

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
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The Hieromartyr Aicepsimas, Bishop of Naeson, and others with him

The 80 year-old Aicepsimas, filled with every Christian virtue, was sitting one day in his home with guests. Just then a child, filled with the Spirit of God, ran up to the aged bishop, kissed him on the head and said: "Blessed is this head, for it will receive suffering for Christ." This prophecy was soon fulfilled. King Sapor raised a bitter persecution of Christians throughout Persia, and St. Aicepsimas was apprehended. He was brought before a prince who was also a pagan priest. As the bishop was arrested and bound, a member of his household asked him what should be done with his home if he were martyred. The saint replied: "It is no longer my home. I am going to a home on high and will not return." After prolonged interrogation he was thrown into prison. The following day Joseph, a 70 year-old presbyter, and Aithalas, a deacon, were also imprisoned. After three years of imprisonment and many tortures, Aicepsimas was beheaded. Joseph and Aithalas were buried up to their waists in the ground, and the soulless pagans forced Christians to stone them. That night, by God's providence, Joseph's body disappeared, and a myrtle tree grew over Aithalas's body that healed every kind of disease and pain of men. This tree stood for five years before the wicked and envious pagans cut it down. These soldiers of Christ suffered in Persia in the fourth century, during the time of the pagan King Sapor.

from: The Prologue from Ochrid

St. Basil Antiochian Orthodox Church



November 3, 2019
The 20th Sunday after Pentecost
The 5th Sunday of St. Luke

Welcome!

To Our Guests:

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. In our tradition, **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.** Please do not be offended by this if you are not an Orthodox Christian or in good standing with the Church. We welcome you to our church and invite you to receive a blessing and partake of the blessed bread at the end of the Divine Liturgy.

*As we move through 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.***

Epistle Reading: Galatians 1:9-11

Gospel Reading: Luke 16:9-31

Saints of the Day

Martyrs Akepsimas the bishop, Joseph the priest and Aëthalias the deacon of Persia; dedication of the church of the Great Martyr George the trophy-bearer in Lydda; New-Hieromartyr George of Neapolis; Venerable Theodore the confessor, bishop of Ancyra; Winifred of Treffynnon.

From Rob Booms, Chairman of the Parish Council

We were able to complete Phase 2 of the planned air conditioning work with the installation of a 5-ton condenser in the church. Two of six AC condensers have now been replaced. We still need to replace two more in the church and two in the parish hall. This work is expensive but much needed. We thank our parishioners for their generous financial support this year, which has enabled us to operate in the black all year long. Thumbs-up to the St. Basil Antiochian Men's group for doing a major trim on the large tree in our parking lot. This was hard labor and took up a whole Saturday. Also thanks for the parishioners who cleaned

up the Church and Parish Hall before Bishop Nicholas' recent visit. Our greeters are to be commended for proactively welcoming an ever-growing number of visitors. If you are interested in this ministry please let us know. **Please mark you calendars for Sunday, November 3 when the Ladies Guild will be offering its excellent food at a bake sale. Pre-orders are being taken for baked items now!** God bless--
Rob Booms

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Saturday, Nov. 9th – Great Vespers & Confessions, 5:00 P.M.
Sunday, Nov. 10th – Orthros, 8:30 A.M.; Divine Liturgy, 9:30 A.M.
Saturday, Nov. 16th – Great Vespers & Confessions, 5:00 P.M.
Sunday, Nov. 17th – Orthros, 8:30 A.M.; Divine Liturgy, 9:30 A.M.
Thursday, Nov. 21st – Orthros, 9:00 A.M.; Divine Liturgy, 10:00 A.M.
Saturday, Nov. 23rd – Great Vespers & Confessions, 5:00 P.M.
Sunday, Nov. 24th – Orthros, 8:30 A.M.; Divine Liturgy, 9:30 A.M.
Saturday, Nov. 30th – Great Vespers & Confessions, 5:00 P.M.
Sunday, Dec. 1st – Orthros, 8:30 A.M.; Divine Liturgy, 9:30 A.M.

Orthodox Thoughts from Theo, the Parish Possum



In the 1950's and 1960's, most newspapers ran a popular comic strip about a possum called Pogo. Our possum family has a book containing most of Pogo's adventures and we read them aloud at bedtime. Pogo was the wisest resident of a Southern swamp. The other denizens of the swamp represent all sorts of human conditions and personalities. Most notable are Beauregard Bugleboy (Houn' Dog), Albert Alligator, Miz Mam'zelle Hepzibah (a skunk), and Deacon Muskrat (a man of the cloth). The characters can be confrontational and selfish but, overall, they are innocent and manage to live together in harmony. Life in Pogo's swamp is a model for peaceful coexistence. Based on what we overhear in the Parish Hall, there is some anxiety about new and "different" folks joining the church. In Pogo's swamp, there is some grumbling about newcomers also. But for a community of owls, dogs, possums, muskrats, fleas, alligators, turtles, porcupines, skunks, beavers, bats, bears, storks, rabbits, groundhogs, moles and mice, there was no alternative but to get along and thrive together. You have Orthodox folks of many backgrounds including Ethiopians, Russians, Syrians, Lebanese, Americans, Romanians, Greeks, Bulgarians, Serbs and Ukrainians. So our possum advice to y'all is to do like the critters in the comic strip. Pogo's best known quote is "we have met the enemy and he is

us.” Jesus calls on us to welcome the stranger in our midst. If we do, we are not our own worst enemy but our own best friend. God bless--Theo. God bless--Theo

Today's Ushers: Pam Nugent. **Next Week:** Mihai Leustean.

Today's coffee hour: Team ?. Thank you. **Next Sunday:** Team ??.

As of Nov. 1, 2019, 48 pledges were received for 2019 totaling \$93,256.00. The collection for Oct. 27, 2019, totaled \$4,260.01 for a year-to-date amount of \$118,902.32, a weekly average of \$2,765.17. As of Oct. 31, 2019, our expenses are \$117,773.77, a weekly average of \$2,738.93.

Spiritual Counsels...

“Even in laughter the heart finds sadness, and joy makes way for sorrow.” – Prov. 14:13

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Bake Sale – Sunday, Nov 3

St. Basil Ladies Guild will sell delicious baked goods including: spinach pies, Kocic meat pies, baklava, namoura, nut rolls, kibbeh (sold frozen), pumpkin bread and more! You may order in advance starting October 13! Profits go to the Ladies Guild Diocesan/local projects/charities. Thank you for your support!

An **Orthodoxy 101/Inquirers' Class** shall be offered on the first Tuesday of each month. Our next gathering is on Nov. 5 at 6:30 P.M. A potluck meal shall be served followed by a presentation and discussion. Everyone is welcome!

The Ladies Guild is scheduled to hold their November meeting next Sunday after Divine Liturgy. All ladies of the parish are invited to attend.

The **Advent Fast** begins Friday, 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.