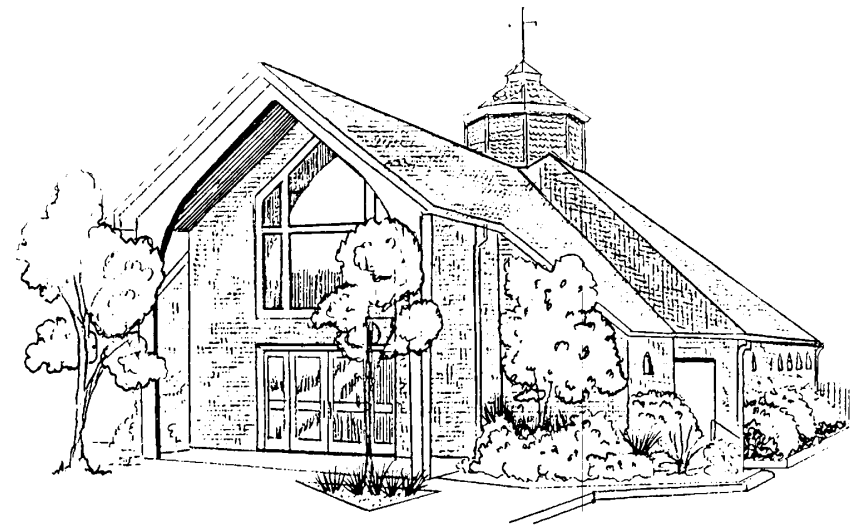


St. Basil Antiochian Orthodox Church
The Most Reverend Metropolitan SABA, Archbishop of New York
And Metropolitan of all North America
The Right Reverend Bishop NICHOLAS, Auxiliary Bishop
Of the Diocese of Miami and the Southeast
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The Holy and Great Virgin-martyr Irene

Irene lived in the Balkans during apostolic times in the town of Magedon. Her father Licinius was of lesser royal nobility. Some think that she was a Slav. Irene was born a pagan of pagan parents. Penelope was her pagan name. She learned about the Christian Faith from her teacher Appelianus. St. Timothy, the disciple of the Apostle Paul, baptized her and her court attendants and provided her with the epistles of the Apostle Paul to read. Refusing to marry, she enraged her father and he wanted to torture her but, in a miraculous manner, she converted her father to Christianity. Irene was subjected to various tortures by four kings, not counting her father but, God through His angels, spared her. King Sedechias buried her up to her neck in a ditch filled with snakes and scorpions but an angel of God made these venomous and repulsive creatures ineffective and saved the holy virgin from harm. King Sedechias then wanted to saw her in half but the saw rebounded from her body as from stone. After that, the same king tied her to a wheel under a water mill and released the flow of water hoping, in this manner, to kill her. But the water refused to flow, rather stood still and the virgin remained alive and well. King Sapor, the son of King Sedechias, shod her feet with nails, loaded a sack of sand on her, harnessed her and ordered that she be led like an animal far outside the town. "Truly, I am a beast before You, O Lord!" said the holy martyr, running bridled behind her torturers. However, an angel of God shook the earth and the earth opened up and swallowed her torturers. Surviving all tortures, by which she converted a countless number of pagans to Christianity, Irene entered the town of Callipolis [Gallipoli] where she preached the Faith of Christ. The local king Numerian wanted to kill her in this manner: he tossed her into three flaming hot metal oxen; one after the other. But the virgin was saved and remained alive. Many witnessed and believed. The Eparch [governor] Vaudon took her to the town of Constantina where he thought to kill her in this manner: he placed her on red-hot grates. But that did not harm St. Irene and she converted many to the True Faith. Finally, Irene arrived in the town of Mesembria where she was slain by King Sapor but God restored her to life. The king, with many of the people, upon witnessing this, believed in Christ and were baptized. Thus, St. Irene, by her suffering and miracles converted over 100,000 pagans to the Faith of Christ. Finally, she lay down in a grave and ordered Appelianus to close the grave. After four days, when they opened the grave, she was not in the grave. Thus, God glorified forever the virgin and martyr Irene, who sacrificed all and endured all so that God may be glorified among men.

St. Basil
Antiochian
Orthodox Church



May 5, 2024
Great and Holy Pascha

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.

Christ Is Risen! Indeed He Is Risen!

Epistle Reading: Acts of the Apostles 1:1-8

Gospel Reading: John 1:1-17

Saints of the Day

Great-martyr Irene of Thessalonika; Venerable Euthymios the wonder-worker, bishop of Maditos in Thrace; Monk Martyrs Neophytos, Gaius, and Caianus; Righteous Martyr Ephraim the Younger.

A Message from the Parish Council

Dear Parishioners, the following persons will serve as your Parish Council until the next annual meeting in 2025: Fr. Peter Nugent, Sevin Russell (Chairman), Stephen Pituch (Vice-Chairman), Bill Harrison (Treasurer), Elias Ioup (Secretary), Laurie Bolanos, Therese Dagher, Mark Fleming, Natalia Flint & Yordan Yordanov. Please pray for them, support them in their work and contact them if you have any questions or concerns about the Parish.

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Friday, May 3rd – Unnailing Vespers, 3:00 P.M.

Friday, May 3rd – Lamentations Orthros, 6:30 P.M.

Saturday, May 4th – Vespers Divine Liturgy, 10:00 A.M.

Saturday, May 4th – Rush Procession & Orthros, 11:00 P.M.

Sun., May 5th – Divine Liturgy of Great & Holy PASCCHA, 12:00 A.M.

Sunday, May 5th – Agape Vespers, 11:00 A.M.

Saturday, May 11th – Great Vespers & Confessions, 5:00 P.M.

Sunday, May 12th – Orthros, 8:30 A.M.; Divine Liturgy, 9:30 A.M.

Orthodox Thoughts from Theo, the Parish Possum



For the devout Orthodox believer, there are unlimited liturgical resources from which to draw strength. After the Great Lent, the penitential Triodion chants are left behind. A new historic text, the Pentecostarian, is used for worship services from the Great Sunday of Pascha until the Sunday of All Saints. The known authors are mostly from the 10th century. They include St. John Damascene, St. Andrew of Crete, and St. Joseph the Hymnographer. The first manuscript texts were in Greek and brought to the Kiev Caves Monastery in the eleventh century. The predominant theme of the Pentecostarian is water, including accounts of the miracles at the Sheep's Pool, the Well of Jacob, and the Pool of Siloam. The emphasis is on illumination, especially for those newly baptized during this season. The faithful are taught that Christ is the Living Water, received at Baptism and at the Eucharist, for the remission of sins and everlasting life. Many texts of the Pentecostarian are available online and are a rich source for prayer. From Matins of the Wednesday of Mid-Pentecost:

“With the streams of Thy Blood do Thou water my soul, which is grown dry and barren because of mine iniquities and offenses and show it forth to be fruitful in virtues. For Thou didst tell all to draw nigh Thee, O all-holy Word of God, and to draw forth the water of incorruption...for Thou art truly the Well-spring of life for all.” —
Theo

Spiritual Counsels...

“Even a child makes himself known by his acts, whether what he does is pure and right.” Proverbs 20:11

ANNOUNCEMENTS

There is no **Church School** on Sunday May 5.

Twelve dozen boiled, **red eggs** are needed for the Paschal Liturgy. If you would like to bring one or two dozen, please place them in the bowl provided on the auxiliary table at the front of the church temple prior to the beginning of the Paschal services. Thank you.

Please remember to return your **Food For Hungry People coin boxes** at Pacha.

The **Ladies Guild** is raffling off two bowls made by Dwight Gillis. Tickets are \$5 each and the drawing will be held on May 12, 2024. For more information, please see Tania Russell.

Trisagion prayers, God willing, shall be offered on Sunday, May 12, for the departed mothers and ladies of the parish. Please forward their names to the church office and identify them as either Orthodox or non-Orthodox Christians.

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