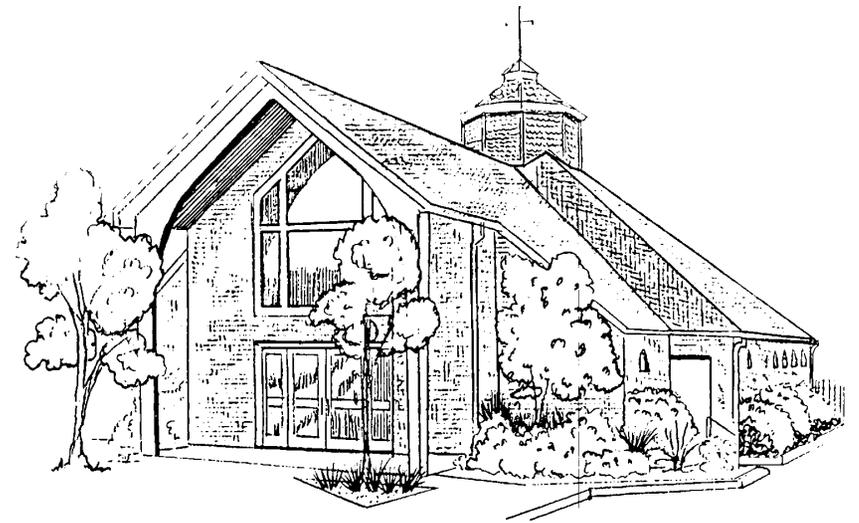


**St. Basil Antiochian Orthodox Church**  
**The Most Reverend Metropolitan SABA, Archbishop of New York**  
**And Metropolitan of all North America**  
**The Right Reverend Bishop NICHOLAS, Auxiliary Bishop**  
**Of the Diocese of Miami and the Southeast**  
**The Very Reverend Father Peter Nugent,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

**The Holy Priest-Martyr Neophytus**

Neophytus was born in Nicaea. While he was still a child and with God's grace, he worked great miracles. Neophytus brought forth water from a rock and raised his dead mother. He was led by a white dove to Mount Olympus where he drove a lion from its cave and there, took up residence. At age 15, he was tortured for Christ in Nicaea during the reign of Emperor Diocletian. By no means would he deny Christ. After beatings and imprisonment, Neophytus was thrown into the fire, but God preserved his life. Then, they placed him before a hungry lion, but the lion ingratiated himself to Neophytus. The saint recognizing this lion as the same one in whose cave he practiced asceticism, began to pet him and ordered the lion to return to the cave. Then Neophytus was pierced with a lance and his soul took up habitation in the mansion of the Lord.

**St. Basil**  
**Antiochian**  
**Orthodox Church**



**January 21, 2024**  
**12<sup>th</sup> 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:** Colossians 3:4-11

**Gospel Reading:** Luke 17:12-19

## Saints of the Day

Venerable Maximos the Confessor; Martyr Neophytos of Nicaea; Venerable Zosimas, Bishop of Syracuse in Sicily; Virgin-martyr Agnes of Rome; Venerable Maximos the Greek of Russia.

## 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. 20<sup>th</sup> – Great Vespers & Confessions, 5:00 P.M.  
Sunday, Jan. 21<sup>st</sup> – Orthros, 8:30 A.M.; Divine Liturgy, 9:30 A.M.  
Saturday, Jan. 27<sup>th</sup> – Great Vespers & Confessions, 5:00 P.M.  
Sunday, Jan. 28<sup>th</sup> – Orthros, 8:30 A.M.; Divine Liturgy, 9:30 A.M.  
Friday, Feb. 2<sup>nd</sup> – Orthros; 9:00 A.M.; Divine Liturgy, 10:00 A.M.  
Saturday, Feb. 3<sup>rd</sup> – Great Vespers & Confessions, 5:00 P.M.  
Sunday, Feb. 4<sup>th</sup> – Orthros, 8:30 A.M.; Divine Liturgy, 9:30 A.M.  
Saturday, Feb. 10<sup>th</sup> – Great Vespers & Confessions, 5:00 P.M.  
Sunday, Feb. 11<sup>th</sup> – Orthros, 8:30 A.M.; Divine Liturgy, 9:30 A.M.

## **Orthodox Thoughts from Theo, the Parish Possum**



The year 1054 will be remembered for the “Great Schism” between the Eastern and Western Christian churches when the Pope excommunicated the Patriarch of Constantinople. The split was, in fact, a long time in coming. For at least six centuries, the Western and Eastern churches had developed cultural and theological differences. There were arguments over whether the Patriarch of Rome or the Patriarch of Constantinople is “first among equals.” There was also a dispute about the “filioque clause” in the Nicene-Constantinopolitan Creed. The Eastern church insisted that the Holy Spirit descended only from God the Father and not, as the West contended, from both the Father and the Son. Indeed, the Roman prelate believed that he could alter the ancient Creed without the consent of an ecumenical council. In later years, the Roman church went on to declare that the Pope is infallible on theological matters and that the Theotokos, not just Christ, was immaculately conceived. The Roman church decreed the celibacy of clergy and the existence of purgatory which are not shared by the Orthodox church. After the Crusaders brutally sacked Constantinople in 1204, there was little love lost between the East and West. Sadly, there was never a reconciliation and no ecumenical council to reunify the churches has been possible. While we await the second coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, let us not dwell on our differences with our Roman brothers and sisters but rejoice in much of the ancient faith that we hold in common—Theo.

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***Spiritual Counsels...***

“Strike a scoffer, and the simple will learn prudence; reprove a man of understanding, and he will gain knowledge.” Proverbs 19:25

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**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.

House blessings are occurring this time of year. Please see Fr. Peter to schedule the blessing of your home.

Dear parents, Our Sunday School classes are now gearing up to get ready for the PLC Creative Festivals. They have been learning about this year's theme "And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His Purpose." This year we will hold three workshops after church to give them time to get their submissions ready. These workshops will be on January 21, February 18 & March 24 from 12pm to 4pm.

The Parish Council is scheduled to hold its January meeting today, Jan. 21<sup>st</sup>, after Divine Liturgy. All Council members please attend.

The Ladies Guild will have their annual Secret Santa gift exchange/ social on January 21, 2024. All ladies in the parish are invited to join, please bring a wrapped gift if you would like to participate in our white elephant game. Gifts should be under but not over \$20. Regardless of whether or not you play our game, it's always a fun time!

Please join us on February 3, 2024 at 1pm to learn about The Living Icon Connection - Mother of God with Guest speaker Iconographer, Cheryl Pituch \$15 - includes a tea lunch.

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

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