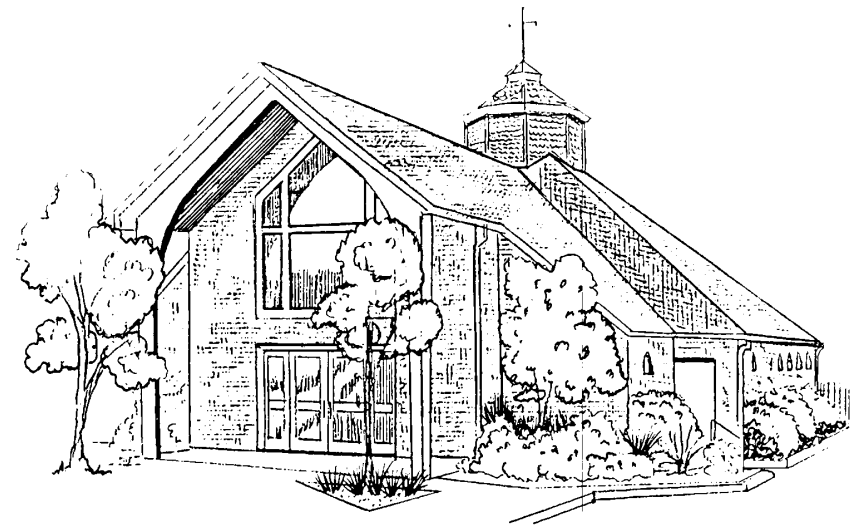


St. Basil Antiochian Orthodox Church
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And Metropolitan of all North America
His Grace Bishop NICHOLAS, Auxiliary Bishop
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St. Basil Antiochian Orthodox Church

The Transfiguration of Our Lord, God and Savior Jesus Christ

In the third year of His preaching, the Lord Jesus often spoke to His disciples of His approaching passion, and also of His glory following His suffering on the Cross. So that His impending passion would not totally weaken His disciples, and so that no one would fall away from Him, He, the All-wise, wanted to show them a portion of His divine glory before His passion. For that reason, He took Peter, James and John with Him and went by night to Mt. Tabor, and was there transfigured before them: *And His face shone as the sun and His garments became white as snow* (Matthew 17:2). Moses and Elias [Elijah], the great Old Testament prophets, also appeared beside Him. Seeing this, His disciples were stunned. Peter said: *Lord, it is good for us to be here: if You will, let us make here three tabernacles; one for You, one for Moses and one for Elias* (Matthew 17:4). While Peter still spoke, Moses and Elias departed, and a bright cloud overshadowed the Lord and His disciples, and there came a voice from the cloud saying: *This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased; hear Him* (Matthew 17:5). Hearing the voice, the disciples fell face down on the ground as though dead, and remained that way, prostrate in fear, until the Lord came to them and said: *Arise, and be not afraid* (Matthew 17:7). Why did the Lord take only three disciples onto Tabor, and not all? Because Judas was not worthy to behold the divine glory of the Teacher, Whom he will betray; and the Lord did not want to leave him alone at the foot of the mountain, so that the betrayer would not, because of this, justify his betrayal. Why was our Lord transfigured on a mountain and not in a valley? So as to teach us two virtues: love of labor and godly-thoughts--for climbing to the heights requires labor, and the heights themselves represent the elevation of our thoughts to the things of God. Why was our Lord transfigured at night? Because the night is more suitable than the day for prayer and godly-thoughts; and the night, by its darkness, conceals all the beauty of the earth, and reveals the beauty of the starry heavens. Why did Moses and Elias appear? In order to destroy the Jewish fallacy that Christ was one of the prophets--Elias or Jeremiah or some other. That is why He appeared as a King, above the prophets, and that is why Moses and Elias appeared as His servants. Until then, our Lord had manifested His divine power many times to the disciples; but on Mt. Tabor, He manifested His Divine Nature. This vision of His Divinity, and the hearing of the heavenly witness to His being the Son of God, must have served the disciples in the days of the Lord's passion--in the strengthening of a steadfast faith in Him and in His final victory.



August 6, 2023

**The Feast of the Transfiguration of
Our Lord and Savior Jesus 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: 2 Peter 1:10-19

Gospel Reading: Matthew 17:1-9

Saints of the Day

The Transfiguration of Christ.

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

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, 8:30 A.M.; Divine Liturgy, 9:30 A.M.

Saturday, Aug. 19th – Great Vespers & Confessions, 5:00 P.M.

Sunday, Aug. 20th – Orthros, 8:30 A.M.; Divine Liturgy, 9:30 A.M.

Saturday, Aug. 26th – Great Vespers & Confessions, 5:00 P.M.

Sunday, Aug. 27th – Orthros, 9:00 A.M.; Divine Liturgy, 10:00 A.M.

Tuesday, Aug. 29th – Orthros, 8:30 A.M.; Divine Liturgy, 9:30 A.M.

Saturday, Sept. 2nd – Great Vespers & Confessions, 5:00 P.M.

Sunday, Sept. 3rd – Orthros, 8:30 A.M.; Divine Liturgy, 9:30 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, Russian 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...

“Better is a poor man who walks in his integrity than a man who is perverse in speech, and is a fool.” Proverbs 19:1

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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).

A Paraclesis Service to the Mother of God 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.

God willing, Orthros served and Divine Liturgy will be celebrated on Tuesday, Aug. 29th for the **Feast of the Beheading of St. John the Baptist**. 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 Guild has some upcoming events. On Sept. 10th, the ladies will have an ice cream social, so be on the lookout for tickets that should go on sale in mid-July. The last date to keep an eye on is Nov. 5th; we are planning a bake sale. If anyone is interested in helping with baking or have any questions, please see one of our lovely members. We will have our pre-order forms ready for everyone by Sept. 3rd. 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.

Today's Coffee Hour: Team 1. Thank you. **Next Week:** Team 2