St. Basil Antiochian Orthodox Church
The Most Reverend Metropolitan SABA, Archbishop of New York
And Metropolitan of all North America
The Right Reverend Bishop NICHOLAS, Auxiliary Bishop
Of the Diocese of Miami and the Southeast
The Very Reverend Father Peter Nugent, Pastor
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The Holy Prophet Zephaniah

Zephaniah was a native of Mount Sarabatha, from the tribe of Simeon. He lived and prophesied in the seventh century before Christ, at the time of Josiah the pious king of Judah. Zephaniah was a contemporary of the Prophet Jeremiah. Having great humility and a pure mind raised to God, he was found worthy of discerning the future. He prophesied the day of the wrath of God and the punishment of Gaza, Ashkalon, Ashdod, Ekron, Nineveh, Jerusalem and Egypt. He saw Jerusalem as a *filthy and polluted, … oppressing city … Her princes within her are roaring lions; her judges are evening wolves; … her prophets are light and treacherous persons: her priests have polluted the sanctuary, they have done violence to the Law* (Zephaniah 3:1-4). Foreseeing the advent of the Messiah, he enthusiastically exclaimed: *Sing, O daughter of Zion; shout, O Israel; be glad and rejoice with all the heart, O daughter of Jerusalem (Zephaniah 3:14).* This seer of mysteries entered into rest at his birthplace to await the General Resurrection and his reward from God.

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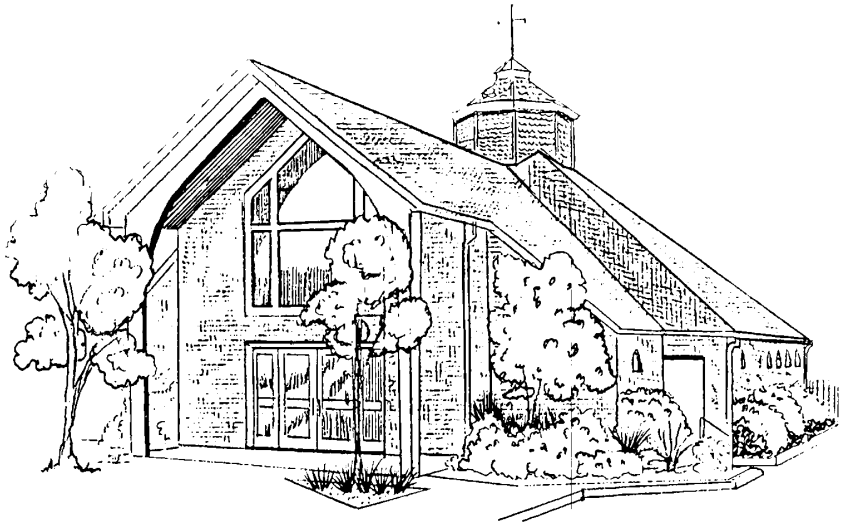

December 3, 2023
14th Sunday of Luke

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: Ephesians 4:1-7
Gospel Reading: Luke 18:18-27

Saints of the Day

The Holy Prophet Zephaniah (Sophonios); Martyrs Agapios, Seleukos and Mamas; Venerable Theodoulos, Eparch of Constantinople; Hieromartyr Gabriel, bishop of Ganos and Prusa; New-martyr Angelis of Chios; Venerable Cosmas of St. Anne Skete on Athos; Venerable Sabbas of Zvenigorod, disciple of Sergios of Radonezh.

A Message from the Parish Council

Dear parishioners, we have been able to pay all the insurance premiums for the year. A new shed was donated. Volunteers changed light bulbs in high places, made church repairs and cleaned the church and parish hall. The Ladies' Guild had a successful ice cream social. A splendid lunch was prepared for Bishop NICHOLAS and he was warmly received by all. Many good things done by many good people. Thank you and let us bless the Lord for allowing us to minister to each other in this place--Rob Booms, Council Chairman.

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Saturday, Dec. 2nd – Great Vespers & Confessions, 5:00 P.M.
Sunday, Dec. 3rd – Orthros, 8:30 A.M.; Divine Liturgy, 9:30 A.M.
Saturday, Dec. 9th – Great Vespers & Confessions, 5:00 P.M.
Sunday, Dec. 10th – Orthros, 8:30 A.M.; Divine Liturgy, 9:30 A.M.
Saturday, Dec. 16th – Great Vespers & Confessions, 5:00 P.M.
Sunday, Dec. 17th – Orthros, 8:30 A.M.; Divine Liturgy, 9:30 A.M.
Wed., Dec. 20th – Orthros, 9:00 A.M.; Divine Liturgy, 10:00 A.M.
Thursday, Dec. 21st – Holy Unction, 6:30 P.M.
Saturday, Dec. 23rd – Great Vespers & Confessions, 5:00 P.M.
Sunday, Dec. 24th – Orthros, 8:30 A.M.; Divine Liturgy, 9:30 A.M.
Sunday, Dec. 24th – Great Vespers, 5:00 P.M.
Monday, Dec. 25th - Orthros, 8:30 A.M.; Divine Liturgy, 9:30 A.M.
Saturday, Dec. 30th – Great Vespers & Confessions, 5:00 P.M.
Sunday, Dec. 31st – Orthros, 8:30 A.M.; Divine Liturgy, 9:30 A.M.

Orthodox Thoughts from Theo, the Parish Possum

The sanctuary in an Orthodox church is a very sacred place. Ordinarily, lay persons are not allowed in the area behind the iconostasis except to assist in the liturgy. One reason for this is the presence of relics. As Orthodox people, we believe that the grace of God present in saints' bodies remains active in their relics when they have died. Therefore, such relics are a channel of divine power and an instrument of healing. At St. Basil, the sanctuary has quite a few relics. Small parts of the bodies of St. Basil and St. Stephen are inside the altar table. In addition, on the altar table, there is some fragrant wax which once surrounded the relics of St. Moses the Black. Usually, there are also relics in the antimension, a cloth on the altar depicting Christ in the tomb. This cloth, which is signed by the Metropolitan, serves as his permission for us to worship in this place. Since we have a new Metropolitan and will be receiving a new antimension, the relics of St. Raphael of Brooklyn and St. Blaise (Blasios) are currently kept on the altar until they can be sewn into the new antimension. In addition, relics of St. John of San Francisco and Shanghai, St. Raphael and St. Basil are embedded in their icons in the sanctuary. As we approach the sanctuary for the Eucharist, let us be mindful of the grace which flows from the relics of the saints who are present in our midst. –Theo

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Spiritual Counsels…
"Discipline your son while there is hope; do not set your heart on his destruction." Proverbs 19:18

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Advent Fast begins Wednesday, 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 **Ladies Guild** is scheduled to hold their December meeting next Sunday, Dec. 10, after Divine Liturgy. All ladies of the parish are invited to attend.

God willing, a bilingual Orthros and Divine Liturgy will be celebrated on Wednesday, Dec. 20, at 9:00 A.M. and 10:00 A.M., respectively for the **feast of St. Ignatius of Antioch**.

God willing, the service of **Holy Unction** will be served on Thursday, Dec. 21, at 6:30 P.M.

As we approach this holiday season the Ladies Guild would like to remind everyone of our "Angel Project", each year at this time St. Basil's Ladies Guild sponsors 5 families from the Bissonnet School that could use a little help through the holiday season. The past few years we have been only doing monetary donations and will continue to do so this year as well. If you would like to make a donation and prefer to do so by check, please make it out to St. Basil Ladies Guild and in the memo line please write Angel Project. You may turn in your donation to any of our members or you can mail it to St. Basil at the address on your bulletin. Donations are being accepted until December 3rd. Lastly the Ladies Guild is still collecting donations for Love Moved First, a home for women in crisis to recover and heal. If you have any questions about any of our projects, please see any of our ladies, we would love to let you know more. As always, Tania Russell

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