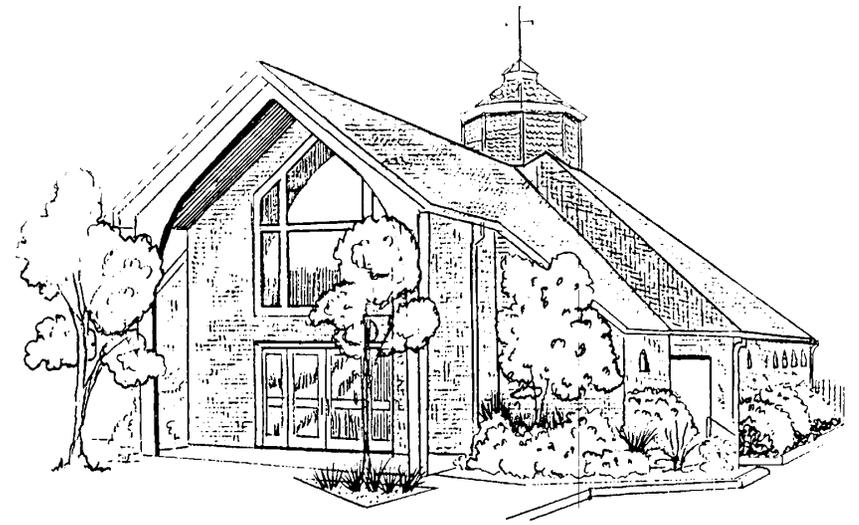


St. Basil Antiochian Orthodox Church
The Most Reverend Metropolitan SABA, Archbishop of New York
And Metropolitan of all North America
The Right Reverend Bishop NICHOLAS, Auxiliary Bishop
Of Miami and the Southeast
The Very Reverend Father Peter Nugent, Pastor
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St.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

His predecessor, Patriarch Paul secretly, relinquished the throne, entered a monastery and received the Schema [The Great Angelic Habit]. Irene and Constantine reigned at the time. By Paul's counsel, Tarasius, a senator and royal advisor, was chosen as patriarch in the year 783 A.D. He was quickly elevated through the ecclesiastical ranks and became patriarch. A man of great learning and great zeal in the Orthodox Faith, Tarasius accepted this rank reluctantly in order to assist Orthodoxy in the struggle against heresies, especially against Iconoclasm. During his tenure, the Seventh Ecumenical Council [Nicaea, 783 A.D.] was convened, where Iconoclasm was condemned and the veneration of holy icons was confirmed and restored. Tarasius was very charitable toward orphans and the poor, creating for them shelters and distributed food to them. Toward the powerful, Tarasius was decisive in his defense of faith and morals. When Emperor Constantine banished Maria, his lawful wife and took a kinswoman and lived with her, and sought a blessing for marriage from the patriarch, Tarasius not only refused him a blessing, but first counseled him, after that reproached him, and finally forbid him to receive Holy Communion. Before his death, many saw how Tarasius replied to the demons saying: "I am not guilty of this sin! I am not guilty either of that sin!" Until his weakened tongue could no longer speak, he then began to defend himself with his hands driving away the demons. When he expired, his face lightened up as the sun. This truly great hierarch died in the year 806 A.D. He governed the Church for 22 years and four months.

St. Basil
Antiochian
Orthodox Church



February 25, 2024
Sunday of the Publican and Pharisee

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: Timothy 3:10-15

Gospel Reading: Luke 18:10-14

Saints of the Day

Tarasios, archbishop of Constantinople; Hieromartyrs Reginos, bishop of Skopelos, and Markellos, bishop of Apamea in Syria; Martyr Alexander of Markianopolis.

A Message from the Parish Council

Dear Parishioners, note that the Annual Parish meeting will take place on Sunday, March 18, after the Liturgy. At that time, we will approve reports, elect Parish Council members and vote on the budget for the year. If you wish to submit your name nor any other names for nomination to the Parish Council, please give them to me or Father Peter no later than February 18. To vote at the meeting, you must be a member of the parish for at least one year, have completed the Parish Registration/ Pledge Form and return it to the church office, and be in good sacramental standing with the Church and good financial standing with the parish—Rob Booms, Council Chairman.

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Saturday, Feb. 24th – Great Vespers & Confessions, 5:00 P.M.
Sunday, Feb. 25th – Orthros, 8:30 A.M.; Divine Liturgy, 9:30 A.M.
Saturday, March 2nd – Great Vespers & Confessions, 5:00 P.M.
Sunday, March 3rd – Orthros, 8:30 A.M.; Divine Liturgy, 9:30 A.M.
Saturday, March 9th – Great Vespers & Confessions, 5:00 P.M.
Sunday, March 10th – Orthros, 8:30 A.M.; Divine Liturgy, 9:30 A.M.
Saturday, March 16th – Great Vespers & Confessions, 5:00 P.M.
Sunday, March 17th – Orthros, 8:30 A.M.; Divine Liturgy, 9:30 A.M.
Wednesday, March 20th – Presanctified Liturgy 6:30 P.M.
Friday, March 22nd – Akathist Hymn (1st Stasis) 6:30 P.M.

Orthodox Thoughts from Theo, the Parish Possum



Another Mardi Gras has passed in New Orleans. Partying and parades ended for many Roman Catholics and other Christians with the imposition of ashes on Ash Wednesday. As they start Lent, believers are called to penitence and reminded that they are made of ashes and ultimately will return to ashes. Orthodox people are sometimes asked why this somber ritual is not observed in Orthodoxy. The so-called Great Lent for Orthodox people starts on “Clean Monday”, March 18 this year, the day after Cheesefare or Forgiveness Sunday. There are no ashes given because the emphasis in the Orthodox faith is not on death or bodily mortification. It is not about displaying one’s piety to others with a cross marked on the forehead. As Father Thomas Hopko said, Lent is not “a season of morbidity and gloominess” but “a time of joyfulness and purification.” Orthodox believers are sad because they have sinned. Yet, they are also glad because they have found the true faith which promises salvation. In the words of one of the hymns for Clean Monday: “Let us joyfully begin the all-hallowed season of abstinence; and let us shine with the bright radiance of the holy commandments of Christ our God. So clothed in raiment of light, let us hasten to the Holy Resurrection.” Father Hopko rightly teaches us that “it is our repentance that God desires, not our remorse. We sorrow for our sins, but we do so in the joy of God’s mercy.”—Theo

Spiritual Counsels...

“Wine is a mocker, strong drink a brawler; and whoever is led astray by it is not wise” Proverbs 20:1

ANNOUNCEMENTS

There is no fasting from Saturday, Feb. 24, until Tuesday, March 5, inclusive. The meat fast begins Monday, March 11. Great Lent begins Monday, March 18.

The **Ladies Guild** is having their second annual Breakfast Bonanza!!! Please join us on Meat Fare Sunday, March 10, for a breakfast feast to enter into the Great Fast. \$13 age 13 & up, \$6 age 7 to 12, 6 and under eat free.

Meatfare Week begins on Monday, March 11. From that date until PASCHA it is our tradition to refrain from eating meat and meat products. From Pure Monday, March 18, we observe the traditional fasting discipline of Great and Holy Lent (no meat, poultry, eggs, dairy, fish, alcohol and oil) during the entire Great Fast, which lasts from Pure Monday through Great and Holy Saturday. On Saturdays and Sundays, however, alcohol and oil are allowed, except on Great and Holy Saturday when no oil is permitted. Fish, alcohol and oil are permitted on the Feast of the Annunciation (March 25) and Palm Sunday (April 28).

Our **Annual General Parish Meeting** is scheduled for March 17, 2024, after Divine Liturgy and shall convene in the Church Hall. All members of the parish are encouraged to attend the meeting. Those adults, who have been a member of the parish for at least one year, have completed the Parish Registration/Pledge Form and returned it to the church office, and are in good sacramental with the Church and good financial standing with the parish, are eligible to vote.

Our annual **Wine and Cheese Social** shall be held on Cheesefare Sunday, March 17th, in the Church Hall after Divine Liturgy. Please bring enough wine, cheese and crackers for yourself and friends.

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. The next workshop is March 24 from 12pm to 4pm.

Fr. Peter will meet with all catechumens in the church after coffee hour on Sunday, March 24.

Approximately 100 **Red Carnations** are needed for the veneration of the Holy Cross on Sunday, April 7. If you are interested in donating all or part of these flowers, please fill out one of the envelopes in the narthex and on the "Special Occasion" line, please write, "Red Carnations." Include your commemorations, donation and turn the envelope in to the church office. Thank you.

The **Sacrament of Holy Confession** is good for the health and salvation of the soul and body. For long-term, good, physical health, regular visits to the family doctor are appropriate. Likewise, care for our souls is a necessity. If it is your desire to receive the Eucharist at Great and Holy PASCHA, then please make every effort to care for your soul and have confession at least once during Great Lent.

Lenten potluck meals shall be served after Presanctified Liturgies on Wednesday evenings during Great Lent.

Today's Coffee Hour: Team 4