

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 Sunday of the Myrrh-bearing Women

On this day, the third Sunday of Pascha, we celebrate the feast of the holy Myrrh-bearing women. And we also commemorate Joseph of Arimathaea, the secret disciple, and Nicodemus, the disciple by night.

Verses

Christ is brought myrrh by the wise women disciples;
And to them, I bring a hymn as myrrh in offering.

The women went to Christ's tomb on Holy Pascha to anoint His body, only to discover it empty. We know the names of only eight of these women: Mary the Theotokos, the "mother" of James and Josès, who were the sons of Joseph the Betrothed from his previous marriage (Matt. 27:56 and Mark 15:40); Mary Magdalene; Mary, the wife of Cleopas; Joanna the wife of Chuza; Salome the mother of the sons of Zebedee; Susanna; and Mary and Martha, the sisters of Lazarus. Joseph was a rich and noble man, and a member of the Privy Council of Jerusalem. He dared to ask Pilate for the undefiled body of our Savior, which he took and buried in his own new tomb. Accompanying Joseph to the sepulcher was Nicodemus, a Jerusalemite who was one of the leaders of the Pharisees. Nicodemus brought 100 pounds of myrrh and aloes to scent and embalm the body of Christ.

By the intercessions of the holy Myrrh-bearers, Joseph of Arimathaea and Nicodemus, O God, have mercy on us. Amen.

St. Basil
Antiochian
Orthodox Church



May 3, 2020
The Sunday of the Myrrh-bearing Women

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 6:1-7

Gospel Reading: St. Mark 15:43-16:8

Saints of the Day

The Myrrh-bearing Women; Pious Joseph of Arimathea; Righteous Nicodemus; Martyrs Timothy the reader and his wife Maura of Egypt; Peter, archbishop of Argolis; Ekumenios, bishop of Trikala; Venerable Luke of Mt. Stirion; repose of Venerable Theodosios of the Kiev Caves, founder of Russian monasticism.

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 spiritual discipline, please remember your pledge and, if you are able, continue to make your regular contributions when you cannot attend the Liturgy, by mail, or by going to our website, stbasilneworleans.org and clicking on the link. 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

Saturday, May 2th – Great Vespers & Confessions, 5:00 P.M.

Sunday, May 3rd – Orthros, 8:30 A.M.; Divine Liturgy, 9:30 A.M.

Saturday, May 9th – Great Vespers & Confessions, 5:00 P.M.

Sunday, May 10th – Orthros, 8:30 A.M.; Divine Liturgy, 9:30 A.M.

Saturday, May 16th – No Great Vespers & Confessions

Sunday, May 17th – Typica Service, 9:30 A.M.

Saturday, May 23rd – Great Vespers & Confessions, 5:00 P.M.

Sunday, May 24th – Orthros, 8:30 A.M.; Divine Liturgy, 9:30 A.M.

Wednesday, May 27th – Orthros, 9:00 A.M.; Divine Liturgy, 10:00 A.M.

Thursday, May 28th – Orthros, 9:00 A.M.; Divine Liturgy, 10:00 A.M.

Saturday, May 30th – Great Vespers & Confessions, 5:00 P.M.

Sunday, May 31st – Orthros, 8:30 A.M.; Divine Liturgy, 9:30 A.M.

Orthodox Thoughts from Theo, the Parish Possum



Possums have white faces, which give us kind of a ghostly appearance. As a result of the coronavirus, we've been seeing humans with all sorts of face coverings including white ones. We overheard a conversation between some parishioners about how different it is to interact with people when you can't see the person's mouth as they speak or smile. God has given each of his creatures a unique face, even possums. Most of us tend to be nicer to those who have an attractive and friendly appearance. But what do we do now when folks are wearing a mask that covers the nose and mouth? Is the grocery store clerk and sanitation worker still as much of a person as before or do we treat them differently now? Do people relate to you the same way when you are wearing a mask? Is everybody now finally going to be treated equally or is everybody going to be diminished? Our Lord Jesus looked to the inner man and cared

little for outward trappings. It seems clear that God calls us to respect, love and honor everyone regardless of appearance. That will be the challenge for us as Orthodox Christians as we face the days ahead—Theo

Spiritual Counsels...

“Virtue makes a nation great, by sin whole races are disgraced.” – Prov. 14:34

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 web-site, www.stbasilneworleans.org. Just go to the opening page and click on the link. Thank you!

God willing, we shall celebrate the leave-taking of Pascha on Wednesday, May 27, with Orthros at 9:00 A.M. and Divine Liturgy at 10:00 A.M. On Thursday, May 28, we shall celebrate the Ascension of our Lord with Orthros at 9:00 A.M. and Divine Liturgy at 10:00 A.M.

On Sunday, May 31, we shall have a **church-wide potluck meal** in the Church Hall to kick off the summer. If the first letter of your last name begins with the letters A thru G, please bring a meat dish. If the first letter of your last name begins with the letters H thru K, please bring a vegetable. If the first letter of your last name begins with the letters L thru O, please bring a starch. If the first letter of your last name begins with the letters P thru T, please bring a dessert. If the first letter of your last name begins with the letters U thru Z, please bring a drinks and ice.

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 is included followed by a discussion.