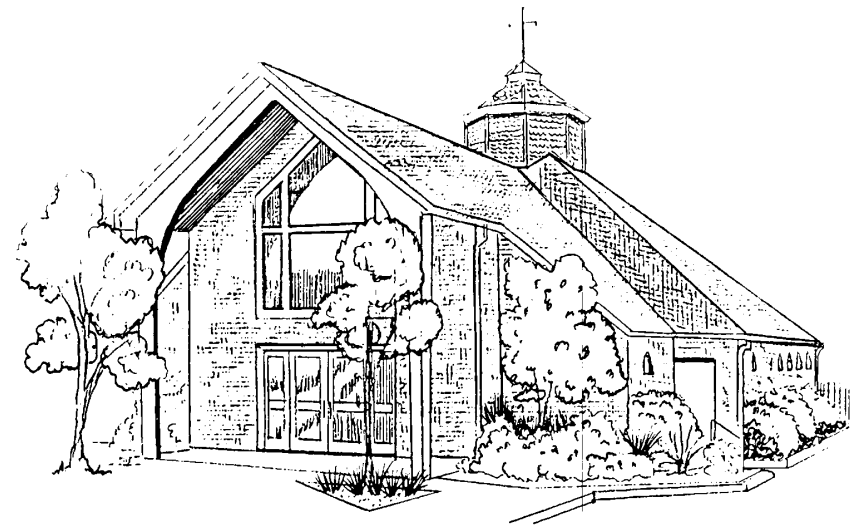


**St. Basil Antiochian Orthodox Church**  
**The Most Reverend Metropolitan SABA, Archbishop of New York**  
**And Metropolitan of all North America**  
**The Right Reverend Bishop NICHOLAS, Auxiliary Bishop**  
**Of the Diocese of Miami and the Southeast**  
**The Very Reverend Father Peter Nugent,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

Philaret was from the village of Amnia in Paphlagonia. Early in life, Philaret was a very wealthy man, but by distributing abundant alms to the poor he himself became extremely poor. However, he was not afraid of poverty, and, not heeding the complaints of his wife and children, he continued his charitable works with hope in God, Who said: *Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy* (Matt. 5:7). Once, while he was plowing in the field, a man came to him and complained that one of his oxen had died in the harness and that he was unable to plow with only one ox. Philaret then unharnessed one of his oxen and gave it to him. He even gave his remaining horse to a man who was summoned to go to war. He gave away the calf of his last cow, and when he saw how the cow pined for her missing calf, and the calf for the cow, he called the man and gave him the cow, too. And, thus, the aged Philaret was left without food in an empty house. But he prayed to God and placed his hope in Him. And God did not abandon the righteous one to be put to shame in his hope. At that time, the Empress Irene reigned with her young son, Constantine. According to the custom of that time, the empress sent men throughout the whole empire to seek the best and most distinguished maiden to whom she could wed her son, the emperor. By God's providence, these men happened to stay overnight in Philaret's house, and they saw his most beautiful and modest granddaughter Maria, the daughter of his daughter Hypatia, and took her to Constantinople. The emperor was well pleased with her, married her, and moved Philaret and all his family to the capital, giving him great honors and riches. Philaret did not become proud as a result of this unexpected good fortune; but, thankful to God, he continued to perform good works even more than he had before, and thus he continued until his death. At the age of 90, he summoned his children, blessed them, and instructed them to cleave to God and to God's law, and with his clairvoyant spirit he prophesied to all of them how they would live out this life, as once had Jacob. After that, he went to the Rodolfia Monastery and gave up his soul to God. At his death his face shone like the sun, and after his death an unusual, sweet fragrance came forth from his body and miracles took place at his relics. This righteous man entered into rest in the year 797. His wife, Theosevia, and all his children and grandchildren lived a God-pleasing life and reposed in the Lord.

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



**December 1, 2024**  
**The 23<sup>rd</sup> Sunday After Pentecost**  
**The 14<sup>th</sup> Sunday of St. 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:** Ephesians 2:4-10

**Gospel Reading:** Luke 18:35-43

## Saints of the Day

Prophet Nahum; Venerable Philaretos the Merciful of Amnia; Martyr Ananias the Persian; Anthony the New; Onesimus, archbishop of Ephesus; Theoklitos, archbishop of Lakedaemonias; Ananias and Solochon, archbishops of Ephesus; Leontius, bishop of Frejus; Eligius, bishop of Noyon.

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## Spiritual Counsels...

"The way of the guilty is crooked, but the conduct of the pure is right." Proverbs 21:8

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## WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Saturday, Nov. 30<sup>th</sup> – No Great Vespers & Confessions  
Sunday, Dec. 1<sup>st</sup> – Orthros, 8:30 A.M.; Divine Liturgy, 9:30 A.M.  
Saturday, Dec. 7<sup>th</sup> – Great Vespers & Confessions, 5:00 P.M.  
Sunday, Dec. 8<sup>th</sup> – Orthros, 8:30 A.M.; Divine Liturgy, 9:30 A.M.  
Saturday, Dec. 14<sup>th</sup> – Great Vespers & Confessions, 5:00 P.M.  
Sunday, Dec. 15<sup>th</sup> – Orthros, 8:30 A.M.; Divine Liturgy, 9:30 A.M.  
Saturday, Dec. 21<sup>st</sup> – Great Vespers & Confessions, 5:00 P.M.  
Sunday, Dec. 22<sup>nd</sup> – Orthros, 8:30 A.M.; Divine Liturgy, 9:30 A.M.  
Tuesday, Dec. 24<sup>th</sup> – Royal Hours of the Nativity, 9:00 A.M.  
Wed., Dec. 25<sup>th</sup> – Orthros, 9:00 A.M., Divine Liturgy, 10:00 A.M.  
Saturday, Dec. 28<sup>th</sup> – Great Vespers & Confessions, 5:00 P.M.  
Sunday, Dec. 29<sup>th</sup> – Orthros, 8:30 A.M.; Divine Liturgy, 9:30 A.M.  
Tuesday, Dec. 31<sup>st</sup> – Vespersal Divine Liturgy, 6:30 P.M.



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

In 1776, Thomas Paine made his famous observation that "these are the times that try men's souls." Almost 250 years later, our souls are still buffeted every day as we are exposed to news of mass starvation, political infighting and raging wars. As Orthodox Christians, we are blessed with tools to weather these trials. We are given seasons, such as the Christmas Fast, from November 15 to December 24, when we direct our thoughts and prayers away from worldly things. Rather than starting the day with the news, the Holy Fathers urge us to say the prayers for the First or Third Hours of the morning. They contain beautiful prayers such as: "Receive, O Lord, our prayers at this hour, and guide our life toward Thy commandments. Sanctify our souls, make chaste our bodies, correct our thoughts, purify our intentions, and deliver us from every sorrow, evil and pain. Compass us about with Thy holy angels, that, guarded and guided by their array, we may attain to the unity of the faith and to the knowledge of Thine unapproachable glory: For blessed art Thou unto the ages of ages. Amen." These prayers are a powerful antidote to the daily barrage of social media which can only awaken stress and anxiety. May we open our hearts to God's grace so that every day begins, at least for half an hour, with casting aside all earthly cares. —Theo

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The **Advent Fast** began Friday, November 15<sup>th</sup>, and is divided into two periods. The first period is Nov. 15–Dec. 19, with the traditional fasting discipline observed (no meat, poultry, dairy, eggs, fish, alcohol and oil). There is an allowance, however, for alcohol and oil on Tuesdays and Thursdays, and an allowance for alcohol, oil and fish on Saturdays and Sundays. The second period is Dec. 20–24, with the traditional fasting discipline observed. There is an allowance, however, for alcohol and oil only on Saturday and Sunday.

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, With great joy, the Ladies Guild would like to invite you to participate in our traditional Christmas Angels Project 2024, to benefit the students and their siblings of five families in great need from Bissonet Plaza Elementary School in Metairie. Like previous years, we offer this chance to give and give generously. Now through December 15<sup>th</sup>, parishioners may contribute to the effort of making these young children's happy and joyful holiday season. As an organization, we reach out into community during the end of each year to say WE CARE.

Please, make checks payable to **St. Basil Ladies Guild**. In memo, please write **Angels Project 2024**. Donations can be given to Tania Russell, Yazmin Incaprera, Diana Lindley or Paulina Kocic.

Thank you and God bless.

Fr. Peter will meet with the catechumens after coffee hour on Sunday, Dec. 8. The discussion is open everyone.

The **Ladies Guild** is scheduled to hold their December meeting on Sunday, Dec. 15, after Divine Liturgy. All ladies of the parish are invited to attend.

A **Christmas Party** is planned for the youth of the parish on Sunday, Dec. 15, after coffee hour. All kids of the parish are invited to attend. For more information, please see **Pam Nugent**.

Our annual **Christmas Pageant** is scheduled for Sunday, December 22, after Divine Liturgy. Those parents who wish to have their children participate in the pageant should see **Pam Nugent**.

The **Parish Council** is scheduled to hold their December meeting on Sunday, Dec. 22, after Divine Liturgy. All Council members please attend.

The **Royal Hours for the Feast of the Nativity of Christ** will be served, God willing, on Tuesday, December 24, at 9:00 A.M.

God willing, Orthros and Divine Liturgy for the **Feast of the Nativity of Christ** is scheduled for Wednesday, December 25, at 9:00 A.M. and 10:00 A.M., respectively.

A **Vespertine Divine Liturgy for the Feast of St. Basil the Great**, is, God willing, scheduled for Tuesday, Dec. 31, at 6:30 P.M. The Vasilopita will be offered in the Church Hall afterward.

**Today's Coffee Hour:** Team 4. Thank you. **Next Week:** Team 1.