

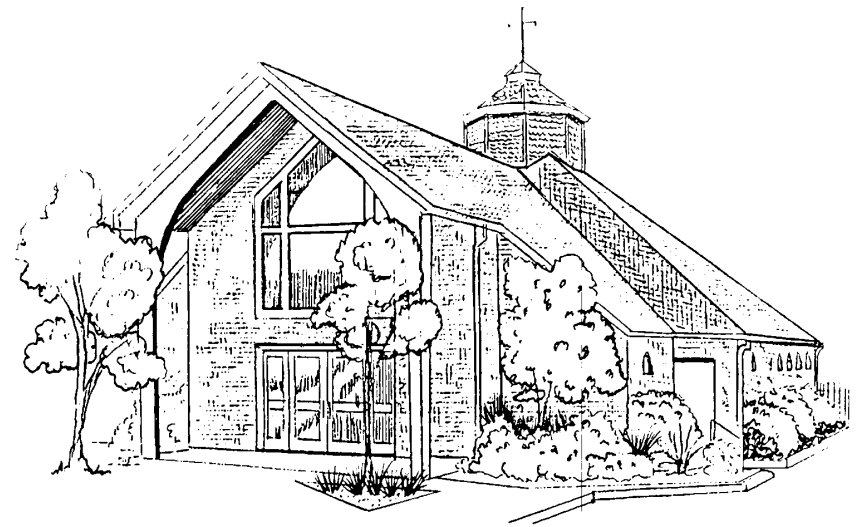
St. Basil Antiochian Orthodox Church
His Eminence Metropolitan JOSEPH, Archbishop of New York
And Metropolitan of all North America
His Grace Bishop NICHOLAS, Auxiliary Bishop
Of the Diocese of Miami and the Southeast
The Very Reverend Father Peter Nugent, Pastor
3916 Hudson St., Metairie, LA 70006
504.888.8114
sbno@att.net
www.stbasilneworleans.org

St. Basil Antiochian Orthodox Church

The Beheading of St. John the Baptist [St. Matthew 14:1-12]

Herod Antipas, son of the elder Herod, who was the slayer of the children of Bethlehem at the time of the birth of the Lord Jesus, was ruler of Galilee at the time when John the Baptist was preaching. This Herod was married to the daughter of Aretas, an Arabian prince. But Herod, an evil sprout of an evil root, put away his lawful wife and unlawfully took unto himself Herodias as his concubine, the wife of his brother Philip, who was still living. John the Baptist stood up against this lawlessness and strongly denounced Herod who then cast John into prison. At the time of a banquet in his court in Sebastia in Galilee Salome, the daughter of Herodias and Philip, danced before the guests. The drunken Herod was so taken by this dance that he promised Salome that he would give her whatever she asked of him, even though it be half of his kingdom. Being persuaded by her mother, Salome asked for the head of John the Baptist. Herod gave the order and John was beheaded in prison and his head brought to him on a platter. John's disciples took the body of their teacher by night and honorably buried it and Herodias pierced the tongue of John with a needle in many places and buried the head in an unclean place. What later happened to John the Baptist's head can be read on February 24. However, God's punishment quickly befell this group of evildoers. Prince Aretas, in order to cleanse his daughter's honor, attacked Herod with his army and defeated him. The defeated Herod was sentenced by the Roman Caesar, Caligula, to exile at first to Gaul and later to Spain. As exiles, Herod and Herodias lived in poverty and humiliation until the earth opened up and swallowed them. Salome died an evil death on the Sikaris (Sula) river. The death of St. John occurred before the Pascha [Passover] but its celebration on August 29 was established because, on that day, a church, which had been built over his grave in Sebastia by Emperor Constantine and Empress Helena was consecrated. In this church the relics of John's disciples, Eliseus and Audius, were also placed.

from: The Prologue from Ochrid



August 29, 2021

The Beheading of the Forerunner and Baptist John

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: Acts 13:25-33

Gospel Reading: St. Mark 6:14-30

Saints of the Day

The beheading of the Forerunner and Baptist John; Venerable Theodora of Thessalonika, Theopistis and Joseph the Sanctified of Samaka.

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 a 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. 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.
Wednesday, Sept. 8th – Orthros, 9:00 A.M.; Divine Liturgy, 10:00 A.M.
Saturday, Sept. 11th – Orthros, 9:00 A.M.; Divine Liturgy, 10:00 A.M.
Saturday, Sept. 11th – Great Vespers & Confessions, 5:00 P.M.
Sunday, Sept. 12th – Orthros, 8:30 A.M.; Divine Liturgy, 9:30 A.M.
Tuesday, Sept. 14 – Orthros, 9:00 A.M.; Divine Liturgy, 10:00 A.M.
Saturday, Sept. 18th – Great Vespers & Confessions, 5:00 P.M.
Sunday, Sept. 19th – 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...

"Evil-doing is abhorrent to kings, since virtue is the throne's foundation."
– Proverbs 16:12

Today's Ushers: Tania/Sevin Russell. **Next Week:** Michael Zelesnik.

Today's coffee hour: Lenten Potluck. **Next Sunday:** Team 1.



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

Approximately 100 **Red Carnations** are needed for the Feast of the Elevation of the Holy Cross on Tuesday, Sept. 14. 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 and donation, and turn the envelope in to the church office. Thank you.

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.

Fr. Peter would like to meet with all **inquirers and catechumens** during coffee hour next Sunday. Please get your food and drinks and meet with him in the large classroom. Thank you.

God willing, on Wednesday, Sept. 8, we shall celebrate the feast of the **Nativity of the Mother of God** with Orthros and Divine Liturgy. Please see the "Worship Schedule" for times.

God willing, on Saturday, Sept. 11, we shall celebrate the Saturday before the **Elevation of the Holy Cross** with Orthros and Divine Liturgy. Please see the "Worship Schedule" for times.

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

God willing, on Tuesday, Sept. 14, we shall celebrate the feast of the **Elevation of the Holy Cross** with Orthros and Divine Liturgy. Please see the "Worship Schedule" for times.

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.