

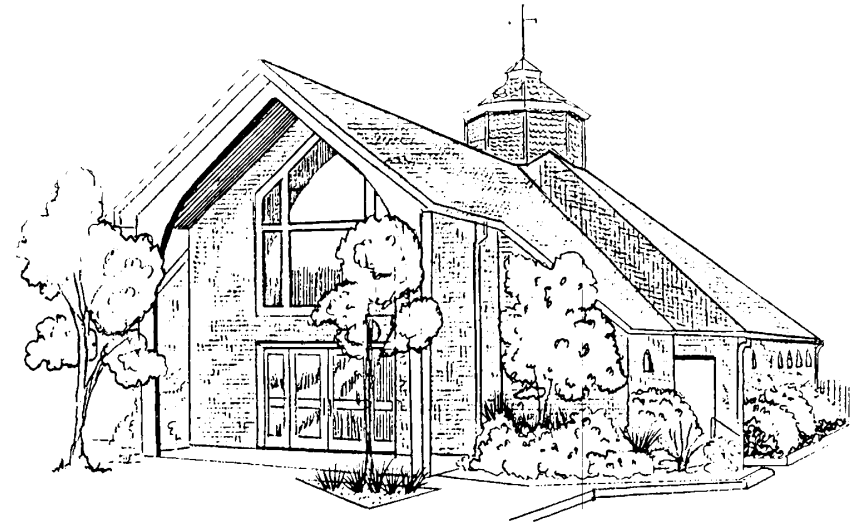
St. Basil Antiochian Orthodox Church
The Most Reverend Metropolitan SABA, Archbishop of New York
And Metropolitan of all North America
The Right Reverend Bishop NICHOLAS, Auxiliary Bishop
Of the Diocese of Miami and the Southeast
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St. Basil Antiochian Orthodox Church

The Priest-Martyr Peter Damaskin

Some think that Peter Damaskin lived in the 8th century and others think he lived in the 12th century. This difference of thought comes from the fact that there were two Peter Damaskins. The one about whom we are speaking was a great ascetic. He was unselfish beyond measure. Peter Damaskin did not even possess one book; rather, he borrowed books and read them. He read assiduously, gathering wisdom as a bee gathers honey. For a while, he was a bishop in Damascus; but, when he spoke out against Islam and the Manichean heresy, the Arabs severed his tongue and banished him into exile deep in Arabia. However, God granted him the power of speech so that, even in exile, he preached the Good News [Gospel] and converted many to the Faith of Christ. He compiled and bequeathed to his posterity a precious book about the spiritual life. He died as a confessor and martyr and took up habitation in the kingdom of Christ.

*from: **The Prologue from Ochrid***



February 9, 2025
The Sunday of the Pharisee & the Publican
The Leave-taking of the Presentation of Christ

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: St. Luke 18:10-14

Saints of the Day

Holy Mothers of the Three Heirarchs: Emmelia, Nonna and Anthousa; Martyr Nikephoros of Antioch; Hieromartyrs Markellos, bishop of Sicily, Pankratios, bishop of Taormina, Philagrius, bishop of Cyprus; translation of the relics of Innocent, first bishop of Irkutsk.

Spiritual Counsels...

“He who loves pleasure will be a poor man; he who loves wine and oil will not be rich.” – Proverbs 21:17

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Saturday, Feb. 8th – Great Vespers & Confessions, 5:00 P.M.

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

Saturday, Feb. 15th – Great Vespers & Confessions, 5:00 P.M.

Sunday, Feb. 16th – Orthros, 8:30 A.M.; Divine Liturgy, 9:30 A.M.

Saturday, Feb. 22nd – Orthros, 9:00 A.M.; Divine Liturgy, 10:00 A.M.

Saturday, Feb. 22nd – Great Vespers & Confessions, 5:00 P.M.

Sunday, Feb. 23rd – Orthros, 8:30 A.M.; Divine Liturgy, 9:30 A.M.

Saturday, March 1st – Great Vespers & Confessions, 5:00 P.M.

Sunday, March 2nd – Orthros, 8:30 A.M.; Divine Liturgy, 9:30 A.M.

Wednesday, March 5th – Presanctified Divine Liturgy, 6:30 P.M.

Friday, March, 7th – Akathist Hymn, 6:30 P.M.

Saturday, March 8th – Great Vespers & Confessions, 5:00 P.M.

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

Orthodox Thoughts from Theo, the Parish Possum



Orthodox worship and prayer are filled with the recitation of the Psalms. Of all of them, the 50th Psalm stands out. It was composed by King David in about 1,000 B.C. The king had committed adultery with Bathsheba, the wife of one of his military commanders, and she became pregnant with his child. To cover up his sin, he sent the commander into the front lines of a battle where the man was killed. He then married the widow and went on with his life. However, the prophet Nathan confronted him and forced him to recognize that his conduct was reprehensible. David repented and out of this came Psalm 50, one of the most poignant and sincere prayers of contrition. It is recited or chanted during every Orthros, during the prayers of the Third Hour and, in every Divine Liturgy, while the priest censes the altar and icons before the Great Entrance. The Psalm is a heart-felt prayer for pardon. It expresses both a desire for renewal and a trust in the forgiving love of God. For any Orthodox believer, there is perhaps no more powerful vehicle for seeking forgiveness. In the words of the Psalm: “Have mercy upon me, O God. Wash me thoroughly from mine iniquity and cleanse me from my sin. Create in me a clean heart, O God: and renew a right spirit in me. O Lord, open thou my lips: and my mouth shall declare thy praise.”—Theo

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Our Annual Pledge Drive is currently underway for the calendar year 2025. All adult members of the parish are encouraged to complete and return a pledge form to the church office. Pledge forms may be found in the narthex of the church building. All pledges are held in strict confidence. Only the total number of pledges and the total pledge amount is made available to the public. Your financial support of our church community is your support of yourself and your contribution to help insure you and your family has a place to worship. Thank you and God bless you.

Our **Annual General Parish Meeting** is scheduled for Sunday, March 16, 2025, after Divine Liturgy and shall convene in the Church Hall. All members of the parish are encouraged to attend the meeting. Those adults, who have been a member of the parish for at least one year, have completed the Parish Registration/Pledge Form and returned it to the church office, and are in good sacramental with the Church and good financial standing with the parish, are eligible to vote.

There is no fasting from Saturday, February 8th until Tuesday, February 18th. The meat fast begins Monday, February 24th. Great Lent begins Monday, March 3rd.

Meatfare Week begins on Monday, Feb. 24. From that date until PASCHA it is our tradition to refrain from eating meat and meat products. From Pure Monday, March 3, we observe the traditional fasting discipline of Great and Holy Lent (no meat, poultry, eggs, dairy, fish, alcohol and oil) during the entire **Great Fast**, which lasts from Pure Monday through Great and Holy Saturday. On Saturdays and Sundays, however, alcohol and oil are allowed, except on Great and Holy Saturday when no oil is permitted. Fish, alcohol and oil are permitted on the Feast of the Annunciation (March 25) and Palm Sunday (April 13).

Our annual **Wine and Cheese Social** shall be held on Cheesefare Sunday, March 2nd, in the Church Hall after Divine Liturgy. Please bring enough wine, cheese and crackers for yourself and friends.

Lenten potluck meals shall be served after Presanctified Liturgies on Wednesday evenings during Great Lent.

The **Sacrament of Holy Confession** is good for the health & salvation of the soul & body. For long-term, good, physical health, regular visits to the family doctor are appropriate. Likewise, care for our souls is a necessity. If it is your desire to receive the Eucharist at Great & Holy PASCHA, then please make every effort to care for your soul & have confession at least once during Great Lent.

Approximately 100 **Red Carnations** are needed for the veneration of the Holy Cross on Sunday, March 23. If you are interested in donating all or part of these flowers, please fill out one of the envelopes in the narthex and on the "Special Occasion" line, please write, "Red Carnations." Include your commemorations, donation and turn the envelope in to the church office. Thank you.

The **Ladies Guild** is scheduled to hold their February meeting today after Divine Liturgy. All ladies of the parish are invited to attend.

The **Parish Council** is scheduled to hold their February meeting next Sunday after Divine Liturgy. All council members please attend

As God so wills, we shall have Orthros and Divine Liturgy for the **Saturday of Souls** at 9 & 10 A.M., respectively, on Saturday, Feb. 22.

The ladies are having their 3rd annual **Breakfast Bonanza** on Feb. 23, 2025. Tickets are \$15 for ages 13 & older, \$6 for ages 7-12 & kids 6 years & younger eat free. For more information, please see one of our ladies.

Parents, please encourage your children to attend the **Creative Arts Festival workshops** to be held following coffee hour on Feb. 9th, & March 9th to allow the children time to work on their projects that will be presented at the Parish Life Conference. For more information, please speak to one of our Church School teachers.

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 2. Thank you. **Next Week:** Team 3.