

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
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The Venerable Martyr, Cyprian The New

Cyprian was born in the village of Klitzos in Epirus. Following the death of his good parents, Cyprian went to the Holy Mt. Athos, was tonsured a monk and devoted himself completely to a life of asceticism in a cell near the monastery of Kutlounousiou. He imposed upon himself labor upon labor and mortification upon mortification until he became renown and respected throughout the entire Holy Mountain. Cyprian was still not satisfied with himself. He was tormented by the thought that he could not be saved except through martyrdom for Christ. Therefore, he left the Holy Mountain and arrived in Thessalonica and came before the Pasha of Thessalonica and called upon him to reject the false faith of Muhammad and to accept the true faith of Christ. The Pasha ordered him scourged and driven out. Unsatisfied with such a small suffering for Christ, Cyprian traveled to Constantinople and wrote a letter to the Grand Vezir in which he outlined the falseness of Muhammad and the truthfulness of the Lord Christ. Enraged, the Vezir sent him to Skeik Ul Islamu and he, after having heard all that Cyprian had to say, ordered him beheaded. Cyprian was joyful beyond measure and went to the scaffold as to a wedding feast. Thus, this godly man suffered for Christ on July 5, 1679, and realized his burning desire.

St. Basil
Antiochian
Orthodox Church



July 5, 2020
The 4th Sunday of St. Matthew

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: Galatians: 5:22-6:2

Gospel Reading: St. Matthew 8:5-13

Saints of the Day

Venerable Athanasios the Athonite, founder of the Great Lavra on Athos; Venerable hieromartyr Cyprian of St. George kelli on Athos; Venerable Lampados of Erenoupolis; the synaxis of the 23 martyrs of Lesvos; uncovering of the relics of Venerable Sergios the wonder-worker of Radonezh.

A Message from the Parish Council on the Corona Virus

Dear Parishioners,
St. Basil has always been a good citizen of Metairie and Jefferson Parish. The Lord has blessed us with no active cases of the corona virus. We have acted cautiously, made our weekly worship available through live-streaming on the internet and provided additional sanitary measures. Sadly, the virus seems to be taking another swing at the community. Our Governor and Parish President have asked us to take additional and stricter precautions. Starting on Sunday, July 5, we are asking that all persons wear a facemask in church or in the parish hall. The only

exceptions are the priest, the subdeacon, the acolytes and choir members during the liturgy when their duties require it. In addition, we ask that parishioners in the pews sit 6 feet apart unless they are members of the same family. We will have a limited supply of facemasks if you did not bring your own. Thank you for cooperation—Rob Booms, Chairman, Parish Council.

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Saturday, July 4th – Great Vespers & Confessions, 5:00 P.M.

Sunday, July 5th – Orthros, 8:30 A.M.; Divine Liturgy, 9:30 A.M.

Saturday, July 11th – Great Vespers & Confessions, 5:00 P.M.

Sunday, July 12th – Orthros, 8:30 A.M.; Divine Liturgy, 9:30 A.M.

Saturday, July 18th – Great Vespers & Confessions, 5:00 P.M.

Sunday, July 19th – Orthros, 8:30 A.M.; Divine Liturgy, 9:30 A.M.

Saturday, July 25th – Great Vespers & Confessions, 5:00 P.M.

Sunday, July 26th – Orthros, 8:30 A.M.; Divine Liturgy, 9:30 A.M.

Orthodox Thoughts from Theo, the Parish Possum



Possums only live about two years. In our short lives we raise our young ones and play our part in cleaning up bugs and snakes. We believe that God has a good place for us after we die because we don't sin. But, from our perch under the altar, we heard someone say that when people die, they have to go through 20 or 22 aerial tollhouses to account for their sins. So I crept over to the Parish library to learn more. I read that the Orthodox fathers, such as St. John Chrysostom and St. John Climacus, say that, after death, you must be examined on whether you still cling to your sins. At each tollhouse, devils will challenge you while guardian angels offer up a defense. Modern Orthodox scholars, such as Father Hopko, believe that there are no physical tollhouses in the sky and that references to them are merely allegorical. However, there is no question that Orthodox theology holds that after a person dies, she or he must still intentionally reject the sins of their lifetime. That's why Orthodox people pray for the dead. That's why God calls you to purify yourselves from passions and sins as much as possible before your soul departs from the body. Then the passage through the "tollhouses" will be easier and the soul will be at peace and prepared for the final judgment. —God bless all, Theo

Spiritual Counsels...

“In the house of the virtuous there is no lack of treasure, the earnings of the wicked are fraught with anxiety.” – Prov. 15:6

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

Today's coffee hour: Team #1. Thank you. **Next Sunday:** Team #2.

As of June 30, 2020, 42 pledges were received for 2020 totaling \$84,710. The donations for May 2020 totaled \$13,451.00. The expenses were \$20,332.79, for an end-of-month balance of \$27,802.52. Thank you.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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.