

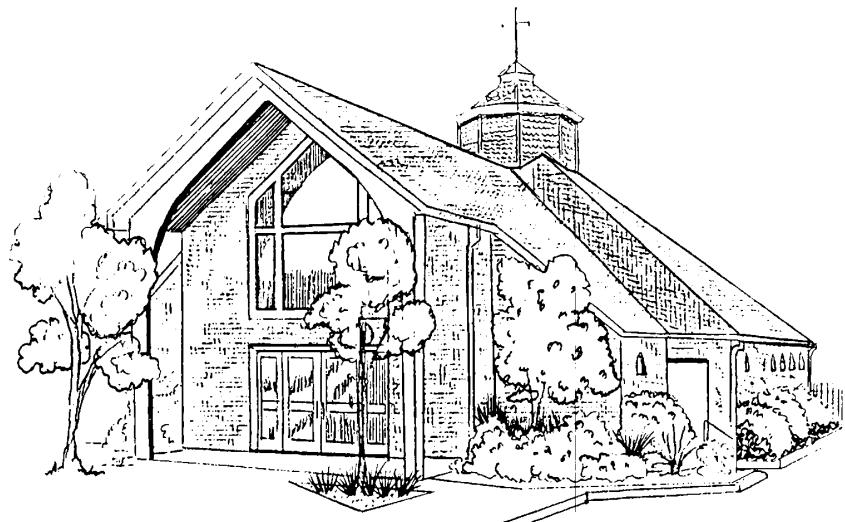
St. Basil Antiochian Orthodox Church
The Most Reverend Metropolitan SABA, Archbishop of New York
And Metropolitan of all North America
The Right Reverend Bishop NICHOLAS, Auxiliary Bishop
Of the Diocese of Miami and the Southeast
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The Holy Prophet Zechariah

The eleventh of the Minor Prophets, he worked together with the Prophet Haggai to persuade Prince Zerubbabel to restore the Temple in Jerusalem. He prophesied the solemn entry of Christ into Jerusalem on a colt, the foal of an ass and Judas's betrayal for 30 pieces of silver: 'They weighed for my price thirty pieces of silver', and the forsaking of Christ by His apostles at the time of His Passion: 'Smite the shepherd and the sheep shall be scattered.' He entered into rest in the second year of the reign of Darius Hystapes, in about 520 B.C.

from: The Prologue from Ochrid

St. Basil Antiochian Orthodox Church



February 8, 2026
The Sunday of the Prodigal Son

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 censing 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: 1 Corinthians 6:12-20

Gospel Reading: St. Luke 15:11-32

Saints of the Day

Apostle Onesimos of the Seventy; Venerable Eusebios of Syria; Martyr Major of Gaza; Venerable Dalmatos of Siberia.

Spiritual Counsels...

"Let not your heart envy sinners, but continue in the fear of the Lord all the day. Surely, there is a future, and your hope will not be cut off." – Proverbs 23:17, 18

Orthodox Thoughts from Theo, the Parish Possum



As Orthodox believers prepare for Great Lent, a great resource for study and reflection is **The Philokalia**. This is a compilation of writings, from the 4th through the 15th centuries, by the Holy Orthodox Church's greatest Fathers. Originally published in Greek in 1782, it became available in English for the first time in a five-volume paperback edition in 2024. Metropolitan Kallistos (Ware), author of **The Orthodox Church**, devoted much of his life to translating and editing the Greek text. An introduction is provided for each author along with an index and glossary of key terms. While some of it is difficult reading, the writings nevertheless provide powerful advice on how to achieve spiritual wholeness and union with God. Metropolitan Kallistos has six video lectures to guide the reader. They are available on YouTube at "AE44 The Philokalia." A representative sample of the wisdom to be gained from this important work is from St. Mark the Ascetic: "Bring before your eyes the blessings, whether physical or spiritual, conferred upon you from the beginning of your life to the present, and call them repeatedly to mind in accordance with the words: 'Forget not all His benefits.' Then your heart will readily be moved to the fear and love of God, so that you will repay Him, as far as you can, by your strict life, virtuous conduct, devout conscience, wise speech, true faith and humility—in short, by dedicating your whole self to God." —Theo

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

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.

Saturday, Feb. 21st – Great Vespers & Confessions, 5:00 P.M.

Sunday, Feb. 22nd – Orthros, 8:30 A.M.; Divine Liturgy, 9:30 A.M.

Sunday, Feb. 22nd – Forgiveness Vespers, immediately after liturgy

Wednesday, Feb. 25th – Presanctified Liturgy, 6:30 P.M.

Friday, Feb. 27th – Akathist Hymn (1st Stasis), 6:30 P.M.

Saturday, Jan. 28th – Great Vespers & Confessions, 5:00 P.M.

Sunday, March 1st – 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.

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.

The Middle Eastern Ladies are having a **Lenten food sale** today and Sunday, February 22. Please see their flyer or speak to Nadia Khashou, Therese Dagher or Alexa Hamauei for details.

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.

The Ladies Guild is having their fourth annual **Breakfast Bonanza!!!** Please join us for breakfast on Meatfare Sunday, February 15, 2026. Tickets are on sale now at \$13 for ages 13 & up, \$6 ages 7-12 and kids 6 & under eat free. Please make sure to get your tickets in advance as tickets will not be sold on the day of. For tickets, please see Yazmin Incaprera, Jane Shamitko, or Diana Lindley. Please note that due to the Breakfast Bonanza, we will not be having our regular coffee hour.

Meatfare Week begins on Monday, Feb. 16. From that date until PASCHA it is our tradition to refrain from eating meat and meat products. From Pure Monday, Feb. 23, 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 5).

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.

Our annual **Wine and Cheese Social** shall be held on Cheesefare Sunday, Feb. 22nd, in the Church Hall after Divine Liturgy. Please bring enough wine, cheese and crackers for yourself and friends.

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.

Approximately 100 **Red Carnations** are needed for the veneration of the Holy Cross on Sunday, March 15. 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.

Today's Coffee Hour: Team 2. Thank you. Next Week: Team 3.

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-NORTHSORE 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.