

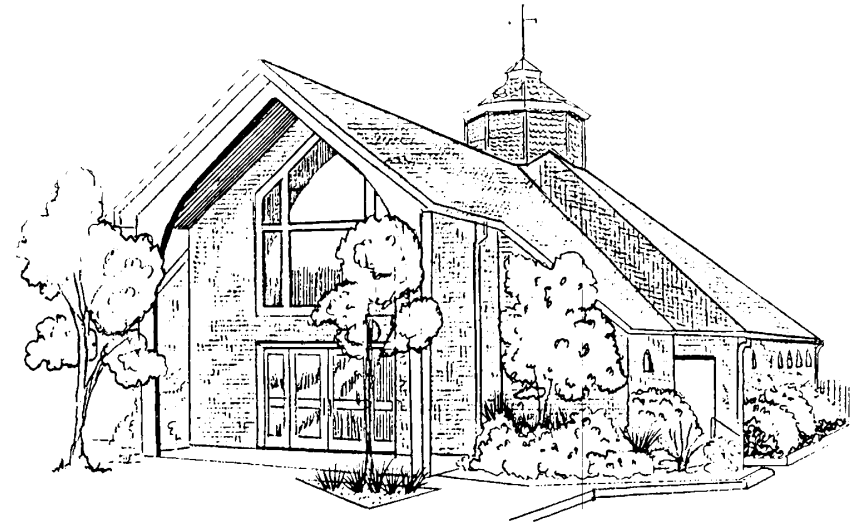
St. Basil Antiochian Orthodox Church
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And Metropolitan of all North America
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St. Basil Antiochian Orthodox Church

The Venerable Mother Syncletica

Syncletica was of Macedonian descent. She was educated in Alexandria. As a wealthy and distinguished maiden, she had many suitors, but she rejected them all and fled from her parents' home to a convent. Undergoing the greatest of self-restraints, vigils and prayer, Syncletica lived to her eightieth year. Her counsels to the nuns have always been considered a true spiritual pearl, for this righteous one did not attain the heights of wisdom through books but through sufferings, pains, daily and nightly contemplation, and spiritual communication with the higher world of the Divine. With her soul, she took up habitation in that higher world in the year 350 A.D. Among other things, St. Syncletica was known to say, "If it is the season for fasting, do not dismiss fasting, allegedly because of illness for, behold, even those who do not fast, succumb to the same illness." She further spoke, "As when uncovered treasure is quickly seized, so it is with virtue; when it is made public becomes eclipsed and becomes lost."

from: The Prologue from Ochrid



January 5, 2025
The Eve of, & Sunday before, Theophany

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: II Timothy 4:5-8

Gospel Reading: St. Mark 1:1-8

Saints of the Day

Martyrs Theopemptos the Bishop of Nicomedia and Theonas the former magician; Venerable Syncletica, of Alexandria; Venerable-martyr Romanos of Athos.

Spiritual Counsels...

“He who closes his ear to the cry of the poor will himself cry out and not be heard.” – Proverbs 21:13

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

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

Sunday, Jan. 5th – Orthros, 8:30 A.M.; Divine Liturgy, 9:30 A.M.

Monday, Jan. 6th – Orthros, 9:00 A.M.; Divine Liturgy, 10:00 A.M.

Monday, Jan. 6th – Badnjak Service, 6:30 P.M.

Saturday, Jan. 11th – Great Vespers & Confessions, 5:00 P.M.

Sunday, Jan. 12th – Orthros, 8:30 A.M.; Divine Liturgy, 9:30 A.M.

Friday, Jan. 17th – Orthros, 9:00 A.M.; Divine Liturgy, 10:00 A.M.

Saturday, Jan. 18th – Great Vespers & Confessions, 5:00 P.M.

Sunday, Jan. 19th – Orthros, 8:30 A.M.; Divine Liturgy, 9:30 A.M.

Saturday, Jan. 25th – Great Vespers & Confessions, 5:00 P.M.

Sunday, Jan. 26th – Orthros, 8:30 A.M.; Divine Liturgy, 9:30 A.M.

Orthodox Thoughts from Theo, the Parish Possum



On December 20, the Holy Orthodox Church commemorates the death of St. John of Kronstadt. He was born in 1829 in a village in Siberia and died in 1908. From his childhood, he exhibited a deep religious faith which led him to the priesthood. He served the church in a town outside of St. Petersburg, Russia, home to the Russian Navy. Located on an island, it was a place of great poverty and a place of exile for criminals. He was tireless in visiting the sick and the poor, often returning home without coat or shoes because he had given them away. He performed so many healing miracles that thousands attended his daily Divine Liturgy. Unable to hear the confessions of all that asked him for them, it became necessary to have parishioners confess sins to each other, followed by a communal absolution. He foresaw the Russian revolution, the coming wave of atheism and the death of thousands of Orthodox Christians. His down-to-earth teachings are available in the book “Spiritual Counsels” by St. Vladimir’s Seminary Press. One of his prayers follows:
[Lord] Your name is love: do not shun me, a person who has gone astray. Your name is strength: strengthen me, who am exhausted and falling down. Your name is light: enlighten my soul which is darkened with earthly passions. Your name is peace: calm my restless soul. Your name is mercy: do not cease to have mercy upon me. —Theo

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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.

God willing, Orthros and Divine Liturgy for the **Feast of Theophany** is scheduled for Monday, Jan. 6, at 9:00 A.M. and 10:00 A.M., respectively.

God willing, a **Badnjak Service** will be served for Old Calendar Christmas on Monday, Jan. 6, at 6:30 P.M.

Please contact Fr. Peter if you wish to have your home blessed.

God willing, Orthros and Divine Liturgy shall be celebrated for the **Feast of St. Anthony the Great** at 9:00 A.M. and 10:00 A.M., respectively, on Friday, Jan. 17.

Ladies Guild News - The ladies will have their annual gift exchange/game on January 19, 2025, after coffee hour. All ladies of the Parish are welcome to attend. Please keep gifts to \$20 or under. If you would like to bring a light snack or finger food to share, it would be most welcome.

The subject of the **availability and pricing of the 3-day candles** was discussed in the Parish Council meeting on Sunday, December 22, 2024. As a result of this discussion, **the Parish Council voted upon and approved a price increase of these candles.** The new price of the 3-day candles, effective January 1, 2025, is **\$5 per candle.** Your assistance in making the adjustment to this price is requested. Thank you and God bless you.

Today's Coffee Hour: Team 1. Thank you. **Next Week:** Team 2.