

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 Venerable Female Martyr Parasceva [Parasceve]

Parasceva was born in Rome of Christian parents and from her youth was instructed in the Faith of Christ. With great fervence, St. Parasceva endeavored to fulfill all the commandments of God in her life. Believing strongly and living according to her faith, Parasceva directed others on the path [of salvation] with the help of the True Faith and pious living. When her parents died Parasceva distributed all of her property to the poor and was tonsured a nun. As a nun she preached the Faith of Christ with an even greater zeal, not hiding from anyone, even though at that time the Roman authorities bloodily persecuted the Faith of Christ. First the pernicious Jews accused St. Parasceva of preaching the prohibited Faith. She was brought to trial before Emperor Antoninus. All the flatteries of the emperor did not help in the least to cause her to waver in the Faith. They then subjected her to fiery torments and placed a red-hot helmet on her head. The Lord miraculously saved her and Parasceva was delivered and left Rome. She again traveled from city to city to convert the pagan people there to the True Faith. In two more cities, she was brought before princes and judges and was tortured for her Lord, at the same time working great miracles and by the power of God quickly recuperated from her pains and wounds. The pagans, as always, ascribed her miracles to magic and her power of recovery to the mercy of their gods. St. Parasceva once said to the prince who tortured her: "It is not your gods, O prince, who healed me but my Christ the True God." Finally, Prince Tarasius beheaded her. Thus, this saint gloriously ended her fruitful life. Her relics were later translated to Constantinople. She suffered honorably for Christ in the second century.

St. Basil
Antiochian
Orthodox Church



July 26, 2020
The 7th Sunday of 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: 3:23-4:5

Gospel Reading: St. Matthew 9:27-35

Saints of the Day

Venerable Virgin-martyr Paraskeva of Rome; Hieromartyr Hermolaos of Nicomedia; Venerable Gerontios, first settler of St. Anne Skete on Athos; Moses the Hungarian; Sabbas III, archbishop of Serbia; Priest Jacob, enlightener of the peoples of Alaska.

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

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

Saturday, Aug. 1st – Great Vespers & Confessions, 5:00 P.M.

Sunday, Aug. 2nd – Orthros, 8:30 A.M.; Divine Liturgy, 9:30 A.M.

Thursday, Aug. 6th – Orthros, 9:00 A.M., Divine Liturgy, 10:00 A.M.

Saturday, Aug. 8th – Great Vespers & Confessions, 5:00 P.M.

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

Saturday, Aug. 15th – Orthros, 9:00 A.M.; Divine Liturgy, 10:00 A.M.

Saturday, Aug. 15th – Great Vespers & Confessions, 5:00 P.M.

Sunday, Aug. 16th – Orthros, 8:30 A.M.; Divine Liturgy, 9:30 A.M.

Orthodox Thoughts from Theo, the Parish Possum



When people in church approach the icons of our Lord and the Theotokos, I often hear them whisper the words “Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me a sinner.” This prayer is commonly known as the “Jesus Prayer.” Even church possums know and use this prayer. With the exception of the Lord’s Prayer, it is the most powerful way to communicate with our Lord. According to St. Paul, we are to pray without ceasing. St. Seraphim of Sarov says that, if the Jesus Prayer is always on our lips and in our hearts, we will attain purity of spirit and body. St. Chrysostom teaches that the prayer will “subdue the pernicious serpent and save and quicken the soul.” St. Theophanes the Recluse and St. John of Kronstadt also recommend it because it guards us from distraction and preserves the peace of one’s conscience. Many of us spend too much time being guilt-ridden, anxious and fearful, especially in this time of pandemic. It is important to supplant such thoughts by focusing instead on God’s power to redeem us. If you cannot sleep because you are wrestling with feelings of guilt, anger or worry, saying this prayer out loud or mentally, without interruption, is a powerful antidote. You will find yourself drifting off in peace. Even during

the day, the Jesus Prayer helps to overcome stress and draws us nearer to our Lord. May you find it beneficial —God bless all, Theo

Spiritual Counsels...

“The conduct of the wicked is abhorrent to the Lord, dear to Him is the prayer of honest men.” – Prov. 15:9

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

Today’s coffee hour: Team #4. Thank you. **Next Sunday:** Team #5.

As of July 14, 2020, 42 pledges were received for 2020 totaling \$84,710. The donations for June 2020 totaled \$12,971.96. The expenses were \$5,607.85, for an end-of-month balance of \$35,166.63. Thank you.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

We fast Wednesday and Friday this week.

The **Dormition Fast** begins Saturday, August 1st with the traditional fasting discipline observed (no meat, poultry, dairy, eggs, fish, alcohol and oil). There is an allowance for alcohol, oil and fish on Thursday, Aug. 6th for the Feast of the Transfiguration of our Lord, and an allowance for alcohol and oil on Saturdays and Sundays.

As God so wills, we shall celebrate the feast of the Transfiguration of our Lord on Thursday, Aug. 6. Those persons who wish to bring grapes for the blessing of the grapes at that time are invited to do so. Please see the worship schedule for more information.

God willing, we shall celebrate the feast of the Dormition of the Mother of God on Saturday, Aug. 15. Please see the worship schedule for more information.

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.