

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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The Venerable Publius

At first, Publius was a senator. Recognizing the light of Christ, he left his worldly honors, distributed his possessions to the poor and devoted himself to a life of asceticism in the proximity of his town Zeguma on the Euphrates River. He established two monastic communities and died in the year 380 A.D.

from: The Prologue from Ochrid

St. Basil
Antiochian
Orthodox Church



January 25, 2026
The 15th 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.

***As Orthodox Christians** it is always appropriate to stand (still) at the following times: the beginning and ending of all divine services, during a censuring of any kind, when the Holy Gospel is being read or when the homily is given, when others are receiving Holy Communion, during a blessing, e.g., "Peace be to all." Likewise, if you arrive at church during the reading of an epistle, gospel or the homily, please remain in the narthex until the homily is finished, then quietly seat yourself. Of course, if you have physical limitations, exceptions are understood.*

Epistle Reading: Hebrews 7:26-8:2

Gospel Reading: St. Luke 19:1-10

Saints of the Day

Gregory the Theologian, archbishop of Constantinople; Venerable Demetrios; New-martyr Auxentios of Constantinople.

Spiritual Counsels...

"My son, if your heart is wise, my heart, too, will be glad. My soul will rejoice when your lips speak what is right." – Proverbs 23:15, 16.

Orthodox Thoughts from Theo, the Parish Possum



It is difficult to avoid the daily news stories about the destruction of almost every building in Gaza. Less publicized is the fate of Gaza's Orthodox Christian community, one of the oldest in the world. It is part of the Greek Orthodox Patriarchate of Jerusalem. Christians settled in Gaza in the third century. However, paganism prevailed until St. Porphyrius converted the population in the fifth century through his healing ministry and by miraculously ending a drought. He persuaded Emperor Heraclius to allow Christian churches and, by the end of the sixth century, Christians were predominant in Gaza. But, over the years, Gaza became increasingly Muslim. After Hamas took control in 2007, many Christians left Gaza. During the current war with Israel, the death toll has further reduced their number. Even though the Christian community was active in sheltering and providing relief to non-Christian Gazans, their churches were bombed by Israeli Defense Forces. The historic church of St. Porphyrius, in which the saint is buried, was damaged in 2023. In 2024, a missile penetrated the roof of the church hall when it was full of people. Miraculously, it failed to detonate. At this time in 2026, there are fewer than 1,000 Orthodox in Gaza and they are at risk of extinction. It is sad to see the demise of this historic Orthodox community. Pray to St. Porphyrius for the safety and salvation of Orthodox Christian Gazans. May the Lord yet preserve their ministry. —Theo

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Saturday, Jan. 24th – Great Vespers & Confessions, 5:00 P.M.

Sunday, Jan. 25th – Orthros, 8:30 A.M.; Divine Liturgy, 9:30 A.M.

Saturday, Jan. 31st – No Great Vespers & Confessions

Sunday, Feb. 1st – Readers Typica Service, 9:30 A.M.

Saturday, Feb. 7th – Great Vespers & Confessions, 5:00 P.M.

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

Saturday, Feb. 14th – Orthros, 9:00 A.M.; Divine Liturgy, 10:00 A.M.

Saturday, Feb. 14th – Great Vespers & Confessions, 5:00 P.M.

Sunday, Feb. 15th – Orthros, 8:30 A.M.; Divine Liturgy, 9:30 A.M.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Our **Annual Pledge Drive** is currently underway for the calendar year 2026. All adult members of the parish are encouraged to complete and return a pledge form to the church office. All pledges are held in strict confidence. Only the total number of pledges and the total pledge amount is made available to the public. Your financial support of our church community is your support of yourself and your contribution to help insure you and your family has a place to worship. Pledge forms, house blessing forms, 2026 calendars and boxed sets of donation envelopes may be found in the church hall. Thank you and God bless you.

We fast Wednesday and Friday this week.

Fr. Peter will meet with all **inquirers and catechumens** after coffee hour next Sunday, Jan. 25, in the nave of the church. The discussion is open to everyone.

God willing, Fr. Peter shall be out of town from Tuesday, Jan. 27, until Sunday, Feb. 1. Should you need the assistance of an Orthodox priest, please contact Fr. George Wilson at Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral at 504-282-0259.

Fr. George Wilson has welcomed us to celebrate the **Feast of the Presentation of our Lord in the Temple** at Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral on Monday, Feb. 2. Orthros begins at 8:15 A.M. and Divine Liturgy begins at 9:45 A.M.

Next meeting for **The Art of Myrrh Bearing** will be **February 7th at 11am.** **There has been a location change for this meeting.** This meeting will now be held in the church hall. We will focus on the first eight chapters of Part Two p. 71-116. **Future meetings will be held on the first Saturday of the month;** the time and place will be announced prior to each meeting. Dates for future meetings are March. 7, 2026, and May 2, 2026. Please see Tania Russell for more information.

On Saturday, February 14, God willing, Orthros and Divine Liturgy will be celebrated at 9 A.M. and 10 A.M., respectively, for the Saturday of Souls.

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

Our Littlest Members

Christ said, "Let the little children come to Me, and do not forbid them; for such is the kingdom of heaven" (Matthew 19:14). In the Orthodox Church, we embrace and welcome our littlest parishioners to join in the Divine Liturgy. They are our future and we want them raised from birth involved in the liturgical experience.

While generally, silence and stillness are valued in worship, the noise of children, especially if they are playfully making noise or expressing themselves, is often viewed as a part of the joyful and vibrant nature of Orthodox worship. It is considered "Holy Noise." The beautiful, resonating sound of our children's cooing or laughter is warming to our hearts.

However, if your child should become fussy, out of control, or inconsolable, please be respectful to those around you and leave the Nave to provide comfort for our little member. They can be brought outside or to St. Basil's Comfort Room. Once consoled and in good spirits, return with our sweet parishioner to resume the liturgy.

Please also remember that there is **NO FOOD** allowed in church and that includes baby formula (bottle-feeding) and snacks. If our little one is hungry, please bring them to the St. Basil's Comfort Room to feed them. The exception to that is our breastfed little ones. Breastfeeding during worship services is acceptable, but with a focus on discretion and modesty.

To our parents of little ones, we join you in loving prayer and support as you raise the next generation of Orthodox believers. GOD BLESS YOU!

ST. BASIL-NORTHSHORE ANNOUNCEMENTS

God being our helper, the Northshore Orthodox community shall have their next worship service at St. Michael's Episcopal Church, February 8, at 5:00 P.M. The address is 4499 Sharp Road, Mandeville, Louisiana, 70471. Everyone is welcome to the occasion, Orthodox Christians as well as non-Orthodox. Food and drinks are welcome for the social hour afterward. The next dates of worship are Sundays, March 8, and April 19 at St. Michael Church at 5:00 P.M.