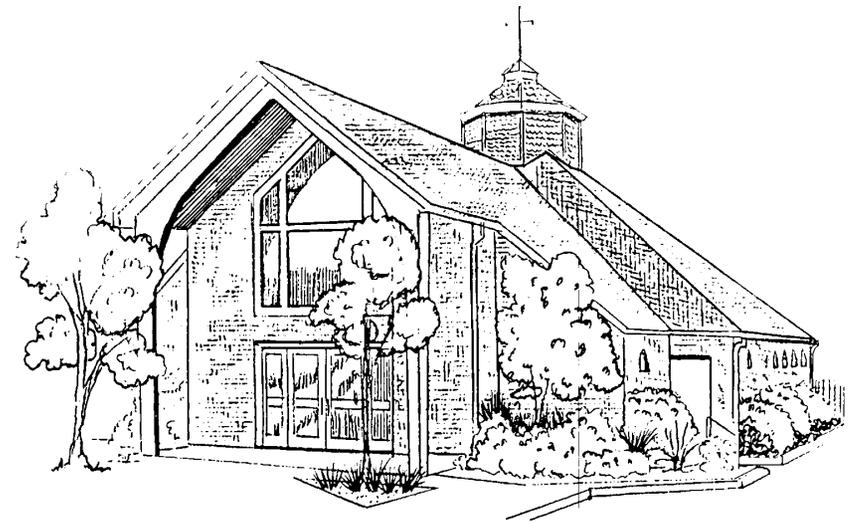


St. Basil Antiochian Orthodox Church
The Most Reverend Metropolitan SABA, Archbishop of New York
And Metropolitan of all North America
The Right Reverend Bishop NICHOLAS, Auxiliary Bishop
Of the Diocese of Miami and the Southeast
The Very Reverend Father Peter Nugent, Pastor
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St.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

Varied are the paths upon which God leads those who desire to please Him and to fulfill His Law. In the time of Emperor Honorius (393-423), there lived in Rome a high imperial dignitary, Euphemianus, very eminent and very rich. Both he and his wife, Agalaïs, lived lives pleasing to God. Although he was rich, Euphemianus sat down to table only once a day, at sunset. They had an only son, this Alexis, who, when he was grown up, was compelled to marry. But, on the night of the wedding, he left not only his wife, but also his father, took ship and went to the town of Edessa in Mesopotamia, where the wonderful Face of the Lord Himself, sent to King Abgar, was kept. Having venerated this Face, Alexis dressed himself in simple clothing and lived for 17 years as a poor man in that town, constantly praying to God in the porch of the Church of the Mother of God. When he became known as a holy man, he shunned the praise of men and so went off and took a ship that was going to Laodicea. By the providence of God, the ship went off course and took him right to Rome. Regarding this as a cross from God, Alexis decided to go to his father's house and there, unknown, continue his life of self-denial. His father did not recognize him, but out of charity allowed him to live in his courtyard in a little shack. There Alexis spent 17 further years, living only on bread and water. Molested by the servants in many ways, he persevered to the end. And when the end drew near, he wrote a few words on a single sheet of paper, held it in his hand, lay down and breathed his last, on March 17, 411. Then a voice was heard in the Church of the Holy Apostles, saying to the Emperor, who was present, and the Patriarch: 'Look for the Man of God.' Shortly afterwards, it was revealed that this Man of God was in Euphemianus' house. The Emperor, the Pope and their whole escort came to Euphemianus' house and, after lengthy questioning, discovered that the poor man was the Man of God. When they went into his shack, they found him dead with his face shining like the sun. His parents discovered from the paper that he was their son, Alexis; and his bride, who had lived for 34 years without him, that this was her husband, and they were overcome by immeasurable sorrow and grief. But then they were comforted, seeing how God had glorified His chosen one. For, on touching his body, many of the sick were healed, and a sweet myrrh came forth from it. He was buried in a coffin of marble and emerald. His head is preserved in the Church of St. Laurus in the Peloponnese.

St. Basil
Antiochian
Orthodox Church



March 17, 2024
Forgiveness Sunday

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: Romans 13:11-14; 14:1-4

Gospel Reading: Matthew 6:14-21

Saints of the Day

Venerable Alexios, the 'Man of God,' Theosteriktos the Confessor of Pelecete Monastery; Patrick, bishop of Armagh and enlightener of Ireland; Venerable Makarios of Kalyazin; Paul the righteous martyr.

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, 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.
Saturday, March 23rd – Great Vespers & Confessions, 5:00 P.M.
Sunday, March 24th – Orthros, 8:30 A.M.; Divine Liturgy, 9:30 A.M.
Wednesday, March 27th – Presanctified Liturgy 6:30 P.M.
Friday, March 29th – Akathist Hymn (2nd Stasis) 6:30 P.M.
Saturday, March 30th – Great Vespers & Confessions, 5:00 P.M.
Sunday, March 31st – Orthros, 8:30 A.M.; Divine Liturgy, 9:30 A.M.
Wednesday, April 3rd – Presanctified Liturgy 6:30 P.M.
Friday, April 5th – Akathist Hymn (3rd Stasis) 6:30 P.M.
Saturday, April 6th – Orthros, 9:00 A.M.; Divine Liturgy, 10:00 A.M.
Saturday, April 6th – Great Vespers & Confessions, 5:00 P.M.
Sunday, April 7th – Orthros, 8:30 A.M.; Divine Liturgy, 9:30 A.M.
Wednesday, April 10th – Presanctified Liturgy 6:30 P.M.
Friday, April 12th – Akathist Hymn (4th Stasis) 6:30 P.M.
Saturday, April 13th – Great Vespers & Confessions, 5:00 P.M.
Sunday, April 14th – Orthros, 8:30 A.M.; Divine Liturgy, 9:30 A.M.

Orthodox Thoughts from Theo, the Parish Possum



The Holy Orthodox Church presents us with a wonderful gift during Great Lent. Beginning with the Sunday of the Publican and the Pharisee, the Church uses the ancient prayers and chants of the Triodion. This book is used during the forty days of the Great Fast until Vespers on Holy Saturday. Parts of the Triodion were composed during the second and third centuries and others are over a thousand years old. Each day of Great Lent has psalms, prayers, chants and readings from the Old Testament. The book contains hymns by St. Romanos the Melodist, St. Andrew of Crete, St. John of Damascus, and the Prayer of St. Ephraim. Surprisingly, the Triodion emphasizes not the things that are forbidden, such as dietary restrictions, but a return to the blissful “normal” life once enjoyed by Adam and Eve. Father Alexander Schmemmann calls us to return to this “unknown and neglected book” to discover the need for a “spiritual” fast that prepares us to properly celebrate the Resurrection of our Lord. The Triodion is available through internet booksellers and is a worthwhile addition to any Orthodox believer’s library. In its words: “Let us observe a fast acceptable and pleasing to the Lord. True fasting is to put away all evil, to control the tongue, to forebear from anger, to abstain from lust, slander, falsehood and perjury. If we renounce these things, then is our fasting true and acceptable to God.”—Theo

Spiritual Counsels...

“The sluggard does not plow in the autumn; he will seek at harvest and have nothing.” Proverbs 20:4

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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).

Each year we begin our Archdiocese-wide **Food For Hungry People Campaign** at this time. This campaign has raised millions of dollars over the 30+ years of its existence. Please take one of the coin boxes in the narthex home with you and place your coins in it during Great Lent and return the boxes at PASCHA. The proceeds will be collected and forwarded to the Archdiocese Chancery for distribution to the needy. May God bless your generosity and ascetic practice of almsgiving.

Our **Annual General Parish Meeting** is scheduled for today 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 in the Church Hall after Divine Liturgy today. 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 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.

God willing, Orthros and Divine Liturgy is scheduled for 9 A.M. and 10 A.M., respectively, for Saturday, April 6, for **Saturday of Souls**.

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 3. Thank you. **Next Week:** Team 4.