

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 Pentecost

On this day, the eighth Sunday of Pascha, we celebrate Holy Pentecost.

Verses

In a mighty wind Christ distributeth the Divine Spirit

In the form of fiery tongues unto the Apostles.

In one great day, the Spirit was poured out on the Fishermen.

On this day—the fiftieth after Great and Holy Pascha—we commemorate the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the holy Disciples and Apostles in the form of tongues of fire. Numbering about 120, they who followed the Master gathered in Jerusalem in the upper room of a house to await the Lord's promise to send the Holy Spirit. At about the third hour of the day, there came a sound from Heaven as of a mighty rushing wind, and it filled the house. Cloven tongues immediately appeared, like as of fire, and sat upon the head of each of them. The Apostles began to speak, not with the languages of their ancestors, but with other languages with which the Holy Spirit supplied them, as He inspired them. After the Apostle Peter explained what had happened, 3,000 people joined the Church on the inauguration of the priesthood of grace. The objectives of Pentecost are, namely, the coming of the Holy Spirit into the world, the fulfillment of the promise of Jesus Christ, and the completion of the undefiled hope of the Apostles.

By the intercessions of the Holy Apostles, O Christ our God, have mercy on us. Amen.

St. Basil Antiochian Orthodox Church



June 7, 2020

The Sunday of the Great Feast of PENTECOST

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 2:1-11

Gospel Reading: St. John 7:37-52; 8:12

Saints of the Day

Hieromartyr Theodotos, bishop of Ancyra; Venerable Sebastian the wonder-worker; Venerable Cedd, bishop of Essex.

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, 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.
Monday, June 29th – Orthros, 9:00 A.M.; Divine Liturgy, 10:00 P.M.
Saturday, July 4th – Great Vespers & Confessions, 5:00 P.M.
Sunday, July 5th – 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...

"The tongue of wise men distills knowledge, the mouth of fools spews folly." – Prov. 15:2

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

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

As of June 4, 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 altar candle is offered today by **Therese Dagher** for the health of **Bruno, Toufic, Ayman** and **Caroline** (many years), and for the repose of **Alex, Marie, Toni, Mario, Sophie, Assaad, Georges** and **Georgette** (memory eternal).

The **Ladies Guild** shall hold their June meeting next Sunday, June 14, after Divine Liturgy. All ladies of the parish are invited to attend.

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.

On Monday morning, June 29, we, God willing, shall celebrate the feast of Ss. Peter and Paul. Please see the worship schedule for more details.

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!

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.