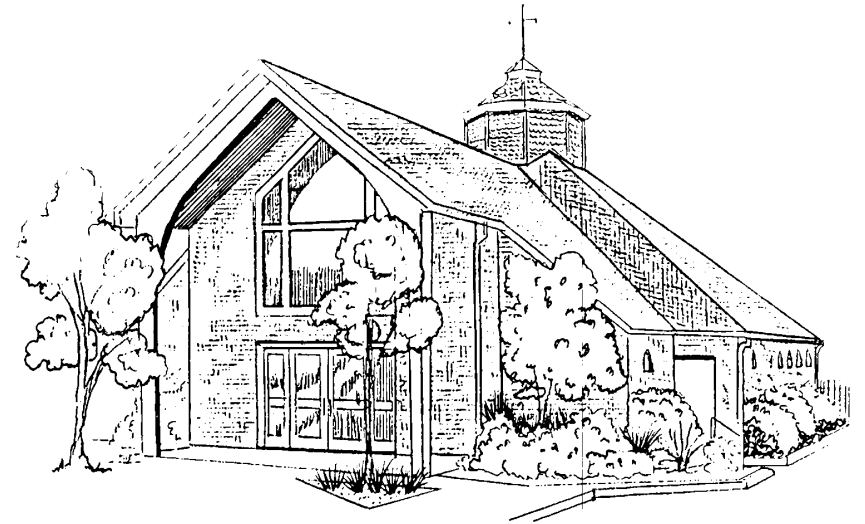


**St. Basil Antiochian Orthodox Church**  
**The Most Reverend Metropolitan SABA, Archbishop of New York**  
**And Metropolitan of all North America**  
**The Right Reverend Bishop NICHOLAS, Auxiliary Bishop**  
**Of the Diocese of Miami and the Southeast**  
**The Very Reverend Father Peter Nugent, Pastor**  
**3916 Hudson St., Metairie, LA 70006**  
**504.888.8114**  
[sbno@att.net](mailto:sbno@att.net)  
[www.stbasilneworleans.org](http://www.stbasilneworleans.org)

# St. Basil Antiochian Orthodox Church

**The Venerable John Climacus, from: *The Prologue from Ochrid***

John Climacus is the author of "The Ladder of Divine Ascent." John came to Mt. Sinai as a 16-year-old youth and remained there, first as a novice under obedience, and afterwards as a recluse, and finally as abbot of Sinai until his 80th year. He died around the year 563 A.D. His biographer, the monk Daniel, says about him: "His body ascended the heights of Sinai, while his soul ascended the heights of heaven." He remained under obedience with his spiritual father, Martyrius, for 19 years. Anastasius of Sinai, seeing the young John, prophesied that he would become the abbot of Sinai. After the death of his spiritual father, John withdrew into a cave, where he lived a difficult life of asceticism for 20 years. His disciple, Moses, fell asleep one day under the shade of a large stone. John, in prayer in his cell, saw that his disciple was in danger and prayed to God for him. Later on, when Moses returned, he fell on his knees and gave thanks to his spiritual father for saving him from certain death. He related how, in a dream, he heard John calling him and he jumped up and, at that moment, the stone tumbled. Had he not jumped, the stone would have crushed him. At the insistence of the brotherhood, John agreed to become abbot and directed the salvation of the souls of men with zeal and love. From someone John heard a reproach that he talked too much. Not being angered by this, John however remained silent for an entire year and did not utter a word until the brothers implored him to speak and to continue to teach them his God-given wisdom. On one occasion, when 600 pilgrims came to the Monastery of Sinai, everyone saw an agile youth in Jewish attire serving at a table and giving orders to other servants and assigning them. All at once, this young man disappeared. When everyone noticed this and began to question it, John said to them, "Do not seek him, for that was Moses the Prophet serving in my place." During the time of his silence in the cave, John wrote many worthwhile books, of which the most glorious is "The Ladder." This book is still read by many, even today. In this book, John describes the method of elevating the soul to God, as ascending a ladder. Before his death, John designated George, his brother in the flesh, as abbot. George grieved much because of his separation from John. Then John said to him, that, if he (John) were found worthy to be near God in the other world, he would pray to Him, that, he, (George), would be taken to heaven that same year. And, so it was. After 10 months, George succeeded and settled among the citizens of heaven as did his great brother, John.



**March 30, 2025**

**The Fourth Sunday of Great Lent**

# 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:** Hebrews 6:13-20

**Gospel Reading:** St. Mark 9:17-31

## Saints of the Day

Venerable John of Sinai, author of "The Ladder;" New-hieromartyr Zachariah, bishop of Corinth; Sophronios, bishop of Irkutsk.

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## **Spiritual Counsels...**

"Scoffer" is the name of the proud, haughty man who acts with arrogant pride. – Proverbs 21:24

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

During Great Lent, Orthodox Christians are expected to fast from many foods, go to confession, and regularly attend Divine Liturgy. But Lent is also a time for reflection. It can be helpful to receive guidance from the spiritual books passed down to us by the saints. One which stands out is The Ladder of Divine Ascent. It was written by St. John Climacus (of the ladder), who is commemorated on March 30 and on the Fourth Sunday of Great Lent. St. John served as Igumen of the famous monastery of St. Catherine at the foot of Mt. Sinai. He lived there from age 16 until his death in 649 at the age of 80. The "Ladder" is required reading in most monasteries during Lent and has been cited by many over the years including the Russian peasant-author of The Way of the Pilgrim, and Tsar Ivan the Terrible. The book provides a framework for "raising the soul to God" which St. John likens to climbing a ladder. While intended for monks, the book offers a thirty step-guide for attaining spiritual perfection. In his ending exhortation, St. John says "Ascend my brothers, ascend eagerly. Let your hearts' resolve be to climb... Run, I beg you, run with him who said, "Let us hurry until we all arrive at the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of God, at mature manhood, at the measure of Christ's fullness."—Theo

## WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Friday, March, 28<sup>th</sup> – Akathist Hymn, 4<sup>th</sup> Stasis, 6:30 P.M.  
Saturday, March 29<sup>th</sup> – Great Vespers & Confessions, 5:00 P.M.  
Sunday, March 30<sup>th</sup> – Orthros, 8:30 A.M.; Divine Liturgy, 9:30 A.M.  
Wednesday, April 2<sup>nd</sup> – Presanctified Divine Liturgy, 6:30 P.M.  
Friday, April 4<sup>th</sup> – Akathist Hymn, 6:30 P.M.  
Saturday, April 5<sup>th</sup> – Great Vespers & Confessions, 5:00 P.M.  
Sunday, April 6<sup>th</sup> – Orthros, 8:30 A.M.; Divine Liturgy, 9:30 A.M.  
Wednesday, April 9<sup>th</sup> – Presanctified Divine Liturgy, 6:30 P.M.  
Sat., April 12<sup>th</sup> – Orthros, 9:00 A.M.; Divine Liturgy, 10:00 A.M.  
Saturday, April 12<sup>th</sup> – Great Vespers & Confessions, 5:00 P.M.  
Sunday, April 13<sup>th</sup> – Orthros, 8:30 A.M.; Divine Liturgy, 9:30 A.M.  
Sunday, April 13<sup>th</sup> – Bridegroom Orthros, 6:30 P.M.  
Monday, April 14<sup>th</sup> – Bridegroom Orthros, 6:30 P.M.  
Tuesday, Apr. 15<sup>th</sup> – Bridegroom Orthros, 6:30 P.M.

### **WORSHIP SCHEDULE CONTINUED**

Wednesday, April 16<sup>th</sup> – Sacrament of Holy Unction, 6:30 P.M.

Thursday, April 17<sup>th</sup> – Vesperal Divine Liturgy, 10:00 A.M.

Thursday, April 17<sup>th</sup> – Orthros of the 12 Passion Gospels, 6:30 P.M.

Friday, April 18<sup>th</sup> – Royal Hours, 9:00 A.M.

Friday, April 18<sup>th</sup> – Unnailing Vespers, 3:00 P.M.

Friday, April 18<sup>th</sup> – Lamentations Orthros, 6:30 P.M.

Saturday, April 19<sup>th</sup> – Vesperal Divine Liturgy, 10:00 A.M.

Saturday, April 19<sup>th</sup> – Rush Procession & Orthros, 11:00 P.M.

Sun., April 20<sup>th</sup> – Divine Liturgy of Great & Holy PASCHA, 12:00 AM

Sunday, April 20<sup>th</sup> – Agape Vespers, 11:00 A.M.

Saturday, April 26<sup>th</sup> – Great Vespers & Confessions, 5:00 P.M.

Sunday, April 27<sup>th</sup> – Orthros, 8:30 A.M.; Divine Liturgy, 9:30 A.M.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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).

**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.

Each year we begin our Archdiocese-wide **Food For Hungry People Campaign** at this time. Please take one of the coin boxes in the narthex home with you and place your coins in it during Great Lent and return the boxes at PASCHA. The proceeds will be

collected and forwarded to the Archdiocese office for distribution. May God bless your generosity and ascetic practice of almsgiving.

The ladies are raffling off a basket full of goodies. The drowning will be held on Palm Sunday (April 13) during coffee hour. Tickets are available for \$5 each or 3 for \$12.

Our new Parish Council officers are Sevin Russell (Chairperson), Laurie Bolanos (Vice Chairperson), Elias Ioup (Secretary), and Bill Harrison (Treasurer).

**Bookstore News:** Purchases can now be made using the QR code by the clipboard in the bookstore area. Please see **Kathleen Field** or **Elias Ioup** for more information. (Remember to jot down your items on the clipboard, however you may pay for them.)

God willing, Fr. Peter will meet with the inquirers and catechumens today, March 30, after Divine Liturgy. The discussion is open to everyone.

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