

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 Benedict

Benedict was born in Nursia [Norcia] a province in Italy, in the year 480 A.D., of wealthy and distinguished parents. He did not remain long in school for he alone saw that because of lack of knowledge one can lose "the great understanding of his soul." He left school "an unlearned wise man and an understanding fool." He retreated to a monastery where he was tonsured by the monk Romanus after which he withdrew to a steep mountain where he remained in a cave for more than three years in a great struggle over his soul. Romanus brought him bread and lowered it down the steep mountain on a rope to the opening of the cave. When Benedict became known in the vicinity and in order to retreat from the glory of man, he withdrew from this cave. He was merciless toward himself. Once, when an unclean and raging passion of the flesh seized him, he removed all his clothes and rolled around naked in the thorns until he repelled every thought of a woman. God endowed him with many spiritual gifts: he discerned thoughts; he healed; he expelled evil spirits; he raised the dead; he appeared to some openly; and to others who were distant, he appeared in dreams. At one time, Benedict perceived that the glass of wine served to him was poisoned. When he made the sign of the cross over it, the glass burst. In the beginning he established 12 monasteries and in all of them, he placed 12 monks each. Later on, he founded the special order of the Benedictines, which exists even today in the Roman Church. On the sixth day before his death, he ordered that his grave, which had been prepared earlier be opened for the saint foresaw that his end was near. He assembled all the monks, counseled them and then gave up his soul to the Lord whom he had faithfully served in poverty and in purity. Scholastica, his sister by birth, lived in a convent and looking up to her brother, she greatly mortified herself and reached a high state of spiritual perfection. When St. Benedict gave up his soul, two monks, one traveling on the road and one at prayer in a far away cell, simultaneously saw the same vision. They saw a path extending from earth to heaven, covered with a precious woven fiber and illuminated on both sides by rows of men. At the head of the path, there stood a man of indescribable beauty and light who said to them that this path was prepared for Benedict, favored by God. As a result of this vision, these two brothers learned that their good abbot departed from this world. He died peacefully in the year 543 A.D. and entered into the eternal Kingdom of Christ the King.

St. Basil
Antiochian
Orthodox Church



March 14, 2021
The Sunday of Cheesefare/Forgiveness

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: Romans: 13:11-14:4

Gospel Reading: St. Matthew 6:14-21

Saints of the Day

Venerable Benedict of Nursia; Eusebius, bishop of Lampsakos.

A Late Winter Message from the Parish Council

Dear Parishioners,

We are now well into the new year. We continue to do well financially although there are still quite a few outstanding pledges. We have seen some positive cases of the Corona Virus in our midst. As we see an increase in the number of people who have developed antibodies and in persons who have been vaccinated, we hope to see an easing of concerns over infection. At the same time, we must be wary of new virus strains that could delay the end of the epidemic. Please wear your masks and observe social distancing as you participate in our services. Our programs will go forward including another air-conditioning upgrade and the installation of St. Anna's Bell. Please pray that we will continue to

thrive and that we may soon return to our social time after the Liturgy. Thank you and God bless our Parish—Rob Booms, Chairman of the Parish Council.

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Saturday, Mar. 13th – Great Vespers & Confessions, 5:00 P.M.
Sunday, Mar. 14th – Orthros, 8:30 A.M.; Divine Liturgy, 9:30 A.M.
Wednesday, Mar. 17th – Presanctified Liturgy, 6:30 P.M.
Friday, Mar. 19th – Presanctified Liturgy, 9:00 A.M.
Friday, Mar. 19th – Akathist Hymn (1st Stasis), 6:30 P.M.
Saturday, Mar. 20th – Great Vespers & Confessions, 5:00 P.M.
Sunday, Mar. 21st – Orthros, 8:30 A.M.; Divine Liturgy, 9:30 A.M.
Wednesday, Mar. 24th – Great Vespers, 6:30 P.M.
Thursday, March 25th Orthros, 9:00 A.M.; Divine Liturgy, 10:00 A.M.
Friday, Mar. 26th – Presanctified Liturgy, 9:00 A.M.
Friday, Mar. 26th – Akathist Hymn (2nd Stasis), 6:30 P.M.
Saturday, Mar. 27th – Orthros, 9:00 A.M.; Divine Liturgy, 10:00 A.M.
Saturday, Mar. 27th – Great Vespers & Confessions, 5:00 P.M.
Sunday, Mar. 28th – Orthros, 8:30 A.M.; Divine Liturgy, 9:30 A.M.
Wednesday, Mar. 31st – Presanctified Liturgy, 6:30 P.M.
Friday, Apr. 2nd – Presanctified Liturgy, 9:00 A.M.
Friday, Apr. 2nd – Akathist Hymn (3rd Stasis), 6:30 P.M.
Saturday, Apr. 3rd – Great Vespers & Confessions, 5:00 P.M.
Sunday, Apr. 4th – Orthros, 8:30 A.M.; Divine Liturgy, 9:30 A.M.

Orthodox Thoughts from Theo, the Parish Possum



My cousin Pogo lives on the grounds of St. Clement of Rome Catholic Church. He asked me the other day if I went to church on Ash Wednesday for the imposition of ashes. I had to tell him that Orthodox people, except for the Western Rite, do not observe Ash Wednesday and do not receive an ash cross. I could not explain why until I researched it.

Father Thomas Hopko writes that Orthodox Lent is quite different from that of the Roman Catholic Church. We begin Lent on “Clean Monday”, the Monday after Cheesefare or Forgiveness Sunday. While our Great Lent is a time of penitence, it is not a season of morbidity and gloominess. The Orthodox are more focused on preparation for Pascha, the Feast of the Resurrection. We are called to joyfulness and purification. We fast from passions, food and ordinary delights and perform good works instead of engaging in the mortification of the

flesh. We are not supposed to flaunt our observance of Lent by outward signs. In the words of the Gospel for Cheese-fare Sunday: "When you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, that your fasting may not be seen by men, but by your Father Who is in secret and your Father Who sees in secret will reward you". Thanks be to God! — Theo

Spiritual Counsels...

"Obey your leaders and submit to them: for they are keeping watch over your souls, as men who will have to give account. Let them do this joyfully, and not sadly, for that would be of no advantage to you." – Hebrews 13:17

Today's Ushers: . Next Week: .

Today's coffee hour: SUSPENDED. Next Sunday: SUSPENDED.

A-Peal for the Bell...



The bell was originally used in the National Shrine of St. Anna in the Tremé neighborhood of New Orleans during the 19th century and early part of the 20th century. Please consider contributing to the cost of the bell and its installation. Any gifts should be marked "Church Bell". You are also invited to several upcoming fundraising lunches and hope that you can attend. —Rob Booms, Chairman of the Parish Council



The Bookstore Bee

This month in St. Basil's bookstore we would like to bring attention to the beautiful icons we have for sale. We offer a variety of icons in many sizes. For your traveling purposes, we also have small triptych and diptych icons. These are also a great addition to an icon corner in your home. If you are looking for a particular icon, we can also order those.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dear Parishioners,

We reported to you recently that we had some folks in the parish who tested positive with the Covid virus. Meanwhile, recent data from Jefferson Parish indicate alarming increases in people who have become sick. We have a moral, civil and legal obligation to protect one another and our parishioners from the infection. For the time being, we must ask that you **do not attend services** unless you are wearing a face mask. We have a limited supply of masks for those who do not have one. Inside the church, unless you are in a family, please distance yourself at least 6 feet from others. The reception of Holy Communion is encouraged, but, as always, is optional.

We understand that some of you object to wearing masks in church. However, we are people under authority. After consulting His Grace Bishop NICHOLAS and reviewing His Eminence Metropolitan JOSEPH'S directives, we must comply with Jefferson Parish regulations, which require masks and social distancing. Our Dean is also directing us to take these steps. Most Orthodox parishes are following more stringent requirements than we are asking for at this time.

At the present, our choir is restricted to the choir director and three choir members. There is no coffee hour or church school. With the blessings of His Grace Bishop NICHOLAS, our annual Parish meeting scheduled for February is postponed at least until March. We will continue to evaluate our response to the Covid virus on a weekly basis. Please pray for the Parish and the health of all parishioners.

The Church Hall is **CLOSED** except for restroom use.

Per Metropolitan JOSEPH'S directives, no indoor functions or gatherings are allowed in the church hall. This includes coffee service associated with any church service. Lenten meals are not allowed during Great Lent this year.

On Sunday, March 21, an **archdiocese-wide second collection** shall be taken up for our seminarians. Donations by check should be made payable to St. Basil Church. Please write, "Seminarian collection" on the memo line. May God bless your generosity.

The **Akathist Hymn** to the Mother of God will be sung on Friday evenings during Great Lent, God willing. The first, third, and fifth Friday evenings will be in English. The second and fourth Friday evenings will be in English and Greek.

Each year we begin our Archdiocese-wide **Food For Hungry People Campaign** at this time. This campaign has raised millions of dollars over the 30+ years of its existence. Please take one of the coin boxes in the narthex home with you and place your coins in it during Great Lent and return the boxes at PASCHA. The proceeds will be collected and forwarded to the Archdiocese Chancery for distribution to the needy. May God bless your generosity and ascetic practice of almsgiving.

The **traditional fasting discipline** of Great and Holy Lent (no meat, poultry, eggs, dairy, fish, alcohol and oil) is observed during the entire Great Fast, which lasts from Pure Monday through Great and Holy Saturday. On Saturdays and Sundays, however, alcohol and oil are allowed, except on Great and Holy Saturday when no oil is permitted. Fish, alcohol and oil are permitted on the Feast of the Annunciation (March 25) and Palm Sunday.

The **Sacrament of Holy Confession** is good for the health and salvation of the soul and body. For long-term, good, physical health, regular visits to the family doctor are appropriate. Likewise, care for our souls is a necessity. If it is your desire to receive the Eucharist at Great and Holy PASCHA, then Father expects you to make every effort to care for your soul and have confession at least once during Great Lent.

Approximately 80 **Red Carnations** are needed for the veneration of the Holy Cross on Sunday, April 4. If you are interested in donating all or part of these flowers, please fill out one of the envelopes in the narthex and on the "Special Occasion" line, please write, "Red Carnations."

Include your commemorations, donation and turn the envelope in to the church office. Thank you.

God willing, Great Vespers will be served on Wednesday, March 24, with Orthros and Divine Liturgy being served on Thursday March 25, for the **Annunciation of the Theotokos**.

God willing, Divine Liturgy for our departed loved ones will be offered on the following Saturdays: March 27, and April 10.

Church calendars, house blessing forms, pledge forms and boxes of offering envelopes for 2021 for each family in the parish are now available in the dining room of the church hall. Please be sure to get yours this Sunday.

Our **Annual Pledge Drive** is currently underway for the calendar year 2021. All adult members of the parish are encouraged to complete and return a pledge form to the church office. Pledge forms may be found in the narthex of the church building. All pledges are held in strict confidence. Only the total number of pledges and the total pledge amount is made available to the public. Your financial support of our church community is your support of yourself and your contribution to help insure you and your family has a place to worship. Thank you and God bless you.

Our **Annual General Parish Meeting** is rescheduled for Sunday, March 28 in the church. Face masks and social distancing are required.

As of March 10, 2021, 26 pledges were received for 2021 totaling \$60,494. The donations for February 2021 totaled \$18,750.00. The expenses were \$8,647.49 for an end-of-month balance of \$34,349.55. Thank you.