

**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**  
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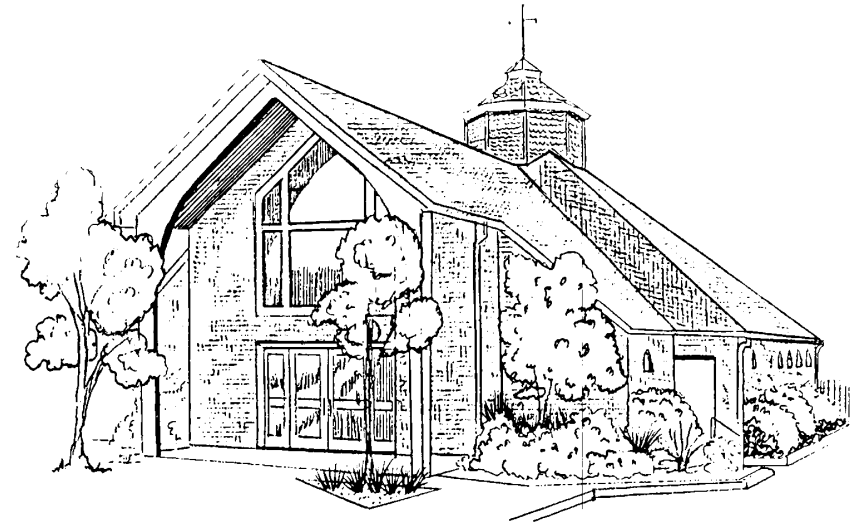
**The Venerable Nikon of the Monastery of the caves in Kiev**

Nikon was a companion of St. Anthony of the Caves and a spiritual father to the Venerable Theodosius. Because of the monastic tonsuring of the Boyar Barlaam and of the eunuch Ephrem, Nikon was threatened by Prince Izjaslav; but his wife, the princess, turned the anger of the prince into the fear of God. Then Nikon, the holy one, was left in peace. Wanting to adorn the church with icons, Nikon implored God for assistance. As a result of his prayers, certain Greek iconographers unexpectedly came to Kiev from Constantinople. St. Anthony and St. Theodosius appeared to these iconographers in a vision and directed them to Nikon in Kiev. Nikon was praised because of his courageous asceticism and spiritual wisdom. Against his will, Nikon, in his old age, became the abbot of Pecier. He presented himself to the Lord in the year 1066 A.D. His incorruptible relics are persevered in the Monastery of the Caves in Kiev.

(\*) In the Greek Synaxarion and the Athonite Patericon, the Neomartyr Luke, who was born in Jedren is commemorated on this day. As a child he was captured in Constantinople by the Turks and was circumcised. Because of this, he had bitter pangs of conscience. He considered circumcision the devil's mark on him, which could only be destroyed through martyrdom for Christ. Tonsured a monk on Mt. Athos, he went with his Elder Bessarion to Mytilene and there was hanged by the Turks on March 23, 1802. Hanging in the air, the body of the martyr emitted a fragrant oil (Chrism).

***from: The Prologue from Ochrid***

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



**March 23, 2025**  
**The Third Sunday of Great Lent**

# 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:** Hebrews 4:14-5:6

**Gospel Reading:** St. Mark 8:34-9:1

## Saints of the Day

Venerable-martyr Nikon of Sicily and with him 199 disciples;  
Venerable-martyr Luke of St. Anne Skete on Athos.

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## Spiritual Counsels...

"He who keeps his mouth and his tongue keeps himself out of trouble." – Proverbs 21:23

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## Orthodox Thoughts from Theo, the Parish Possum

During Great Lent, Orthodox Christians are expected to fast from many foods, go to confession, and regularly attend Divine Liturgy. But Lent is also a time for reflection. It can be helpful to receive guidance from the spiritual books passed down to us by the saints. One which stands out is The Ladder of Divine Ascent. It was written by St. John Climacus (of the ladder), who is commemorated on March 30 and on the Fourth Sunday of Great Lent. St. John served as Igumen of the famous monastery of St. Catherine at the foot of Mt. Sinai. He lived there from age 16 until his death in 649 at the age of 80. The "Ladder" is required reading in most monasteries during Lent and has been cited by many over the years including the Russian peasant-author of The Way of the Pilgrim, and Tsar Ivan the Terrible. The book provides a framework for "raising the soul to God" which St. John likens to climbing a ladder. While intended for monks, the book offers a thirty step-guide for attaining spiritual perfection. In his ending exhortation, St. John says "Ascend my brothers, ascend eagerly. Let your hearts' resolve be to climb... Run, I beg you, run with him who said, "Let us hurry until we all arrive at the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of God, at mature manhood, at the measure of Christ's fullness."—Theo

## WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Friday, March, 21<sup>st</sup> – Akathist Hymn, 3<sup>rd</sup> Stasis, 6:30 P.M.

Saturday, March 22<sup>nd</sup> – Great Vespers & Confessions, 5:00 P.M.

Sunday, March 23<sup>rd</sup> – Orthros, 8:30 A.M.; Divine Liturgy, 9:30 A.M.

Tues., March 25<sup>th</sup> – Orthros, 9:00 A.M.; Divine Liturgy, 10:00 A.M.

Wednesday, March 26<sup>th</sup> – Presanctified Divine Liturgy, 6:30 P.M.

Friday, March, 28<sup>th</sup> – Akathist Hymn, 4<sup>th</sup> Stasis, 6:30 P.M.

Saturday, March 29<sup>th</sup> – Great Vespers & Confessions, 5:00 P.M.

Sunday, March 30<sup>th</sup> – Orthros, 8:30 A.M.; Divine Liturgy, 9:30 A.M.

Wednesday, April 2<sup>nd</sup> – Presanctified Divine Liturgy, 6:30 P.M.

Friday, April 4<sup>th</sup> – Akathist Hymn, 6:30 P.M.

Saturday, April 5<sup>th</sup> – Great Vespers & Confessions, 5:00 P.M.

Sunday, April 6<sup>th</sup> – Orthros, 8:30 A.M.; Divine Liturgy, 9:30 A.M.

Wednesday, April 9<sup>th</sup> – Presanctified Divine Liturgy, 6:30 P.M.

Sat., April 12<sup>th</sup> – Orthros, 9:00 A.M.; Divine Liturgy, 10:00 A.M.

### **WORSHIP SCHEDULE CONTINUED**

Saturday, April 12<sup>th</sup> – Great Vespers & Confessions, 5:00 P.M.  
Sunday, April 13<sup>th</sup> – Orthros, 8:30 A.M.; Divine Liturgy, 9:30 A.M.  
Sunday, April 13<sup>th</sup> – Bridegroom Orthros, 6:30 P.M.  
Monday, April 14<sup>th</sup> – Bridegroom Orthros, 6:30 P.M.  
Tuesday, Apr. 15<sup>th</sup> – Bridegroom Orthros, 6:30 P.M.  
Wednesday, April 16<sup>th</sup> – Sacrament of Holy Unction, 6:30 P.M.  
Thursday, April 17<sup>th</sup> – Vespereal Divine Liturgy, 10:00 A.M.  
Thursday, April 17<sup>th</sup> – Orthros of the 12 Passion Gospels, 6:30 P.M.  
Friday, April 18<sup>th</sup> – Royal Hours, 9:00 A.M.  
Friday, April 18<sup>th</sup> – Unnailing Vespers, 3:00 P.M.  
Friday, April 18<sup>th</sup> – Lamentations Orthros, 6:30 P.M.  
Saturday, April 19<sup>th</sup> – Vespereal Divine Liturgy, 10:00 A.M.  
Saturday, April 19<sup>th</sup> – Rush Procession & Orthros, 11:00 P.M.  
Sun., April 20<sup>th</sup> – Divine Liturgy of Great & Holy PASCHA, 12:00 AM  
Sunday, April 20<sup>th</sup> – Agape Vespers, 11:00 A.M.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Meatfare Week begins on Monday, Feb. 24. From that date until PASCHA, it is our tradition to refrain from eating meat and meat products. From Pure Monday, March 3, 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 13).

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

The **Sacrament of Holy Confession** is good for the health & salvation of the soul & 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 & Holy PASCHA, then please make every effort to care for your soul & have confession at least once during Great Lent.

Each year we begin our Archdiocese-wide **Food For Hungry People Campaign** at this time. 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 office for distribution. May God bless your generosity and ascetic practice of almsgiving.

Thank you to all persons who attended and/or assisted with our **Annual General Parish Meeting** last Sunday. A special thank you is given to our outgoing Parish Council member, **Natalya Flint**, who so ably assisted us the last three years. **Sevin Russell** and **Stephen Pituch** were each re-elected for a three-year term. **Ayman Diab** was appointed by Fr. Peter for a three-year term. **Andy Mahoney** was elected to fill a one-year vacancy on the Council. Returning to the Parish Council for one more year are **Therese Dagher** and **Bill Harrison**. Returning to the Council for two more years are **Elias Ioup**, **Laurie Bolanos** and **Mark Fleming**. Congratulations to all our Council members and may God grant you many years.

**Bookstore News:** Purchases can now be made using the QR code by the clipboard in the bookstore area. Please see Kathleen Field or Elias Ioup for more information. (Remember to jot down your items on the clipboard, however you may pay for them.)

The **Parish Council** is scheduled to hold their March meeting today, March 23, after Divine Liturgy. All Council members please attend.

Fr. Peter will meet, God willing, with the inquirers and catechumens after coffee hour on Sunday, March 30.

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