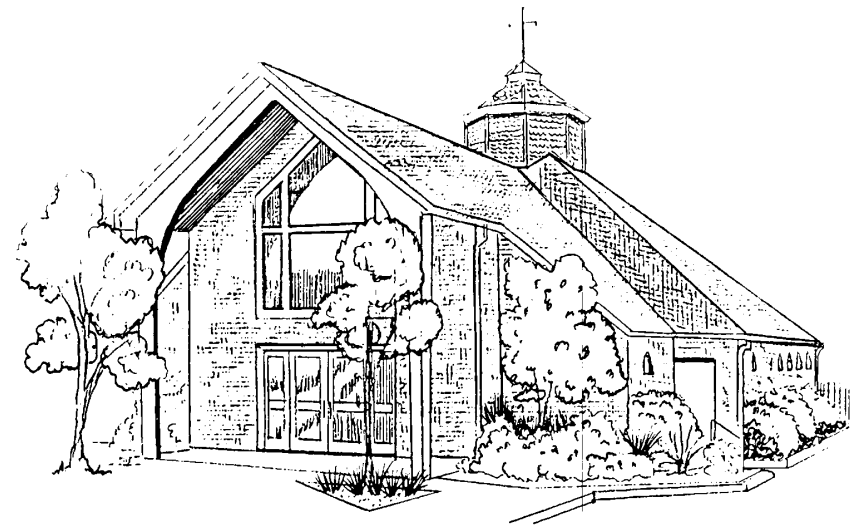


**St. Basil Antiochian Orthodox Church**  
**The Most Reverend Metropolitan SABA, Archbishop of New York**  
**And Metropolitan of all North America**  
**The Right Reverend Bishop NICHOLAS, Auxiliary Bishop**  
**Of the Diocese of Miami and the Southeast**  
**The Very Reverend Father Peter Nugent, Pastor**  
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**The Venerable Nicholas the Commander**

Some think this great saint was a Slav of Balkan ancestry. At the time of Emperor Nicephorus, Nicholas was a commander and had authority over a division of the army that went to war against the Bulgarians. Along the way, Nicholas spent the night in an inn, where he experienced a great temptation and had a strange dream. This dream fully came to pass in the war, where the Greeks were utterly defeated by the Bulgarians in the year 811. Nicholas was spared, and out of gratitude for God's providence he left his military rank and became a monk. He lived a long life of asceticism and became so perfect that he became a great clairvoyant and God-pleaser. He died peacefully in the ninth century and took up his habitation in the Blessed Kingdom of Christ the Lord.

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



**December 24, 2023**  
**Sunday Before Nativity**

# 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 11:9-10, 32-40

**Gospel Reading:** Matthew 1:1-25

## Saints of the Day

Venerable Martyr Eugenia of Rome and those with her; Martyrs Achaikos and Basillia; Venerable Antiochus of Mar Sabbas Monastery; New-martyr Ahmed of Constantinople.

## A Message from the Parish Council

Dear parishioners, as we plan for a new year, we ask you to consider the level of your commitment to St. Basil. We face increasing property insurance premiums and higher medical insurance costs for Father Peter and his family. In addition, we need more financial and human resources to build up our parish if we are going to give birth to a Northshore mission. Let us pray to the Lord for guidance as we make our pledge to further the ministry of St. Basil—Rob Booms, Council Chairman.

## WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Saturday, Dec. 23<sup>rd</sup> – Great Vespers & Confessions, 5:00 P.M.  
Sunday, Dec. 24<sup>th</sup> – Orthros, 8:30 A.M.; Divine Liturgy, 9:30 A.M.  
Sunday, Dec. 24<sup>th</sup> – Great Vespers, 5:00 P.M.  
Monday, Dec. 25<sup>th</sup> – Orthros, 8:30 A.M.; Divine Liturgy, 9:30 A.M.  
Saturday, Dec. 30<sup>th</sup> – Great Vespers & Confessions, 5:00 P.M.  
Sunday, Dec. 31<sup>st</sup> – Orthros, 8:30 A.M.; Divine Liturgy, 9:30 A.M.  
Monday, Jan. 1<sup>st</sup> – Orthros, 9:00 A.M.; Divine Liturgy, 10:00 A.M.  
Saturday, Jan. 6<sup>th</sup> – Orthros, 9:00 A.M.; Divine Liturgy, 10:00 A.M.  
Saturday, Jan. 6<sup>th</sup> – Badnjak Service, 5:00 P.M.  
Sunday, Jan. 7<sup>th</sup> – Orthros, 8:30 A.M.; Divine Liturgy, 9:30 A.M.

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



Most Christians are somewhat familiar with the process used by the Roman Catholic church to declare someone a saint. In the Orthodox Church, when clergy or lay people recognize and honor a virtuous person, his or her name may be brought to the attention of a bishop for “glorification.” This usually results in a lengthy investigation. There is no “three miracle “requirement in connection with a candidate for sainthood. Assuming the investigation is satisfactory, the name of the proposed saint is submitted to the Holy Synod of bishops of that bishop’s Orthodox Church. If the Holy Synod approves the new saint, icons of the saint will be written, and liturgical services are composed. The saint’s feast day is then established, and the other Orthodox churches are notified that they may include the new saint in their calendars. In the Orthodox Church, each autocephalous (independent) Orthodox Church has the authority to approve someone for glorification. In the United States, only the Orthodox Church in America (OCA) is autocephalous, and the glorification decision elsewhere is, therefore, made at the patriarchal level in the Russian, Greek and Antiochian churches. The OCA glorified St. Raphael of Brooklyn and, most recently, Matushka Olga, an Alaskan Native American. Blessed Seraphim (Rose) is currently being considered for glorification by the Russian Orthodox Church Outside Russia (ROCOR). We should all be on the lookout for saints. They are among us—Theo

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***Spiritual Counsels...***

“Many are the plans in the mind of a man, but it is the purpose of the LORD that will be established.” Proverbs 19:21

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**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Advent Fast begins Wednesday, November 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.

Church calendars, donation envelopes, pledge forms and house blessing forms for 2024 are now available in the Church Hall. Please see Fr. Peter for assistance, if needed.

God willing, the feast of **St. Basil the Great**, our beloved patron saint, will be celebrated with Orthros and Divine Liturgy on Monday, Jan. 1<sup>st</sup>, at 9:00 A.M. and 10:00 A.M. Please join us for this celebration and for prayers for the beginning of the civil new year.

The **Great Feast of Theophany** is Saturday, Jan. 6<sup>th</sup>. Orthros, God willing, will be at 9:00 A.M. followed by Divine Liturgy at 10:00 A.M. House blessings will begin at that time. Please see Fr. Peter to schedule a time to bless your home.

A **Badnjak Service** is scheduled for Saturday, Jan. 6<sup>th</sup>, at 5:00 P.M. in observance of Old Calendar Christmas. Potluck lenten refreshments are available afterwards.

**House blessing season** begins on January 6. Please contact Fr. Peter to have your home blessed.

**Today's Coffee Hour:** Team 4. **Thank you. Lunch on the Nativity Day:** Potluck. **Next Week:** Potluck.