# 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 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 2, 2018The 27th Sunday after Pentecost and the 14th Sunday of St. LukeTone 2 ~ Eothinon 5

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 (December 2)

Prophet Habakkuk; Martyrs Abibos the New and Myrope of Chios; Our Righteous Father Cyril of Phileus; Venerable Theophilos and Andrew of Egypt; Urosh, Serbian king; Venerable Ioanikios of Devitch; Porphyrios of Kavsokalyvia; Theophilos the Hermit.

*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 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:* The Lord is my strength and my song.

Verse: The Lord has chastened me sorely.

**Epistle:** The reading is from St. Paul's Letter to the Ephesians. (Chapter 6:10-17)

BRETHREN, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we are not contending against flesh and blood, but against the principalities, against the powers, against the world rulers of this present darkness, against the spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. Therefore, take the whole armor of God that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Stand, therefore, having girded your loins with truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, and having shod your feet with the equipment of the gospel of peace; besides all these, taking the shield of faith, with which you can quench all the flaming darts of the evil one. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

# **Gospel:** The reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Luke (Chapter 18:35-43)

At that time, when Jesus drew near to Jericho, a blind man was sitting by the roadside begging; and hearing a multitude go by, he inquired what this meant. They told him, "Jesus of Nazareth is passing by." And he cried, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" And those who were in front rebuked him, telling him to be silent; but he cried out all the more, "Son of David, have mercy on me!" And Jesus stopped, and commanded him to be brought to Him; and when he came near, Jesus asked him, "What do you want Me to do for you?" He said, "Lord, let me receive my sight." And Jesus said to him, "Receive your sight; your faith has made you well." And immediately he received his sight and followed Jesus, glorifying God, and all the people, when they saw it, gave praise to God.

#### **WORSHIP SCHEDULE**

Thursday, Dec. 6<sup>th</sup> – Orthros, 9:00 A.M.; Divine Liturgy, 10:00 A.M. (St. Nicholas) Saturday, Dec. 8<sup>th</sup> – Great Vespers & Confessions, 5:00 P.M.
Sunday, Dec. 9<sup>th</sup> – Orthros, 8:30 A.M.; Divine Liturgy, 9:30 A.M.
Saturday, Dec. 15<sup>th</sup> – Great Vespers & Confessions, 5:00 P.M.
Sunday, Dec. 16<sup>th</sup> – Orthros, 8:30 A.M.; Divine Liturgy, 9:30 A.M.
Saturday, Dec. 22<sup>nd</sup> – Great Vespers & Confessions, 5:00 P.M.
Sunday, Dec. 23<sup>rd</sup> – Orthros, 8:30 A.M.; Divine Liturgy, 9:30 A.M.
Monday, Dec. 23<sup>rd</sup> – Orthros, 8:30 A.M.; Divine Liturgy, 9:30 A.M.
Monday, Dec. 24<sup>th</sup> – Royal Hours & Typica, 8:30 A.M.; Vesperal Divine Liturgy, 10:00 A.M.
Tuesday, Dec. 25<sup>th</sup> – Orthros, 9:00 A.M.; Divine Liturgy, 10:00 A.M. (Nativity of our Lord) Saturday, Dec. 30<sup>th</sup> – Orthros, 8:30 A.M.; Divine Liturgy, 9:30 A.M.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Please remember to silence your cell phones before you come into the church temple. Thank you.

Today's Ushers: Rose Hrabar and Mihai Leustean. Next Sunday: Michael Zelesnik.

Today's coffee hour: Team 5. Thank you. Next Sunday: Team 6.

The **Advent Fast** began Thursday, November  $15^{th}$ , 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.

Donations for **poinsettias** are currently being accepted. If you would like to make a donation, please fill out one of the envelopes in the narthex and on the "Special Occasion" line, please write, "Poinsettias." Donations are a minimum of \$12.00 per plant. Checks should be made payable to **St. Basil Ladies Guild**. Thank you.

An **Orthodoxy 101/Inquirers' Class** shall be offered on the first Tuesday of each month. Our next gathering is on Dec. 4 at 6:30 P.M. A lenten potluck meal shall be served followed by a presentation and discussion. Everyone is welcome!

LENTIL SOUP SALES by the Ladies Guild until they run out. Come early!

Our first **Antiochian Men (AMEN) meeting** is scheduled to meet after Divine Liturgy on Sunday, Dec. 9. All men of the parish are encouraged to attend. For more information, please speak with **Michael Zelesnik** or **Stephen Zelesnik**.

Our annual **Cookies with St. Nicholas Party** is scheduled for Sunday, December 9<sup>th</sup>, from 12:30-2:00 P.M. Youngsters of all ages are welcome. Please see **Khouriyeh Pam Nugent** for more details.

# **ANNOUNCEMENTS CONTINUED**

Our annual **Christmas Pageant** will be held after Divine Liturgy on Sunday, Dec. 23<sup>rd</sup>. Parents who are interested in having their children participate in the pageant should see **Khouriyeh Pam Nugent**.

I do not like green eggs and ham but I like my ham in a can if you can bring that can of ham to the canned food drive. Second quote from Wylie Russell

> Bring non Perishable food Items to: 3916 hudson street Metairie,la 70006. Thank you!

Teen project number one was a huge success. Thank you all for your donations. There is no better feeling then the feeling you get when you are able to help others. Lets keep the momentum as we move into teen project number two. Our canned food drive. This will be going to **Second Harvest Food Bank**. Please bring in non-perishable food items between now and December 16<sup>th</sup> so we can deliver before Christmas. Again thank you for all you do, God bless.

**Russian lessons** for beginners started on September 17. The group meets at 12 P.M. on Mondays. Please contact **Oksana Mehecha** for more questions.

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

As of Nov. 29, 2018, 43 pledges were received totaling \$100,750. The collection for Nov. 25, 2018, totaled \$1,801.25 for a year-to-date total of \$119,718.60, a weekly average of \$2,547.20. As of Nov. 25, 2018, our expenses are \$126,187.47, a weekly average of \$2,684.84.

## From Rob Booms, Chairman of Parish Council

The Parish Council invites all of you to spend some time in prayer during Advent to consider how we can best support St. Basil. In addition to the usual operating expenses, our 2019 budget will need to address deferred maintenance items such as securing our internet line, repairing the storage shed and painting the wrought iron fences. We would also like to improve our sound amplification system, install a handicap railing and purchase accounting software. If your generosity allows, we hope to add additional icons and liturgical bells or chimes. Much of what needs to be done does not require money but only volunteers. Please ask our Lord for guidance on how each of us can meaningfully contribute to our church. God bless--Rob

# Spiritual Counsels...

"Worry makes a man's heart heavy, a kindly word makes it glad." - Prov. 12:25

#### **The Holy Prophet Habakkuk**

Habakkuk was the son of Asaphat from the tribe of Simeon. He prophesied 600 years before Christ, during the time of King Manasseh, and foretold the destruction of Jerusalem. When Nebuchadnezzar, King of Babylon, attacked Jerusalem, Habakkuk sought refuge in the land of the Ishmaelites. From there he returned to Judea, where he lived as a farmer. One day he was carrying lunch to the workers in the fields, when suddenly an angel of the Lord appeared to him and said: *Go carry the dinner that thou hast into Babylon unto Daniel, who is in the lion's den* (Daniel 14:34\*). But Habakkuk responded: *Lord, I never saw Babylon; neither do I know where the den is* (Daniel 14:34-35). Then the angel took him by the hair and instantly brought him to Babylon, over an immense distance, to the lion's den, where Daniel had been cast by King Cyrus as a punishment for not worshiping the idols. *O Daniel, Daniel, cried* Habakkuk, *take the dinner, which God hath sent thee* (Daniel 14:37), and Daniel took it and ate. Then the angel of God again took Habakkuk and carried him back to his field in Judea. Habakkuk also prophesied the liberation of Jerusalem and the time of the coming of Christ. He entered into rest in ripe old age and was buried at Kela. His relics were discovered during the reign of Theodosius the Great.

from: The Prologue from Ochrid

<sup>(\*</sup>Editor's Note: Daniel 14 is from the Greek text [the Septuagint] of the Apocrypha of the Old Testament, and is also known as Bel and the Dragon.)



