

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 Synaxis of the Most-holy Theotokos

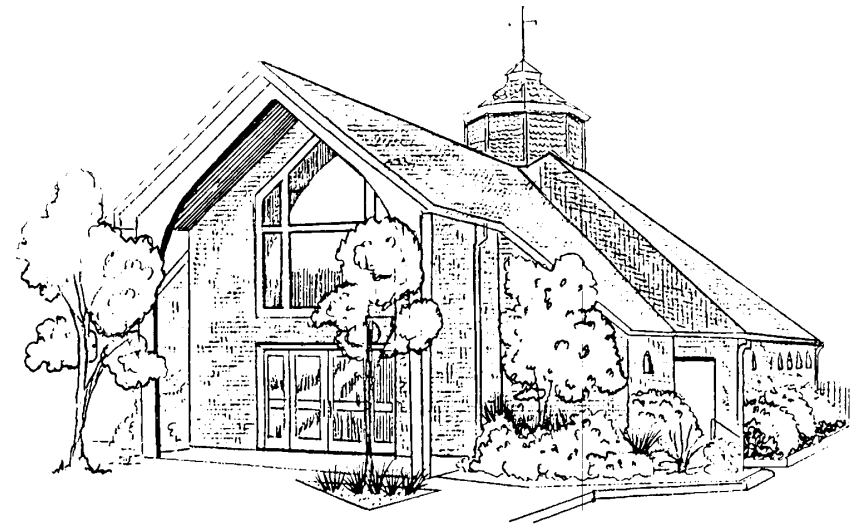
On the second day of the Nativity, the Christian Church gives glory and thanksgiving to the Most-holy Theotokos, who gave birth to our Lord, God and Savior Jesus Christ. This feast is called "the Synaxis" because on this day all of the faithful gather to glorify her, the Most-holy Theotokos, and to solemnly and universally celebrate a feast in her honor. In Ohrid, it has been the tradition from ancient times that, on the eve of the second day of Nativity, Vespers has been celebrated only in the Church of the Most-holy Theotokos called the Chieftain [Ēelnica]. All the clergy with the people gather together to glorify the Most-pure Mother of God.

The Commemoration of the Flight into Egypt

The wise men (astrologers) from the East, having worshiped the Lord in Bethlehem, were directed to return to their home another way by command of an angel. Herod, that wicked king, planned to slaughter all the children in Bethlehem, but God saw Herod's intention and sent His angel to Joseph. The angel of God appeared to Joseph in a dream and commanded him to take the young Child and His Mother and flee to Egypt. Joseph did this. Taking the Divine Child and His Most-holy Mother, he traveled first to Nazareth (Luke 2:39), where he arranged his household matters, and then, taking his son James with them, went off to Egypt (Matthew 2:14). Thus, the words of the prophet were fulfilled: *Behold, the Lord rideth upon a swift cloud, and shall come into Egypt* (Isaiah 19:1). In old Cairo today, the cave where the holy family lived can be seen. Likewise, in the village of Matarea near Cairo, the tree under which the Most-holy Theotokos rested with the Lord Jesus, as well as a miraculous spring of water under this tree, are visible. After having lived for several years in Egypt, the holy family returned to Palestine, again in response to a command of an angel of God. Thus, another prophecy was fulfilled: *Out of Egypt have I called my Son* (Hosea 11:1). Herod was dead and his wicked son Archelaus – a worthy successor of him in evil – sat on his bloodstained throne. Hearing that Archelaus was reigning in Jerusalem, Joseph returned to Galilee, to his town of Nazareth, where he settled in his own home. Herod's second son, Herod the Younger, who was somewhat less evil than his brother Archelaus, then reigned in Galilee.

from: The Prologue from Ochrid

St. Basil Antiochian Orthodox Church



December 26, 2021

The Sunday after the Nativity of Christ

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: Galatians 1:11-19

Gospel Reading: St. Matthew 2:13-23

Saints of the Day

The synaxis of the Theotokos; Euthymios the Confessor, bishop of Sardis; Constantine of Synnada; Evarestus the Studite; Martyrs Jonas and the 55 monks and 65 laymen who were martyr by the Lutherans; Hieromartyr Constantios the Russian of the Great Lavra on Athos; Nicodemus of Tisman; New Hieromartyr Andrew, bishop of Ufa.

A Message from the Parish Council on Parish Hall Repairs

Dear Parishioners, the Parish Council has decided to replace the damaged shingle roof on the Parish Hall with a metal roof like the one we have on the church. While a metal roof is more expensive, we believe it will pay off in the long run as we will surely be dealing with more hurricanes in the future. We accepted a bid (the lower of two) from the same contractor who put the metal roof on the church. That roof has served us well. The roof replacement will cost about \$80,000. Insurance, donations from the Archdiocese, the Diocese and other angels will cover

most of the cost but we also need to make repairs to the restrooms. We will, at least temporarily, need to dip into reserve funds. The roof repairs will be done in the spring. Restroom repairs cannot be made until the roof is restored. Please prayerfully consider these financial needs as you make your annual pledge. Thank you and God bless our Parish—Rob Booms, Chairman, Parish Council.

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Friday, Dec. 24th – Royal Hours of the Nativity, 9:00 A.M.

Friday, Dec. 24th – Vespers Divine Liturgy, 10:30 A.M.

Friday, Dec. 24th – Nativity Compline, 6:30 P.M.

Saturday, Dec. 25th – Orthros, 9:00 A.M.; Divine Liturgy, 10:00 A.M.

Saturday, Dec. 25th – No Great Vespers & Confessions

Sunday, Dec. 26th – Orthros, 8:30 A.M.; Divine Liturgy, 9:30 A.M.

Friday, Dec. 31st – Vespers Divine Liturgy, 6:30 P.M. (St. Basil)

Saturday, Jan. 1st – No Great Vespers & Confessions

Sunday, Jan. 2nd – Orthros, 8:30 A.M.; Divine Liturgy, 9:30 A.M.

Wednesday, Jan. 5th – Royal Hours of Theophany, 9:00 A.M.

Thursday, Jan. 6th – Orthros, 9:00 A.M.; Divine Liturgy, 10:00 A.M.

Thursday, Jan. 6th – Badnjak Service, 6:30 P.M.

Saturday, Jan. 8th – Great Vespers & Confessions, 5:00 P.M.

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

Saturday, Jan. 15th – Great Vespers & Confessions, 5:00 P.M.

Sunday, Jan. 16th – Orthros, 8:30 A.M.; Divine Liturgy, 9:30 A.M.

Orthodox Thoughts from Theo, the Parish Possum



The possum family under the altar has noticed the joyful bell ringing at the Sunday Liturgy. It sent me to the Parish library to read up on Orthodox bell ringing. Bells were first used at the Hagia Sophia Cathedral in the late 800's and in Russia by the year 1000. Their primary purpose was to summon Parishioners to church and to mark important points in the Liturgy. They were also used to warn inhabitants of towns or cities of approaching armies and attackers. Unlike the Western Church where the bell swings and the dapper is stationary, in the Orthodox Church the dapper strikes against a stationary bell. For the time being, St. Basil will ring the bell at the beginning of the Liturgy and when the bread and wine are consecrated. In the future, it may be rung on other occasion as Fr. Peter deems appropriate. Let us give thanks to all whose gifts made the purchase and installation of the bell possible. God bless the ministry of bell ringing and all who hear St. Basil's bell---Theo

other benefactors). The expenses through November 2021 are \$159,315.51.

Spiritual Counsels...

“Kindly words are a honeycomb, sweet to the taste, wholesome to the body.” – Proverbs 16:24

Today's Ushers: Sevin/Tania Russell. **Next Week:** Pam Nugent.

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.

The **holy bread** was offered yesterday by **Mariam Ammari** for the health of **Jawad, Moussa, Shaker** and **Raed** and their families (many years), and for the repose of **Rakad, Tamam, Fozey, Hanan, Fouad, Jawdat, Akram, Shoufa** and **Vera** (memory eternal).

Calendars for the year 2022, along with pledge and house blessing forms and donation envelopes are available in the church hall for each person/family in the parish. Please take them home as soon as possible, and throw away any unused donations envelopes from previous years. Thank you and an early Happy New Year to everyone.

The **Winter Retreat** for the **Diocese of Miami and the Southeast** (DOMSE) will be held on January 28 & 29, 2022, at St. Elias Antiochian Orthodox Church in Atlanta, Georgia. For more information, please visit DOMSE.ORG.

Parish Financial Summary: The donations through November 2021 totaled \$270,853.88 (including approximately \$115,600 in financial assistance from Metropolitan JOSEPH, the insurance claim check and