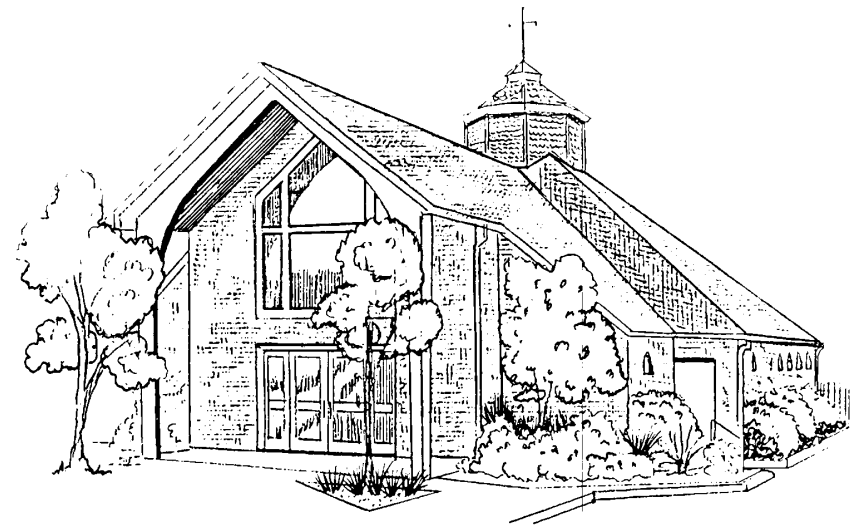


St. Basil Antiochian Orthodox Church
The Most Reverend Metropolitan SABA, Archbishop of New York
And Metropolitan of all North America
The Right Reverend Bishop NICHOLAS, Auxiliary Bishop
Of the Diocese of Miami and the Southeast
The Very Reverend Father Peter Nugent, Pastor
3916 Hudson St., Metairie, LA 70006
504.888.8114
sbno@att.net
www.stbasilneworleans.org

The Holy Martyr Athanasius

This martyr of Christ was a simple and poor man but rich in faith and wise through the Spirit of God. Once, unintentionally, Athanasius entered into a debate about the Faith with a certain Turk. The Turk was educated and adroit with words, but Athanasius endeavored with all his strength to emphasize and to establish the truth of and preference for the Christian Faith over Islam. After that, they departed. The next day Athanasius was summoned before the judge. This Turk stood there as his accuser. When the judge called upon Athanasius to deny the Faith of Christ, as he allegedly made known to his companions a day earlier and to embrace Islam, Athanasius cried out: "I would rather die a thousand deaths before I would renounce the Faith of Christ." For that he was condemned to death and beheaded in the year 1700 A.D. in Smyrna. His body was buried in the Church of St. Parasceve in the same city.

St. Basil
Antiochian
Orthodox Church



January 7, 2024
Synaxis of John the Holy Glorious Prophet, Baptist, &
Forerunner

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: Acts of the Apostles 19:1-8

Gospel Reading: John 1:29-34

Saints of the Day

The synaxis of the honorable, glorious Prophet, Forerunner and Baptist John; Julian the deacon; Hieromartyr Romanos; New-martyr Athanasios of Attalia; Venerable Brannock of Branton.

A Message from the Parish Council

Dear parishioners, as we plan for a new year, we ask you to consider the level of your commitment to St. Basil. We face increasing property insurance premiums and higher medical insurance costs for Father Peter and his family. In addition, we need more financial and human resources to build up our parish if we are going to give birth to a Northshore mission. Let us pray to the Lord for guidance as we make our pledge to further the ministry of St. Basil—Rob Booms, Council Chairman.

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Saturday, Jan. 6th – Orthros, 9:00 A.M.; Divine Liturgy, 10:00 A.M.

Saturday, Jan. 6th – Badnjak Service, 5:00 P.M.

Sunday, Jan. 7th – Orthros, 8:30 A.M.; Divine Liturgy, 9:30 A.M.

Saturday, Jan. 13th – Great Vespers & Confessions, 5:00 P.M.

Sunday, Jan. 14th – Orthros, 8:30 A.M.; Divine Liturgy, 9:30 A.M.

Saturday, Jan. 20th – Great Vespers & Confessions, 5:00 P.M.

Sunday, Jan. 21st – Orthros, 8:30 A.M.; Divine Liturgy, 9:30 A.M.

Friday, Feb. 2nd – Orthros; 9:00 A.M.; Divine Liturgy, 10:00 A.M.

Saturday, Feb. 3rd – Great Vespers & Confessions, 5:00 P.M.

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

Orthodox Thoughts from Theo, the Parish Possum



Most Christians are somewhat familiar with the process used by the Roman Catholic church to declare someone a saint. In the Orthodox Church, when clergy or lay people recognize and honor a virtuous person, his or her name may be brought to the attention of a bishop for “glorification.” This usually results in a lengthy investigation. There is no “three miracle” requirement in connection with a candidate for sainthood. Assuming the investigation is satisfactory, the name of the proposed saint is submitted to the Holy Synod of bishops of that bishop’s Orthodox Church. If the Holy Synod approves the new saint, icons of the saint will be written, and liturgical services are composed. The saint’s feast day is then established, and the other Orthodox churches are notified that they may include the new saint in their calendars. In the Orthodox Church, each autocephalous (independent) Orthodox Church has the authority to approve someone for glorification. In the United States, only the Orthodox Church in America (OCA) is autocephalous, and the glorification decision elsewhere is, therefore, made at the patriarchal level in the Russian, Greek and Antiochian churches. The OCA glorified St. Raphael of Brooklyn and, most recently, Matushka Olga, an Alaskan Native American. Blessed Seraphim (Rose) is currently being considered for glorification by the Russian Orthodox Church Outside Russia (ROCOR). We should all be on the lookout for saints. They are among us—Theo.

Spiritual Counsels...

“The fear of the Lord leads to life; and he who has it rests satisfied; he will not be visited by harm.” Proverbs 19:23

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Church calendars, donation envelopes, pledge forms and house blessing forms for 2024 are now available in the Church Hall. Please see Fr. Peter for assistance, if needed.

The **Great Feast of Theophany** is Saturday, Jan. 6th. Orthros, God willing, will be at 9:00 A.M. followed by Divine Liturgy at 10:00 A.M. House blessings will begin at that time. Please see Fr. Peter to schedule a time to bless your home.

The **Ladies Guild** is scheduled to hold its January meeting next Sunday, Jan. 14th, after Divine Liturgy. All ladies of the parish are invited to attend.

The **Feast of the Presentation of our Lord in the Temple** is Friday, Feb. 2nd. Orthros, God willing, will be at 9:00 A.M. followed by Divine Liturgy at 10:00 A.M.

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