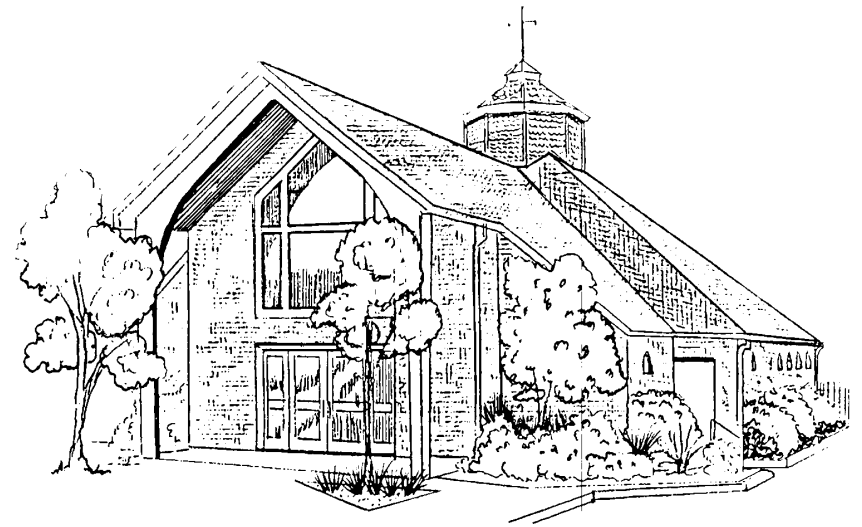


St. Basil Antiochian Orthodox Church
His Eminence Metropolitan SABA, Archbishop of New York
And Metropolitan of all North America
His Grace Bishop NICHOLAS, Auxiliary Bishop
Of the Diocese of Miami and the Southeast
The Very Reverend Father Peter Nugent, Pastor
3916 Hudson St., Metairie, LA 70006
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St.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

The Holy Archangel Gabriel

Gabriel is the herald of the Incarnation of the Son of God. He is one of the seven archangels who stand before the throne of God. He appeared to Zacharias to announce the birth of the Forerunner. Gabriel said of himself: *I am Gabriel, that stand in the presence of God* (Luke 1:19). His name Gabriel means "man-God." The Holy Fathers, in speaking about the Annunciation, comment that an archangel with such a name was sent to signify Who He was, and what He would be like, Who would be born of the All-pure One. He would be the God-man, the mighty and powerful God. Some of the Fathers understood that this same Gabriel appeared to Joachim and Anna concerning the birth of the Virgin Mary, and that Gabriel instructed Moses in the wilderness to write the Book of Genesis. The Holy Fathers say that Gabriel belongs to the first and greatest order of heavenly powers, that is, the Seraphim, since the Seraphim stand closest to God. He is, therefore, one of the seven Seraphim closest to God. The names of the seven are Michael, Gabriel, Raphael, Uriel, Salathiel, Jegudiel, and Barachiel. To this number some add Jeremiel. Each one has his own particular service and all are equal in honor. Why did God not send Michael? Because Michael's service is to suppress the enemies of the Faith of God, while Gabriel's is the mission of announcing the salvation of mankind.



March 26, 2023
Sunday of St. John Climacus
Synaxis of Archangel Gabriel

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: Hebrews 6:13-20

Gospel Reading: Mark 9:17-31

Saints of the Day

The Synaxis of the Archangel Gabriel; Stephen the Confessor, Abbot of Triglia.

A Message from the Parish Council

Dear Parishioners, we want to show our appreciation to Dave Abramson for his many years of service as Parish Treasurer. Also, special thanks to Yordan Yordanov and Greg Lindley for cleaning out the grease trap in the kitchen, a very dirty job indeed. After the annual meeting, the Parish Council elected the following officers: Rob Booms, President; Stephen Pituch, Vice-President; Bill Harrison, Treasurer; and Stephen Zelesnik; Secretary. The other members of the council are Fr. Peter Nugent, Therese Dagher, Mark Fleming, Natalya Flint, Sevin Russell and Yordan Yordanov. The council usually meets on the third Sunday of the month after the coffee hour. Please feel free to contact them with any suggestions or concerns--Rob Booms.

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Friday, Mar. 24th – Great Vespers/Akathist Hymn (4th Stasis), 6:30 P.M.
Saturday, Mar. 25th – Orthros, 9:00 A.M.; Divine Liturgy, 10:00 A.M.
Saturday, Mar. 25th – Great Vespers & Confessions, 5:00 P.M.
Sunday, Mar. 26th – Orthros, 8:30 A.M.; Divine Liturgy, 9:30 A.M.
Wednesday, Mar. 29th – Presanctified Liturgy, 6:30 P.M.
Friday, Mar. 31st – Presanctified Liturgy, 9:00 A.M.
Friday, Mar. 31st – Akathist Hymn, 6:30 P.M.
Saturday, Apr. 1st – Great Vespers & Confessions, 5:00 P.M.
Sunday, Apr. 2nd – Orthros, 8:30 A.M.; Divine Liturgy, 9:30 A.M.
Wednesday, Apr. 5th – Presanctified Liturgy, 6:30 P.M.
Friday, Apr. 7th – Presanctified Liturgy, 9:00 A.M.
Saturday, Apr. 8th – Orthros, 9:00 A.M.; Divine Liturgy, 10:00 A.M.
Saturday, Apr. 8th – Great Vespers & Confessions, 5:00 P.M.
Sunday, Apr. 9th – Orthros, 8:30 A.M.; Divine Liturgy, 9:30 A.M.
Sunday, Apr. 9th – Bridegroom Orthros, 6:30 P.M.
Monday, Apr. 10th – Presanctified Liturgy, 9:00 A.M.
Monday, Apr. 10th – Bridegroom Orthros, 6:30 P.M.
Tuesday, Apr. 11th – Presanctified Liturgy, 9:00 A.M.
Tuesday, Apr. 11th – Bridegroom Orthros, 6:30 P.M.
Wednesday, Apr. 12th – Presanctified Liturgy, 9:00 A.M.
Wednesday, April 12th – Sacrament of Holy Unction, 6:30 P.M.
Thursday, April 13th – Vespertal Divine Liturgy, 10:00 A.M.
Thursday, April 13th – Orthros of the 12 Passion Gospels, 6:30 P.M.
Friday, April 14th – Royal Hours, 9:00 A.M.
Friday, April 14th – Unnailing Vespers, 3:00 P.M.
Friday, April 14th – Lamentations Orthros, 6:30 P.M.
Saturday, Apr. 15th – Vespertal Divine Liturgy, 10:00 A.M.
Saturday, Apr. 15th – Rush Procession & Orthros, 11:00 P.M.
Sunday, Apr. 16th – Divine Liturgy of Great & Holy PASCHA, 12:00 A.M.
Sunday, Apr. 16th – Agape Vespers, 11:00 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 traveling. This is also when worshippers kiss the right hand of the priest as he dis-

tributes 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...

“The words of a whisperer are like delicious morsels; they go down into the inner parts of the body.” Proverbs 18:8

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Parents and Teachers please note there is no Church School on Sunday April 9 and 16

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.

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.

On Monday, April 3, His Grace Bishop NICHOLAS will visit us. A Lenten potluck luncheon will be served at 11:30 A.M. At 6 P.M. that evening we shall have a Lenten potluck dinner. Please join us for one of those meals as we receive our beloved bishop.

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.

A Message from the Ladies Guild

Dear Parishioners, His Eminence Metropolitan ANTONIOS has changed the focus of NAB project 2023 from fundraising for expanded worship space at the Antiochian Village to the Disaster Relief for Turkey and Syria considering the dire situation and the great need in the area. He asks us to “redouble our efforts so that those suffering unthinkable tragedy might receive the fruits of our labor as a life-sustaining support and a gesture of love.” As you know, St. Basil's as a whole has collected donations for the Disaster Relief, however this is separate. The Ladies Guild will be sending in a donation as well. If there is anyone who was unable to give during the three-week period of collections and would like to may still do so through the Ladies Guild. Please feel free to ask us any questions you may have or donate. Yours in Christ – Tania Russell, Ladies Guild President

Today's Coffee Hour: Team 4. Thank you **Next Week:** Team 1.

Today's Ushers: Zarah Russell **Next Week:**

Epistle Reader: Cheryl Pituch