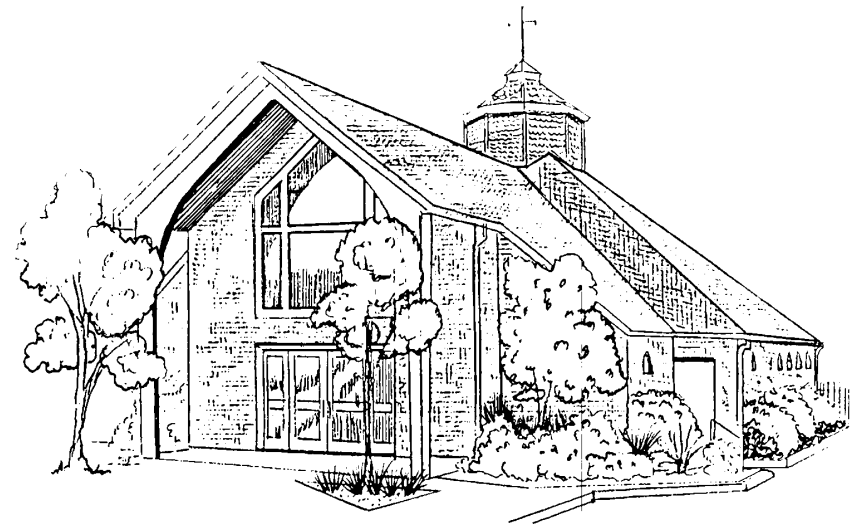


St. Basil Antiochian Orthodox Church
His Eminence Metropolitan SABA, Archbishop of New York
And Metropolitan of all North America
His Grace Bishop NICHOLAS, Auxiliary Bishop
Of the Diocese of Miami and the Southeast
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The Priestly-Martyr Athenogenes, Bishop of Sebaste in Armenia

Athenogenes lived in a monastery near the town of Sebaste with 10 of his disciples. During the reign of Diocletian, Philomarchus, a cruel persecutor of Christians, came to Sebaste. He arrested and murdered many Christians in the town. When he saw Athenogenes and his disciples, he told the elder to offer a sacrifice to the idols so as not to perish, as had the other Christians. Athenogenes replied to him: "O persecutor, those whom you mention as having perished have not perished, but are in the heavens and are rejoicing with the angels." Just then, a doe [a female deer] that the merciful Athenogenes usually fed with his own hand ran up to him and, seeing him in great jeopardy, began to shed tears. Even the wild beasts of the mountains had greater pity toward the martyrs of Christ than the heathens did! After cruel tortures, during which an angel of God comforted the martyrs, they were all beheaded, first the priests and all the fellow laborers of Athenogenes, and then Athenogenes himself. All were received into the heavenly homeland in the year 311 A.D.

St. Basil Antiochian Orthodox Church



July 16, 2023
Sunday of the Holy Fathers
of the 4th Ecumenical Council

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: Titus 3:8-15
Gospel Reading: Matthew 5:14-19

Saints of the Day

Hieromartyr Athenogenes, bishop of Herakleopolis and his 10 disciples; the 15,000 martyrs of Pisidia who believed in Christ through St. Marina.

A Message from the Parish Council

Dear Parishioners, as we anticipated in the budget, our new property insurance premiums are going to exceed \$40,000 during the next 12 months. The premiums are paid quarterly and will put a strain on our ability to pay for the regular monthly expenses of approximately \$10,000. As we enter the summer months, when our income is generally less, please assist us by keeping up your regular pledge payments. Thank you for your generous support of the Parish. We are confident that the Lord will provide for our needs with your assistance, as always--Rob Booms.

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Saturday, July. 15th – Great Vespers & Confessions, 5:00 P.M.
Sunday, July. 16th – Orthros, 8:30 A.M.; Divine Liturgy, 9:30 A.M.
Saturday, July. 22nd – No Great Vespers & Confessions
Sunday, July. 23rd – Typica Service, 9:30 A.M.
Saturday, July. 29th – No Great Vespers & Confessions
Sunday, July. 30th – Orthros, 8:30 A.M.; Divine Liturgy, 9:30 A.M.
Friday, Aug. 4th – Paraclesis Service, 6:30 P.M.
Saturday, Aug. 5th – Great Vespers & Confessions, 5:00 P.M.
Sunday, Aug. 6th – Orthros, 8:30 A.M.; Divine Liturgy, 9:30 A.M.
Friday, Aug. 11th – Paraclesis Service, 6:30 P.M.
Saturday, Aug. 12th – Great Vespers & Confessions, 5:00 P.M.
Sunday, Aug. 13th – Orthros, 8:30 A.M.; Divine Liturgy, 9:30 A.M.
Tuesday, Aug. 15th – Orthros, 9:00 A.M.; Divine Liturgy, 10:00 A.M.

Orthodox Thoughts from Theo, the Parish Possum



One of the great spiritual classics of the Orthodox Church is a 19th century book entitled “The Way of the Pilgrim.” Its author is unknown, but is believed to have been a Russian monk. It tells the story of a man’s journey, on foot, across Ukraine, Russia and Siberia with little more than his clothes, a prayer rope, a Bible and a copy of the Philokalia. He is trying to learn how a person can follow St. Paul’s admonition to “pray constantly.” He finds the answer in the constant repetition of the Jesus prayer, “Lord Jesus Christ, have mercy on me.” He describes his struggles and tells the stories of the people he meets along the way. The book is a testament to the power of prayer. It can also serve as a guide on how the Jesus prayer can be used in our everyday lives. The book quotes St. John Chrysostom, who said that “no man can excuse himself from prayer under the pretext that he is occupied with daily cares or is not able to be in church. Everywhere, no matter where you find yourself, you can erect an altar to God in your heart by means of prayer.” As Nicephorus the Solitary counsels, “if you pray (the Jesus prayer) with great attention, the entrance into the heart will bring about a host of virtues: love, joy, peace, long suffering, humility, and others”. – Theo

Spiritual Counsels...

“The poor use entreaties, but the rich answer roughly” Proverbs 18:23

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The **Parish Council** is scheduled to hold their July meeting today after Divine Liturgy. All Council members please attend.

Fr. Peter, God willing, will be attending the Archdiocese Convention in July. Great Vespers is cancelled for Saturdays, July 22 and 29. A Typica Service is scheduled for Sunday, July 23.

The traditional fasting discipline of the Dormition Fast (no meat, poultry, eggs, dairy, fish, alcohol and oil) is observed from Aug. 1-14. On Saturdays and Sundays, however, alcohol and oil are permitted. Fish, alcohol and oil are permitted on the Feast of the Transfiguration of our Lord (Aug. 6).

Paraclesis Services will be, God willing, offered on Fridays, Aug. 4 & 11, at 6:30 P.M.

God willing, Orthros served and Divine Liturgy will be celebrated on Tuesday, Aug. 15th for the **Feast of the Dormition of the Theotokos**. Please see the Worship Schedule for more information.

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.

A message from the Ladies Guild

The Ladies met at French Press on July 8th and had a wonderful time. For those of you who were not able to make it out this time, no worries, we are planning to get together again in October. We will keep you posted. In the meantime, please don't forget about the Ice Cream Social on September 10th (tickets are coming soon) and the Bake Sale November 5th. The Bake Sale will be by preorder, so be on the lookout for that. If anyone would like to bake something special, please let us now so we can add it to the preorder form. As always, Tania Russell

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.

Today's Coffee Hour: Team 3. Thank you. **Next Week:** Team 4