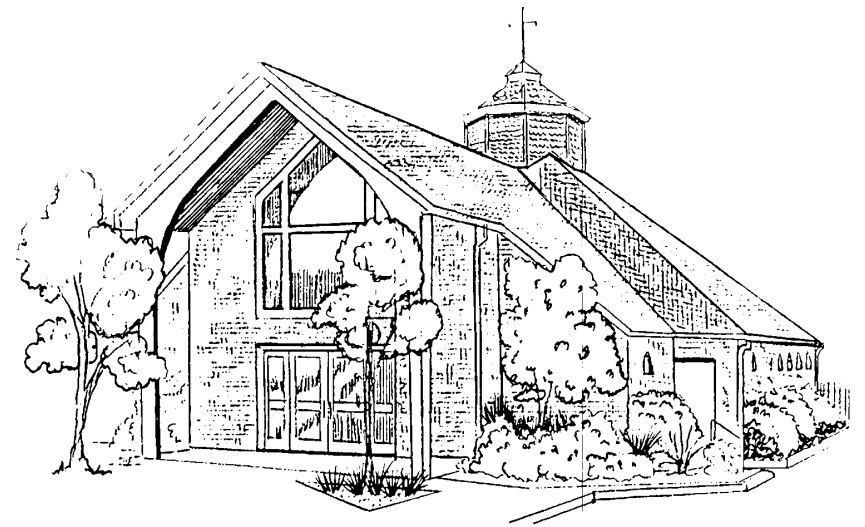


St. Basil Antiochian Orthodox Church
The Most Reverend Metropolitan SABA, Archbishop of New York
And Metropolitan of all North America
The Right Reverend Bishop NICHOLAS, Auxiliary Bishop
Of the Diocese of Miami and the Southeast
The Very Reverend Father Peter Nugent, Pastor
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The Holy Martyr Nicetas

Nicetas was a Goth by birth. He was a disciple of Theophilus, Bishop of the Goths, who participated in the First Ecumenical Council [Nicaea 325]. When the Gothic prince Athenarik began to torture Christians, St. Nicetas stood before the prince and denounced him for his paganism and inhumanity. Subsequently harshly tortured, Nicetas confessed his faith in Christ even more strongly, and prayed to God with thanksgiving. His mind was unceasingly raised up to God, and on his breast under his robe he bore an icon of the Most-holy Theotokos with the Pre-eternal Christ Child standing and holding the Cross in His hands. St. Nicetas carried this icon because the Holy Theotokos had appeared to him and comforted him. Finally, the torturer threw the soldier of Christ into the fire, where the holy martyr breathed his last, but his body remained untouched by the fire. His companion Marianus took his body from the land of the Goths (Wallachia and Bessarabia) to the town of Mopsuestia, in Cilicia. There, he built a church dedicated to St. Nicetas, and placed the miracle-working relics of the martyr in it. Nicetas suffered and was glorified in the year 372.

St. Basil
Antiochian
Orthodox Church



September 15, 2024
The Sunday After the Holy Cross

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: Galatians 2:16-20

Gospel Reading: Mark 8:34-38; 9:1

Saints of the Day

Great-martyr Nikita the Goth; Martyr Porphyrios the Mime; Visarion, bishop of Larisa; New-martyr John of Crete; Venerable Philotheos and Gerasimos; Joseph the New of Partos, the wonder-worker, metropolitan of Timisoara. Venerable Symeon, archbishop of Thessalonica.

Spiritual Counsels...

“The glory of young men is their strength, but the beauty of old men is their gray hair.” Proverbs 20:29

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Saturday, Sept. 14th – Great Vespers & Confessions, 5:00 P.M.

Sunday, Sept. 15th – Orthros, 8:30 A.M.; Divine Liturgy, 9:30 A.M.

Saturday, Sept. 21st – No Great Vespers & Confessions

Sunday, Sept. 22nd – Orthros, 8:30 A.M.; Divine Liturgy, 9:30 A.M.

Saturday, Sept. 28th – Great Vespers & Confessions, 5:00 P.M.

Sunday, Sept. 29th – Orthros, 8:30 A.M.; Divine Liturgy, 9:30 A.M.

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

Sunday, Oct. 6th – Orthros, 8:30 A.M.; Divine Liturgy, 9:30 A.M.

Saturday, Oct. 12th – Great Vespers & Confessions, 5:00 P.M.

Sunday, Oct. 13th – Orthros, 8:30 A.M.; Divine Liturgy, 9:30 A.M.



Orthodox Thoughts from Theo, the Parish Possum

People who enjoy a close relationship with a dog, cat or horse sometimes ask whether animals have a soul. The question usually arises when a person grieves over the death of a pet and hopes, someday, to be reunited with it. The consensus of theologians is that the higher orders of animals do have souls but that their souls are different from human souls. While animals have comprehension, memory and experience emotions, their souls lack the ability to reason. There are many stories of saints who shared their lives with animals including bears and lions. Proverbs 12:10 says that “the righteous man shows pity for the souls of his cattle.” Animals are inextricably linked to us in creation and together with them we “wait with eager longing” for the general resurrection of the dead (Romans 8:19). At that time, Isaiah foretells, “The wolf shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid, and the calf and the young lion together, and a little child shall lead them.” (Isa. 11:6). Dostoevsky has written in *The Brothers Karamazov* that we are not to exalt ourselves above the animals since they are sinless. It seems that animals are in our future if we are ourselves rewarded with eternal life. We cannot say with certainty that we will be reunited with our pets someday, but we should pray to God that we will be found worthy to be in their company.—Theo

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The **Parish Council** is scheduled to hold their September meeting today, Sept. 15, after Divine Liturgy. All Council members please attend.

Fr. Peter, God willing, shall attend the DOMSE Fall Retreat this month. Great Vespers is cancelled for Saturday, Sept. 21.

As God so wills, Fr. Peter will meet with the **inquirers and catechumens** after coffee hour on Sunday, Sept. 22. The discussion is open to all members of the parish.

The Middle Eastern ladies of the parish are providing a **50th Anniversary fundraiser** for the parish on **Sunday, Oct. 13**, for coffee hour. The menu includes chicken, french fries, salad, stuffed cabbage, and brownies. Pricing and ticket information to follow. Please see **Nadia Khashou** or **Therese Dagher** for more details.

Today's Coffee Hour: Team 3. Thank you. **Next Week:** Team 4.