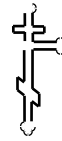




St. Basil Antiochian Orthodox Church
 The Very Reverend Father Peter Nugent, Pastor
 3916 Hudson St. Metairie, LA 70006
www.stbasilneworleans.org * 504-888-8114 * sbno@att.net
 Saturday: Great Vespers & Confessions, 5:00 P.M.
 Sunday: Orthros, 8:30 A.M.; Divine Liturgy, 9:30 A.M.



December 14, 2014

The Sunday of the Forefathers of Christ

Tone 2 ~ Eothinon 5 ~ Ps. 109:8

CHRIST IS IN OUR MIDST! HE IS AND EVER SHALL BE!

Holy Communion is only open to those Orthodox Christians who are in good standing with the Church and have prepared themselves by prayer, fasting and a recent confession. If you are not in good standing with the Church or are not an Orthodox Christian please do not be offended by this. We welcome you to our church and invite you to receive a blessing and partake of the antidoron at the end of the Divine Liturgy.

Saints du Jour (December 14)

Martyrs Thyrsos, Leukios and Kallinikos of Apollonia; Martyrs Philemon, Apollonios, Hypatios and Arrianos of Alexandria.

Apolytikion of the Resurrection – Tone 2: When Thou didst submit Thyself unto death, O Thou deathless and immortal One, then Thou didst destroy Hell with Thy Godly pow’r, and when Thou didst raise the dead from beneath the earth all the pow’rs of heaven did cry aloud unto Thee: O Christ, Thou Giver of life, glory to Thee.

Apolytikion of the Holy Forefathers – Tone 4: Thou hast justified by faith the ancient forefathers and through them Thou hast gone before and betrothed unto Thyself the Church of the Gentiles. Let the saints, therefore, take pride in glory; for from their seed sprouted forth a noble fruit, and she it was who gave birth to Thee without seed. Wherefore, by their pleadings, O Christ God, save our souls.

Apolytikion of St. Basil the Great – Tone 1: Into all the world that received thy word went out thy voice; thereby didst thou divinely teach, explaining the nature of existing things and ordering the conduct of men. O venerable father, royal priesthood Basil, intercede with Christ our God for the salvation of our souls.

Kontakion Preparatory for the Nativity of Christ – Tone 3: Today the Virgin cometh to the cave to give birth in an ineffable manner to the pre-eternal Word. Rejoice, therefore, O universe, when thou hearest, and glorify with the angels and shepherds Him Who shall appear by His Own will as a new Child, the pre-eternal God.

Prokeimenon: Blessed are You, O Lord, the God of our Fathers.

Verse: For You are just in all You have done.

Epistle: The reading is from St. Paul’s Letter to the Colossians.
 (Chapter 3:4-11)

BRETHREN, when Christ, Who is our life, appears then you also will appear with Him in glory. Put to death, therefore, what is earthly in you: fornication, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. On account of these the wrath of God is coming upon the sons of disobedience. In these you once walked, when you lived in them. But now put them all away; anger, wrath, malice, slander, and foul talk from your mouth. Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old nature with its practices and have put on the new nature, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator. Here there cannot be Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free man, but Christ is all, and in all.

Gospel: The reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Luke
 (Chapter 14:16-24)

The Lord spoke this parable, “A man once gave a great banquet and invited many; and at the time for the banquet he sent his servant to say to those who had been invited, ‘Come, for all is now ready.’ But, one by one, they all began to make excuses. The first said to him, ‘I have bought a field and I must go out and see it; I pray you, have me excused.’ And another said, ‘I have bought five yoke of oxen and I go to examine them; I pray you, have me excused.’ And another said, ‘I have married a wife and, therefore, I cannot come.’ So the servant came and reported this to his master. Then the householder in anger said to his servant, ‘Go out quickly to the streets and lanes of the city and bring in the poor and maimed and blind and lame.’ And the servant said, ‘Sir, what you commanded has been done and still there is room.’ And the master said to the servant, ‘Go out to the highways and hedges and compel people to come in that my house may be filled. For I tell you, none of those men who were invited shall taste my banquet. For many are called, but few are chosen.’”

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Saturday, Dec. 20th – Great Vespers & Confessions, 5:00 P.M.
 Sunday, Dec. 21st – Orthros, 8:30 A.M., Divine Liturgy, 9:30 A.M.
 Wednesday, Dec. 24th – Orthros, 7:00 P.M. Divine Liturgy, 8:00 P.M. (Nativity of Christ)
 Saturday, Dec. 27th – Great Vespers & Confessions, 5:00 P.M.
 Sunday, Dec. 28th – Orthros, 8:30 A.M., Divine Liturgy, 9:30 A.M.
 Wednesday, Dec. 31st – Vesperal Divine Liturgy, 6:30 P.M. (St. Basil the Great)
 Saturday, Jan. 3rd – Great Vespers & Confessions, 5:00 P.M.
 Sunday, Jan. 4th – Orthros, 8:30 A.M.; Divine Liturgy, 9:30 A.M.
 Monday, Jan. 5th – Vesperal Divine Liturgy, 6:30 P.M. (Theophany of our Lord)
 Tuesday, Jan. 6th – Badnjak Service, 6:30 P.M.
 Saturday, Jan. 10th – Great Vespers & Confessions, 5:00 P.M.
 Sunday, Jan. 11th – Orthros, 8:30 A.M.; Divine Liturgy, 9:30 A.M.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The **Advent Fast** began Saturday, November 15th, 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.

Church calendars, the end-of-year mailing, and boxed offering envelopes for each person/family are available in the Church Hall. Please remember to get yours today!

For Christmas, the **Ladies Guild** is sponsoring the children from several Jefferson Parish families that have fallen on hard times. We are asking for help from members of the parish in making their Christmas a little brighter. On **Dec. 7**, we will post information on each one in a list on the bulletin board and then put up angels for each next to the list. The information will include age, sizes for any clothes you might want to buy and a wished-for item. If you want to help brighten a child's Christmas, follow the steps below:

- 1) Write your name on the list next to the child for whom you wish to buy presents.
- 2) Then take the angel for that child from the board. Keep this with you to help you shop.
- 3) Bring your gifts to the designated table in the church hall by **Dec. 21** at the latest. Put a label on the gifts to identify the child for whom the gifts are intended. Gift-wrapping is welcomed but optional. We will wrap those that come unwrapped.
- 4) Cash donations are also welcome. We will use the money to buy gifts for children that are not selected. Cash donations are due by **Dec. 14** so that we have time to shop. Give your donations to either **Tania Russell** or **Yazmin Incaprera**. Thank you.

The **Ladies Guild** shall hold their monthly meeting today, Dec. 14, after Divine Liturgy. All ladies of the parish are invited to attend.

The **Parish Council** shall hold their monthly meeting next Sunday after Divine Liturgy. All council members please attend.

Our annual **Christmas Pageant** will be held after Divine Liturgy on Sunday, Dec. 21st. Parents interested in having their children participate in the pageant should see **Khouriyeh Pam**.

The church bulletin is available by email. Please tell Fr. Peter if you would like to receive it.

As of Nov. 30, 2014, 39 pledges were received totaling \$76,985.00. The budget approved at our Annual General Parish Meeting was for \$136,480.00. Approximately \$2,625/week is needed in donations to meet this obligation. The collection for December 7, 2014, totaled \$966 for a year-to-date total of \$107,862.43 (~\$2,227/week). We are approximately \$20,776 short of where we need to be at this time.

Spiritual Counsels...

“When virtuous men are in power, the people are joyful, when the wicked rule, the people groan.”

Proverbs 29:2

Holy Martyrs Thyrsus, Leucius and Callinicus

Saints Thyrsus and Leucius were honorable citizens of Caesarea of Bithynia, the former being baptized and the latter being a Christian catechumen. Callinicus, however, was a pagan priest. When Emperor Decius's heir, Cumbrius, began to mercilessly torture and murder Christians, the fearless Leucius appeared before him and, reproaching him, said: "Why have you waged war against your own soul, O Cumbrius?" The enraged judge ordered that he be flogged, tortured and finally beheaded. The tortured Leucius went to his beheading as joyfully as if he were going to a wedding. Witnessing the death of the courageous Leucius, blessed Thyrsus, inflamed with divine zeal like that of Leucius, also appeared before the judge and reproached him for his evil crimes and for his unbelief in the One True God. He also was flogged and cast into prison. The invisible hand of God healed him of his wounds, opened the prison door and led him out. Thyrsus immediately went to Phileas, the Bishop of Caesarea, to be baptized by him. After his baptism, he was again seized and tortured, but he endured the tortures, bearing them as though in a dream and not in reality. By the power of his prayer, many idols fell down. The pagan priest Callinicus, upon seeing this, converted to the Christian Faith, and both he and Thyrsus were condemned to death. Callinicus was beheaded, and they placed Thyrsus in a wooden coffin to be sawn in half. However, the power of God would not permit this, and the saw was unable to cut into the wood. Then St. Thyrsus arose from the coffin and prayed to God, rendering Him thanks for the tortures, and he peacefully gave up his soul to his Lord. At the end of the fourth century, the Emperor Flavian built a church to St. Thyrsus near Constantinople and placed his holy relics in it. The saint appeared in a vision to Empress Pulcheria and counseled her to bury the relics of the Forty Martyrs alongside his.

from: The Prologue from Ochrid