

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 Priestly-Martyr Antipas, Bishop of Pergamum in Asia Minor

Antipas is mentioned in the Book of Revelation as, “*Antipas, my faithful witness, who was martyred among you, where Satan lives*” (Revelation 2:13), i.e., in the city of Pergamum. The inhabitants of this city lived in the darkness of idolatry and in extreme impurity. They were slaves to passions. They were slanderers, tyrants and they were incestuous. In other words, they were the servants of Satan. Here among them lived Antipas, “As a light in the midst of darkness, as a rose among thorns and as gold in mud.” He, who captured and killed a Christian, would be deemed as good and just. The totality of pagan belief consisted of soothsaying, interpretation of dreams, serving demons and extreme perversion. Being frightened of Antipas as from fire, the demons appeared to the soothsayers in a dream and confessed how afraid they were of Antipas and how, because of him, they must depart from this city. The pagan priests summoned a large number of people against Antipas and began to interrogate and to force him to deny Christ and to worship idols. Antipas said to them: “When your so-called gods, lords of the universe are frightened of me, a mortal man, and must flee from this city, do you not recognize that, by this, your faith is an aberration?” The saint also spoke to them further about the Faith of Christ as being the only One, True Saving Faith. They became enraged as wild beats and dragged the aged Antipas to the temple of Artemis before which stood an ox cast in bronze. They heated the bronzed ox and hurled the servant of God into the red-hot molten ox. From within the molten ox, St. Antipas glorified God with thanksgiving, as once did Jonah in the belly of the whale or the Three Youths in the fiery furnace. Antipas prayed for his flock and for the entire world until his soul parted from his weakened body and ascended among the angels into the Kingdom of Christ. He died suffering and was crowned with unfading glory in the year 92 A.D.

from: The Prologue from Ochrid

St. Basil Antiochian Orthodox Church



April 11, 2021
The 4th Sunday of Great Lent

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: 6:13-20

Gospel Reading: St. Mark 9:17-31

Saints of the Day

Hieromartyr Antypas, bishop of Pergamum; Venerable Tryphainis; Kallinikos of Cernica, bishop of Rimnicului in Romania; Venerable Guthlac of Crowland.

A Spring Message from the Parish Council

Dear Parishioners, as we welcome the spring, we are now able to ease some of the restrictions required by the Archdiocese and Jefferson Parish. We were able to have our annual parish meeting and thank you for your participation. Until we are completely sure that it is safe, please continue to wear masks and observe social distancing in church and in the parish hall. The reception of Holy Communion is encouraged but, as always, is optional. We now have a full choir continues to be restricted to the choir director and three choir members. We will try to offer snacks and coffee again after the liturgy as soon as possible.

Thanks be to God for blessing our parish during these difficult times—
Rob Booms, Chairman of the Parish Council.

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

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, Apr. 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 – Vespereal 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 – Vespereal 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



The possum family was under the altar, a few Sundays ago, listening to Father Peter's sermon about angels. Except for some of the new age people, our secular society does not believe in angels. Yet the Bible and the Orthodox Church teach that they are very real and have played important roles

in the Old and New Testaments. To mention just a few, think of Gabriel and Michael and the angel who was present at the tomb of our Lord. Orthodox Saints and theologians also tell us that each of us has a guardian angel whose job is to protect and guide us. After we die, the guardian angel can advocate for us. Whether we wish to acknowledge the angel's presence is a personal decision but the angel is always there and ready to help. It is proper to pray to your guardian angel and to view the angel as your adviser and companion. In the Orthodox liturgy, there is a prayer for "an angel of peace, a faithful guide, a guardian of our souls and bodies." For such an angel, let us entreat the Lord — 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 **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 April 1, 2021, 35 pledges were received for 2021 totaling \$78,874. The donations for March 2021 totaled \$18,750.00. The expenses were \$8,647.49 for an end-of-month balance of \$34,349.55. Thank you.