

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 Venerable Filomorus

He lived and mortified himself in Galatia in the fourth century. It is said about him that he was so perfected in all virtues that he resembled an angel rather than a man. He was especially glorified because of his patience. He was persecuted by the Emperor Julian the Apostate and suffered much for Christ. After the death of Julian, this wicked persecutor of Christ, St. Filomorus lived peacefully, benefiting many. He died in his eightieth year.

from: The Prologue from Ochrid

St. Basil
Antiochian
Orthodox Church



March 9, 2025
The First Sunday of Great Lent

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 12:1-10

Gospel Reading: St. John 1:43-51

Saints of the Day

The Forty Martyrs of Sebaste.

Spiritual Counsels...

"He who pursues righteousness and kindness will find life and honor." – Proverbs 21:21

Orthodox Thoughts from Theo, the Parish Possum



Orthodox worship and prayer are filled with the recitation of the Psalms. Of all of them, the 50th Psalm stands out. It was composed by King David in about 1,000 B.C. The king had committed adultery with Bathsheba, the wife of one of his military commanders, and she became pregnant with his child. To cover up his sin, he sent the commander into the front lines of a battle where the man was killed. He then married the widow and went on with his life. However, the prophet Nathan confronted him and forced him to recognize that his conduct was reprehensible. David repented and out of this came Psalm 50, one of the most poignant and sincere prayers of contrition. It is recited or chanted during every Orthros, during the prayers of the Third Hour and, in every Divine Liturgy, while the priest censes the altar and icons before the Great Entrance. The Psalm is a heart-felt prayer for pardon. It expresses both a desire for renewal and a trust in the forgiving love of God. For any Orthodox believer, there is perhaps no more powerful vehicle for seeking forgiveness. In the words of the Psalm: "Have mercy upon me, O God. Wash me thoroughly from mine iniquity and cleanse me from my sin. Create in me a clean heart, O God: and renew a right spirit in me. O Lord, open thou my lips: and my mouth shall declare thy praise."—Theo

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Friday, March, 7th – Akathist Hymn, 1st Stasis, 6:30 P.M.

Saturday, March 8th – Great Vespers & Confessions, 5:00 P.M.

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

Wednesday, March 12th – Presanctified Divine Liturgy, 6:30 P.M.

Friday, March, 14th – Akathist Hymn, 2nd Stasis, 6:30 P.M.

Saturday, March 15th – Great Vespers & Confessions, 5:00 P.M.

Sunday, March 16th – Orthros, 8:30 A.M.; Divine Liturgy, 9:30 A.M.

Wednesday, March 19th – Presanctified Divine Liturgy, 6:30 P.M.

Friday, March, 21st – Akathist Hymn, 3rd Stasis, 6:30 P.M.

Saturday, March 22nd – Great Vespers & Confessions, 5:00 P.M.

Sunday, March 23rd – Orthros, 8:30 A.M.; Divine Liturgy, 9:30 A.M.

Wednesday, March 26th – Presanctified Divine Liturgy, 6:30 P.M.

Friday, March, 28th – Akathist Hymn, 4th Stasis, 6:30 P.M.

Saturday, March 29th – Great Vespers & Confessions, 5:00 P.M.

WORSHIP SCHEDULE CONTINUED

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

Wednesday, April 2nd – Presanctified Divine Liturgy, 6:30 P.M.

Friday, April 4th – Akathist Hymn, 6:30 P.M.

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

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Our Annual Pledge Drive is currently underway for the calendar year 2025. 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.

Our **Annual General Parish Meeting** is scheduled for Sunday, March 16, 2025, after Divine Liturgy and shall convene in the Church Hall. All members of the parish are encouraged to attend the meeting. Those adults, who have been a member of the parish for at least one year, have completed the Parish Registration/Pledge Form and returned it to the church office, and are in good sacramental with the Church and good financial standing with the parish, are eligible to vote.

Meatfare Week begins on Monday, Feb. 24. From that date until PASCHA it is our tradition to refrain from eating meat and meat products. From Pure Monday, March 3, we observe the traditional fasting discipline of Great and Holy Lent (no meat, poultry, eggs, dairy, fish, alcohol and oil) during the entire **Great Fast**, which lasts from Pure Monday through Great and Holy Saturday. On Saturdays and Sundays, however, alcohol and oil are allowed, except on Great and Holy Saturday when no oil is permitted. Fish, alcohol and oil are permitted on the Feast of the Annunciation (March 25) and Palm Sunday (April 13).

Lenten potluck meals shall be served after Presanctified Liturgies on Wednesday evenings during Great Lent.

The **Sacrament of Holy Confession** is good for the health & salvation of the soul & body. For long-term, good, physical health, regular visits to the family doctor are appropriate. Likewise, care for our souls is a necessity. If it is your desire to receive the Eucharist at Great & Holy PASCHA, then please make every effort to care for your soul & have confession at least once during Great Lent.

Each year we begin our Archdiocese-wide **Food For Hungry People Campaign** at this time. Please take one of the coin boxes in the narthex home with you and place your coins in it during Great Lent and return the boxes at PASCHA. The proceeds will be collected and forwarded to the Archdiocese office for distribution. May God bless your generosity and ascetic practice of almsgiving.

A second collection shall be taken today for our Archdiocesan annual Seminarian Collection.

Approximately 120 **Red Carnations** are needed for the veneration of the Holy Cross on Sunday, March 23. If you are interested in donating all or part of these flowers, please fill out one of the envelopes in the narthex and on the “Special Occasion” line, please write, “Red Carnations.” Include your commemorations, donation and turn the envelope in to the church office. Thank you.

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.)

The **Ladies Guild** is scheduled to hold their March meeting today after Divine Liturgy. All ladies of the parish are invited to attend.

The **Parish Council** is scheduled to hold their March meeting Sunday, March 23, after Divine Liturgy. All Council members please attend.

Today's Coffee Hour: Team 2. Thank you. **Next Week:** Team 3.