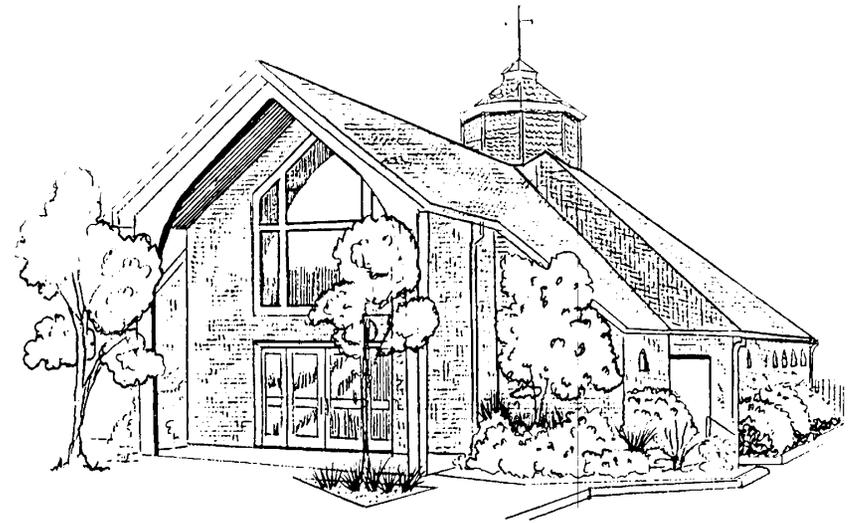


**St. Basil Antiochian Orthodox Church**  
**His Eminence Metropolitan JOSEPH, Archbishop of New York**  
**And Metropolitan of all North America**  
**His Grace Bishop NICHOLAS, Auxiliary Bishop**  
**Of the Diocese of Miami and the Southeast**  
**The Very Reverend Father Peter Nugent, Pastor**  
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# St. Basil Antiochian Orthodox Church

## **The Holy Female Martyr Agatha**

Agatha, this glorious virgin and martyr for Christ, was born in the Sicilian town of Palermo of noble and wealthy parents. When Emperor Decius began a persecution against Christians, St. Agatha was arrested and brought to trial before the judge Quintian. The judge, seeing Agatha beautiful in countenance, desired to have her for his wife. When he suggested this, Agatha answered that she was the bride of Christ and could not be unfaithful to her Betrothed. Quintian subjected her to cruel tortures. Agatha was mocked, whipped, bound to a tree and flogged until blood flowed. After that, the judge again tried to persuade her to deny Christ and avoid any further torture and suffering. To this the bride of Christ replied: "These tortures are very beneficial for me. Just as wheat cannot arrive at the granary before it is cleansed from the chaff, so my soul cannot enter into Paradise if my body is not humbled by tortures beforehand." Then the torturer ordered that her breasts be cut off and that she be cast into prison. St. Peter appeared to Agatha in prison and restored her to health and wholeness of body. Again Agatha was led out for torture, and again she was cast into prison, where she gave up her soul to God in the year 251 A.D. in the town of Catania, during the reign of Emperor Decius. After her death, the torturer Quintian departed for Palermo to usurp her estate. However, along the way his horse and the horses of his soldiers became wild with rage. Quintian was bitten on the face, thrown to the ground and trampled to death. Swift was the punishment of God for the savage crime perpetrated against St. Agatha.



**January 5, 2023**  
**Sunday of the Publican and Pharisee**

# 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:** 2 Timothy 3:10-15

**Gospel Reading:** Luke 18:10-14

## Saints of the Day

Martyr Agatha of Palermo in Sicily; Polyeuktos, patriarch of Constantinople; New-martyr Anthony of Athens; Venerable Theodosios of Scopelos; repose of Theodosios, archbishop of Chernigov.

## A Message from the Parish Council

St. George Antiochian Orthodox Church in Orlando, Florida, had substantial property damage during Hurricane Ian. That Parish donated to us, through the Archdiocese, after Hurricane Ida. On December 18, there will be a second collection for St. George's. You are encouraged to give. Any donations will be matched by our parish. In addition, St. Basil is contributing \$500 to the Second Harvest Food Bank. These donations are part of our parish's annual outreach to those in need. Thank you--Rob Booms for the Parish Council.

## WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Saturday, Feb. 4<sup>th</sup>– Great Vespers & Confessions, 5:00 P.M.  
Sunday, Feb. 5<sup>th</sup> – Orthros, 8:30 A.M.; Divine Liturgy, 9:30 A.M.  
Saturday, Feb. 11<sup>th</sup> – Great Vespers & Confessions, 5:00 P.M.  
Sunday, Feb. 12<sup>th</sup> – Orthros, 8:30 A.M.; Divine Liturgy, 9:30 A.M.  
Saturday, Feb. 18<sup>th</sup> – Orthros, 9:00 A.M.; Divine Liturgy, 10:00 A.M.  
Saturday, Feb. 18<sup>th</sup> – Great Vespers & Confessions, 5:00 P.M.  
Sunday, Feb. 19<sup>th</sup> – Orthros, 8:30 A.M.; Divine Liturgy, 9:30 A.M.  
Saturday, Feb. 25<sup>th</sup> – Great Vespers & Confessions, 5:00 P.M.  
Sunday, Feb. 26<sup>th</sup> – Orthros, 8:30 A.M.; Divine Liturgy, 9:30 A.M.

## **Orthodox Thoughts from Theo, the Parish Possum**



Next to the Holy Scriptures, perhaps the most important readings for Orthodox Christians are contained in **The Philokalia**. In ancient Greek, the name means to “love the beautiful and the good.” Compiled in the 18<sup>th</sup> century, it is a collection of writings by spiritual masters of the Orthodox Church who lived between 300 and 1400 A.D. Familiar names include St. John Climacus and St. Gregory Palamas. One of its five books was carried about by the unnamed Russian peasant who authored **The Way of the Pilgrim**. It includes guidance for using the Jesus Prayer. It teaches us how to use stillness and watchfulness to attain purification and sanctity. It is not just for monks and can be helpful for any person who is serious about walking the Orthodox way. Copies of the books may be obtained in paperback through booksellers on the internet. Here is a sample of what you will find from St. Hesychios, the priest:

“Let your soul, then, trust in Christ, let it call on Him and never fear; for it fights, not alone, but with the aid of a mighty King, Jesus Christ, Creator of all that is, both bodiless, and embodied, visible and invisible. The more the rain falls on the earth, the softer it makes it; similarly, Christ’s holy name gladdens the earth of our heart, the more we call upon it.”

Blessings be upon your Theophany season---Theo

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

“He who is estranged seeks pretexts to break out against all sound judgement.”– Proverbs 18:1

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## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Ladies Guild is scheduled to have their February meeting next Sunday, Feb. 12, after Divine Liturgy. All ladies of the parish are invited to attend.

God willing, we will have Orthros and Divine Liturgy for the Saturday of Souls on February 18<sup>th</sup>.

February 19<sup>th</sup> MEAT FARE SUNDAY!!!! Come experience a breakfast FEAST to enter into the GREAT FAST! The Ladies Guild is putting on a breakfast bonanza during coffee hour. We will be serving pancakes, eggs, bacon, sausage, ham and fruit. The cost per plate is \$12 for adults 13 and up, \$6 for children 9-12 and 8 and under eat free. HELP us to HELP others!!!!

The Ladies Guild will be collecting donations for Love Moved First during the year of 2023. Love Moved First is a home for woman in crisis to recover and heal. We will have a collection bin set out and a list of needs next to it. There is much needed so even a little is a big help. If you have any questions about Love Moved First, please see Cheryl Pituch or Tania Russell. Thank you for your support.

To offset the team members expenses for coffee hour, the team leaders are asking for one-dollar donations from adults for each coffee hour to cover the expenses for plates, bowls, forks, spoons, knives, cups, etc. They continue to generously provide us with snack/lunch items at no expense to us. Donations by check should be made payable to St. Basil Ladies Guild. Thank you for your assistance in making this happen. God bless you.

We do not fast this week.

**Coffee Hour: This Week:** Team 1      **Next Week:** Team 2

**Ushers: This Week:** Mihai Leustean      **Next Week:** Pam Nugent