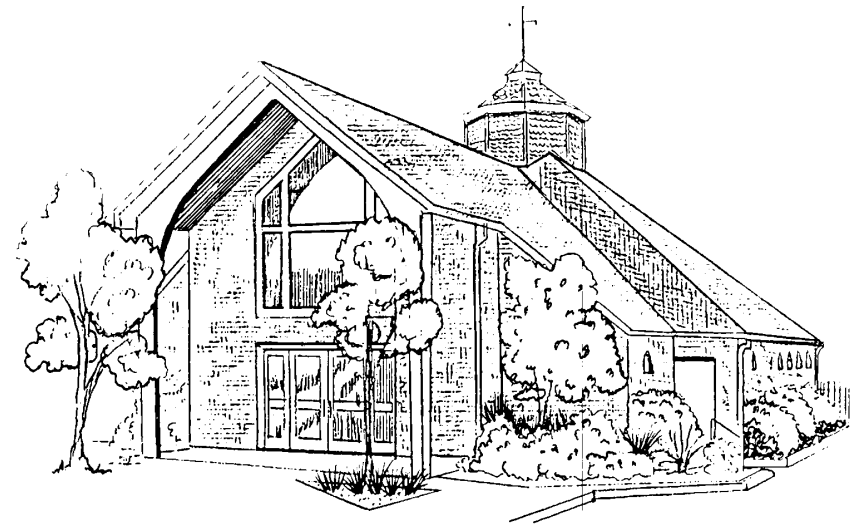


St. Basil Antiochian Orthodox Church
His Eminence Metropolitan JOSEPH, Archbishop of New York
And Metropolitan of all North America
His Grace Bishop NICHOLAS, Auxiliary Bishop
Of the Diocese of Miami and the Southeast
The Very Reverend Father Peter Nugent, Pastor
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The Venerable Martyr Stephen the New

As at one time Hannah, the mother of Samuel, prayed to God to give her a son, so did Anna, the mother of Stephen. Praying thus in the Church of Blachernae before the icon of the Most-holy Theotokos, a light sleep overcame her, and she saw the Most-holy Virgin as radiant as the sun, and heard a voice from the icon: "Woman, depart in peace. In accordance with your prayer, you have a son in your womb." Anna indeed conceived and gave birth to a son, the holy Stephen. At 16, Stephen received the monastic tonsure on Mount Auxentius near Constantinople, from the elder John who also taught him divine wisdom and asceticism. When John entered into rest in the Lord, Stephen remained on the mountain in a life of strict asceticism, taking upon himself labor upon labor. His holiness attracted many disciples to him. When Emperor Constantine Copronymus was persecuting icons more ferociously than his foul father, Leo the Isaurian, Stephen showed himself a zealous defender of the veneration of holy icons. The demented emperor accepted various obscene slanders against Stephen and personally plotted intrigues to break Stephen and get him out of the way. Stephen was banished to the island of Proconnesus, then taken to Constantinople, chained and cast into prison, where he was met by 342 monks, brought from all over and imprisoned for their veneration of the icons. There, in prison, they carried out the whole church typicon as in a monastery. Then the wicked emperor condemned Stephen to death. The saint foresaw his death 40 days in advance, and asked forgiveness of the brethren. The emperor's servants dragged him from prison and, beating and pulling him, dragged him through the streets of Constantinople calling upon all those loyal to the emperor to stone this "enemy of the emperor." One of the heretics struck the saint on the head with a piece of wood, and the saint gave up his soul. As St. Stephen the Protomartyr suffered at the hands of the Jews, so this Stephen suffered at the hands of the iconoclastic heretics. This glorious soldier of Christ suffered in the year 767 at the age of 53, and was crowned with unfading glory.
*from: **The Prologue from Ochrid***

St. Basil Antiochian Orthodox Church



November 28, 2021
The 23rd Sunday after Pentecost
The 13th Sunday of St. Luke

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: Ephesians 2:4-10

Gospel Reading: St. Luke 18:18-27

Saints of the Day

Venerable-martyr Stephen the New; Martyr Irenarchos of Sebaste and those with him; Martyr Ladinubus of Syria; the 16 martyrs of Tiberioupolis.

A Message from the Parish Council on Hurricane Ida Damage

Dear Parishioners, while the Church was unscathed, Hurricane Ida left our Parish Hall with over \$100,000 in damages. The roof needs to be replaced and parts of the building were damaged by water and require repairs and mold remediation. We closed the men's restroom. For the foreseeable future, the ladies' restroom will be used by all with the aid of a lock on the door. We are working with our insurance carrier. We are in the process of obtaining estimates for the necessary repairs. We are grateful for the financial assistance offered by the Archdiocese, the Diocese and some of you. It will take several months to put things

back together but we have faith that we will come out of this better and stronger. Thank you and God bless our Parish—Rob Booms, Chairman, Parish Council.

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Saturday, Nov. 27th – No Great Vespers & Confessions
Sunday, Nov. 28th – Orthros, 8:30 A.M.; Divine Liturgy, 9:30 A.M.
Saturday, Dec. 4th – Great Vespers & Confessions, 5:00 P.M.
Sunday, Dec. 5th – Orthros, 8:30 A.M.; Divine Liturgy, 9:30 A.M.
Saturday, Dec. 11th – Great Vespers & Confessions, 5:00 P.M.
Sunday, Dec. 12th – Orthros, 8:30 A.M.; Divine Liturgy, 9:30 A.M.
Saturday, Dec. 18th – Great Vespers & Confessions, 5:00 P.M.
Sunday, Dec. 19th – Orthros, 8:30 A.M.; Divine Liturgy, 9:30 A.M.

Orthodox Thoughts from Theo, the Parish Possum



On Sunday mornings, Father Peter always throws out breadcrumbs from the side door of the church. It's a special treat for St. Basil's possum family. We asked him to explain what it's all about. It turns out that the crumbs are from one or more loaves of bread being prepared for the Eucharist.

The bread is baked by devout ladies from the Parish from white, bleached, self-rising flour, a little yeast, salt and water. The loaf is called *prosphora*, meaning "oblations." On top of each loaf is impressed a cross with the Greek inscriptions IC, XC, NI, and KA which signify "Christ prevails." This section of the bread, the "Lamb," is cut out of the loaf and is consecrated during the Liturgy to become the Body of Christ. The remainder of the loaf (the "Antidoron" or "Qurban"), is also blessed during the Liturgy. It is cut up into small pieces and distributed to all at the end of the Liturgy. Any unused crumbs from the preparation of unconsecrated bread are disposed of outside for us animals, for which we are very grateful. God bless all—Theo

Spiritual Counsels...

"He who listens closely to the word shall find happiness; he who puts his trust in the Lord is blessed." – Proverbs 16:20

Today's Ushers: Mihai Leustean. **Next Week:** Dwight Gillis.

Today's coffee hour: Team 4. **Next Sunday:** Team 1.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The **Advent Fast** began Monday, November 15th, and is divided into two periods. The first period is Nov. 15 – Dec. 19, with the traditional fasting discipline observed (no meat, poultry, dairy, eggs, fish, alcohol and oil). There is an allowance, however, for alcohol and oil on Tuesdays and Thursdays, and an allowance for alcohol, oil and fish on Saturdays and Sundays. The second period is Dec. 20 – 24, with the traditional fasting discipline observed. There is an allowance, however, for alcohol and oil only on Saturday and Sunday.

If your home was damaged by Hurricane Ida and you need financial assistance with the repairs, please see Fr. Peter today.

Fr. Peter would like to meet with the **inquirers and catechumens** on Sunday, Dec. 5, after Divine Liturgy. Everyone is welcome to attend.

His Grace Bishop NICHOLAS is scheduled to visit our parish in December. He, God willing, will arrive on Sunday afternoon, Dec. 12. On Monday, Dec. 13, he would like to meet with the those who are not working that day and the seniors of our parish for a Lenten potluck lunch. Monday evening at 6:30 P.M., daily vespers will be served followed by a Lenten potluck dinner with the rest of the parish. Please make every effort to attend one of those two occasions. Thank you.

Parish Financial Summary: The donations through October 2021 totaled \$142,314.58. The expenses through October 2021 are \$149,759.74.

Christmas Angels Project

Christmas is coming and the Ladies Guild will sponsor children, from five families, who attend Bissonet Plaza Elementary School, as our traditional Christmas Angels Project. Those are children identified by the school's staff to be in the greatest need.

This year has been extremely difficult for many and we hope that St Basil Parish will again generously support these local families whose needs are greater than ever. Your donation will bring joy, smiles, and happiness to them all.

Again, due to COVID-19 pandemic, we will not purchase gifts but, instead, we will provide each of the five families with gift cards.

Please:

- Only **Monetary Donations** will be accepted.
- Make checks out to **St Basil Ladies Guild**.
- **Please write in memo 2021 Angels Project.**

Donations will be accepted by **Sunday, December 12, 2021.**

If you are attending church services, please give your donation (check) to Ms. Diana Lindley.

If you are NOT attending church services on regular bases and would like to participate, please mail the check to the church address or drop it in the church's mailbox.

Thank you for your always great generosity. God bless.