

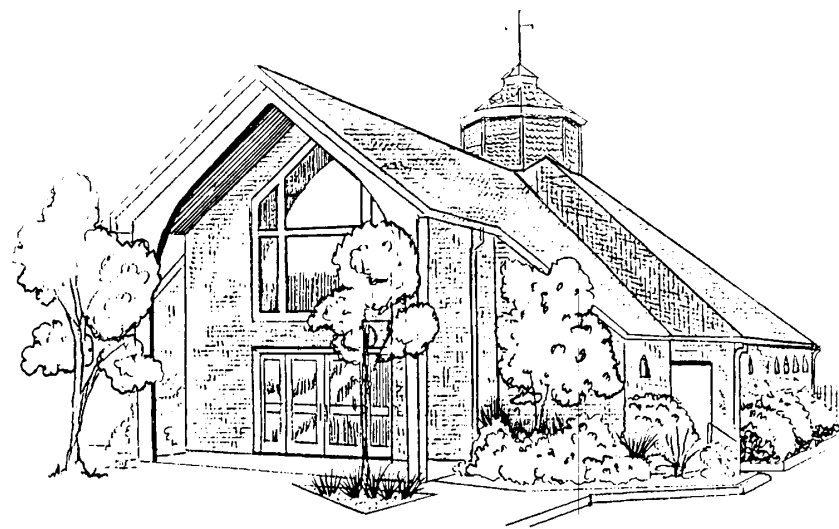
St. Basil Antiochian Orthodox Church
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His Grace Bishop NICHOLAS, Auxiliary Bishop
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St. Basil Antiochian Orthodox Church

The Dormition [The Falling Asleep - The Assumption] of the Most-Holy Birth-Giver of God

The Lord Who, on Mt. Sinai, commanded by His Fifth Commandment: "Honor your father and your mother" (Exodus 20:12), showed by His own example how one should respect one's parent. Hanging on the Cross in agony, He remembered His mother and indicating to the Apostle John, said to her: "Woman behold your son" (St. John 19:26). After that, He said to John: "Behold your mother" (St. John 19:27). And so, providing for His mother, He breathed His last. John had a home on Zion in Jerusalem in which the Theotokos settled and remained there to live out the end of her days on earth. By her prayers, gentle counsels, meekness and patience, she greatly assisted the apostles of her Son. Primarily, she spent her entire time in Jerusalem often visiting those places, which reminded her of the great events and of the great works of her Son. She especially visited Golgotha, Bethlehem and the Mount of Olives. Of her distant journeys, her visit to St. Ignatius the Theophorus [God-bearer] in Antioch is mentioned, as well as her visit to Lazarus (whom our Lord resurrected on the fourth day), the Bishop of Cyprus, her visit to the Holy Mountain [Athos] which she blessed and her stay in Ephesus with St. John the Evangelist [The Theologian] during the time of the great persecution of Christians in Jerusalem. In her old age, she often prayed to the Lord and her God on the Mount of Olives, the site of His Ascension, that He take her from this world as soon as possible. On one occasion, the Archangel Gabriel appeared to her and revealed to her that within three days she will find repose. The angel gave her a palm-branch to be carried at the time of her funeral procession. She returned to her home with great joy, desiring in her heart once more to see in this life, all of the apostles of Christ. The Lord fulfilled her wish and all of the apostles, borne by angels in the clouds, gathered at the same time at the home of John on Zion. With great rejoicing, she saw the holy apostles, encouraged them, counseled them and comforted them. Following that, she peacefully gave up her soul to God without any pain or physical illness. The apostles took the coffin with her body from which an aromatic fragrance emitted and, in the company of many Christians, bore it to the Garden of Gethsemane to the sepulchre of [her parents], Saints Joachim and Anna. By God's Providence, they were concealed from the evil Jews by a cloud. Anthony, a Jewish priest, grabbed the coffin with his hands with the intention of overturning it but, at that moment, an angel of God severed both his hands. He then cried out to the apostles for help and was healed since declaring his faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. The Apostle Thomas was absent, again according to God's Providence, in order that a new and all-glorious mystery of the Holy Theotokos would again be revealed. On the third day, Thomas arrived and desired to venerate [kiss] the body of the Holy All-pure one. But when the apostles opened the sepulchre, they found only the winding sheet and the body was not in the tomb. That evening, the Theotokos appeared to the apostles surrounded by a myriad of angels and said to them: "Rejoice, I will be with you always." It is not exactly known how old the Theotokos was at the time of her Falling Asleep but the overwhelming opinion is that she was over 60 years of age.

from: The Prologue from Ochrid



August 15, 2021
The Dormition of the Theotokos

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... we stand as long as the Holy Eucharist is in the nave; we are in the presence of our Lord, God and Savior, Jesus Christ. We remain standing as communicants come forward to receive the Holy Gifts. Of course, if you have a physical disability or are unable to stand due to pain, please do sit as necessary. Otherwise, we should always stand at this time.

Epistle Reading: Philippians 2:5-11

Gospel Reading: St. Luke Chapters 10:38-42; 11:27, 28

Saints of the Day

The Dormition of the Theotokos.

A Message from the Parish Council on the Corona Virus

Dear Parishioners, unfortunately, the COVID virus remains a problem for Louisianans. Unvaccinated persons and children under 12 are especially vulnerable. Governor Edwards has requested that masks be worn at all public gatherings. For this reason, as well as the previous directions from the Antiochian Archdiocese, we recommend that you wear a face mask in church except when receiving communion. In the Parish Hall, please wear a face mask unless you are drinking a beverage or eating food. Persons who are involved in the Liturgy and the Choir need not wear a mask while performing their duties. Please refrain from attending church if you are feeling unwell or are running a fever. We will have a limited supply of face masks if you did not bring your own. Thank you for your cooperation—Rob Booms, Chairman, Parish Council.

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Saturday, Aug. 14th – Great Vespers & Confessions, 5:00 P.M.

Sunday, Aug. 15th – Orthros, 8:30 A.M.; Divine Liturgy, 9:30 A.M.

Saturday, Aug. 21st – Great Vespers & Confessions, 5:00 P.M.

Sunday, Aug. 22nd – Orthros, 8:30 A.M.; Divine Liturgy, 9:30 A.M.

Monday, Aug. 23rd – Orthros, 9:00 A.M.; Divine Liturgy, 10:00 A.M.

Saturday, Aug. 28th – Great Vespers & Confessions, 5:00 P.M.

Sunday, Aug. 29th – Orthros, 8:30 A.M.; Divine Liturgy, 9:30 A.M.

Wednesday, Sept. 1st – Orthros, 9:00 A.M.; Divine Liturgy, 10:00 A.M.

Saturday, Sept. 4th – Great Vespers & Confessions, 5:00 P.M.

Sunday, Sept. 5th – Orthros, 8:30 A.M.; Divine Liturgy, 9:30 A.M.

Orthodox Thoughts from Theo, the Parish Possum



Like most Orthodox homes, St. Basil's possum family has a place for icons where family prayers are said. If you don't have one, the proper location is in a quiet corner facing east towards Jerusalem. A proper icon corner contains an icon of our Lord, the Theotokos and the patron saints of family members. A candle or oil lamp often hangs down in front of the icons. The corner should also have a place for a blessing cross, a Gospel book, a prayer book, incense, Holy Water and a palm or pussy willow from the previous Palm Sunday. This is also the proper place for a Commemoration Book in which are listed the names of persons for whom prayers are to be offered, including the dead and the sick. Devout Orthodox families gather to pray before the icons in the morning and in the evening. It is hard to underestimate the importance of having a special place in the home for prayer especially in times of "tribulation, wrath, danger and necessity" saying, "Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me a sinner." God bless all— Theo

Spiritual Counsels...

"The lips of the king utter oracles, he does not err when he speaks in judgment." – Proverbs 16:10

Today's Ushers: Michael Zelesnik. **Next Week:** Yordan Yordanov.

Today's coffee hour: Team 3. **Next Sunday:** Team 4.

The Bookstore Bee



This month in St. Basil's bookstore, we hope you notice the wide variety of books we have in our bookcases, from learning more about the Orthodox faith and books for our new catechumens to learning more on the Divine Liturgy or lives of the saints. The bookstore has also donated quite a few books to our parish library. **Charles** and **Yazmin Incaprera** have graciously taken the time to revamp the library and put it back in order. If you have any questions on ordering books from the bookstore or checking out books from the library, please see **April Pituch**.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The **Dormition Fast** begins Sunday, 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 Friday, Aug. 6th, for the Feast of the Transfiguration of our Lord, and an allowance for alcohol and oil on Saturdays and Sundays. The fast ends today with the Feast of the Dormition of the Theotokos (Aug. 15).

The **Parish Council** is scheduled to hold their August meeting today, Aug. 15, after Divine Liturgy. All Council members please attend.

Our men's fellowship, **Antiochian Men** are scheduled to meet next Sunday, Aug. 22, after Divine Liturgy. For more information, please see **Michael Zelesnik**.

God willing, on Monday, Aug. 23, we shall celebrate **the leave-taking of the feast of the Dormition of the Theotokos** with Orthros and Divine Liturgy. Please see the "Worship Schedule" for times.

God willing, on Wednesday, Sept. 1, we shall celebrate **the beginning of the Ecclesiastical New Year** and the feast of **Venerable Simeon the Stylite** with Orthros and Divine Liturgy. Please see the "Worship Schedule" for times.

Church School begins on Sunday, Sept. 12, God willing.

The Diocese of Miami and the Southeast (DOMSE) is hosting a **fall retreat** in Franklin, Tennessee, from Sept. 17-19, 2021. For more information, please visit domse.org or domse's facebook page.

As of August 10, 2021, 35 pledges were received for 2021 totaling \$78,874. The donations for July 2021 totaled \$12,189.32. The expenses were \$11,245.20 for an end-of-month balance of \$21,002.68. Thank you.