

St. Basil Antiochian Orthodox Church
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And Metropolitan of all North America
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The Venerable John the Dwarf (Kolobos)

John is numbered among the greatest of the Egyptian ascetics. "Kolobos" means "dwarf," for he was of little stature. He came to Scetis with his brother Daniel and, with the greatest zeal, devoted himself to such asceticism that Daniel had to urge him to moderation. John was a disciple of St. Pambo, and was later the teacher of St. Arsenius the Great. His fellow disciple under St. Pambo was St. Paisius the Great. Once, when he and Paisius were discussing what kind of asceticism to undertake, an angel of God appeared to them and commanded John to stay where he was and instruct others, and Paisius to enter the wilderness and live as a hermit. In order to test John's obedience, St. Pambo ordered him to water a dry stick planted in the ground until it turned green. Without hesitation or doubt, John watered this stick daily for three whole years until by the power of God, it grew green sprouts and brought forth fruit. Pambo then gathered the fruit from this tree, brought it to church and distributed it among the brethren saying: "Draw near and taste of the fruit of obedience!" John the Dwarf had many disciples. Some of his wise sayings have been preserved. He entered into rest peacefully and took up his habitation in the joy of his Lord.

from: The Prologue from Ochrid

St. Basil
Antiochian
Orthodox Church



November 9, 2025
Nectarios of Pentapolis
The 7th 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.

*The weather is always very warm during the summer months. While we need to dress comfortably because of this please remember that **shorts or above-the-knee attire, strapless garments, “spaghetti” strap garments, sleeveless or “tanktop” type garments, and tight-fitting, open or low-cut garments are not appropriate, especially for men, women and teenagers. It has always been our tradition to dress modestly and without drawing attention to oneself. Thank you.***

Epistle Reading: Ephesians 5:8-19

Gospel Reading: St. Luke 8:41-56

Saints of the Day

Martyrs Onesiphoros and Porphyrios of Ephesos; Venerable Matrona of Constantinople; Theoktistia of Lesbos; Simeon the Translator (Metaphrastes); Venerable Euthymios and Neophytos, founders of Docheiariou monastery on Athos; Nektarios of Pentapolis, the wonder-worker.

Spiritual Counsels...

Make no friendship with a man given to anger, nor go with a wrathful man, lest you learn his ways and entangle yourself in a snare. – Proverbs 22:24, 25



Orthodox Thoughts from Theo, the Parish Possum

The small Native Alaskan village of Kwethluk seems an unlikely place to give birth to the newest Orthodox saint, Saint Olga. It is in the bleak tundra area of Western Alaska which was ravaged by a typhoon in October 2025.

Kwethluk is accessible only by boat or small plane. The saint was born in 1916 when Alaska was still part of Russia. Her life was centered on a small Orthodox church which served a community of less than 1,000 which survived by fishing and hunting. She married a man who became an Orthodox priest and then was called Matushka Olga. The couple had 13 children, five of whom died in childhood. She was a midwife for the birth of many children and was regarded as the spiritual mother of the village. She counselled women who had suffered sexual abuse or miscarriage and provided people with food and handmade clothing. When she died of cancer in 1979, unseasonably warm weather thawed the river, for one day only, enabling people to travel to her funeral. After her death, she appeared in dreams and visions and healings have been reported through her intercessions. She was glorified as a saint in 2025, the first female saint from North America. In her icons, she is often framed by the northern lights and the words “God can create great beauty from complete desolation.” Blessed Matushka Olga, pray to Christ our Savior, to save us from our sins. — Theo

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

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

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

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

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

Friday, Nov. 21st – Orthros, 9:00 A.M.; Divine Liturgy, 10:00 A.M.

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

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

Saturday, Nov. 29th – No Great Vespers & Confessions

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

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

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

We fast Wednesday and Friday this week.

The **Parish Council** shall hold its November meeting on Sunday, November 16, after Divine Liturgy. All Council members please attend.

The Ladies first book study of The Art of Myrrh Bearing will meet on Nov. 8th at 11am at the home of Tania Russell. This meeting will mainly focus on the introduction and prologue. Future meetings will be held on the second Saturday of the month; the time and place will be announced prior to each meeting. Dates for future meetings are Dec. 13, 2025 & Jan. 10, 2026. Please see **Tania Russell** for more information.

The **Advent Fast** begins 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.

God willing, Orthros and Divine Liturgy shall be celebrated on Friday, Nov. 21, at 9 A.M. and 10 A.M., respectively, for the **Feast of the Meeting in the Temple of the Mother of God**.

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 parishion-

ers 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 serve **Great Vespers at St. Michael's Episcopal Church on Sunday, November 16, at 5:00 P.M.** The address is 4499 Sharp Rd., 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. Future dates of worship are Sundays, December 14, 2025, and January 11, 2026, at St. Michael Church at 5:00 P.M.