sockets were covered in clay, nor did the pool have healing power, but instead to test his faith and obedience. The blind man proclaimed that Jesus healed him, but this confession caused him to be cast out by the enemies of the truth. Even his own parents would not defend him. However, the blind man followed Jesus from that moment forward.

By Thine infinite mercy, O Christ our God, Giver of light, have mercy on us. Amen.

+++

### **St. Nicephorus, Confessor and Patriarch of Constantinople**

Nicephorus was a nobleman of Constantinople. His father Theodore, a high-ranking official of the imperial court, was wealthy and pious. Nicephorus served at the court for several years in the same profession as his father. Seeing all the vanity of the world, he withdrew to the shores of the Bosphorus and founded a monastery. The monastery was quickly filled with monks and he governed it but was not willing to receive the monastic tonsure under the pretext that he was not worthy, even though, in all things he served as a model to all. Before that, he participated in the Seventh Ecumenical Council [Nicea, 783 A.D.] as a layman at the wishes of the emperor and the patriarch and the Council benefited greatly by his superior knowledge of Sacred Scripture. When Patriarch Tarasius died, Nicephorus was elected patriarch against his will. Immediately following his election in the year 806 A.D., he received the monastic tonsure and in succession all other ecclesiastical ranks. He was enthroned as patriarch in the Church of the Divine Wisdom of God [Hagia Sophia]. This took place during the reign of Emperor Nicephorus who immediately, after that, went to war against the Bulgarians and was slain. His son, Stauracius, reigned only two months and died. After him, the good Emperor Michael, surnamed Rangabe, ruled but he reigned for only two years until he was overthrown by Leo the Armenian and banished into exile. When Leo was crowned, the patriarch sent him a book of the Orthodox Confession of Faith to sign (according to the custom of all Byzantine emperors which was considered an oath that they will uphold and defend the True Faith). The emperor did not sign it but rather postponed it until after the coronation. When the patriarch crowned him, Leo refused to sign the book and quickly proved himself to be a heretic; an iconoclast. The patriarch attempted to advise him and to restore him to the True Faith, but in vain. The emperor forcibly banished Nicephorus into exile to the island of Proconnesus where he remained for 13 years enduring every kind of misery and privation and entered eternity in the year 827 A.D. As patriarch he governed the Church of Christ for nine years.

*from: The Prologue from Ochrid*