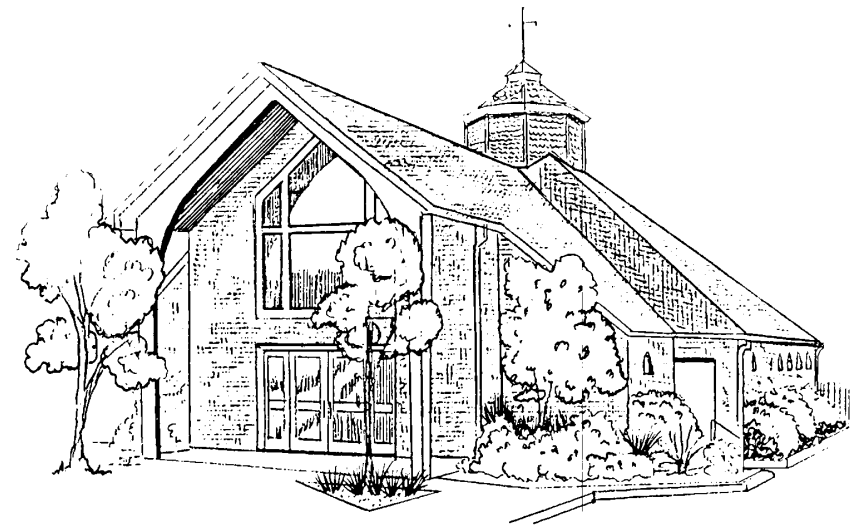


**St. Basil Antiochian Orthodox Church**  
**The Most Reverend Metropolitan SABA, Archbishop of New York**  
**And Metropolitan of all North America**  
**The Right Reverend Bishop NICHOLAS, Auxiliary Bishop**  
**Of the Diocese of Miami and the Southeast**  
**The Very Reverend Father Peter Nugent,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

When Emperor Decius once waged war against the barbarians, there was in his army the commander of an Armenian regiment called the Martenesians. This commander was named Mercurius. In battle, an angel of the Lord appeared to Mercurius, placed a sword in his hand, and assured him of victory over his enemies. Indeed, Mercurius displayed wonderful courage, mowing down the enemy like grass. Following this glorious victory Emperor Decius made him chief commander of his army, but envious men reported Mercurius to the emperor for being a Christian, a fact which he did not hide but openly acknowledged before the emperor. Mercurius was tortured harshly and at length; he was cut into strips with knives and burned with fire. An angel of God appeared to him in prison and healed him. Finally, the emperor proclaimed that General Mercurius be beheaded in Cappadocia. When they beheaded him, his body became as white as snow and emitted a most wonderful incense-like fragrance. His miracle-working relics healed many of the sick. This most wonderful soldier of Christ suffered for the Faith sometime between the years 251 and 259 and took up his habitation in the Kingdom of his King and God.

**St. Basil**  
**Antiochian**  
**Orthodox Church**



**November 24, 2024**  
**The 22<sup>nd</sup> Sunday After Pentecost**  
**The 13<sup>th</sup> Sunday of St. Luke**

# 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 6:11-18

**Gospel Reading:** Luke 18:18-27

## Saints of the Day

Martyr Clement, pope of Rome; Hieromartyr Peter, archbishop of Alexandria; Hermogenes, bishop of Agrigentum; Martyrs Philomenos, Christopher, Eugene, Procopius, Christopher and Alexander of Corinth; Martyr Theodore of Antioch; Afterfeast of the Entrance of the Theotokos into the Temple.

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## **Spiritual Counsels...**

“The violence of the wicked will sweep them away, because they refuse to do what is just.” Proverbs 21:7

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## WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Saturday, Nov. 23<sup>rd</sup> – Great Vespers & Confessions, 5:00 P.M.  
Sunday, Nov. 24<sup>th</sup> – Orthros, 8:30 A.M.; Divine Liturgy, 9:30 A.M.  
Saturday, Nov. 30<sup>th</sup> – No Great Vespers & Confessions  
Sunday, Dec. 1<sup>st</sup> – Orthros, 8:30 A.M.; Divine Liturgy, 9:30 A.M.  
Saturday, Dec. 7<sup>th</sup> – Great Vespers & Confessions, 5:00 P.M.  
Sunday, Dec. 8<sup>th</sup> – Orthros, 8:30 A.M.; Divine Liturgy, 9:30 A.M.  
Saturday, Dec. 14<sup>th</sup> – Great Vespers & Confessions, 5:00 P.M.  
Sunday, Dec. 15<sup>th</sup> – Orthros, 8:30 A.M.; Divine Liturgy, 9:30 A.M.  
Saturday, Dec. 21<sup>st</sup> – Great Vespers & Confessions, 5:00 P.M.  
Sunday, Dec. 22<sup>nd</sup> – Orthros, 8:30 A.M.; Divine Liturgy, 9:30 A.M.  
Tuesday, Dec. 24<sup>th</sup> – Royal Hours of the Nativity, 9:00 A.M.  
Wed., Dec. 25<sup>th</sup> – Orthros, 9:00 A.M., Divine Liturgy, 10:00 A.M.



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

In 1776, Thomas Paine made his famous observation that “these are the times that try men’s souls.” Almost 250 years later, our souls are still buffeted every day as we are exposed to news of mass starvation, political infighting and raging wars. As Orthodox Christians, we are blessed with tools to weather these trials. We are given seasons, such as the Christmas Fast, from November 15 to December 24, when we direct our thoughts and prayers away from worldly things. Rather than starting the day with the news, the Holy Fathers urge us to say the prayers for the First or Third Hours of the morning. They contain beautiful prayers such as: “Receive, O Lord, our prayers at this hour, and guide our life toward Thy commandments. Sanctify our souls, make chaste our bodies, correct our thoughts, purify our intentions, and deliver us from every sorrow, evil and pain. Compass us about with Thy holy angels, that, guarded and guided by their array, we may attain to the unity of the faith and to the knowledge of Thine unapproachable glory: For blessed art Thou unto the ages of ages. Amen.” These prayers are a powerful antidote to the daily barrage of social media which can only awaken stress and anxiety. May we open our hearts to God’s grace so that every day begins, at least for half an hour, with casting aside all earthly cares. —Theo

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The **Advent Fast** began Friday, November 15<sup>th</sup>, 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.

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, With great joy, the Ladies Guild would like to invite you to participate in our traditional Christmas Angels Project 2024, to benefit the students and their siblings of five families in great need from Bissonet Plaza Elementary School in Metairie. Like previous years, we offer this chance to give and give generously. Now through December 15<sup>th</sup>, parishioners may contribute to the effort of making these young children's happy and joyful holiday season. As an organization, we reach out into community during the end of each year to say WE CARE.

Please, make checks payable to **St. Basil Ladies Guild**. In memo, please write **Angels Project 2024**. Donations can be given to Tania Russell, Yazmin Incaprera, Diana Lindley or Paulina Kocic.

Thank you and God bless.

Fr. Peter will meet with the catechumens after coffee hour on Sunday, Dec. 8. The discussion is open everyone.

A **Christmas Party** is planned for the youth of the parish on Sunday, Dec. 15, after coffee hour. All kids of the parish are invited to attend. For more information, please see **Pam Nugent**.

The **Royal Hours for the Feast of the Nativity of Christ** will be served, God willing, on Tuesday, December 24, at 9:00 A.M.

God willing, Orthros and Divine Liturgy for the **Feast of the Nativity of Christ** is scheduled for Wednesday, December 25, at 9:00 A.M. and 10:00 A.M., respectively.

**Today's Coffee Hour:** Team 4. Thank you. **Next Week:** Team 1.