

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 the Holy Fathers of the First Ecumenical Council

On this day, the seventh Sunday of Pascha, we celebrate the first Ecumenical Council of the 318 God-bearing Fathers, which took place in Nicaea in Bithynia.

Verses

O ye light-bearing stars of the spiritual firmament, enlighten my mind
with your rays.

Verses Against Arius

Calling the Son a stranger to the Father's essence, Arius proved to be a
stranger to God's glory.

Arius, the notorious heretic, began to blaspheme against God and His Son the Word, saying that the latter was not God consubstantial with the Father, but that He was created as a stranger to the Substance of the Father and His glory. Alexander, the Archbishop of Alexandria, tried to constrain Arius from disturbing the faithful with this teaching; even though Alexander excommunicated him, Arius did not cease his blasphemy, which spread throughout the Church in all nations. Thus, Emperor Constantine the Great called the First Ecumenical Council, which gathered bishops and teachers in the Church from all lands. They all proclaimed, as by one mouth, the equality of the Son of God with the Father in Substance, thus laying down the noble Confession of Faith—"The Creed"—which we Orthodox Christians recite to this day. The Church regards these divine Fathers as preachers of the Faith next to the holy Apostles.

By the intercessions of the 318 God-bearing Fathers, O Christ God, have mercy on us. Amen.

St. Basil
Antiochian
Orthodox Church



May 31, 2020
The Sunday of the Holy Fathers
of the 1st Ecumenical Council

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.

*The weather is always very warm during the summer months. 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: Acts 20:16-18, 28-36

Gospel Reading: St. John 17:1-13

Saints of the Day

The Holy Fathers of the First Ecumenical Council; Martyrs Hermias and Eusebios.

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 30th – Great Vespers & Confessions, 5:00 P.M.
Sunday, May 31st – Orthros, 8:30 A.M.; Divine Liturgy, 9:30 A.M.
Saturday, June 6th – Great Vespers & Confessions, 5:00 P.M.
Sunday, June 7th – Orthros, 8:30 A.M.; Divine Liturgy, 9:30 A.M.
Sunday, June 7th – Kneeling Vespers, 30 mins after the end of liturgy
Saturday, June 13th – Great Vespers & Confessions, 5:00 P.M.
Sunday, June 14th – Orthros, 8:30 A.M.; Divine Liturgy, 9:30 A.M.
Saturday, June 20th – Great Vespers & Confessions, 5:00 P.M.
Sunday, June 21st – Orthros, 8:30 A.M.; Divine Liturgy, 9:30 A.M.
Saturday, June 27th – Great Vespers & Confessions, 5:00 P.M.
Sunday, June 28th – Orthros, 8:30 A.M.; Divine Liturgy, 9:30 A.M.

Orthodox Thoughts from Theo, the Parish Possum



Our possum family is no stranger to fear. Our natural enemies are dogs, cats, eagles, owls and people (when they hit us with cars). We have to keep our eyes and ears open and we worry about unpleasant encounters.

While we're pretty safe under the altar, we fear the occasional cat that comes near. The folks who come to church don't seem fearful but lately we've noticed that there are fewer in attendance and they sit apart. Some are wearing masks. They are afraid of catching the corona virus and that is understandable. Still, it is sad. Church should not be a place for fear. The disciples were afraid when their boat was nearly swamped in a storm. But Jesus calmed the waters and preserved them. It seems to us that, unless medically fragile, we should not stay away from church. In church, we should take reasonable precautions like keeping our distance from others and wearing a mask. We should definitely not abstain from taking Communion if we are properly prepared. If our faith is strong enough, our Lord will see to it that we will come to no harm—God bless all, Theo

Spiritual Counsels...

"A mild answer turns away wrath, sharp words stir up anger." – Prov. 15:1

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

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

As of May 26, 2020, 42 pledges were received for 2020 totaling \$84,710. The donations for April 2020 totaled \$11,524.32. The expenses were \$5,171.69, for an end-of-month balance of \$34,684.31. Thank you.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The holy bread was sponsored on the Feast of the Ascension of our Lord by **Mariam Ammari** for the health of **Mariam, Fouad, Jawdat, Jawad, Mussa, Shaker** and their families (many years); and in memory of **Rakad, Tamam, Fouzy, Akram, Vera** and **George** (memory eternal).

We fast Wednesday and Friday this week. There is no fasting from Saturday, June 6, until Sunday, June 14 in celebration of the Great Feast of Pentecost.

The Apostles Fast begins Monday, June 15 and lasts until and including June 28. The usual fasting discipline is observed—no meat, dairy, oil or alcohol products during the week. However, alcohol and oil are permitted on the weekends.

Those of us who took some of the Food For Hungry People coin boxes home for Great Lent – it's time to bring those back and place them in the narthex of the church. The proceeds will be tallied up and forwarded to the Archdiocese chancery for distribution. Thank you for your participation!

Sunday, June 7, is the great feast of Pentecost. Thirty minutes after the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy that morning we shall, God willing, have the Kneeling Vespers of Pentecost during which time we shall ask the Holy Spirit to descend upon us as he did upon the apostles. Please join us for this occasion.

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. Just go to the opening page and click on the link. Thank you!

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.