

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
504.888.8114
[**sbno@att.net**](mailto:sbno@att.net)
[**www.stbasilneworleans.org**](http://www.stbasilneworleans.org)

The Venerable Ammon, Epyptian Ascetic

For 14 years, Ammon prayed to God and struggled to conquer anger within himself. He attained such perfection of goodness, that he was not even conscious that evil existed in the world. He was particularly knowledgeable in Holy Scripture. He died at the beginning of the fifth century.

from: The Prologue from Ochrid

St. Basil
Antiochian
Orthodox Church



January 10, 2021
The Sunday after the Theophany of Christ

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.

In our tradition... the church temple is a house of prayer. Upon entering it, please refrain from unnecessary conversation before, during and after church services, most especially during the Divine Liturgy from the time of the consecration of the Gifts until the last person has received the Eucharist. At the end of the Divine Liturgy, please come quietly forward to receive a piece of the antidoron and exit the church temple without talking. During coffee hour in the Church Hall is the appropriate place to exchange personal greetings and converse with one another. May God bless your reverence and piety.

Epistle Reading: Ephesians: 4:7-13
Gospel Reading: St. Matthew 4:12-17

Saints of the Day

Gregory, bishop of Nyssa; Marcian the priest of Constantinople;
Dometian, bishop of Melitene; Venerable Paul of Obnora and Makarios of Pisma; Bishop Theophan the Recluse.

A Message from Father Peter and Parish Council Chairman, Rob Booms, on the Corona Virus

Dear Parishioners,
St. Basil has been blessed in having no deaths or serious illnesses from the corona virus in our parish family. However, recent positive findings of the virus in two parish families is concerning. In addition, recent increases in infections and deaths in Jefferson Parish are worrisome. We do not want anyone to get sick as a result of us not taking more proactive steps to avoid infection.

Therefore, we are asking all persons except the choir and those serving at the altar, to wear facemasks in church and to observe proper social distancing with non-family members. In the Parish Hall, everyone should wear masks and keep a six-foot distance except when eating. Some of you will object to what we are asking but this procedure is preferable to shutting down the church completely as many Orthodox churches have done. If you are not feeling well, are coughing or running a temperature, please get tested and do not come to church until you have a negative test result. We will have a limited supply of facemasks if you did not bring your own. Thank you for cooperation.

A Message from the Parish Council at Year's End

Dear Parishioners,

We look forward to a better year than the last given the pandemic and hurricanes. Nevertheless, we should be grateful that St. Basil did not suffer any financial hardship in 2020 and grew in membership and catechumens. At our upcoming annual meeting in February, we will be approving a budget which will need to include approximately \$10,000 for upgrades to an air conditioning condenser in the Parish Hall. We also hope to provide for the proper placement of the new bell in the courtyard and for updates to the parish hall bathrooms. Please consider these items as you make your pledge for 2021. If you are unable to provide financial support, we are also looking for volunteers to serve on the Parish Council, to do minor repairs and part-time secretarial help for Father Peter. May you have a blessed New Year—Rob Booms, Chairman, Parish Council.

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Saturday, Jan. 9th – Great Vespers & Confessions, 5:00 P.M.
Sunday, Jan. 10th – Orthros, 8:30 A.M.; Divine Liturgy, 9:30 A.M.
Saturday, Jan. 16th – Great Vespers & Confessions, 5:00 P.M.
Sunday, Jan. 17th – Orthros, 8:30 A.M.; Divine Liturgy, 9:30 A.M.
Saturday, Jan. 23rd – Great Vespers & Confessions, 5:00 P.M.
Sunday, Jan. 24th – Orthros, 8:30 A.M.; Divine Liturgy, 9:30 A.M.
Saturday, Jan. 30th – Great Vespers & Confessions, 5:00 P.M.
Sunday, Jan. 31st – Orthros, 8:30 A.M.; Divine Liturgy, 9:30 A.M.

Orthodox Thoughts from Theo, the Parish Possum



While we cannot catch the Corona virus, the possum family under the altar has been worried that parishioners might get sick. We are glad that so many of you are wearing masks and are keeping proper distance during the Liturgy. We were listening to Father Peter's sermon recently on our

Lord's parable about the king who invited many people to his son's wedding banquet. All the invited guests came up with excuses for why they could not attend. One had to look after new oxen. One had to inspect land he had just purchased. Another was celebrating his own wedding. The king was furious that they should reject a royal invitation. He then ordered his servants to gather "the poor, the crippled, the blind and the lame" from the streets until the banquet hall was filled. Sadly, we all make excuses for the choices we make. Like the king's invited guests, our priorities are often misplaced. Our Lord's parable equates the king's banquet with the heavenly banquet that awaits us if we would just accept the invitation. The poor in body and spirit ended up at the royal table. The lesson for us is that Orthodox living should not be focused on earthly cares, possessions or even about our relationships. As Father Peter said, it is really all about the banquet. Thanks be to God! —Theo

Spiritual Counsels...

"The ear attentive to wholesome correction finds itself at home in the company of the wise." – Prov. 15:31

Today's Ushers: Dwight Gillis. **Next Week:** Greg Lindley.

Today's coffee hour: Team 2. Thank you. **Next Sunday:** Team 3.

A-Peal for the Bell...



The bell was originally used in the National Shrine of St. Anna in the Tremé neighborhood of New Orleans during the 19th century and early part of the 20th century. Please consider contributing to the cost of the bell and its installation. Any gifts should be marked "Church Bell". You are also invited to several upcoming fundraising lunches and hope that you can attend. —Rob Booms, Chairman of the Parish Council



The Bookstore Bee

This month in St. Basil's bookstore we would like to bring attention to the beautiful icons we have for sale. We offer a variety of icons in many sizes. For your traveling purposes, we also have small triptych and diptych icons. These are also a great addition to an icon corner in your home. If you are looking for a particular icon, we can also order those.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Church calendars, house blessing forms, pledge forms and boxes of offering envelopes for 2021 for each family in the parish are now available in the dining room of the church hall. Please be sure to get yours this Sunday.

Our Annual Pledge Drive is currently underway for the calendar year 2021. 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.

Our **Annual General Parish Meeting** is scheduled for February 14, 2021, after Divine Liturgy. All members of the parish are encouraged to attend the meeting. Those adults, who have been a member of the parish for at least one year and are in good sacramental and financial standing with the parish, are eligible to vote.

We fast Wednesday and Friday this week.

The annual blessing of homes began on January 6. Please contact Fr. Peter by text message, phone call or email to schedule the blessing of your home.

Trisagion prayers are offered today by **Naheel Rafeedie** for the repose of husband, **Basem** (10 yr.). May his memory be eternal.

The holy bread is offered today by **Naheel Rafeedie** for the health of **Helen, Martha, Nadeem, Michael, Steven, Abby, Michael Jr., Matthew, Hayly, Victor** and **Manal** (many years), and for the repose of **Basem, Essa, and Mary** (memory eternal).

The **Ladies Guild** is scheduled to have their January meeting today after Divine Liturgy. All ladies of the parish are invited to attend.

The **Parish Council** is scheduled to have their January meeting next Sunday after Divine Liturgy. All Council members please attend.

As of Jan. 4, 2021, 6 pledges were received for 2021 totaling \$12,170. The donations for December 2020 totaled \$16,669.90. The expenses were \$16,722.52, for an end-of-month and end-of-year balance of \$27,553.57. Thank you.