

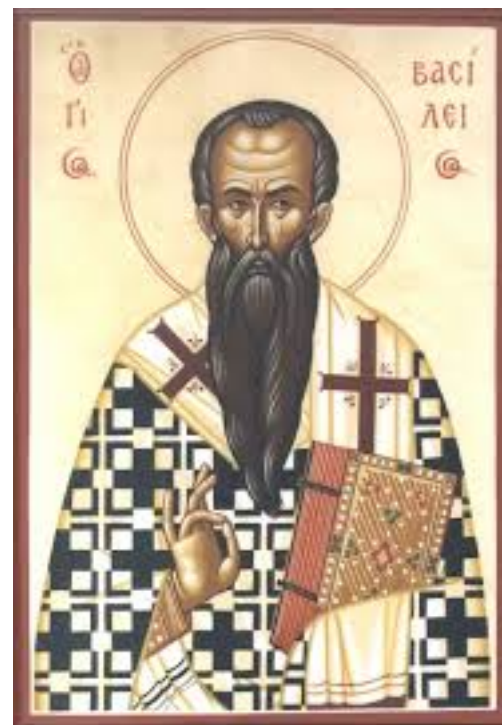
**St. Basil Antiochian Orthodox Church**  
**His Eminence Metropolitan JOSEPH, Archbishop of New York**  
**And Metropolitan of all North America**  
**His Grace Bishop NICHOLAS, Auxiliary Bishop**  
**Of the Diocese of Miami and the Southeast**  
**The Very Reverend Father Peter Nugent, Pastor**  
**3916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

**The Holy Great-martyr Catherine**

Catherine was the daughter of King Constus. After the death of her father, she lived with her mother in Alexandria. Her mother was secretly a Christian who, through her spiritual father, brought Catherine to the Christian Faith. In a vision, St. Catherine received a ring from the Lord Jesus Himself as a sign of her betrothal to Him. This ring remains on her finger even today. Catherine was greatly gifted by God and was well educated in Greek philosophy, medicine, rhetoric and logic. In addition to that, she was of unusual physical beauty. When the iniquitous Emperor Maxentius offered sacrifices to the idols and ordered others to do the same, Catherine boldly confronted the emperor and denounced his idolatrous errors. The emperor, seeing that she was greater than he in wisdom and knowledge, summoned 50 of his wisest men to debate with her on matters of faith and to put her to shame. Catherine outwitted and shamed them. In a rage, the emperor ordered all 50 of those men burned. By St. Catherine's prayers, all 50 confessed the name of Christ and declared themselves Christians before their execution. After Catherine had been put in prison, she converted the emperor's commander, Porphyrius, and 200 soldiers to the true Faith, as well as Empress Augusta-Vasilissa herself. They all suffered for Christ. During the torture of St. Catherine, an angel of God came to her and destroyed the wheel on which the holy virgin was being tortured. Afterward, the Lord Jesus Christ Himself appeared to her and comforted her. After many tortures, Catherine was beheaded at the age of 18, on November 24, 310. Milk, instead of blood, flowed from her body. Her miracle-working relics repose on Mount Sinai.

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

**St. Basil**  
**Antiochian**  
**Orthodox Church**



**November 24, 2019**  
**The 23<sup>rd</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**  
**The 13<sup>th</sup> 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.

**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. 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:** Ephesians 2:4-10

**Gospel Reading:** St. Luke 18:18-27

## Saints of the Day

Leave-taking of the Entrance of the Theotokos in the Temple; Great-martyrs Catherine the all-wise of Alexandria and Mercurios of Caesarea in Cappadocia; Martyr Mercurios of Smolensk Venerable Peter the Hesychast of Syria.

## From Rob Booms, Chairman of the Parish Council

We are now coming to the end of a very good year for St. Basil. We have seen membership growth, steady giving, good attendance, beautiful music and a closer relationship with our Bishop. However, we must finish the year strong. If you have not fulfilled your pledge, please do so before the end of the year so that we can recover from the major air conditioning expense we had to incur. Your parish council is now developing the budget for 2020. We will need to address the replacement of another air conditioning unit among other upkeep on

our nearly 30 year-old church and 40 year- old parish hall. As we continue to attract visitors who are interested in Orthodoxy, it is important that we present an attractive and functional facility. That's why we plan major additions to our icons and an improved sound system next year. We must rely on the support of all parishioners to sustain the momentum we observed this year. In the sixth chapter of his first letter to St. Timothy, St. Paul reminds us that we brought nothing into this world and can take nothing out. We are not called to hoard our wealth but to give generously for the spread of the good news of our Lord's resurrection. Please consider your pledge for 2020 with that in mind. Lord, may we honor thee with our substance and be faithful stewards of thy bounty so that we can be assured a heavenly treasure unto the ages of ages. God bless---Rob Booms

## WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Saturday, Nov. 30<sup>th</sup> – No Great Vespers & Confessions

Sunday, Dec. 1<sup>st</sup> – Orthros, 8:30 A.M.; Divine Liturgy, 9:30 A.M.

Saturday, Dec. 7<sup>th</sup> – Great Vespers & Confessions, 5:00 P.M.

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

Saturday, Dec. 14<sup>th</sup> – No Great Vespers & Confessions

Sunday, Dec. 15<sup>th</sup> – Orthros, 8:30 A.M.; Divine Liturgy, 9:30 A.M.

Saturday, Dec. 21<sup>st</sup> – Great Vespers & Confessions, 5:00 P.M.

Sunday, Dec. 22<sup>nd</sup> – Orthros, 8:30 A.M.; Divine Liturgy, 9:30 A.M.

## Orthodox Thoughts from Theo, the Parish Possum



On one of my nighttime searches for food for the possum family, I wandered into the Parish Hall. There were some yummy items in the kitchen trash. I also found some interesting books. There is one about St. Tikhon, one of Russia's most beloved saints who lived between 1724 and 1783. Dostoevsky's holy monk, Zossima, a character in his book, *The Brothers Karamazov*, is based on St. Tikhon. As I started reading the words of this remarkable saint, I was struck by the power of his message. He compares our earthly life with the life to come: "We see the water of a river flowing uninterruptedly and passing away, and all that floats on its surface, rubbish or beams of trees, all pass by. Christian! So does our life... Poor is man from his mother's womb to his grave. Born with a cry, he lives, tossed up and down as a ship on the sea. Where are the days of reproach and unhappiness? These too pass away. Such is our existence in this world. Not thus will be the life of the world to come... No illness, age, decrepitude, death

or corruption will assail our body. There will be peace, joy, comfort and bliss without end. I was born in order to die. I die that I may live.” We are about to start the Nativity fast. It is intended as a time for sober reflection on the transient joys and griefs that pass away and how we can achieve the promise of eternal salvation. St. Tikhon reminds us that ‘time’s awastin’. Whether we’re young or old, we are asked to spend less time on food, the internet, watching football, shopping and on other unproductive activities. Instead, we are called to focus on our relationship with God and service to others. Then we can cry out with confidence “Remember me O Lord, in thy Kingdom!” Wishing you a Holy Nativity season,  
Theo, the Orthodox possum

**Today’s Ushers:** Tania or Sevin Russell. **Next Week:** Pam Nugent.

**Today’s coffee hour:** Team 3. Thank you. **Next Sunday:** Team 4.

As of Nov. 15, 2019, 48 pledges were received for 2019 totaling \$93,256.00. The collection for Nov. 10, 2019, totaled \$1,272.00 for a year-to-date amount of \$123,190.26, a weekly average of \$2,737.56. As of Nov. 17, 2019, our expenses are \$118,079.26, a weekly average of \$2,566.94.

### ***Spiritual Counsels...***

“The wise man sees evil coming and avoids it, the fool is rash and presumptuous.” – Prov. 14:16

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The **Advent Fast** begins Friday, November 15<sup>th</sup>, 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.

Bake Sale Closeout: we do have a few items left from the Ladies’ Bake Sale, which have been frozen. They can be purchased at a discount in the kitchen area during coffee hour. We have cinnamon rolls, nut rolls,

nammoura, sfoof, toll house pies, and ketaifa in very limited amounts. First come, first serve. Thank you!

**Christmas Angels Project – Help a local needy child have a Merry Christmas!** Gift requests will be here soon.

Sign up with Paulina or Tania. Buy the gift requested (clothing/toys) then bring gifts to the Church Hall on **Sunday Dec. 8**. We will wrap them for you if you like. If **you** wrap them be sure to label with your name as well as the Child’s name and what the wrapped gift contains (ex. Size 6 pants). If you don’t have time to shop and want to give a gift card to Walmart/Target, see Paulina. **THANK YOU!!**

An **Orthodoxy 101/Inquirers’ Class** shall be offered on the first Tuesday of each month. Our next gathering is on Dec. 3 at 6:30 P.M. A potluck meal shall be served followed by a presentation and discussion. Everyone is welcome!

Our **Diocesan Winter Retreat** is scheduled for January 24-26, 2020. Please see the flyer in the Church Hall or check your email for further information.