

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
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Blessed Michael of Klops

A fool for Christ, a Russian of princely family, he made himself a fool in order to hide his virtues from the world and escape the praise of men, and he thus received praise from God. He died in the year 1453 in the monastery of Klops near Novgorod, where his relics are preserved.

from: The Prologue from Ochrid

St. Basil
Antiochian
Orthodox Church



January 11, 2026
The Sunday after the Theophany of Christ
St. Theodosius the Great, Cenobiarch

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: Hebrews 13:7-16

Gospel Reading: St. Matthew 4:12-17

Saints of the Day

Theodosios the Great, the head of monasteries in Palestine; Venerable Theodosios of Philotheou monastery on Athos; Venerable Agapios of Apamea in Syria; Venerable Michael of Klops, fool-for-Christ.

Spiritual Counsels...

Do not remove an ancient landmark or enter the fields of the fatherless; for their Redeemer is strong; He will plead their cause against you. – Proverbs 23:10, 11



Orthodox Thoughts from Theo, the Parish Possum

It is difficult to avoid the daily news stories about the destruction of almost every building in Gaza. Less publicized is the fate of Gaza's Orthodox Christian community, one of the oldest in the world. It is part of the Greek Orthodox Patriarchate of Jerusalem. Christians settled in Gaza in the third century. However, paganism prevailed until St. Porphyrius converted the population in the fifth century through his healing ministry and by miraculously ending a drought. He persuaded Emperor Heraclius to allow Christian churches and, by the end of the sixth century, Christians were predominant in Gaza. But, over the years, Gaza became increasingly Muslim. After Hamas took control in 2007, many Christians left Gaza. During the current war with Israel, the death toll has further reduced their number. Even though the Christian community was active in sheltering and providing relief to non-Christian Gazans, their churches were bombed by Israeli Defense Forces. The historic church of St. Porphyrius, in which the saint is buried, was damaged in 2023. In 2024, a missile penetrated the roof of the church hall when it was full of people. Miraculously, it failed to detonate. At this time in 2026, there are fewer than 1,000 Orthodox in Gaza and they are at risk of extinction. It is sad to see the demise of this historic Orthodox community. Pray to St. Porphyrius for the safety and salvation of Orthodox Christian Gazans. May the Lord yet preserve their ministry. — Theo

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Saturday, Jan. 10th – Great Vespers & Confessions, 5:00 P.M.

Sunday, Jan. 11th – Orthros, 8:30 A.M.; Divine Liturgy, 9:30 A.M.

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

Saturday, Jan. 17th – Great Vespers & Confessions, 5:00 P.M.

Sunday, Jan. 18th – Orthros, 8:30 A.M.; Divine Liturgy, 9:30 A.M.

Saturday, Jan. 24th – Great Vespers & Confessions, 5:00 P.M.

Sunday, Jan. 25th – Orthros, 8:30 A.M.; Divine Liturgy, 9:30 A.M.

Saturday, Jan. 31st – No Great Vespers & Confessions

Sunday, Feb. 1st – Readers Typica Service, 9:30 A.M.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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. 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. Pledge forms, house blessing forms, 2026 calendars and boxed sets of donation envelopes may be found in the church hall. Thank you and God bless you.

We fast Monday, Wednesday and Friday this week.

The **Ladies Guild** shall hold its January meeting on today, Jan. 11, after Divine Liturgy. All ladies of the parish are invited to attend.

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

LADIES SOCIAL Saturday **January 17** at 1:30pm in Church Hall
All ladies of the Parish are invited to participate in the Annual Gift Exchange game (also known as “dirty santa”).
This will be held in the Church Hall on Saturday, Jan. 17 at 1:30pm. **Bring a gift** (valued around \$15) **and a snack** or beverage to share.

LET’S RELAX AND HAVE FUN!

The **Parish Council** shall hold its January meeting on Sunday, Jan. 18, after Divine Liturgy. All Council members please attend.

God willing, Fr. Peter shall be out of town from Tuesday, Jan. 27, until Sunday, Feb. 1. Should you need the assistance of an Orthodox priest, please contact Fr. George Wilson at Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral at 504-282-0259.

Fr. George Wilson has welcomed us to concelebrate the **Feast of the Presentation of our Lord in the Temple** at Holy Trinity Greek

Orthodox Cathedral on Monday, Feb. 2. Orthros begins at 8:15 A.M. and Divine Liturgy begins at 9:45 A.M.

Next meeting for **The Art of Myrrh Bearing** will be **January 3rd** at 11am. This meeting will be hosted in the church hall here at St. Basil. We will focus on the last four chapters of Part One p. 41-70.
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 Feb. 7, 2026, and March 7, 2026. Please see **Tania Russell** for more information.

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

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, January 11, 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 to be determined.