

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
www.stbasilneworleans.org

Venerable Gregory the Hesychast

Gregory was a Serb by birth. He was the founder of the Monastery of St. Nicholas on the Holy Mountain, known as "Gregoriou" after him. His cell, where he prayed in silence and repented, can be found about a quarter of an hour distance from the monastery. In the year 1761, there was a great fire in the monastery, and on this occasion some of the monks took his relics and translated them to Serbia. This man of God entered peacefully into rest in the year 1406.

from: The Prologue from Ochrid

St. Basil
Antiochian
Orthodox Church



December 7, 2025
The 26th 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.

As Orthodox Christians it is always appropriate to stand (still) at the following times: the beginning and ending of all divine services, during a censuring of any kind, when the Holy Gospel is being read or when the homily is given, when others are receiving Holy Communion, during a blessing, e.g. "Peace be to all." Likewise, if you arrive at church during the reading of an epistle, gospel or the homily, please remain in the narthex until the homily is finished, then quietly seat yourself. Of course, if you have physical limitations, exceptions are understood.

Epistle Reading: Ephesians 5:8-19

Gospel Reading: St. Luke 13:10-17

Saints of the Day

Ambrose, bishop of Milan; Martyr Athenodoros of Mesopotamia;
Venerable Gregory, founder of Gregoriou monastery on Athos;
Venerable Gerasimos; Venerable Anthony of Sia and Neilos of Stolb Island; Venerable Philothea of Thrace.

Spiritual Counsels...

If you take your seat at a great man's table, take careful note of what you have before you; put a knife to your throat if you are prone to gluttony. Do not crave his choice food, for it is doubtful nourishment. – Proverbs 23:1-3



Orthodox Thoughts from Theo, the Parish Possum

Visitors to a Holy Orthodox Church liturgy are often surprised by the experience. Not only is it much longer and more elaborate than similar services of most main-line Christian churches, but, to the casual inquirer, it raises more questions than answers. There is none of the usual singing of familiar hymns and a long sermon. Worshippers are venerating icons and lighting candles. There are chants, prayers, calls for repentance and a lot of standing. At the end, only Orthodox people are permitted to receive the Holy Bread and Wine. It seems that more is expected from the visitor than passive attendance. The message of the liturgy is a call to physical and spiritual involvement with God and obedience to His holy will. St. John the Dwarf (Kolobos), one of the great Ethiopian ascetics was told by his spiritual father to plant a dry stick and to water it once a day until it bloomed. The water source was 12 miles away requiring him to leave every evening and return the following morning. After three years, the stick sprouted and grew into a fruitful tree. Its fruit was distributed to the monks as the "fruit of obedience." Orthodox liturgy is likewise a call to obedience—to attend the liturgy regularly, to receive Holy Communion, to confess one's sins, and to observe the fasts. Hard work for those who are interested. In the words of Abba John "Give me strength for the fight!". — Theo

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Saturday, Dec. 6th – Great Vespers & Confessions, 5:00 P.M.

Sunday, Dec. 7th – Orthros, 8:30 A.M.; Divine Liturgy, 9:30 A.M.

Saturday, Dec. 13th – Great Vespers & Confessions, 5:00 P.M.

Sunday, Dec. 14th – Orthros, 8:30 A.M.; Divine Liturgy, 9:30 A.M.

Saturday, Dec. 20th – Great Vespers & Confessions, 5:00 P.M.

Sunday, Dec. 21st – Orthros, 8:30 A.M.; Divine Liturgy, 9:30 A.M.

Wednesday, Dec. 24th – Vespers, 6:30 P.M.

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

Saturday, Dec. 27th – Great Vespers & Confessions, 5:00 P.M.
Sunday, Dec. 28th – Orthros, 8:30 A.M.; Divine Liturgy, 9:30 A.M.
Wednesday, Dec. 31st – Divine Liturgy, 6:30 P.M.
Saturday, Jan. 3rd – Great Vespers & Confessions, 5:00 P.M.
Sunday, Jan. 4th – Orthros, 8:30 A.M.; Divine Liturgy, 9:30 A.M.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The **Advent Fast** began Saturday, Nov. 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.

Our Annual Pledge Drive is currently underway for the calendar year 2026. 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.

Please note that dates for the book study have changed. Next meeting for The Art of Myrrh Bearing will be **Dec. 6th** at 11am. This meeting will be hosted by Rhonda Landry and will focus on the first five chapters p. 7-39. **Future meetings will be held on the first Saturday of the month;** the time and place will be announced prior to each meeting. Dates for future meetings are Jan. 3, 2026 & Feb. 7, 2026. Sorry for any confusion. Please see Tania Russell for more information.

Our annual **Youth Christmas Party** is scheduled for Sunday, December 14, after coffee hour. Youngsters of all ages are welcome. Please see **Pam Nugent** for more details.

Our annual **Christmas Pageant** will be held after Divine Liturgy on Sunday, Dec. 21. Parents who are interested in having their children participate in the pageant should see **Pam Nugent**.

The Ladies Guild Christmas Angels Project this year is Hotel Hope, a nonprofit, interfaith organization that provides housing to women and their children while guiding them to self-sufficiency through intensive case management. At this time, we will accept monetary donations but if you prefer to shop for gifts, please choose a tree from our tree of angels. Each tree has the age and gender of a child from Hotel Hope. Please note that any gifts purchased must be **unwrapped**. As always, we thank you for your assistance in bringing joy to our families that could use just a little help. If you have any questions or would like to make a donation/drop off a gift, please see **Yazmin Incaprera, Diana Lindley, or Tania Russell**. God Bless

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.)

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

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!

ST. BASIL-NORTHSHORE ANNOUNCEMENTS

God being our helper, the Northshore Orthodox community shall have their next worship service at **St. Michael's Episcopal Church on Sunday, December 14, at 5:00 P.M.** The address is 4499 Sharp Road, Mandeville, Louisiana, 70471. Everyone is welcome to the occasion, Orthodox Christians as well as non-Orthodox. Food and drinks are welcome for the social hour afterward. The next date of worship is Sunday, Jan. 11, 2026, at St. Michael Church at 5:00 P.M.