

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 Acacius of Sinai

In his famous book, *The Ladder*, St. John Climacus relates the life of this saint. The young Acacius was a novice under an evil elder in the monastery on Sinai. The irascible elder daily reproached and insulted Acacius and often beat, tormented and maltreated him in every possible way. However, Acacius did not complain but endured this all patiently, with the assurance that it was beneficial for his salvation. Whenever anyone asked him how he was doing, he replied: "Well, as before the Lord God!" After nine years of obedience and torment, Acacius died. The elder buried him and then expressed sorrow to another elder saying: "Acacius, my disciple died." "I do not believe it," replied the holy elder, "Acacius did not die." Then both of them went to the grave of the dead man and that holy elder cried out: "Brother Acacius, did you die?" Acacius, obedient even after death replied: "Father, I have not died, for it is impossible for an obedient one to die." Then, the evil elder repented and shut himself in a cell near Acacius's grave where, in repentance and prayer, he spent the remainder of his life.

from: The Prologue from Ochrid

St. Basil
Antiochian
Orthodox Church



November 29, 2020
The 25th Sunday after Pentecost
The 13th Sunday of Luke

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 without talking. 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.*

Epistle Reading: Ephesians: 4:1-7

Gospel Reading: St. Luke 18:18-27

Saints of the Day

Martyrs Paramon of Bithynia and Philoumenos of Ancyra; Venerable Akakios of Sinai; Heiromartyr Dionysios, bishop of Corinth; Urban, bishop of Macedonia; Nicholas, archbishop of Thessalonika.

A Message from the Parish Council at Year's End

Dear Parishioners,

As we continue to cope with the Covid virus, we are coming to the end of 2020. We have had a stable year financially even when attendance was lower than usual. The Lord continues to bless our Parish with no outbreaks of the virus. We have a large catechumen class and have visitors who are actively considering joining our Parish. We have also come through several hurricanes without significant damage. As we count our blessings, please remember your pledge to St. Basil. If you are behind in your giving, we would much appreciate it if you could catch up

by the end of the year. May you have a blessed Nativity season—Rob Booms, Chairman of the Parish Council.

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Saturday, Nov. 28th – No Great Vespers & Confessions
Sunday, Nov. 29th – Orthros, 8:30 A.M.; Divine Liturgy, 9:30 A.M.
Saturday, Dec. 5th – Great Vespers & Confessions, 5:00 P.M.
Sunday, Dec. 6th – Orthros, 8:30 A.M.; Divine Liturgy, 9:30 A.M.
Saturday, Dec. 12th – Great Vespers & Confessions, 5:00 P.M.
Sunday, Dec. 13th – Orthros, 8:30 A.M.; Divine Liturgy, 9:30 A.M.
Saturday, Dec. 19th – Great Vespers & Confessions, 5:00 P.M.
Sunday, Dec. 20th – Orthros, 8:30 A.M.; Divine Liturgy, 9:30 A.M.
Thursday, Dec. 24th – Royal Hours, 9:00 A.M.
Thursday, Dec. 24th – Nativity Compline, 6:30 P.M.
Friday, Dec. 25th – Orthros, 8:30 A.M., Divine Liturgy, 9:30 A.M.

Orthodox Thoughts from Theo, the Parish Possum



The possum family under the altar has heard that St. Basil is getting a church bell! We are quite excited about this. Bells were first rung in the Orthodox church at the Hagia Sophia in Constantinople in the year 865. Our Orthodox possum relatives in Russia tell us that churches there have used bells since 988. The largest liturgical bell in the world is there. It weighs 445,000 pounds. Called the “Tsar Bell,” it sits at the Kremlin in Moscow. St. Basil’s bell weighs approximately 600 pounds. Since it is over 100 years old, it will need to be cleaned and a place for it will have to be prepared. Like all church bells in the Eastern church, the dapper strikes a stationary bell (the bell itself does not swing as in the Western church). While Fr. Peter has not decided at what times it will be rung, such a bell is typically used at the beginning and end of the liturgy and when the Holy Gifts are consecrated. Jefferson Parish has no restrictions on when church bells can be rung, but St. Basil will respect its human and animal neighbors early in the morning and late at night. The possums look forward to joining in the making of a joyful noise to the Lord! Blessings to all—Theo

Spiritual Counsels...

“The Lord pulls down the house of the proud, but He keeps the widow’s boundaries intact.” – Prov. 15:25

Today's Ushers: Tania/Sevin Russell. **Next Week:** Yordan Yordanov.

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

A-Peal for the Bell...



Holy Name of Mary Catholic Church in Algiers Point owned an old bronze bell that was not being used. It weighs over 600 pounds and measures 32 inches from rim to rim. At that size, it should produce a good sound. We contacted the church, reached an agreement, and bought it for \$5,000. (To Be Continued...)

We are accepting donations for the bell. If you would like to give, please mark your check "Church Bell" and place it in the offering.

The Bookstore Bee



As you may have noticed our bookstore has become more active over the past couple of months. We ordered new books, icons, prayer ropes and gifts. This month's bookstore feature is the Orthodox Study Bible.

A special release of the OSB from Ancient Faith Publishing began in 2019. The OSB contains commentaries, notes, supplemental articles, full color icons and maps, as well as eight additional pages of orthodox prayers.

We have a few in stock at a sale price of \$35. These are typically sold for \$49.

Also, be sure to check out the December bulletin, which will feature gifts items for the Nativity season.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The **Advent Fast** began Saturday, November 15th, and is divided into two periods. The first period is Nov. 15 – Dec. 19, with the traditional fasting discipline observed (no meat, poultry, dairy, eggs, fish, alcohol and oil). There is an allowance, however, for alcohol and oil on Tuesdays and Thursdays, and an allowance for alcohol, oil and fish on Saturdays and Sundays. The second period is Dec. 20–24, with the traditional fasting discipline observed. There is an allowance, however, for alcohol and oil only on Saturday and Sunday.

Please be advised that our teams for coffee hour have changed. Our new teams will start the first Sunday of December. If you have any questions please feel free to speak with Tania Russell.

As of Nov. 3, 2020, 44 pledges were received for 2020 totaling \$86,950. The donations for October 2020 totaled \$4,911.93. The expenses were \$9,051.79, for an end-of-month balance of \$24,386.02. Thank you.

Christmas Angels Project

Christmas is coming and the Ladies Guild will sponsor children, from five families, who attend Bissonet Plaza Elementary School, as our traditional Christmas Angels Project. Those are children identified by the school's staff to be in the greatest need.

This year has been extremely difficult for many and we hope that St. Basil Parish will again generously support these local families whose needs are greater than ever. Your donations bring joy, smiles, and happiness to them all.

Our project will look a little different this Christmas season. Due the to COVID-19 pandemic, we will not purchase gifts but, instead, we will provide each of the five families with gift cards.

Please:

- Only **Monetary Donations** will be accepted.
- Make checks payable to **St. Basil Ladies Guild**.

Donations will be accepted through **Sunday, December 13, 2020.**

If you are attending church services, please give your donation (check) to Deonna Lindley.

If you are NOT attending church services on regular bases and would like to participate, please mail the check to the church address or drop it in the church's mailbox.

Thank you for your always great generosity. God bless.