

**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**  
**504.888.8114**  
[sbno@att.net](mailto:sbno@att.net)  
[www.stbasilneworleans.org](http://www.stbasilneworleans.org)

### **The Sunday of St. Thomas the Apostle**

On this day, the second Sunday of Pascha, we celebrate the inauguration of Christ's Resurrection, and the occasion whereon the Holy Apostle Thomas touched the Savior's side.

#### **Verses**

If seals of neither womb nor of tomb could check Thee,  
Then how could the seals of doors do so, O Savior?

This day is called New Sunday, Thomas Sunday or Anti-Pascha. The last term means "in place of Pascha" because Thomas did not immediately hear of Christ's Resurrection and disbelieved it. We remember his doubt but do not repeat it. After this Sunday, the Church dedicates Sunday to the Resurrection.

As the Disciples were gathered together on the Sunday of the Resurrection, Jesus entered and greeted them in His usual way, saying, "Peace be unto you." Then He showed them His hands, feet and side. Jesus ate before His Disciples and reassured them of His Resurrection. However, Thomas was not with them at that time, and insisted upon seeing the Savior's scars—the print of the nails in His hands and feet, and the spear in His side—before he would believe that Jesus was risen. Eight days later Christ appeared again to the Disciples, this time with Thomas present. The Master told Thomas to see and feel. Then Thomas immediately cried out, "My Lord and my God!" But Jesus tells His Disciples, "Blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe." This event also clearly illustrates the human and divine Natures of Christ.

By the intercessions of Thine Apostle Thomas, O Christ our God, have mercy on us. Amen.

## **St. Basil Antiochian Orthodox Church**



**April 26, 2020**  
**The Sunday of St. Thomas**

# 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.

**In our tradition...** *the church temple is a house of prayer. Upon entering it, please refrain from unnecessary conversation before, during and after church services, most especially during the Divine Liturgy from the time of the consecration of the Gifts until the last person has received the Eucharist. At the end of the Divine Liturgy, please come quietly forward to receive a piece of the antidoron and exit the church temple. During coffee hour in the Church Hall is the appropriate place to exchange personal greetings and converse with one another. May God bless your reverence and piety.*

## Christ is Risen! Truly He is Risen!

**Epistle Reading:** Acts 5:12-20  
**Gospel Reading:** St. John 20:19-31

### Saints of the Day

The Holy, Glorious and All-Laudable Apostle, Thomas; Hieromartyr Basil, bishop of Amasea with Venerable Glaphyra; Stephen, bishop of Perm; Venerable Ioanikios of Devitch in Serbia.

### **A message from the Parish Council:**

Dear Parishioners,  
We have been given an unusual test of our faith during Lent 2020. We are threatened physically by a virus and, for many, by loss of income. Our life patterns have suddenly been disrupted. We were planning to sustain ourselves by regular church attendance but, at times, are finding

it difficult or stressful to go. For those who are medically fragile, worship has been limited to the icon corner at home. Regrettably, our church's expenses, and especially the need to compensate our Priest, do not abate. As part of your Lenten discipline, please remember your pledge and, if you are able, continue to make your regular contributions by mail when you cannot attend the Liturgy. May this crisis be of short duration and may it prove to be a source of spiritual growth for you and our St. Basil congregation—Rob Booms, Parish Council Chairman

### WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sunday, April 26<sup>th</sup> – Divine Liturgy, 9:30 A.M.  
Saturday, May 2<sup>th</sup> – Great Vespers & Confessions, 5:00 P.M.  
Sunday, May 3<sup>rd</sup> – Orthros, 8:30 A.M.; Divine Liturgy, 9:30 A.M.  
Saturday, May 9<sup>th</sup> – Great Vespers & Confessions, 5:00 P.M.  
Sunday, May 10<sup>th</sup> – Orthros, 8:30 A.M.; Divine Liturgy, 9:30 A.M.  
Saturday, May 16<sup>th</sup> – No Great Vespers & Confessions  
Sunday, May 17<sup>th</sup> – Readers Service, 9:30 A.M.  
Saturday, May 23<sup>rd</sup> – Great Vespers & Confessions, 5:00 P.M.  
Sunday, May 24<sup>th</sup> – Orthros, 8:30 A.M.; Divine Liturgy, 9:30 A.M.

### **Orthodox Thoughts from Theo, the Parish Possum**



The possum family has noticed a lot of changes from our den under the altar. We figure something must be wrong with fewer people coming to church and a smaller choir. Still we give thanks for the breadcrumbs Father leaves for us in the side-yard after he cuts up the bread for the antidoron. We've heard from other possums about the corona virus. So far it's only affected humans and one tiger. Still we're worried. At the same time, we can't help but think that it could not have come at a better time than Lent. As Charles Dickens said, this is the worst of times, but also the best of times. The best time to press the pause button on our lives and reflect on God's gifts to us. The best time to realize how dependent we are on God's grace and mercy. The best time to remember that God loves us and that all be well in the end for those who are faithful. The best time to remember that we are called to trust and not to fear. This will be the best Pascha yet if we make it so—Theo

\*\*\*

### ***Spiritual Counsels...***

"In the hearts of discerning men wisdom makes her home, within the fool she has no place at all." – Prov. 14:33

**Today's Ushers: ???.** **Next Week: ???.**

**Today's coffee hour:** Team #. Thank you. **Next Sunday:** Team #.  
(suspended until further notice)

As of March 12, 2020, 42 pledges were received for 2020 totaling \$84,710. The donations for March 2020 totaled \$25,352. The expenses were \$27,767.56, for an end-of-month balance of \$28,331.68. Thank you.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

We appreciate all of who continue to support St. Basil on a regular basis even though it is not possible to bring your gifts to the Sunday liturgy. It is now possible to provide financial support on line by going to our website, [www.stbasilneworleans.org](http://www.stbasilneworleans.org). Just go to the opening page and click on the link. Thank you!

Lentil soup sales continue – \$8 each or 2 for \$15 (16 oz frozen container)  
See Tania, Yazmin, or Deonna. Support the Ladies Guild charities. Thank you.

Pledge Forms are available in the narthex of the church.

An **Orthodoxy 101/Inquirers' Class** shall be offered on the first Tuesday of each month. Our next gathering is postponed until further notice. A potluck meal shall be served followed by a presentation and discussion.