

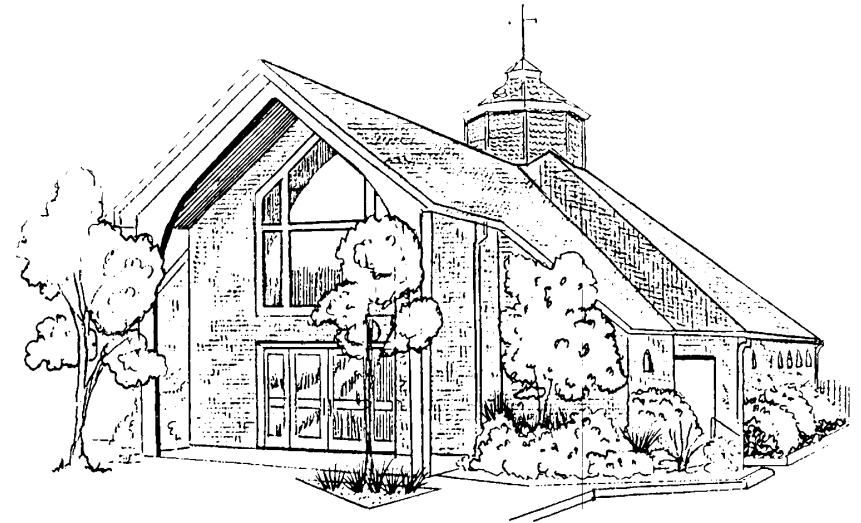
St. Basil Antiochian Orthodox Church
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And Metropolitan of all North America
The Right Reverend Bishop NICHOLAS, Auxiliary Bishop
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The Holy and Blessed Basil, "Fool for Christ" of Moscow

Basil's father was named Jacob and his mother Anna. At age 16, he dedicated himself to a life of asceticism as a "Fool for Christ" and in this difficult mortification persevered for 72 years. Altogether, he lived to be 88 years old. He traveled barefooted, bareheaded and in rags. He did not have any permanent dwelling place. He admonished sinners, reprimanded the noblemen, prophesied the truth and had visions of distant places. Having suffered greatly from hunger, frost and from the insults of men, Blessed Basil presented his holy soul to God. Tsar Ivan, with the Metropolitan, attended his funeral. He is buried in Moscow in the Church of the Most-holy Birth-giver of God, later named after him.

from: The Prologue from Ochrid

St. Basil Antiochian Orthodox Church



August 2, 2026
The 9th Sunday of St. Matthew

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.

*The weather is always very warm during the summer months. While we need to dress comfortably because of this please remember that **shorts or above-the-knee attire, strapless garments, “spaghetti” strap garments, sleeveless or “tanktop” type garments, and tight-fitting, open or low-cut garments are not appropriate, especially for men, women and teenagers. It has always been our tradition to dress modestly and without drawing attention to oneself. Thank you.***

Epistle Reading: I Corinthians 3:9-17

Gospel Reading: St. Matthew 14:22-34

Saints of the Day

The procession of the Cross; The seven Maccabean youths, their mother Solomonia and Eleazar their teacher, martyrs; Venerable martyr Elessa of Kythera.

Spiritual Counsels...

These also are sayings of the wise: Partiality in judging is not good. He who says to the wicked, “You are innocent,” will be cursed by peoples, abhorred by nations; but those who rebuke the wicked will have delight, and a good blessing will be upon them. – Prov. 24:23-25.



Orthodox Thoughts from Theo, the Parish Possum

Since most parishioners never enter the Sanctuary, little is known by most Orthodox about the furnishings behind the Iconostasis. On the Altar, there is always a rectangular cloth called the Antimension. In Greek, the word means “in place of a table.” It depicts the Entombment of Christ. The four Evangelists are shown in the corners. Sewn into it is a small relic of a Saint. (At St. Basil, the Antimension contains a relic of St. James the Apostle). The Antimension identifies the church name, the date the Antimension was issued and the Bishop’s signature. This cloth is, in effect, the permission slip for celebrating the Eucharist at a particular Orthodox church. Such cloths have been in use since the late 12th century when clergy, in addition to Bishops, were needed to celebrate the Eucharist. Ordinarily, the Antimension is not removed from the Altar. As a consecrated object, it may only be touched by a Bishop. Priest or Deacon. In emergencies, or with the Bishop’s permission, the Antimension may be used as a portable Altar. St. Basil has been granted the right to use its Antimension for the celebration of the Eucharist at the Northshore Mission. During the Liturgy, the Antimension is unfolded and the Eucharist is celebrated upon it. When not in use, the Antimension stays under the Gospel book on the Altar folded within a second wine-colored cloth known as the Eiliton. Thanks be to God for our Mother Church. — Theo

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Saturday, Aug. 1st – Great Vespers & Confessions, 5:00 P.M.

Sunday, Aug. 2nd – Orthros, 8:30 A.M.; Divine Liturgy, 9:30 A.M.

Thursday, Aug. 6th – Orthros, 9:00 A.M.; Divine Liturgy, 10:00 A.M.

Saturday, Aug. 8th – Great Vespers & Confessions, 5:00 P.M.

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

Saturday, Aug. 15th – Orthros, 9:00 A.M.; Divine Liturgy, 10:00 A.M.

Saturday, Aug. 15th – Great Vespers & Confessions, 5:00 P.M.

Sunday, Aug. 16th – Orthros, 8:30 A.M.; Divine Liturgy, 9:30 A.M.

Saturday, Aug. 22nd – Great Vespers & Confessions, 5:00 P.M.

Sunday, Aug. 23rd – Orthros, 8:30 A.M.; Divine Liturgy, 9:30 A.M.

Saturday, Aug. 29th – Great Vespers & Confessions, 5:00 P.M.

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ATTENTION ST. BASIL FAMILY: It is once again time to update our **coffee hour teams**. As you know, life has a way of bringing families in and out of our wonderful parish. With this in mind it is time to see if any of our new or long-time families would like to be part of our coffee hour traditions by joining one of our teams. It is such a joyous occasion to be able to break the fast together on Sunday and enjoy good food and good company. Please consider joining one of our coffee hour teams and being a part of this wonderful event. For more information or to sign up, please see **Tania Russell**.

The **Dormition Fast** began Saturday, August 1st, with the traditional fasting discipline observed (no meat, poultry, dairy, eggs, fish, alcohol and oil). There is an allowance for alcohol, oil and fish on Thursday, Aug. 6th, for the Feast of the Transfiguration of our Lord, and an allowance for alcohol and oil on Saturdays and Sundays. The fast ends on the Feast of the Dormition of the Theotokos on Saturday, August 15.

God willing, Orthros and Divine Liturgy shall be celebrated on Thursday, Aug. 6, at 9 A.M. and 10 A.M., respectively, for the **Feast of the Transfiguration of our Lord**.

The **blessing of the grapes**, God willing, shall occur at the end of Divine Liturgy for the Feast of the Transfiguration. Those persons, who interested in bringing grapes to be blessed, are encouraged to do so.

God willing, the **Ladies Guild** is scheduled to hold its August meeting on Sunday, Aug. 9th, after Divine Liturgy. All ladies of the parish are invited to attend.

God willing, Orthros and Divine Liturgy shall be celebrated on Saturday, Aug. 15, at 9 A.M. and 10 A.M., respectively, for the **Feast of the Dormition of the Theotokos**.

The Middle Eastern ladies of the parish are preparing a **luncheon for the Feast of the Dormition of the Theotokos** on Sunday, Aug. 16. Please see **Nadia Khashou, Alexa Hamauei** or **Therese Dagher** for details.

Parents and Church School teachers please note **Church School** shall begin, God willing, on Sunday, Aug. 23, after Divine Liturgy. A blessing prayer for all students returning to school shall be offered on Sunday, Aug. 16.

Today's Coffee Hour: Team 1. Thank you. Next Week: Team 2.

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 Saturday, August 8, at 10:00 A.M. The address is 4499 Sharp Road, Mandeville, Louisiana, 70471. Everyone is welcome, Orthodox Christians as well as non-Orthodox. Food and drinks are encour-

aged for the social hour afterward. The next dates of worship are Saturdays, September 12, October 24, November 14, and December 12, at St. Michael Church at 10:00 A.M.