

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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The Holy Martyrs Marinus (Marius) and Martha with their Sons
Audifax and Abachum (Habakuk), Valentine the Presbyter,
Cyrinus, Astyrius (Asterius) and many others

They all suffered during the reign of Emperor Claudius Flavius in Rome in the year 269 A.D. Marinus and Martha were wealthy people from Persia. They sold all their property in Persia and, with their sons, came to Rome in order to venerate the sacred relics of the holy apostles and other martyrs. When the emperor asked them why they came from such a distance, leaving their (household) domestic gods to seek dead men in Rome, they responded: "We are servants of Christ and we came to venerate the holy apostles whose immortal souls live with God, that they may be our intercessors before Christ our God." Cyrinus was thrown into the Tiber River from which his body was removed by Marinus and Martha who honorably buried it. Valentine the priest was handed over to Commander Astyrius so that he would counsel him to deny Christ. But, Valentine, through prayer healed the daughter of Astyrius who, had been blind for two years. Following that, Valentine baptized Astyrius and his entire family. All of them, in various ways underwent suffering and death for Christ the Lord Who received them into His Immortal Kingdom to rejoice eternally.

from: The Prologue from Ochrid

St. Basil Antiochian Orthodox Church



July 6, 2025
The 4th Sunday After Pentecost
The 4th Sunday of Matthew

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.

*The weather is always very warm during the summer months. While we need to dress comfortably because of this please remember that **shorts or above-the-knee attire, strapless garments, “spaghetti” strap garments, sleeveless or “tanktop” type garments, and tight-fitting, open or low-cut garments are not appropriate, especially for men, women and teenagers. It has always been our tradition to dress modestly and without drawing attention to oneself. Thank you.***

Epistle Reading: Romans 6:18-23

Gospel Reading: St. Matthew 8:5-13

Saints of the Day

Venerable Sisoës the Great, Apostles Archippos, Philemon and Onesimos of the Seventy; Martyrs Lucia the Virgin, Rex the Imperial Vicar in Campania and 24 others with them, Martyrs Apollonios, Epimachos and Alexander; Venerable-martyr Cyril.

Spiritual Counsels...

The discreet man sees danger and takes shelter, the ignorant go forward and pay for it. – Proverbs 22:3



Orthodox Thoughts from Theo, the Parish Possum

“Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal! Have mercy on us!” In the Holy Orthodox Church, we recite this “Trisagion” prayer frequently. At St. Basil, we chant it in English, Arabic, Greek and Slavonic. It is as old as the reign of Byzantine Emperor Theodosius II (408-450 A.D.). Tradition has it that Constantinople was shaken by a great earthquake in 447 A.D. This caused a child to be lifted in the air. When the child descended safely to earth, he exhorted the people to pray “Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal.” Some believe that the prayer is even older and goes back to Nicodemus who is to have shouted this phrase when he saw Jesus’ eyes open during his removal of Christ from the cross. It was certainly in use at the time of the Fourth Ecumenical Council in 451 A.D. Over the years there were several attempts to amend the prayer but these all failed. There were also arguments about whether the prayer addressed only Jesus Christ and not the Father and the Holy Spirit. While the three names apply equally to all three persons of the Holy Trinity, the consensus of the Holy Fathers is that the reference “Holy God” is specific to God the Father. “Holy Mighty” refers to our Lord Jesus Christ. “Holy Immortal” addresses the Holy Spirit. Thanks be to God for providing us with this holy prayer and may it bestow grace and mercy upon us. — Theo

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Saturday, July 5th – No Great Vespers & Confessions

Sunday, July 6th – Orthros, 8:30 A.M.; Divine Liturgy, 9:30 A.M.

Saturday, July 12th – Great Vespers & Confessions, 5:00 P.M.

Sunday, July 13th – Orthros, 8:30 A.M.; Divine Liturgy, 9:30 A.M.

Saturday, July 19th – Great Vespers & Confessions, 5:00 P.M.

Sunday, July 20th – Orthros, 8:30 A.M.; Divine Liturgy, 9:30 A.M.

Saturday, July 26th – No Great Vespers & Confessions

Sunday, July 27th – Typica Service, 9:30 A.M.

Saturday, Aug. 2th – Great Vespers & Confessions, 5:00 P.M.

Sunday, Aug. 3rd – Orthros, 8:30 A.M.; Divine Liturgy, 9:30 A.M.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The **Ladies Guild** is scheduled to hold its July meeting next Sunday, July 13, after Divine Liturgy. All ladies of the parish are invited to attend.

We fast Wednesday and Friday this week.

Fr. Peter needs to meet in the church with our north shore parishioners today, July 6, immediately after Divine Liturgy. If you live on the north shore of Lake Pontchartrain, please make every effort to be present.

Fr. Peter, God willing, shall meet with the **catechumens** and **inquirers** after coffee hour today, July 6. Everyone is welcome to attend.

God willing, Fr. Peter will attend the Archdiocese Convention at the end of July. Therefore, Great Vespers is cancelled on Saturday, July 26 and we will have a Typica Service at 9:30 A.M. on Sunday, July 27. You are not welcome to get sick or die while he is away.

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.)

Our Littlest Members

Christ said, "Let the little children come to Me, and do not forbid them; for such is the kingdom of heaven" (Matthew 19:14). In the Orthodox Church, we embrace and welcome our littlest parishioners to join in the Divine Liturgy. They are our future and we want them raised from birth involved in the liturgical experience.

While generally, silence and stillness are valued in worship, the noise of children, especially if they are playfully making noise or expressing themselves, is often viewed as a part of the joyful and vibrant nature of Orthodox worship. It is considered "Holy Noise." The beautiful, resonating sound of our children's cooing or laughter is warming to our hearts.

However, if your child should become fussy, out of control, or inconsolable, please be respectful to those around you and leave the Nave to provide comfort for our little member. They can be brought

outside or to St. Basil's Comfort Room. Once consoled and in good spirits, return with our sweet parishioner to resume the liturgy.

Please also remember that there is ***NO FOOD*** allowed in church and that includes baby formula (bottle-feeding) and snacks. If our little one is hungry, please bring them to the St. Basil's Comfort Room to feed them. The exception to that is our breastfed little ones. Breastfeeding during worship services is acceptable, but with a focus on discretion and modesty.

To our parents of little ones, we join you in loving prayer and support as you raise the next generation of Orthodox believers. GOD BLESS YOU!

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