

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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Venerable Joseph The Hymnographer

Joseph was born in Sicily of pious and virtuous parents, Plotinus and Agatha. After the death of his parents, Joseph moved to Thessalonica where he was tonsured a monk. As a monk, he was a model to all in fasting, extreme restraint, ceaseless prayer, chanting of the Psalms, vigils and labor. The bishop of Thessalonica ordained him a priest [Heiro-monk]. While visiting Thessalonica the distinguished Gregory Decapolis was so impressed with Joseph, because of his rare character, that he invited him to his monastery in Constantinople. When the flame of the Iconoclastic heresy erupted again under Leo V, the Armenian, Joseph was sent to Rome to call upon the Pope and the Roman Church to battle for Orthodoxy. While enroute, Joseph was captured by pirates and taken to Crete where the heretics detained him in prison for six years. Joseph rejoiced that he was made worthy to suffer for Christ and, for that, he continually praised God, considering the iron chains on him as an adornment of gold. Early in the morning on Christmas day, in the sixth year of Joseph's imprisonment, the wicked Emperor Leo was slain in church while attending Matins. At that same moment, St. Nicholas appeared to Joseph in prison and said to him: "Arise and follow me!" Joseph felt himself being elevated in the air and, all at once, found himself before the gates of Constantinople. All true believers rejoiced at his coming. He composed canons and hymns for many saints. He possessed the "gift of discernment" for which Patriarch Photius appointed him the spiritual father and confessor for priests recommending him as, "A man of God, an angel in the flesh and father of fathers." In extreme old age, Joseph gave up his soul to the Lord Whom he faithfully served both in words and in hymns. He died peacefully on the eve of Holy and Great Thursday in the year 883 A.D.

from: The Prologue from Ochrid

St. Basil
Antiochian
Orthodox Church



April 4, 2021
The Sunday of the Holy Cross

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: Hebrews: 4:14-16; 5:1-6

Gospel Reading: St. Mark 8:34-38; 9:1

Saints of the Day

Venerable George of the Peloponnesos; Martyrs Theodoulos the reader and Agathopodos the deacon of Thessalonika; Venerable Theonas, archbishop of Thessalonika; Isidore, bishop of Seville.

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

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.
Wednesday, Apr. 7th – Presanctified Liturgy, 6:30 P.M.
Friday, Apr. 9th – Presanctified Liturgy, 9:00 A.M.
Friday, Apr. 9th – Akathist Hymn (4th Stasis), 6:30 P.M.
Saturday, Apr. 10th – Orthros, 9:00 A.M.; Divine Liturgy, 10:00 A.M.
Saturday, Apr. 10th – Great Vespers & Confessions, 5:00 P.M.
Sunday, Apr. 11th – Orthros, 8:30 A.M.; Divine Liturgy, 9:30 A.M.
Wednesday, Apr. 14th – Presanctified Liturgy, 6:30 P.M.
Friday, Apr. 16th – Presanctified Liturgy, 9:00 A.M.
Friday, Apr. 16th – Akathist Hymn, 6:30 P.M.
Saturday, Apr. 17th – Great Vespers & Confessions, 5:00 P.M.
Sunday, Apr. 18th – Orthros, 8:30 A.M.; Divine Liturgy, 9:30 A.M.
Wednesday, Apr. 21st – Presanctified Liturgy, 6:30 P.M.
Friday, Apr. 23rd – Presanctified Liturgy, 9:00 A.M.
Saturday, Apr. 24th – Orthros, 9:00 A.M.; Divine Liturgy, 10:00 A.M.
Saturday, Apr. 24th – Great Vespers & Confessions, 5:00 P.M.
Sunday, Apr. 25th – Orthros, 8:30 A.M.; Divine Liturgy, 9:30 A.M.
Sunday, Apr. 25th – Bridegroom Orthros, 6:30 P.M.
Monday, Apr. 26th – Presanctified Liturgy, 9:00 A.M.
Monday, Mar. 26th – Bridegroom Orthros, 6:30 P.M.
Tuesday, Apr. 27th – Presanctified Liturgy, 9:00 A.M.
Tuesday, Apr. 27th – Bridegroom Orthros, 6:30 P.M.
Wednesday, Apr. 28th – Presanctified Liturgy, 9:00 A.M.
Wednesday, April 28th – Sacrament of Holy Unction, 6:30 P.M.
Thursday, April 29th – Vespertal Divine Liturgy, 10:00 A.M.
Thursday, April 29th – Orthros of the 12 Passion Gospels, 6:30 P.M.
Friday, April 30th – Royal Hours, 9:00 A.M.
Friday, April 30th – Unnailing Vespers, 3:00 P.M.
Friday, April 30th – Lamentations Orthros, 6:30 P.M.
Saturday, May 1st – Vespertal Divine Liturgy & Chrismations, 10:00 A.M.
Saturday, May 1st – Rush Procession & Orthros, 11:00 P.M.
Sunday, May 2nd – Divine Liturgy of Great & Holy PASCHA, 12:00 A.M.
Sunday, May 2nd – Agape Vespers, 11:00 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 Cheesefare 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.

Red Carnations

Our red carnations for today's liturgy were graciously provided by the following people:

Alex & Laurie Bolanos;

Red Carnation Donors Continued

Mona DiGiovanni for the health of the DiGiovannia, Ferre & Bryson fmls (many years), & for the repose of the departed members of the DiGiovanni, Ferre, Borrás & Accardo fmls (memory eternal);

Sophia Hashek & Barbara Crane for the health of Sophia, Barbara & Jim (many years), & for the repose of Nicholas and Barbara (memory eternal);

Paulina & Vlado Kocic for the health of Ljiljana, Nikola, Ljubomir, Lauren, Bella, Maximus, Karen & fmls (many years), & for the repose of the departed members of the Kocic, Piskulic, Djordjevic, Mitrovic, Pavasovic, Stevanovic & Lebedina fmls (memory eternal);

Greg & Deonna Lindley for the health of Gregory, Deonna, Tatiana, Anna, Irina, Vadim, Luybov, Konstantin, Nikolai, Svetlana, Tatiana, Svetlana, Anna (many years), and for the repose of Glikeria, Fyodor, Ivan, Fyodor, Dora, Maria, Evgenia, Domna, Evgenia, Yurii, Nikolai, Alexander, Evgenia, Gennadiy

Stavros & Despina Savvaides on the occasion of Stavros' name day for the health of Stavros, Zoie, Eleni, Sophia, Dean, Anastasios, Apostolos, Haley, Stella, Despina & Louis (many years), and for the repose of Ioannis, Sophia, Andreas, Eleni, Anastasios, Savvas, Despina, Anastasios, Efthalia, Georgios & Angellos (memory eternal).

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 28, our **Annual General Parish Meeting** was convened at which time our 2021 budget was passed and the following parishioners were elected to the Parish Council: Subdeacon Stephen Zelesnik was elected for his first term, Rob Booms was reelected and Eugene Pituch was elected to fill a term with a 1-year vacancy. Likewise, Mark Fleming was appointed to serve the Parish Council. Congratulations to these individuals. On behalf of the parish, Parish Council and Fr. Peter, many thanks to Michael Zelesnik and Natalya Flint for their service on the Council. Other members currently on the Council include Dave Abramson, Therese Dagher, Greg Lindley, April Pituch, Yordan Yordanov.

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 40+ 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.

God willing, Divine Liturgy for our departed loved ones will be offered on Saturday, April 10.

As of March 23, 2021, 27 pledges were received for 2021 totaling \$60,894. 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.