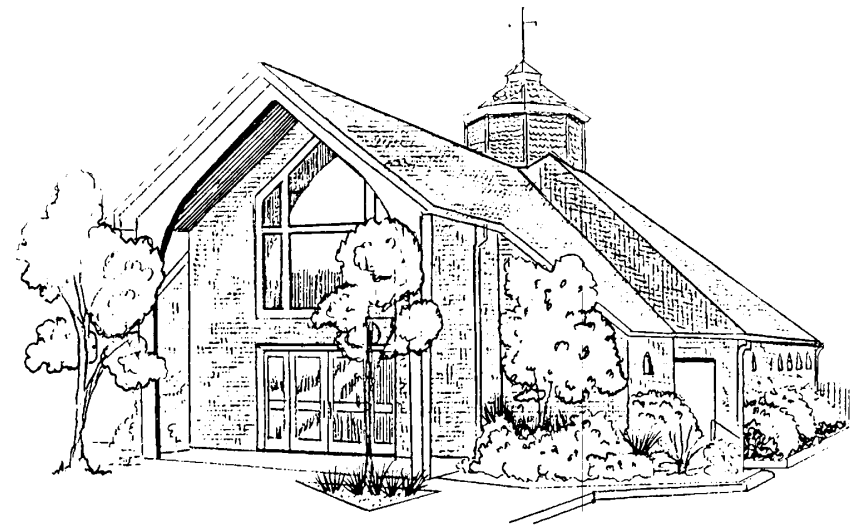


**St. Basil Antiochian Orthodox Church**  
**The Most Reverend Metropolitan SABA, Archbishop of New York**  
**And Metropolitan of all North America**  
**The Right Reverend Bishop NICHOLAS, Auxiliary Bishop**  
**Of the Diocese of Miami and the Southeast**  
**The Very Reverend Father Peter Nugent,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

**St. Stephen the Confessor of Sourozh**

Stephen was born in Cappadocia and educated in Constantinople under the Patriarch, St. Germanus. He withdrew into solitude and lived hidden from the world. An angel appeared to St. Germanus and ordered him to appoint Stephen bishop of the town of Sourozh (now Sudak in the Crimea), and the patriarch did so. The zealous Stephen converted many to Christianity. He suffered bitterly under Emperor Leo the Isaurian for the sake of icons. He prophesied to the emperor his impending death. Following this wicked emperor's evil death, Stephen was returned to his diocese, where he fed his God-pleasing flock and died peacefully at the end of the eighth century.

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



**December 15, 2024**  
**St. Eleutherios**  
**The 11<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 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:** II Timothy 1:8-18

**Gospel Reading:** Luke 14:16-24

## Saints of the Day

Hieromartyr Eleutherios, bishop of Illyria and his mother, Anthia; Coremmon the Eparch; Suzanna the Deaconess; Martyr Eleutherios of Byzantium; Righteous Martyr Bacchus the New; Venerable Paul the New of Latra; Confessor Valerian, bishop of Abensa; Maximinus, abbot of Micy; Stephen, bishop-confessor of Surozh; Venerable Tryphon of Pechenga; New Hieromartyr Hilarion of Solovki.

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

"The soul of the wicked desires evil; his neighbor finds no mercy in his eyes." Proverbs 21:10

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## WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Saturday, Dec. 14<sup>th</sup> – Great Vespers & Confessions, 5:00 P.M.  
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.  
Tuesday, Dec. 24<sup>th</sup> – Royal Hours of the Nativity, 9:00 A.M.  
Tuesday, Dec. 24<sup>th</sup> – Vespers of the Nativity, 6:30 P.M.  
Wed., Dec. 25<sup>th</sup> – Orthros, 9:00 A.M., Divine Liturgy, 10:00 A.M.  
Saturday, Dec. 28<sup>th</sup> – Great Vespers & Confessions, 5:00 P.M.  
Sunday, Dec. 29<sup>th</sup> – Orthros, 8:30 A.M.; Divine Liturgy, 9:30 A.M.  
Tuesday, Dec. 31<sup>st</sup> – Vesperal Divine Liturgy, 6:30 P.M.  
Saturday, Jan. 4<sup>th</sup> – Great Vespers & Confessions, 5:00 P.M.  
Sunday, Jan. 5<sup>th</sup> – Orthros, 8:30 A.M.; Divine Liturgy, 9:30 A.M.  
Monday, Jan. 6<sup>th</sup> – Orthros, 9:00 A.M.; Divine Liturgy, 10:00 A.M.  
Saturday, Jan. 11<sup>th</sup> – Great Vespers & Confessions, 5:00 P.M.  
Sunday, Jan. 12<sup>th</sup> – Orthros, 8:30 A.M.; Divine Liturgy, 9:30 A.M.



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

On December 20, the Holy Orthodox Church commemorates the death of St. John of Kronstadt. He was born in 1829 in a village in Siberia and died in 1908. From his childhood, he exhibited a deep religious faith which led him to the priesthood. He served the church in a town outside of St. Petersburg, Russia, home to the Russian Navy. Located on an island, it was a place of great poverty and a place of exile for criminals. He was tireless in visiting the sick and the poor, often returning home without coat or shoes because he had given them away. He performed so many healing miracles that thousands attended his daily Divine Liturgy. Unable to hear the confessions of all that asked him for them, it became necessary to have parishioners confess sins to each other, followed by a communal absolution. He foresaw the Russian revolution, the coming wave of atheism and the death of thousands of Orthodox Christians. His down-to-earth teachings are available in the book "Spiritual Counsels" by St. Vladimir's Seminary Press. One of his prayers follows:

[Lord] Your name is love: do not shun me, a person who has gone astray. Your name is strength: strengthen me, who am exhausted and falling down. Your name is light: enlighten my soul which is darkened with earthly passions. Your name is peace: calm my restless soul. Your name is mercy: do not cease to have mercy upon me. —Theo

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The **Advent Fast** began 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.

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, With great joy, the Ladies Guild would like to invite you to participate in our traditional Christmas Angels Project 2024, to benefit the students and their siblings of five families in great need from Bissonet Plaza Elementary School in Metairie. Like previous years, we offer this chance to give and give generously. Now through December 15<sup>th</sup>, parishioners may contribute to the effort of making these young children's happy and joyful holiday season. As an organization, we reach out into community during the end of each year to say WE CARE.

Please, make checks payable to **St. Basil Ladies Guild**. In memo, please write **Angels Project 2024**. Donations can be given to Tania Russell, Yazmin Incaprera, Diana Lindley or Paulina Kocic.

Thank you and God bless.

**Middle Eastern pastries** are available for purchase through the Christmas holidays. Please see **Nadia Khashou** or **Therese Dagher** for more information.

Boxed sets of donation envelopes for 2025, along with calendars, pledge forms and house blessing forms are in the dining room of the Church Hall for each household in the parish. Please get yours today. Additional forms and calendars are available.

The **Ladies Guild** is scheduled to hold their December meeting on Sunday, Dec. 15, after Divine Liturgy. All ladies of the parish are invited to attend.

A **Christmas Party** is planned for the youth of the parish today after coffee hour. All kids of the parish are invited to attend. For more information, please see **Pam Nugent**.

The **Parish Council** is scheduled to hold their December meeting on Sunday, Dec. 22, after Divine Liturgy. All Council members please attend.

Our annual **Christmas Pageant** is scheduled for Sunday, December 22, after Divine Liturgy. Those parents who wish to have their children participate in the pageant should see **Pam Nugent**.

The **Royal Hours for the Feast of the Nativity of Christ** will be served, God willing, on Tuesday, Dec. 24, at 9:00 A.M.

Christmas vespers will be served at 6:30 P.M. on Tuesday, Dec. 24, at 6:30 P.M.

God willing, Orthros and Divine Liturgy for the **Feast of the Nativity of Christ** is scheduled for Wednesday, Dec. 25, at 9:00 A.M. and 10:00 A.M., respectively.

A **Vespertal Divine Liturgy for the Feast of St. Basil the Great**, is, God willing, scheduled for Tuesday, Dec. 31, at 6:30 P.M. The Vasilopita will be offered in the Church Hall afterward.

God willing, Orthros and Divine Liturgy for the **Feast of Theophany** is scheduled for Monday, Jan. 6, at 9:00 A.M. and 10:00 A.M., respectively.

**Today's Coffee Hour:** Team 3. Thank you. **Next Week:** Team 4.