



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

**The Very Reverend Father Peter Nugent, Pastor**

**3916 Hudson St. Metairie, LA 70006**

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**Saturday: Great Vespers & Confessions, 5:00 P.M.**

**Sunday: Orthros, 8:30 A.M.; Divine Liturgy, 9:30 A.M.**



**February 26, 2017**

**The Sunday of Forgiveness (Cheese Fare)**

**Tone 3 ~ Eothinon 3**

*Forgive me, a sinner. God forgives and so do I.*

### **To Our Guests:**

**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.** If you are not in good standing with the Church or are not an Orthodox Christian please do not be offended by this. 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. 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.

### ***The Mission of St. Basil Antiochian Orthodox Church...***

We love and worship God, proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ through the teachings of the Holy Orthodox Christian Faith, and serve those in our parish, our larger community, and God's people everywhere through worship, prayer, fellowship, education, charity, and outreach.

### ***The Vision of St. Basil Antiochian Orthodox Church...***

St. Basil Antiochian Orthodox Church is committed to growth: growth of our members spiritually, and growth of our members in the participation of parish life. We are committed to the education in the faith of our members and non-members. We will identify and initiate strategies to increase the involvement of the teens and the 20-40 age group of the parish. We will reach out to the larger community with invitations and messages about the Holy Orthodox Christian Faith and St. Basil Antiochian Orthodox Church. We will identify and implement strategies to enhance our financial stability.

### **Saints du Jour (February 26)**

Porphyrios, bishop of Gaza; Great-martyr Photeini the Samaritan Woman and those with her; Martyr Theoklitos and those with him; New Martyr John of Constantinople.

***Apolytikion of the Resurrection – Tone 3:*** Let the heavens rejoice and the earth be glad for the Lord hath done a mighty act with His own arm. He hath trampled down death by death and became the First-born from the dead. He hath delivered us from the depths of Hades, granting the world the great mercy.

***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 of the Sunday of Cheese Fare – Plagal Tone 2:*** Teacher of Wisdom, Bestower of virtue, who teachest the thoughtless and protectest the poor: Strengthen and enlighten my heart, O Master. Give me word, O Word of the Father, for behold my lips will not be restrained from crying to thee: Have mercy on me, the transgressor, O merciful Lord.

***Prokeimenon:*** Sing praises to our God, sing praises.

***Verse:*** Clap your hands, all you nations.

***Epistle:*** The reading is from St. Paul's Letter to the Romans.

(Chapters 13:11-14; 14:1-4)

BRETHREN, salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed; the night is far gone, the day is at hand. Let us then cast off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; let us conduct ourselves becomingly as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

As for the man who is weak in faith, welcome him, but not for disputes over opinions. One believes he may eat anything, while the weak man eats only vegetables. Let not him who eats despise him who abstains, and let not him who abstains pass judgment on him who eats; for God has welcomed him. Who are you to pass judgment on the servant of another? It is before his own master that he stands or falls. And he will be upheld, for God is able to make him stand.

***Gospel:*** The reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew

(Chapter 6:14-21)

The Lord said, "If you forgive men their trespasses your heavenly Father also will forgive you; but if you do not forgive men their trespasses neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.

And when you fast do not look dismal like the hypocrites for they disfigure their faces that their fasting may be seen by men. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you fast anoint your head and wash your face that your fasting may not be seen by men but by your Father Who is in secret; and your Father Who sees in secret will reward you openly.

Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasure in heaven where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is there will your heart be also."

### **WORSHIP SCHEDULE**

Wednesday, March 1<sup>st</sup> – Presanctified Liturgy, 6:30 P.M.

Friday, March 3<sup>rd</sup> – Presanctified Liturgy, 10:00 A.M.

Friday, March 3<sup>rd</sup> – Akathist Hymn, 6:30 P.M. (1<sup>st</sup> Stasis)

Saturday, March 4<sup>th</sup> – No Great Vespers & Confessions

Sunday, March 5<sup>th</sup> – Orthros, 8:30 A.M.; Divine Liturgy, 9:30 A.M. (Sunday of Orthodoxy)

### **WORSHP SCHEDULE CONTINUED**

Sunday, March 5<sup>th</sup> – Sunday of Orthodoxy Vespers, 5:00 P.M.  
Wednesday, March 8<sup>th</sup> – Presanctified Liturgy, 6:30 P.M.  
Friday, March 10<sup>th</sup> – Presanctified Liturgy, 10:00 A.M.  
Friday, March 10<sup>th</sup> – Akathist Hymn, 6:30 P.M. (2<sup>nd</sup> Stasis)  
Saturday, March 11<sup>th</sup> – Orthros, 9:00 A.M.; Divine Liturgy, 10:00 A.M. (Saturday of Souls)  
Saturday, March 11<sup>th</sup> – Great Vespers & Confessions, 5:00 P.M.  
Sunday, March 12<sup>th</sup> – Orthros, 8:30 A.M.; Divine Liturgy, 9:30 A.M. (St. Gregory Palamas)  
Wednesday, March 15<sup>th</sup> – Presanctified Liturgy, 6:30 P.M.  
Friday, March 17<sup>th</sup> – Presanctified Liturgy, 10:00 A.M.  
Friday, March 17<sup>th</sup> – Akathist Hymn, 6:30 P.M. (3<sup>rd</sup> Stasis)  
Saturday, March 18<sup>th</sup> – Orthros, 9:00 A.M.; Divine Liturgy, 10:00 A.M. (Saturday of Souls)  
Saturday, March 18<sup>th</sup> – Great Vespers & Confessions, 5:00 P.M.  
Sunday, March 19<sup>th</sup> – Orthros, 8:30 A.M.; Divine Liturgy, 9:30 A.M. (Holy Cross Sunday)  
Wednesday, March 22<sup>nd</sup> – Presanctified Liturgy, 6:30 P.M.  
Friday, March 24<sup>th</sup> – Presanctified Liturgy, 10:00 A.M.  
Friday, March 24<sup>th</sup> – Great Vespers with Akathist Hymn, 6:30 P.M. (4<sup>th</sup> Stasis)  
Saturday, March 25<sup>th</sup> – Orthros, 9:00 A.M.; Divine Liturgy, 10:00 A.M. (Annunciation)  
Saturday, March 25<sup>th</sup> – Great Vespers & Confessions, 5:00 P.M.  
Sunday, March 26<sup>th</sup> – Orthros, 8:30 A.M.; Divine Liturgy, 9:30 A.M. (St. John Climacus)

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Today’s Ushers:** Sevin and Tania Russell. **Next Week:** Khouriyeh Pam Nugent and Emma Nugent.

The refinished chalice and discos set used in liturgy today was graciously sponsored by the **Ioup family—Juliette, Georgette, William, Elias, Sarah, Layla** and **Zayd**—in honor and memory of their beloved husband, brother and uncle, **George**. Thank you, and may his memory be eternal.

The holy bread is sponsored today by **Yana Fox** for the health of **Yana, Tatyana, Anatoliy, Svetlana, Michael** and **Vadim** (many years), and in memory of **James** and **Jason** (memory eternal).

**Coffee hour** is cheese fare potluck today. Thank you. **Next Sunday:** Team 3.

The Great Fast begins on Monday. We do not eat again until Pascha.

**Choir practice** is held on Sunday mornings at 8:30 A.M. Choir members and other members of the parish should see our choir director, **Andy Mahoney**, for more information.

Our Annual Pledge Drive is currently underway for the calendar year 2017. All adult members of the parish are encouraged to complete and return a pledge form to the church office. Pledge forms may be found in the narthex of the church building. 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. Thank you and God bless you.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS CONTINUED**

The **Ladies Guild** asks the women of the parish to attend the first Akathist service on Friday, March 4, sitting together as a group in front of the icon of the Theotokos.

In an intercommunity event, we shall host Fr. George Wilson and the faithful of Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral for the **Sunday of Orthodoxy Vespers** on Sunday, March 5, at 5:00 P.M. Refreshments shall be served after vespers. Please join us and get to know our Orthodox neighbors.

Meatfare Week begins on Monday, Feb. 20. From that date until PASCHA it is our tradition to refrain from eating meat and meat products. From Pure Monday, Feb. 27, 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, only alcohol. Fish, alcohol and oil are permitted on the Feast of the Annunciation (March 25) and Palm Sunday, April 9.

Each year we begin our Archdiocese-wide **Food For Hungry People Campaign** at this time. This campaign has raised millions of dollars over the 30+ years of its existence. 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 distributed to the needy. May God bless your generosity and ascetic practice of almsgiving.

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 Father expects you to 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 Wednesdays in Great Lent.

Approximately 100 **Red Carnations** are needed for the veneration of the Holy Cross on Sunday, March 19. 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.

On May 19-21, 2017, we shall celebrate the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our parish. His Grace Bishop ANTHONY of the Diocese of Toledo and the Midwest shall preside over our festivities. As gifts to the parish on this occasion, we are attempting to purchase a decorative chalice and discos set to use for Divine Liturgy during the festive periods of the year and on major feasts of the church. Approximately \$5,000.00 is needed to purchase this new set. To date we have \$800 in donations. An anonymous donor is challenging other members of the parish to match his donation of \$1,000.00. A picture of this chalice and discos set may be seen on the bulletin board outside the kitchen. Donations of any amount are welcome. Please see Fr. Peter if you wish to make a donation.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS CONTINUED**

As of Feb. 19, 2017, 33 pledges were received totaling \$81,100. The collection for Feb. 19, 2017, totaled \$2,070.25 for a year-to-date total of \$20,021.27, a weekly average of \$2,502.66. As of Feb. 23, 2017, our expenses are \$21,875.82, a weekly average of \$2,734.48.

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

#### ***Spiritual Counsels...***

“The heart that is wise is obedient to instruction, the gabbling fool is heading for ruin.” – Proverbs 10:8

### **Saint Porphyrius, Bishop of Gaza**

This great Arch-shepherd was born of wealthy parents in Thessalonica. From his youth, until age 25, Porphyrius remained in Thessalonica, the town of his birth. After that, he took leave of his parents and worldly life and withdrew to the wilderness of Egypt. Under the guidance of an experienced spiritual father, the young Porphyrius was tonsured a monk and remained there for five years. He then visited the Holy Land in the company of the monk Mark, his faithful companion. In the proximity of Jerusalem, he lived an ascetical life in a cave, again for five years. But then the legs of Porphyrius became weak and he was unable to walk. Nevertheless, crawling on his knees, he continually attended the Divine Services of God. One night, our Lord appeared to him of a vision and cured him of the infirmity in his legs and he became completely whole. When he was elected Bishop of Gaza, Porphyrius accepted this obligation with a heavy heart. In Gaza, he found only 280 Christians. All other inhabitants were very fanatical idolaters. Only by his great faith and patience did Porphyrius succeed to convert the inhabitants of Gaza to the Faith of Christ. He personally traveled to Constantinople to see Emperor Arcadius and Patriarch John Chrysostom to seek their support in this unequal struggle with the idolaters. He received the desired support. The idolatrous temples were closed and the idols destroyed and he built a beautiful church with 30 marble columns. Empress Eudoxia especially assisted in the building of this church. Porphyrius lived long enough to see the entire town of Gaza converted to the Christian Faith, but only after his many efforts, sufferings and prayerful tears to God. He died peacefully in the year 421 A.D. He was a miracle-worker both during his life and after his death. Even today, his relics repose in Gaza.

*from: The Prologue from Ochrid*