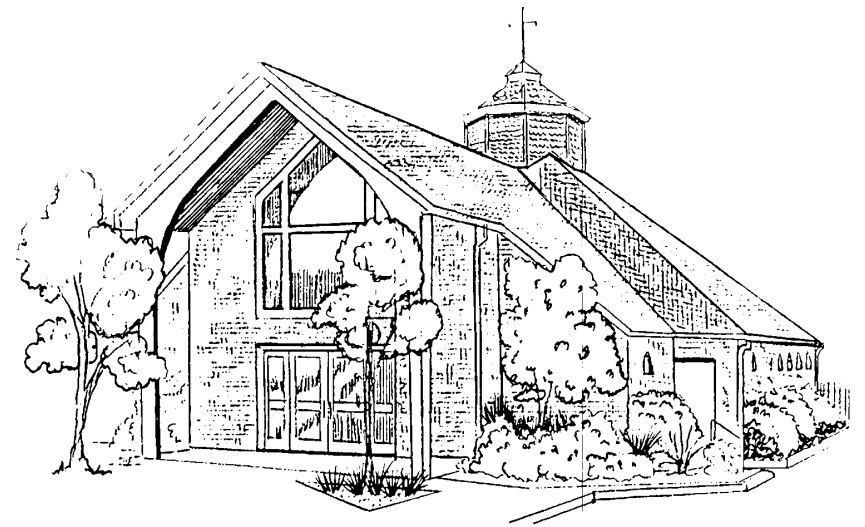


St. Basil Antiochian Orthodox Church
The Most Reverend Metropolitan SABA, Archbishop of New York
And Metropolitan of all North America
The Right Reverend Bishop NICHOLAS, Auxiliary Bishop
Of the Diocese of Miami and the Southeast
The Very Reverend Father Peter Nugent, Pastor
3916 Hudson St., Metairie, LA 70006
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The Holy Martyrs in Africa

They suffered for the truth of the Orthodox Faith at the hands of the Arian heretics during the reign of the Vandal King Gunerik or Genzerik (477-484). Two priests were burned and 60 more had their tongues cut out. In addition, 300 laymen were beheaded. All of them suffered, but they defeated falsehood and confirmed Orthodoxy through their deaths, handing the Faith down to us pure and untarnished. The Lord crowned them with wreaths of glory in His Immortal Kingdom.

St. Basil
Antiochian
Orthodox Church



December 8, 2024
The 24th Sunday After Pentecost
The 10th 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: Ephesians 2:14-22

Gospel Reading: Luke 13:10-17

Saints of the Day

Venerable Patapios of Thebes; Sophronios, bishop of Cyprus; Apostles Sosthenes, Apollos, Cephas, Tychicus, Crispos, Caesar, Onesiphorus and Epaphroditos of the Seventy; Martyr Parthenios; Cyril of Chelmogorsk; New Hieromartyr John.

Spiritual Counsels...

"It is better to live in a corner of the housetop than in a house shared with a contentious woman." Proverbs 21:9

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Saturday, Dec. 7th – Great Vespers & Confessions, 5:00 P.M.

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

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

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

Saturday, Dec. 21st – Great Vespers & Confessions, 5:00 P.M.

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

Tuesday, Dec. 24th – Royal Hours of the Nativity, 9:00 A.M.

Tuesday, Dec. 24th – Vespers of the Nativity, 6:30 P.M.

Wed., Dec. 25th – Orthros, 9:00 A.M., Divine Liturgy, 10:00 A.M.

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

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

Tuesday, Dec. 31st – Vespers of the Nativity, 6:30 P.M.

Saturday, Jan. 4th – Great Vespers & Confessions, 5:00 P.M.

Sunday, Jan. 5th – Orthros, 8:30 A.M.; Divine Liturgy, 9:30 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 15th, 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 15th, 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 today, (Sunday,) Dec. 8. The discussion is open everyone.

Middle Eastern pastries are available for purchase through the Christmas holidays. Please see **Nadia Khashou** or **Therese Dagher** for more information.

Boxed sets of donation envelopes for 2025, along with calendars, pledge forms and house blessing forms are in the dining room of the Church Hall for each household in the parish. Please get yours today. Additional forms and calendars are available.

The **Ladies Guild** is scheduled to hold their December meeting on Sunday, Dec. 15, after Divine Liturgy. All ladies of the parish are invited to attend.

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**.

Our annual **Christmas Pageant** is scheduled for Sunday, December 22, after Divine Liturgy. Those parents who wish to have their children participate in the pageant should see **Pam Nugent**.

The **Parish Council** is scheduled to hold their December meeting on Sunday, Dec. 22, after Divine Liturgy. All Council members please attend.

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.

A **Vespers Divine Liturgy for the Feast of St. Basil the Great**, is, God willing, scheduled for Tuesday, Dec. 31, at 6:30 P.M. The Vasilo-pita will be offered in the Church Hall afterward.

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