

# SAIN'T BASIL THE GREAT BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH

1118 East Union Bower Road  
Irving, Texas 75061  
(972)438-5644

[www.stbasilsinirving.org](http://www.stbasilsinirving.org)



*Icon of the Sunday of Orthodoxy, Balamand School*

February 21 – March 6, 2010  
1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Sundays of the Great Fast  
Sunday of Orthodoxy and Sunday of St. Gregory Palamas

+Basil, Archbishop of Pittsburgh  
Metropolitan of the Byzantine Ruthenian Church in America  
[www.archeparchy.org](http://www.archeparchy.org)

Parish Administrator:  
Fr. Damon Geiger, OSST  
[fr.damon@stbasilsinirving.org](mailto:fr.damon@stbasilsinirving.org)



## Schedule of Divine Services

### **Sunday, February 21, 2010**

*First Sunday of the Great Fast – Sunday of Orthodoxy*

Third Hour	9:30 a.m.		
Divine Liturgy	10:00 a.m.	<i>Reader:</i>	<i>Eden Whitley</i>

### **Wednesday, February 24, 2010**

Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts	7:00 p.m.	<i>Reader:</i>	<i>See cantor for assignment</i>
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### **Friday, February 26, 2010**

Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts	7:00 p.m.	<i>Reader:</i>	<i>See cantor for assignment</i>
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### **Saturday, February 27, 2010**

*Third All Souls Saturday*

Divine Liturgy and Panachida	10:00 a.m.	<i>Reader:</i>	<i>See cantor for assignment</i>
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### **Sunday, February 28, 2010**

*Second Sunday of the Great Fast – Sunday of Saint Gregory Palamas*

Third Hour	9:30 a.m.		
Divine Liturgy	10:00 a.m.	<i>Reader:</i>	<i>L. Witherspoon</i>

### **Wednesday, March 3, 2010**

Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts	7:00 p.m.	<i>Reader:</i>	<i>See cantor for assignment</i>
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### **Friday, March 5, 2010**

Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts	7:00 p.m.	<i>Reader:</i>	<i>See cantor for assignment</i>
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### **Saturday, March 6, 2010**

*Third All Souls Saturday*

Divine Liturgy and Panachida	10:00 a.m.	<i>Reader:</i>	<i>See cantor for assignment</i>
<b>Sunday, March 7, 2010</b>			
<i>Third Sunday of the Great Fast – Sunday of the Veneration of the Cross</i>			
Third Hour	9:30 a.m.		
Divine Liturgy	10:00 a.m.	<i>Reader:</i>	<i>C. Ellis</i>
<b>Wednesday, March 10, 2010</b>			
<i>Mid-Lent</i>			
Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts	7:00 p.m.	<i>Reader:</i>	<i>See cantor for assignment</i>
<b>Friday, March 12, 2010</b>			
Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts	7:00 p.m.	<i>Reader:</i>	<i>See cantor for assignment</i>
<b>Saturday, March 13, 2010</b>			
<i>4<sup>th</sup> All Souls Saturday</i>			
Divine Liturgy and Panachida	10:00 a.m.	<i>Reader:</i>	<i>See cantor for assignment</i>
<b>Sunday, March 14, 2010</b>			
<i>Fourth Sunday of the Great Fast – Sunday of Saint John Climacus</i>			
Third Hour	9:30 a.m.		
Divine Liturgy	10:00 a.m.	<i>Reader:</i>	<i>C. Ellis</i>

## Services to the Parish

	Readers	Prospora Bakers	Church Cleaning
<b>2/20-21/2010</b>	Eden Whitley	Steve Banko	
<b>2/27-28/2010</b>	Lynn Witherspoon	Rita Miller	<i>Volunteers Needed</i>
<b>3/6-7/2010</b>	Carolyn Ellis	Missy Norrell	
<b>3/13-14/2010</b>	Clare Ellis	Carla Quigley	<i>Volunteers Needed</i>

## Our Gifts to God

	Collection	Building Fund	Poor Box	Candles	Other Donations	Total	Attendance
<b>2/7/2010</b>	\$792.00	\$55.09	\$5.00	\$56.00	- 0 -	\$908.09	64
<b>2/14/2010</b>	\$532.00	- 0 -	\$10.00	\$5.00	- 0 -	\$547.00	58

## Important Upcoming Dates...

2/21/2010	Food and Funds Sunday
2/26/2010	Soup and Salad Supper following the Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts
3/5/2010	Soup and Salad Supper following the Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts
3/12/2010	Soup and Salad Supper following the Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts
3/19/2010	Soup and Salad Supper following the Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts
3/20/2010	Diaconal Discernment Session in Irving
3/21/2010	Food and Funds Sunday
3/26/2010	Soup and Salad Supper following the Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts
4/2/2010	Soup and Salad Supper following Burial of the Shroud
4/2-3/2010	All Night Watch over the Shroud
4/24/2010	Diaconal Discernment Session in Irving
4/18/2010	Food and Funds Sunday
5/15/2010	Diaconal Discernment Session in Irving
5/16/2010	Food and Funds Sunday
6/20/2010	Food and Funds Sunday
8/6-8/2010	Texas Byzantine Retreat led by His Grace, +Bishop Nicholas (Samra) at Holy Retreat Center, Houston



## News and Notes

Please pray for any who are ailing in our parish, Tony Martinez, for all pregnant mothers in our parish, for Tatiana and Anastasia Dogaru and their family, for an increase in vocations to priesthood and religious life and for guidance and assistance in our efforts to promote dignity and value of all human life. Please pray for the repose of the souls of +Niccolo Neri, stillborn son of Marc and Lara Neri. To add to this prayer request, please e-mail Missy Norrell at [web@stbasilsinirving.org](mailto:web@stbasilsinirving.org) . Please list "Prayer Request" as the subject. Names will be kept on the list for 4 weeks.

The Ecclesiastical calendar is open for requesting commemorations for dates throughout 2010. If you would like to remember a loved one, celebrate a birthday or wedding anniversary, or simply give thanks for special events in your life or the life of your family, please consider requesting Divine Liturgy to be served for your intention. The usual offering is \$10, however any offering is accepted. Please contact Fr. Damon ([fr.damon@stbasilsinirving.org](mailto:fr.damon@stbasilsinirving.org)) to have your intention placed in the calendar.

As part of the preparation of the gifts (the prosphora, wine and water), prior to the serving of the Divine Liturgy, is the remembering of the saints and our living and deceased loved ones. As a parish family, together we remember those people recommended to our prayer in the Divine Liturgy. Every Sunday, upon entering the Narthex of the Church, there will be a paper for each of us to remember by name (*first name only*) those people prayed for by us.

As Archbishop Basil continues his journey toward recovery, the many prayers offered by the faithful and friends of the Metropolitan Church of Pittsburgh are sincerely appreciated. Weathering chemotherapy and occasional hospital stays, His Eminence also counts on the power of prayer to guide and assist his physicians as they attend to his medical needs. Please continue to petition and pray on Archbishop Basil's behalf during this most difficult and challenging time.

Offertory Statements for 2009 are ready to be picked up in the Narthex. Many thanks to those who have so generously supported our parish.

Today is Food and Funds Sunday. Donated food items may be left in the basket in the Narthex. Monetary donations may be placed in the Poor Box in the Narthex. The St. Basil's Food Pantry is much in need of donations. Some ideas for donations are:

Tuna Fish	Pasta	Oatmeal	Jelly	Spaghetti Sauce
Crackers	Peanut Butter	Coffee or Tea	Tomato Products	Rice
Cold Cereal	Dry Beans	Soups	Complete Boxed Dinners	
Canned Fruit	Macaroni and Cheese			

Thank you for your kindness and generosity!

The Vocations Icon needs sponsors to take it home to pray with! Please see the sign-up sheet in the Narthex to participate in this wonderful experience.

Come join us for a soup/salad supper after the Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts on Fridays during the Great Fast. Dishes must be meat and dairy free. Please see the sign-up sheet in the Narthex to volunteer. All are welcome and invited to come!



Dear brothers and sisters in Christ:

After a lengthy period of trying long distance administration, our prayers have been heard!

His Eminence, Metropolitan Basil, Archbishop of Pittsburgh of the Byzantine Catholic Metropolia has accepted Father Damon Geiger for service within the Archeparchy, and Fr. Damon is appointed the administrator of St. Basil the Great Church, Irving, Texas, effective tomorrow, Friday, February 19, 2010.

Fr. Stephen Muth, who had originally been accepted from the Eparchy of Parma, to serve as administrator of St. Basil the Great in Irving, Texas, has been relieved of the original assignment due to ill health. Please continue to keep him in your prayers.

May God richly bless St. Basil's as we begin a new chapter in our parish's history. The last two years have been a difficult time for all the Byzantines in Texas...not just St. Basil's parishioners but also St. John's and the Byzantine Community of Austin. We now look forward not only to a return to normalcy, but a greater and more effective witness to the faith and traditions of ancient Byzantine Christianity as lived and celebrated in our parishes in Texas.

As you welcome Fr. Damon you will be accompanied by the prayers of the parishioners of St. John Chrysostom. In many ways even this difficult period has been a source of blessings as our communities have grown to know each other better, and this period of 'forced' collaboration will, God willing, be an impetus to greater collaboration and sharing of resources, all in the service of spreading the Word.

Please be supportive of Fr. Damon as he transitions from his seminary ministry at St. Mary's Roman Catholic Seminary in Houston, back to parish ministry. His vast experience, his clear understanding of the Theology and Spirituality of the Byzantine Church, his love for the Divine Services and his dedication will no doubt be felt by all those touched by his priestly ministry. As he begins this service at St. Basil's, I would like to thank the Parish Advisory Council, held over from Fr. Seeton's pastorate, for their service even through the interim. As this is a time for new beginnings, so too will the Parish Advisory Council begin anew, with new members and old, carefully selected under the guidance of Fr. Damon. They with Fr. Damon will establish the path of St. Basil's Parish, so that our family of faith, located in the Metroplex, will continue to be a living witness to the Ancient Faith as lived, taught, celebrated and shared, following the example of the Apostles and the Holy Brothers Cyril and Methodius, Equals to the Apostles and Enlighteners of the Slavs.

No small mission and apostolate....but a great task, and with the spiritual guidance of Fr. Damon, a renewal of our parish!

Christ is among us! He is and will be!

-Very Rev. Fr. Elias Rafaj  
Protopresbyter of the Southwest



## The Sunday of Orthodoxy

The Sunday of the Triumph of Orthodoxy is celebrated on the first Sunday of the **Great Fast**. It is the celebration of the victory of the iconodules over the iconoclasts by the decision of the Seventh Ecumenical Council. Therefore, the service is to commemorate the restoration of icons for use in services and private devotional life of Christians.

Services often include the clergy or the faithful triumphantly processing around the church, holding icons of their patron or parish saints.

### Themes

Each of the Sundays of the Great Fast has its own special theme. In the course of Church history, almost each Lenten Sunday has obtained a second theme, a historical theme. Originally the Lenten fast was the time for catechumens to prepare for baptism and entry into the Church. The Sunday spiritual themes were part of the early Christian catechesis.

### Historical theme

The theme of the day is victory of the True Faith. "This is the victory that overcomes the world, our faith" (1 John 5:4). Also, the icons of the saints bear witness that man, "created in the image and likeness of God" (Gen 1:26), becomes holy and godlike through the purification of himself as God's living image. The connection of the victory over iconoclasm with Lent is purely historical; the first *Triumph of Orthodoxy* took place on this particular Sunday.

### Spiritual theme

The first Sunday of Great Lent originally commemorated the Prophets such as Moses, Aaron, and Samuel. The Liturgy's alleluia verses and scripture readings appointed for the Sunday of Orthodoxy reflect this older usage. The Epistle reading is a completion of Hebrews 11:24-26, 32-12:2. The yet-to-be-baptized catechumens of the early church heard the Epistle about the Old Testament men who lived by their faith in a promise whose fulfillment they did not see. After the righteous of the Old Testament are mentioned, the Epistle says: *And all these, having obtained a good testimony through faith, did not receive the promise, God having provided something better for us, that they should not be made perfect apart from us.*

The Gospel lesson is John 1:43-51, and it ends with an explanation of the *something better* of the Epistle: *"You will see greater things than these." And He said to him, "Most assuredly, I say to you, hereafter you shall see heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man."* The catechumens of the early church, and the faithful preparing for Pascha today, are told that,

with faith, they will see the inauguration of the new age, the fulfillment of all promises, and the manifestation of the Kingdom, through the Incarnation, in the Church.

*Article courtesy of OrthodoxWiki.org.*