



St. Basil Antiochian Orthodox Church

His Eminence Metropolitan JOSEPH, Archbishop of New York

And Metropolitan of all North America

His Grace Bishop NICHOLAS, Auxiliary Bishop

Of the Diocese of Miami and the Southeast

The Very Reverend Father Peter Nugent, Pastor

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

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

April 15, 2018

The Sunday of St. Thomas the Apostle

Tone: Of the Feast ~ Eothinon: Of the Feast

Christ is in our Midst. He is and ever shall be.

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.

Please Note: Food and drinks in church are not appropriate except for life threatening circumstances. This includes, but is not limited to, snack items, cheerios, fruit, fruit snacks, sandwiches, meals, or drink items of any sort. If your child cannot wait until liturgy is over in order to eat, please take him or her to the church hall. Thank you.

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 (April 15)

Martyr Crescens of Myra in Lycia; Hieromartyr Leonidas, bishop of Athens.

Apolytikion of Thomas Sunday – Varys Tone: While the tomb was sealed, Thou didst shine forth from it, O Light. While the doors were closed, Thou didst come in to Thy disciples, O Christ God, Resurrection of all, renewing in us through them an upright spirit, according to the greatness of Thy mercy.

Kontakion of Pascha – Plagal Tone 4: When Thou didst descend into the grave, O Immortal, Thou didst destroy the power of hades. In victory Thou didst arise, O Christ God, proclaiming 'Rejoice' to the myrrh-bearing women, granting peace to Thine apostles and bestowing resurrection on the fallen.

Prokeimenon: Great is our Lord, and great is His power.

Verse: Praise the Lord, for the Lord is good.

Epistle: The reading is from the Acts of the Apostles.

(Chapter 5:12-20)

IN THOSE DAYS, many signs and wonders were done among the people by the hands of the apostles. And they were all together in Solomon's Portico. None of the rest dared join them, but the people held them in high honor. And more than ever believers were added to the Lord, multitudes of men and women, so that they even carried out the sick into the streets and laid them on beds and pallets that as Peter came by at least his shadow might fall on some of them. The people also gathered from the towns around Jerusalem bringing the sick and those afflicted with unclean spirits and they were all healed. But the high priest rose up and all who were with him, that is, the party of the Sadducees, and filled with jealousy they arrested the apostles and put them in the common prison. But at night an angel of the Lord opened the prison doors and brought them out and said, "Go and stand in the temple and speak to the people all the words of this Life."

Gospel: The reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. John

(Chapter 20:19-31)

On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being shut where the disciples were for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you." When He had said this He showed them His hands and His side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent Me, even so I send you." And when He had said this, He breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained." Now Thomas, one of the twelve, called the Twin, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see in His hands the print of the nails and place my finger in the mark of the nails and place my hand in His side, I will not believe." Eight days later His disciples were again in the house and Thomas was with them. The doors were shut, but Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." Then He said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see My hands and put out your hand and place it in my side; do not be faithless, but believing." Thomas answered Him, "My Lord and my God!"

GOSPEL CONTINUED

Jesus said to him, “Have you believed because you have seen Me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe.”

Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God and that believing you may have life in His Name.

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Saturday, April 21st – Great Vespers & Confessions, 5:00 P.M.
Sunday, April 22nd – Orthros, 8:30 A.M.; Divine Liturgy, 9:30 A.M.
Saturday, April 28th – Great Vespers & Confessions, 5:00 P.M.
Sunday, April 29th – Orthros, 8:30 A.M.; Divine Liturgy, 9:30 A.M.
Saturday, May 5th – Great Vespers & Confessions, 5:00 P.M.
Sunday, May 6th – Orthros, 8:30 A.M.; Divine Liturgy, 9:30 A.M.
Saturday, May 12th – Great Vespers & Confessions, 5:00 P.M.
Sunday, May 13th – Orthros, 8:30 A.M.; Divine Liturgy, 9:30 A.M.
Saturday, May 19th – Great Vespers & Confessions, 5:00 P.M.
Sunday, May 20th – Orthros, 8:30 A.M.; Divine Liturgy, 9:30 A.M.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today’s Ushers: Pam Nugent and Emma Nugent. **Next Sunday:** Rose Hrabar & Mihai Leustean.

Today’s **coffee hour:** Team 4. Thank you. **Next Sunday:** Team 5.

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

The **Parish Council** shall hold their monthly meeting next Sunday, April 22, after Divine Liturgy. All Council members please attend.

In the Antiochian tradition, there is a general dispensation from fasting from Pascha until the Feast of the Ascension of our Lord (May 17). (Remember... Our Lord said as long as the bridegroom was with the disciples they would not fast?)

Please remember to return your **coin boxes** at this time. The proceeds shall be tallied and forwarded to Ozanam Inn, which assists the homeless population in the New Orleans area. Thank you for your kindness and generosity.

The **2018 Parish Life Conference** for the Diocese of Miami and the Southeast is scheduled for Wednesday, June 13 – Saturday, June 16, 2018. The Conference is at the Hilton Palm Beach Airport Hotel in West Palm Beach, Florida. For more information, please see the flyers in the narthex.

Free English and Russian language classes started in October in the Church Hall. For more information, please see **Marianna Avery**. Thank you.

ANNOUNCEMENTS CONTINUED

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

As of April 12, 2018, 40 pledges were received totaling \$99,150. The collection for April 8, 2018, totaled \$2,943.00, for a year-to-date total of \$39,725.82, a weekly average of \$2,837.59. As of April 11, 2018, our expenses are \$39,219.19, a weekly average of \$2,801.37. The second collection (for the Patriarchate) totaled \$698 and is being forwarded to the Archdiocese Chancery.

Parish Council News from our Parish Council Chairman, Rob Booms:

Our social media team (Stephen Zelesnik and Elias Ioup) is working on updating our social media presence. If you have experience with Facebook page and website development, we could use your time and talents. Please contact Fr. Peter, Rob Booms or Stephen (Facebook) and Elias (Webpage), if you can help.

Please welcome the New Orleans Russian Community Center to our church. They are compensating us for use of the Parish Hall on several days of week. The Center will be offering Russian language instruction and cultural programs. It is part of our outreach to Orthodox people in the New Orleans area. If you are scheduling parish events, please coordinate dates with Fr. Peter so that no conflicts arise.

Many churches have an informal group, which meets for lunch in the community room of a restaurant. We could discuss an Orthodox book we're all reading or just visit about the challenges of being Orthodox in a secular society. If you're interested, please contact Rob Booms.

Spiritual Counsels...

“He who strives after good is striving after favor, he who looks for evil will have evil come to him.”
– Proverbs 11:27

The Synaxarion

On this day, the second Sunday of Pascha, we celebrate the inauguration of Christ's Resurrection, and the occasion whereon the Holy Apostle Thomas touched the Savior's side.

This day is called New Sunday, Thomas Sunday or Anti-Pascha. The last term means "in place of Pascha" because Thomas did not immediately hear of Christ's Resurrection and disbelieved it. We remember his doubt but do not repeat it. After this Sunday, the Church dedicates Sunday to the Resurrection.

As the Disciples were gathered together on the Sunday of the Resurrection, Jesus entered and greeted them in His usual way, saying, "Peace be unto you." Then He showed them His hands, feet and side. Jesus ate before His Disciples and reassured them of His Resurrection. However, Thomas was not with them at that time, and insisted upon seeing the Savior's scars—the print of the nails in His hands and feet, and the spear in His side—before he would believe that Jesus was risen. Eight days later Christ appeared again to the Disciples, this time with Thomas present. The Master told Thomas to see and feel. Then Thomas immediately cried out, "My Lord and my God!" But Jesus tells His Disciples, "Blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe." This event also clearly illustrates the human and divine Natures of Christ.