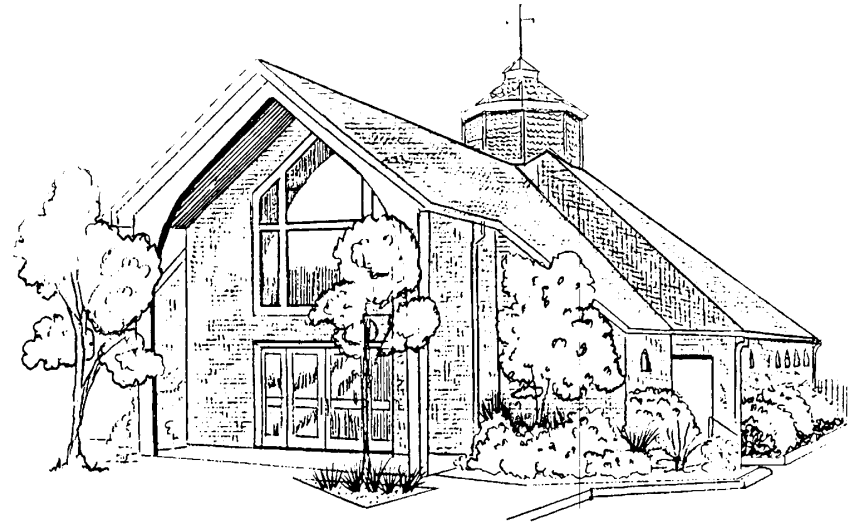


St. Basil Antiochian Orthodox Church
His Eminence Metropolitan JOSEPH, Archbishop of New York
And Metropolitan of all North America
His Grace Bishop NICHOLAS, Auxiliary Bishop
Of the Diocese of Miami and the Southeast
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St. Meletius, Archbishop of Antioch

Meletius, this great and holy man, was an exceptional interpreter and defender of Orthodoxy. His entire life was dedicated to a struggle against the Arian heresy, which did not recognize the Son of God as God and blasphemed the Holy Trinity. On three occasions, Meletius was banished and exiled from his archepiscopal throne to Armenia. The struggle between the Orthodox and the heretics was waged so bitterly that, on one occasion, when St. Meletius was preaching to the people in church concerning the Holy Trinity in unity, his own deacon, a heretic, ran over to him and covered his mouth with his hand. Not being able to speak with his mouth covered, Meletius spoke in signs. He raised his clenched hand in the air, opening at first his three fingers and showing them to the people. After that, he closed his hand and raised up one finger. He participated in the Second Ecumenical Council [Constantinople, 381 A.D.], where Emperor Theodosius showed him special honor. At this Council, God revealed a miracle through His hierarch. When Meletius was propounding the dogma of the Holy Trinity to Arius, at first he only raised three fingers, separately one by one, and after that folded them into one. At that moment, before all those present, a light shone like lightning from his hand. At this Council, Meletius confirmed Gregory the Theologian on the patriarchal throne in Constantinople. Earlier, Meletius had ordained Basil the Great to the diaconate and baptized John Chrysostom. After the close of the Council, St. Meletius completed his earthly life in Constantinople. His relics were translated to Antioch.

St. Basil
Antiochian
Orthodox Church



February 12, 2023
Sunday of the Prodigal Son

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: 1 Corinthians 6:12-20

Gospel Reading: Luke 15:11-32

Saints of the Day

Meletius, archbishop of Antioch; New-martyr Christos of Constantinople; Alexis, metropolitan of Moscow.

A Message from the Parish Council

Dear Parishioners, note that the Annual Parish meeting will take place on Sunday, March 19, after the Liturgy. At that time, we will approve reports, elect Parish Council members and vote on the budget for the year. If you wish to submit any names for nomination to the Parish Council, please provide them to me or Father Peter no later than February 19. In order to vote at the meeting, you must have completed the Parish Registration/Pledge Form—Rob Booms, Parish Council President.

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Saturday, Feb. 11th – Great Vespers & Confessions, 5:00 P.M.
Sunday, Feb. 12th – Orthros, 8:30 A.M.; Divine Liturgy, 9:30 A.M.
Saturday, Feb. 18th – Orthros, 9:00 A.M.; Divine Liturgy, 10:00 A.M.
Saturday, Feb. 18th – Great Vespers & Confessions, 5:00 P.M.
Sunday, Feb. 19th – Orthros, 8:30 A.M.; Divine Liturgy, 9:30 A.M.
Saturday, Feb. 25th – Great Vespers & Confessions, 5:00 P.M.
Sunday, Feb. 26th – Orthros, 8:30 A.M.; Divine Liturgy, 9:30 A.M.
Sunday, Feb. 26th – Forgiveness Vespers, (After Divine Liturgy)
Wednesday, March 1st – Presanctified Liturgy, 6:30 P.M.
Friday, March 3rd – Presanctified Liturgy, 9:00 A.M.
Friday, March 3rd – Akathist Hymn, 6:30 P.M.
Saturday, Mar. 4th – Great Vespers & Confessions, 5:00 P.M.
Sunday, Mar. 5th – Orthros, 8:30 A.M.; Divine Liturgy, 9:30 A.M.

Orthodox Thoughts from Theo, the Parish Possum



Visitors to an Orthodox church are often surprised by how much kissing goes on. When entering and leaving the church, people kiss the icons of Christ, the Theotokos and the patron saint. Before the Liturgy starts, parishioners will be seen to go the front of the church where they kiss large icons of the Lord and his blessed mother. Some will kiss icons of saints who line the walls. Meanwhile, folks are often greeting each other with two or three kisses on the cheeks. At the end of the Liturgy, the priest presents a Hand Cross to be kissed by those who are being blessed for a special occasion and for travelling. This is also when worshippers kiss the right hand of the priest as he distributes the Holy Bread. An Orthodox believer will kiss the priest's right hand when a blessing is given. This is not done out of veneration of the person but rather to the sacred office bestowed upon him. He has been set aside to provide spiritual guidance, to hear confessions, to conduct baptisms, weddings, and burials. It is his hand that consecrates the precious Body and Blood of the Lord. Just as we kiss our loved ones and pictures of deceased family members, the Orthodox church offers the great gift of a Holy Kiss. Let us not be shy or reluctant to use this expression of love and devotion.

Blessings be upon your Lenten season---Theo

Spiritual Counsels...

“A fool takes no pleasure in understanding, but only in expressing his opinion.”– Proverbs 18:2

ANNOUNCEMENTS

God willing, we will have Orthros and Divine Liturgy for the Saturday of Souls on February 18th.

Meatfare Week begins on Monday, Feb. 20th. From that date until PASCHA it is our tradition to refrain from eating meat and meat products. From Pure Monday, February 27th, we observe the traditional fasting discipline of Great and Holy Lent (no meat, poultry, eggs, dairy, fish, alcohol and oil) 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 25th) and Palm Sunday (April 9th).

February 19th MEAT FARE SUNDAY!!!! Come experience a breakfast FEAST to enter into the GREAT FAST! The Ladies Guild is putting on a breakfast bonanza during coffee hour. We will be serving pancakes, eggs, bacon, sausage, ham and fruit. The cost per plate is \$12 for adults 13 and up, \$6 for children 9-12 and 8 and under eat free. HELP us to HELP others!!!!

Our annual **Wine and Cheese Social** shall be held on Cheesefare Sunday, Feb. 26th, in the Church Hall after Divine Liturgy. Please bring enough wine, cheese and crackers for yourself and friends.

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 25th) and Palm Sunday (April 9).

Each year we begin our Archdiocese-wide **Food For Hungry People Campaign** at this time. This campaign has raised millions of dollars over the 30+ 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 **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 please make every effort to care for your soul and have confession at least once during Great Lent.

Lenten potluck meals shall be served after Presanctified Liturgies on Wednesday evenings during Great Lent.

Approximately 100 **Red Carnations** are needed for the veneration of the Holy Cross on Sunday, March 19th. 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, donation and turn the envelope in to the church office. Thank you.

The Ladies Guild will be collecting donations for Love Moved First during the year of 2023. Love Moved First is a home for woman in crisis to recover and heal. We will have a collection bin set out and a list of needs next to it. There is much needed so even a little is a big help. If you have any questions about Love Moved First, please see Cheryl Pituch or Tania Russell. Thank you for your support.

To offset the team members expenses for coffee hour, the team leaders are asking for one-dollar donations from adults for each coffee hour to cover the expenses for plates, bowls, forks, spoons, knives, cups, etc. They continue to generously provide us with snack/lunch items at no expense to us. Donations by check should be made payable to St. Basil Ladies Guild. Thank you for your assistance in making this happen. God bless you.

We fast Wednesday and Friday this week.

Coffee Hour: This Week: Team 2 **Next Week:** Team 3

Ushers: This Week: Pam Nugent **Next Week:** Dwight Gillis