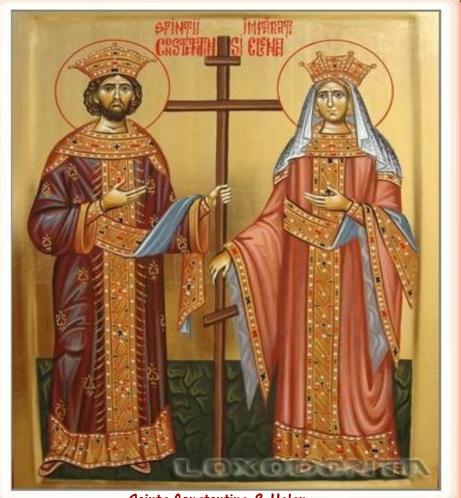
The Voice of Saint Anthony

MAY 2019

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Deadline for June Newsletter is Thursday, 25 May Please send to: frchris@saint-anthonys.org newsletter_church@aol.com



Saints Constantine & Helen



Reverend Father Peter Stratos, Pastor Reverend Father Christopher Retelas, Associate Pastor

778 S. Rosemead Boulevard, Pasadena, CA 91107

(626) 449-6943 Office (626) 449-6974 FAX www.saint-anthonys.org

PRIEST'S MESSAGE

My beloved Parishioners,

Christos Anesti!

I found this Holy Week to be especially exciting, moving, and uplifting. I hope and pray that all of you felt the same. The thing which made this Holy Week so very special for me was the extreme love and dedication our parishioners displayed even from the days preceding Holy Week, throughout Holy Week, and subsequently to the very last, joyous day of the Agape Service. I witnessed a real sense of urgency to insure that everything was conducted with dignity, reverence and grace. This is just the way our Lord would want it! Our Church looked magnificent, which is a true testament to the love and commitment that we the parishioners of Saint Anthony have for our beautiful temple dedicated to God. Well done good and faithful servants!

Holy Week, even though it is only one short week, is like a marathon with services every night, most mornings and some afternoons. It is a time when many changes take place in the Church in preparation for each service. These preparations don't just happen on their own. Each service is unique and requires different "props," if you will, whether they be: hand formed Palm crosses, bay leaves, freshly polished silver items in the altar, flowers around the Bridegroom Icon, set up for Holy Unction, flowered wreaths for Holy Thursday, candelabras for the 12 Gospels, the moving of the Cross, the flower adorned Kouvouklion, Myroforoi, honor guard acolytes, rose petals and bay leaves to be strewn throughout the church, different colored Kalymata prepared, dyed Easter eggs, Mageiritsa Dinner, white lilies for the solea, etc.., etc., these are the visual details which help make the services of Holy Week so unique, beautiful and so emotional.

I want to thank each person who participated in some way in the preparations for Holy Week. Whether you did a great deal of work to enrich the week or whether you did just a little, every contribution was and is appreciated. I am already thinking of ways to increase participation next year. I believe the more we participate, the more we experience the feeling which Holy Week gives us. What do I mean by this? I remember when I first came to St Paul Greek Orthodox Church in Irvine in the early 1990's, Fr George Stephanides+ of blessed memory asked me to hold the sheet used to cover the body of Christ, to wrap it around the body and to bring it to him at the Royal Gates on Holy Friday afternoon. I will never forget, as I carried Christ's body, that I felt a warm sensation and I felt his body moving. I remember having a tingling feeling, as if an electric current was running through my body. I was overcome with emotion and I knew from my experience that our God is a God who is alive. As we increase our active participation in His church, He finds many and unique ways of communicating with each of us. My own experience some 35 years ago now, can't be explained, but it was real. Christ desires for all of us to feel His warmth and His love for us. We all need our own personal experience. As a priest, one has the joy of experiencing many different feelings, but the services are really about all of us. We all need the opportunity to experience something personal and special. Therefore, I am absolutely committed to insuring that many opportunities for involvement will be available in the preparation for and celebration of Holy Week...

For now, thank you for all that you do, and celebrate that Christ is Risen!

Christ is Risen! Truly He is Risen!

Father Peter



STEWARDSHIP

2019 STEWARDSHIP SUMMARY

OUR STEWARDSHIP GOAL:	<u>\$425,000</u>
186 PLEDGES TOTALING:	\$245.520

	<i>q</i> 210)020
COLLECTED AS OF 3/12/19:	\$157,543

AVERAGE PLEDGE GOAL: \$1,500

CURRENT AVERAGE PLEDGE: \$1,320

Breakdown Pledges			
Amount Pledge	Amount Pledge # of Pledges		
\$ 20 - \$299	39	21%	
\$300 - \$499	22	12%	
\$500 - \$799	39	21%	
\$800 - \$999	7	4%	
\$1,000 - \$1,499	41	22%	
\$1,500 - \$1,999	11	6%	
\$2,000 - \$3,999	15	8%	
\$4,000 - \$5,999	7	4%	
\$6,000 - \$7,999	2	1%	
\$8,000 - \$9,999	0	0	
\$10,000 - \$14,999	3	2%	
\$15,000 - \$99,999	0	0%	
TOTAL PLEDGES	186	100%	

\$425,000 (goal) \$245,520 Pledged (58% of goal) \$157,543 Amount Collected (37% of goal)

OUR CURRENT STEWARDSHIP GOAL IS \$1,500 PER STEWARD/FAMILY. RIGHT NOW, 80% OF OUR STEWARDS ARE UNDER THAT GOAL

NEWS FROM THE LOFT

It is with heartfelt appreciation and deep gratitude that we in the music ministry of our beloved Saint Anthony community wish to thank the Parish Council and Ladies Philoptochos for underwriting the cost of the chair lift now installed in the north stair well of our beautiful church.

Over the years, our choir has grown in numbers and abilities. On many occasions, parishioners who sang in the choir years ago, have been inspired to once again participate in this important ministry of our church......but were no longer able to negotiate the steep stairs leading to the choir loft. Additionally, many of our members have undergone orthopedic procedures that made it impossible for them to sing in the choir during their convalescence. This barrier to singing praises to God from the choir loft has now been eliminated; and our church building is more compliant with the "Americans With Disabilities Act."

As His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos once said, "Throughout the year, our parishes count on the talents of church musicians to enrich the Liturgical services of our Church, and we are all grateful for the stewardship of time and talents that you have offered. I encourage you to continue learning more about our Byzantine music traditions, keeping alive our rich hymnography, which carries the theology of our faith."

With this wonderful gift from our Parish Council and Ladies Philoptochos, our choir loft will continue to be filled with eager and willing church musicians.....both young and young at heart!

"We who mystically represent the Cherubim" again offer our sincere thanks and appreciation as we continue to strive to enhance the worship experience of our beloved Saint Anthony parish.





May 2019

NEWS FROM THE LOFT (CONTINUED)





CHURCH SCHOOL NEWS

St. Anthony Church School Program

HIGH SCHOOL CLASS FIELD TRIPS

In our class this year we have been studying Orthodox Worship, with a special focus on the Divine Liturgy. To round out our lessons for the year, we will expose the students to how our Divine Liturgy is celebrated in different (non-Greek) Orthodox traditions. The purpose is to reinforce their understanding that our beautiful Liturgy belongs to the universal Church. -- The Orthodox Church is the true spiritual home for all God's children, no matter their heritage!



We will meet at St Anthony on each of these Sundays at 9 am and then car pool to the Church for Liturgy. In order for your child/children to participate in any or all of these field trips, they MUST turn in the Permission form, filled out and signed ASAP.

CONTACT anastasiakalivas@gmail.com FOR FORMS AND SIGN UPS

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- 19 May Last Day of Class
- 2 June Attendance Assembly

CONGRATULATIONS to the following students who had Perfect Attendance in April:

Michael Akrotirianakis	
Nicholas Akrotirianakis	
Anastasia Ananiades	

Gia Balntas Gabriella Carpenter Eleni Katsafados Soteri Katsafados Evangelia Kleissas Theodora Trigonis



YOUTH & YOUNG ADULT NEWS



What is HOPE and JOY?

- It is a ministry of the church
- It is an opportunity to provide fellowship among our young faithful of the church
- It is an opportunity to share common interests with those of similar ages
- It integrates four elements: Worship, Fellowship, Service and Witness
- Is there a membership fee?
 - No
 - Occasionally members will be asked to bring something for a community outreach

 We may ask for monetary donations to cover expenses as needed What are the ages?

- HOPE (Hellenic Orthodox Primary Explorers): 4 ½ to 7 years old
- JOY (Junior Orthodox Youth): 8 years old to 10 years old
- Meeting dates and times:
 - First Sunday of the month
 - Begins 10 minutes after Church School is dismissed
 - Schedules are flexible and announced well in advance

Volunteer Opportunities?

- Adult supervision is always welcomed
- Youth volunteers are needed

Coordinator: Irene Albeck- mcmg2a@aol.com / 626-792-8122

Please leave completed form in Room 1A or eMail the following information to Irene:

First and Last name of child/children:

1	2	
3	4	
Name of Parents:		
eMail:		
Two phone numbers including	g an emergency num	ber:
1	2	(ice)
I want to volunteer!	yes maybe _	ask me later



Holy Friday retreat "Sadness to Gladness" was three hours packed with the meanings and symbolism of Greek Orthodox Holy Week. **Gina Kazaltzes** prepared a Lenten lunch and **Father Peter** opened the retreat with a prayer thanking God for our food we were preparing to eat.

Making Kollyva: Lisa Xanthos assisted by **Rebecca Courter**, demonstrated making kollyva and children participated making a small bowl.

Our Hands: Elleni Ioannou led a lesson on how we use our hands to express our love for God and each other. They drew their hands, went into the church to explore how hands had meaning in the icon of the crucifixion and resurrection.

Holy Week: Mary Udria discussed Palm Sunday morning service and emphasized the bridegroom service held in the evening. Children gathered around the icon of the bridegroom and described what they saw. She touched on **Holy Monday**, withering of the fig tree and **Holy Tuesday**, parable of the Ten Bridesmaids.

Holy Unction: Sophia Syrengelas discussed the <u>Holy Unction</u> service held on **Holy Wednesday.** She stressed the importance of receiving Holy Unction, the proper way to dispose of the cotton ball, a short explanation of the seven gospels read during the evening. The children lit seven battery operated candles.

Holy Thursday: **Father Christopher** covered the events of this day and brought out the Epitaphios tapestry for the children to have a closer look. He explained at the un-nailing service that the priests would be carrying it around the church, and place it in the kouvouklion. He also told them that on **Holy Friday** Christ would be taken off the cross and wrapped in white linen, and remain behind the alter for forty days. The children wanted to know how it was going to be taken down, so Father Christopher, said, *"Come and see."*

Resurrection eggs: Theoni Katsafados did an interactive lesson explaining the meaning of each symbol.

Reading: Polly Vagenas read the book <u>A Tale of Three Trees</u> by Angela E. Hurt.

Singing: Katerina Lynch led the conclusion of the retreat with singing several hymns under her direction.

Art Projects: Maria Wojcik and Eleni Wojcik directed the art activities.

G.O.Y.A. BASKETBALL 2019

Congratulations to all our teams for a great season!	
Thank you to our coaches:	Tony Christopoulos
	John Paziouros
	Greg Perris

Tom Grafos Patricia Paziouros



Thank you to our loyal fans and a special thank you to Jennifer Pappas for reserving a gym for practices.

Congrats to our MVPs:	Leah Cokias	Rhea Gerontides	Joey Fuerst	Niko Mavridis
	Fotoula Exarchoulakos	Kyriaki Tsigkounis	Demetri Miralis	Andrew Petrossian

Congratulations to **Kosta Tsigkounis** for receiving the Four Circles of Orthodoxy award. This award is given to one player from each parish who follows the principles recommended for GOYA: Worship, Fellowship, Service and Witness.

Thank you to Anthia Drulias Lucas for serving as the commissioner of the league and leading another successful year.

<u>Jr. Girls</u> 1st St. Katherine 2nd St. Nicholas 3rd St. Basil 4th Assumption 5th St. John 6th St. Anthony 7th St, Sophia 8th St. George

End of regular season standings:

<u>Jr. Boys</u> 1st St. Nicholas 2nd St. John 3rd St. Anthony 4th St. Basil 5th St. Sophia 6th St. Katherine 7th Assumption 8th St. George <u>Sr. Girls</u> 1st St. Basil 2nd Assumption 3rd St. Nicholas 4th St. Sophia 5th St. Anthony 6th St. George 7th St. Katherine Sr. Boys 1st St. John 2nd St. George 3rd St. Nicholas 4th St. Anthony 5th St. Basil 6th St. Katherine 7th St. Sophia 8th Assumption



GOYA BASKETBALL HONORED AT PALM SUNDAY LUNCHEON Thank you to all who participated



Junior Girls: Coach Patricia Paziouros, Alyssa Christopoulos, Evangeline Bicos, Valentina Bicos, Sophia McNulty, Leah Cokias, Vanessa Christopoulos, Talia Grafos, Nancy McNulty, Madison McNulty and Coach John Paziouros. *Not pictured:* Rhea Gerontides

Junior Boys: Back row Coach Tom Grafos, Justin Webster, Chris Pappas, Max Pollalis, Eleas Exarchoulakos, Coach Tony Christopoulos Front row Jack Fuerst, Yianni Kades and Dylan Udria. Not pictured Joey Fuerst, Luke McNulty, Niko Mavridis and Nicholas Vidalakis



May 2019

YOUTH & YOUNG ADULT NEWS (CONTINUED)



Senior Girls: Coach John Paziouros, Fotoula Exarchoulakos, Christina Dupas, Kyriaki Tsigkounis, Rhea Gerontides, Coach Patricia Paziouros. *Not pictured:* Eleni Kamar, Mary Tio, and Jenna Webster

<u>Senior Boys</u>: Back row Coach Greg Perris, Andrew Petrossian, Dino Vagenas. Niko Exarchoulakos, Kostantinos Tsigkounis, Coach Tony Christopoulos. Front row Joey Fuerst, Demetri Miralis and George Gerontides, *Not pictured:* Coach Tom Grafos



G.O.Y.A. VOLLEYBALL 2019

We are once again hosting the G.O.Y.A. Volleyball Tournament!

Join the fun! Saturday, May 11, 2019 8:30am to 5:00pm

Wilson Middle School 300 Madre Street, Pasadena 5:00pm Dinner & Awards at St. Anthony's

Middle School, High School and College Divisions

\$35 per player for lunch, dinner and t-shirt

Non-player dinners \$10

Registration due by May 4

Sign up with GOYA President Theodora Trigonis <u>theodoratrigonis@gmail.com</u> or 818-813-3596

We need parents to help with set-up, coaching and refereeing.

If you can help please contact: Pana Gelt <u>pgelt@socal.rr.com</u> 626-278-2808



SAINT ANTHONY'S BOWLING LEAGUE

Bowling Winter/Spring 2019

The St. Anthony Bowling League has just completed their second season! Congratulations to our team winners!

1st Place: Team 7 - George Dupas, Marianne Nichols and Patricia Paziouros
2nd Place: Let's Roll - Ted Dupas, Parri Livanos and Chrissa Mobayen
3rd Place: Pin Action - Kiki Chryssogel, Liam McCann and Joyce Nichols
4th Place: Titans - Jim Horaites, Tricia Johnston and John Paziouros
5th Place: Spare Me - Pana Gelt, Jim Nichols and Nick Paziouros
6th Place: The Holy Bowlers - Teddi Efstathiou, Anthia Lucas and Syrus Mobayen
7th Place: Jazz Hands - Andrea Lappas, John Lucas and Steven Miller

A special thank you to the regular fans Virginia Lappas, Vivian Mavredakis, Leah Pastis and Patt Pastis. And thank you to Kathy Lucas for donating one of her bowling trophies to be passed to the high bowler of the week! All bowlers hope to be the one to take it home! The league will start again in the fall so please consider joining! It's all about fun and friendship!

Kneeling/Squatting L to R: Anthia Lucas, Teddi Efstathiou, Kiki Chryssogelos, Parise Livanos

Standing Middle Row L to R: John Lucas, Joyce Nichols, Marianne Nichols, Patricia Paziouros, Chrissa Mobayen, Pana Gelt, Jim Horaites, Andrea Lappas,

Standing Back Row L to R: Nick Paziouros, Tricia Johnson, John Paziouros, Jim Nichols, Liam Mc Cain, Steven Miller, Syria Mobayen, Ted Dupas, Nick Dupas



PHILOPTOCHOS NEWS

Congratulations to all our participants in the **2019 Oratorical Festival.** Each speaker created an insightful essay related to the Orthodox faith and delivered her speech with confidence.

In March, our Elementary Division contestants prepared insightful speeches using original topics. **Sophia Babbes**, a student in the fourth grade, spoke about "living everyday like it's my last." **Kathryn Babbes**, in second grade, spoke on "what makes me feel closest to God."

In April, our Junior Division contestant, **Leah Cokias**, and our Senior Division candidate, **Theodora Trigonis**, each participated in the District level competition at Saint John's in Anaheim. We are pleased to announce that **Leah Cokias** was awarded an honorable mention for her speech discussing how Orthodox Christians should relate to money and wealth. **Congratulations Leah!**

Additionally, we are thrilled to announce that **Theodora Trigonis** was selected as a finalist for her exceptional speech about how science and technology should always be in harmony with God's purpose. As a result, Theodora will be advancing to the Metropolis Competition which will be held at Saint Nicholas Ranch on May 11th. **Congratulations Theodora!**





Leah Cokias

Theodora Trigonis

PHILOPTOCHOS NEWS (CONTINUED)

Community Outreach-Union Station Homeless Services- Adult Center

412 South Raymond Avenue-Pasadena, CA 91105

626-240-4550 626-255-1434

"Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others." Philippians 2:4

Philoptochos oversees this outreach and seeks the participation of community members. Our commitment is the **first Wednesday of each month, once a month, 6:45 PM to approximately 8:45 PM.** There is no food preparation. You can bring dessert (ie: cookies, brownies etc.) for sixty clients.

Duties include plating food and minimal clean up. There is a commercial dishwasher or you may bring heavy duty paper plates.

Please consider signing up to serve at Union Station Adult Center. Three to four people generally will be sufficient to serve and clean up.

Dates available: June 5, July 3, August 7, September 4, October 2, November 6, and December 4.

All dates are on a Wednesday from 6:45 PM to 8:45 PM.

For information please contact: Irene Albeck - mcmg2a@aol.com (H) 626-792-8122 (C) 626-252-5062 Sophia Angelos - sangelos2000@gmail.com (H) 626-795-0848 (C) 626-826-0848 Stephanie Soewers - szanglis@aol.com (C) 818-209-5026

Check List for Adult Center Servers

Food will be in the ovens in OFF position. If it needs to be warmed up, turn on ovens to 300 degrees.

Juice and milk will be in the refrigerator.

- Check with night staff for the number to be served.
- Ask what time to begin serving clients dinner.
- Wash hands, long hair tied back or wear a hairnet
- Count as many plates that will be needed (55-60). Use gloves when in direct contact with food.
- Fill approximately 6 pitchers with punch and 2 with milk
- Union Station Homeless Services clients will set up their tables and bus them also.
- Organize an assembly line just before serving time. Begin preparing dinner plates and line up on serving counter.
- **Do not start** by being too generous with portions; attempt to keep evenly portioned. If food is left over they may have second servings.
- Set aside 5-7 plates for late comers.
- When food has been served, start preparing dessert, when possible give dessert with meal
- Leftovers: Consolidate, cover, label type of food, date and put into refrigerator.
- Clean up counters, dishes are usually scraped by clients if not rinse prior to placing in dishwasher. Leave kitchen orderly and clean.
- Do not bring anything back. Leave food and dispose aluminum containers.

VIP NEWS

Saint Anthony 's VIPs collect non-perishable foods for the Foothill Unity Center.

The Foothill Unity Center was founded in 1980 and is the primary provider of food, case management/crisis help and access to health care resources across eleven San Gabriel Valley cities in Los Angeles County. As the federally designated Community Action Agency for the Foothill Area, they operate two locations in Monrovia and Pasadena, serving clients in Pasadena, Altadena, South Pasadena, Sierra Madre, Arcadia, Monrovia, Bradbury, Duarte, Azusa, Baldwin Park and Irwindale. 79% of their clients are at or below the National Poverty Level. The number of people served by the organization has more than tripled over the last five years, making community funding contributions and volunteer support more critical than ever.

Their programs include:

- Back to School
- Food Programs
- Support and Crisis Services
- Health Services
- Pediatric Mobile Dental Clinic
- Pet Food Bank
- Thanksgiving and Holiday Distributions

Please bring your donation to the VIPs collection container in the Trinity Ballroom lobby..

Whoever is kind to the poor lends to the Lord and He will reward them for what they have done.

– Proverbs 19:17

The generous will themselves be blessed, for they share their food with the poor.

- Proverbs 22:9

Saint Anthony Greek Orthodox Church

Reverend Father Peter Stratos

Reverend Father Christopher Retelas

2019 PARISH COUNCIL MEMBERS

Officers

Pete Gallanis	President
John Vidalakis	1 st Vice President
Joseph Akrotirianakis	2 nd Vice President
Tashia Vagenas	Secretary
Tony Christopoulos	Treasurer

Members

Philip Ted Attalla	James Pappas
John Buzas	Sophia Syrengelas
Roberto Crespo	Mary Udria
Tom Grafos	Perry Vidalakis
Christos Ioannou	Vincent Zarian

OFFICE STAFF

Alma Vorgias – Office Administrator Athena Serban – Events Coordinator (Trinity Ballroom)



CUSTODIAL STAFF

Carlos Sosa



<u>CHOIR</u>

Jim Hronas

Choir Director

Sherese Akrotirianakis Dean Athans Tina Athans George Babbes Christina Becronis Tom Bouras Judie Christopoulos Leah Cokias Rebecca Courter Athena Dallas Maria Ganis Georgia Loutsos Grajeda Aliki Haralambos Maria Hronas

CHANTERS

Patrick Lynch Katerina Lynch Demetrios Baliotis Mike Abi-Farah



Elias Kalivas Stavrula Kiotas Dr. Rodanthi Kitridou Kathy Lucas Claire Marotta Liam McCann Bess Mechalas Elizabeth Moreno Iliana Orozco Alexandra Patzakis Gena Pegadiotes Katerina Petrossian Nicole Schulman Litsa Stavropoulos Pres. Aida Stratos

READERS

Dr Nicholas Kokoris Constantine Trigonis

YOUTH CHOIR Katerina Lynch

CHURCH SCHOOL STAFF

Fotene Trigonis - Director Anastasia Kalivas - Director Irene Albeck - Preschool Nikolitsa Vagenas - Preschool Kathy Tsigkounis - Kindergarten & 1st Kyriaki Tsigkounis - Kindergarten & 1st Michael Nunez - 2nd & 3rd Anna Nunez - 2nd & 3rd Maria Prantzikou - 2nd & 3rd John Vagenas - 4th & 5th Maria Pappas - Middle School Fotene Trigonis - Middle School Anastasia Kalivas - High School



MINISTRIES (CONTINUED)

PHILOPTOCHOS SOCIETY Panagia Chapter Board 2017-2019

President

Maria Kypreos 1st Vice President Elizabeth Skandale & Lisa Xanthos 2nd Vice President Judith Din & Konstantina Paziouros **Corresponding Secretary** Tanya Christodoulelis & Maria Grover **Recording Secretary** Fontaine Achilles Malisos & Mary Dewar Treasurer Maria Kokoris Assistant Treasurer Katherine Skandale **Beautification** Presbytera Aida Stratos & Esther Vavoulis **Community Outreach** Mary Dewar, Stephanie Soewers & Presbytera Aida Stratos Fellowship Athena Dallas Publicity / Webmaster **Terese Caire & Nicolette Fuerst** Scholarship Irene Albeck & Judith Din Sunshine and Visitation Jeanne Karaiannoglou **Union Station** Irene Albeck Welfare Presbytera Maria Mylonas Advisor **Connie Becker** Spiritual Advisor **Father Peter Stratos**



ADDITIONAL MINISTRIES

Acolytes	Fr. Christopher Retelas
Bible Study	Fr. Peter Stratos
Bookstore	Jeremiah Courter
GOYA	Fr. Christopher Retelas
GOYA Basketball	Anthia Lucas Pana Gelt
Greek Dance Groups	Christine Pappas
Greek Festival	John Vidalakis Nick Demopulos Julie Balas
Greek Language School	Anastasia McClain
JOY/HOPE	Irene Albeck
Moms & Tots	Presbytera Kalli Retelas
Myrrh Bearers	Irene Albeck
Oratorical Festival	Nicole Schulman
Pasadena Golf Classic	Jimmy Christodoulelis Roberto Crespo
Prayer Shawls	Aliki Haralambos
Vacation Bible School	Sophia Syrengelas Mary Udria
VIPs	Helen Treantafelles
Young Adults	Mike Abi Farah



COMMUNITY NEWS





ATTENTION ALL GRADUATES !!!

If you are graduating from grade school, middle school, high school or college this year and wish to be included in **The Voice Newsletter -June Issue**, please submit the following information:

Your Name Parents names School from which you are graduating Your graduation photo or any photo if grad photo not available—head shot preferred

For grade school or middle school graduates: List what school you will be attending in the fall

For high school graduates:

List college or university you will be attending

For college grads:

List your course of study and degree

Please send all requested information to: newsletter_church@aol.com

DEADLINE: May 25th



COMMUNITY NEWS (continued)

Saturday of Lazarus



The Newly Chrismated and their God-parents

Making Palm Crosses



Holy Friday





Myrrh Bearers

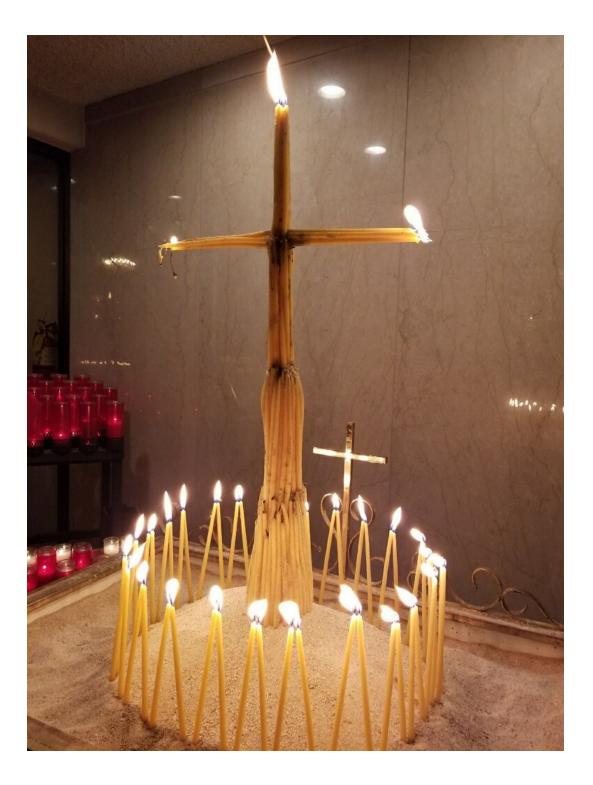


The voices of our sixteen young girls were amazing. Thank you to the following people: the parents for bringing your child to practices and patiently waiting until we finished; **Mindy Vagenas**, who researched, ordered the dresses, contacted parents and made exchanges as needed (the last dress arrived at 4:00 PM on Holy Friday); **Elleni Ioannou**, who directed, organized and taught the stanza they sang, and **Helen Smith** who crocheted fifteen capes for the girls.

A Myrrh-bearer (2nd—5th grade) is enrolled and participates in church school. She attends practices, completes a community outreach, continues to be a steward of the church by learning how to be a responsible caretaker of Christ's Church, enjoys church life and is happy in church work, and commits to using her time, talent, and treasure caring for others. Congratulations to: Anna B., Alexis S., Ava V., Eleni K., Evanglia K., Faye K., Gia B., Gianna K., Kathryn B., Kostandina I., Madeline G., Maria S., Mary N., Nicoletta K., Sophia B. and Tessa G.

The Myrrh-bearer community outreach this year will be to collect peanut butter and jelly for <u>Friends in Deed</u>. Help the Myrrh-bearers meet their goal of forty jars of peanut butter and forty jars of jelly.

Anastasi



May 2019

COMMUNITY NEWS (CONTINUED)

Easter Picnic 2019













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May 2019













May 2019







2019 Greek Orthodox Church Festivals of Southern California

DATE	CHURCH	PHONE	LOCATION	SPECIAL NOTES
17 May 3-10pm	Saint John the Baptist	714-827-0181	Church grounds, Anaheim	Church Grounds
18 May 12-10pm	405 N. Dale St.		91 Artesia Frwy (east of 605 Frwy) Exit Beach Blvd.; South to	Outdoors
19 May 12-10pm	Anaheim, 92801		La Palma; Left on La Palma; Right on Dale	Covered dancing on blacktop
25 May 1-9pm	Saint Nicholas	818-886-4040	Church grounds, Northridge	Church Grounds
26 May 1-9pm	9501 Balboa Blvd.		101 (Ventura Frwy); Exit Balboa	Outdoors
27 May 1-9pm	Northridge, 91325		North past Nordhoff; at corner of Plummer & Balboa	Uncovered dancing on cement
1 June 11-10pm 2 June 11-10pm	Saint George 10846 Downey Avenue Downey, 90241	562-862-6461	From 605 Freeway, exit Firestone and go west to Downey Ave, then turn right to La Villa. From 710 (Long Beach Frwy), exit Firestone Blvd and go east to Downey Avenue. Turn left to La Villa, then turn right. Church is between 3rd St. and La Villa.	Church Grounds Outdoors Uncovered dancing on blacktop
7 June 5-10pm	Saint Spyridon	619.297.4165	5 Frwy South; 805 Frwy south; 163 hwy south; exit University	Church Grounds
8 June 11-10pm	3655 Park Blvd.		Avenue; left from exit to Park Blvd; turn right; go 2 blocks;	Outdoors
9 June 11-8pm	San Diego, 92103		Church grounds on left	Covered dancing on blacktop
21 June 5-10pm	Saint Demetrios	805.482.1273	Take the 101 and exit at Las Posas Road; Go towards the	Camarillo Airport
22 June 11-10pm	5575 Santa Rosa Road		airport; Turn right on Pleasant Valley Road; Turn right on	Outdoors
23 June 11-9pm	Camarillo, 93012		Skyway Drive - festival located at 400 Skyway Drive	Covered dancing wood floor
28 June 5-10 pm	Saint Paul's	949.733.2366	Church Grounds, Irvine - 405 just south of 55 Newport Freeway;	Church Grounds
29 June 12-10 pm	4949 Alton Parkway		Exit Jeffrey and drive north to Alton Parkway;	Outdoors
30 June 12-9 pm	Irvine, 92604		Left onto Alton Parkway	Covered dancing on blacktop
12 July 5-10pm 13 July 12-10pm 14 July 12-9pm	Saint Katherine 722 Knob Hill Redondo Beach, 90277	310.540.2434	Church grounds, Redondo Beach 405 freeway, exit Hawthorne Blvd., Torrance go south to Sepulveda Blvd.; Turn right to Prospect and turn left to Knob Hill then right	Church Grounds Outdoors Covered dancing on blacktop
27 July 11-7pm 28 July 11-7pm	Saint Barbara 1205 San Antonio Creek Rd Santa Barbara, 93101	805.683.4492	Oak Park, Santa Barbara 101 North through Santa Barbara; Exit Pueblo and follow signs to park	City Park Outdoors Uncovered dancing on wood floor
23 August 5-10p	Saint Nectarios	626.967.5524	10 Frwy west of 57/210 Freeway; exit Grand Avenue;	Church Grounds
24 August 12-10p	20340 Covina Blvd.		Drive north then turn Right on Covina Blvd.;	Outdoors
25 August 12-10p	Covina, 91724		Corner of Covina Blvd and Bonnie Brae	Covered dancing on blacktop
31 August 12-10pm 1 September 12-10pm 2 September 12-10pm		562.494.8929	405 Freeway, exit Bellflower and go south on Bellflower. Pass 7th Street and PCH; Turn left on Colorado and drive to LAST driveway on left side of cul-de-sac	Church Grounds Outdoors Covered dancing on blacktop
7 September 10-10p 8 September 11-9p	Sts. Constantine/Helen 3459 Manchester Ave. #32 Cardiff by the Sea, 92007	760.942.0920	5 Freeway south to San Diego/Cardiff; Exit Manchester; go east to church grounds	Church Grounds Outdoors Covered dancing on blacktop
20 September 5-10p	Saint Anthony	626.449.6945	210 Freeway - Exit Rosemead Blvd. South	Outdoors
21 September 12-10p	778 South Rosemead Blvd		South/right onto Rosemead	Covered dancing on portable
22 September 12-9p	Pasadena, 91107		South of California Avenue on east side	floor
20 September 5-9pm	Sts. Constantine/Helen	661-945-1212	Interstate 5 north ; Merge onto 14 north Palmdale/Lancaster ; Exit #40	Free Shuttle to Church Grounds
21 September 11-9pm	43404 30th Street West		Ave. M ; turn left onto West Ave M/Columbia Way ; Turn right onto 30th St.	Outdoors
22 September 12-5pm	Lancaster, 93539		West - PARKING at AV College (Ave. K & 30th St. West)	Covered dancing on wood floor
27 September 5-10pm 28 September 3-11pm 29 September 12-10p		702.221.8245	Church Grounds; Interstate 15, Exit Tropicana, & stay west of Strip; Left on Jones, right on Hacienda, left on El Camino	Church Grounds - Outdoors Uncovered dancing on portable wood floor
28 September 11-11p 29 September 11-10p	St. Basil's of So.Or.Co. 27129 Calle Arroyo, #1803 San Juan Capistrano, 92675	949.542.3445	Location Unknown Call church or check website: sjcgreekfest.org	Outdoors Covered dancing on blacktop
4 October 5-12pm	Saint Sophia Cathedral	323.737.2424	10 Santa Monica Freeway towards downtown L.A.; Exit	Outdoors
5 October 12-11pm	1324 S. Normandie		Normandie Avenue and drive north to Pico;	Covered dancing on portable
6 October 12-10pm	Los Angeles, 90006		Cathedral at corner of Pico & Normandie	floor
12 October 11-9pm 13 October 11-8pm	Saint Nicholas 41132 Guava Street Murietta, 92562	951.296.6207	Old Town Temecula Civic Center 28690 Mercedes Street, Temecula, 92590 Take 15 towards Temecula, and exit Rancho California Rd.	Outdoors Uncovered dancing on cement Free Parking at Old Town
19 October 12-10pm 20 October 12-9pm	Saint Prophet Elias 1035 Inland Center Dr. San Bernardino, 92042	909.885.6213	Church grounds - Interstate 10 towards San Bernardino; 215 Freeway North - exit Inland Center Drive; Over freeway church on left	Church Grounds - Outdoors Uncovered dancing on blacktop Live music
2020 TBD	St. George of the Desert	760-568-9902	Take 10 Freeway-east to Palm Desert; Exit at Monterey/Hwy 74	Church grounds
15 February 11-8pm	74-109 Larrea		& turn right. Turn left on El Paseo, right on Portola and left on	Outdoors
16 February 11 , 8pm	Palm Desert, 92217		Larrea; church is on right	Uncovered dancing on blacktop

ST. ANTHONY YOUTH! GO TO CAMP!

One of the most tremendous ministries our young people can take part in every year is the various Summer Camp programs that are offered throughout the country. It is incredible to see the transformation they go through after the week of camp is up, and it stays with them throughout the year and throughout their lives! They grow and are challenged in their faith, make lifelong memories and friendships, and have an amazing and fun time doing it all! We are especially blessed here to have the opportunity to go to both our Metropolis Summer Camp at St. Nicholas Ranch in Dunlap, CA, and our St. Sophia Camp at Camp Seely in Crestline, CA. This is one of the best things you can give your children, as an opportunity to learn and grow in their Faith!

METROPOLIS OF SAN FRANCISCO SUMMER CAMP AT SAINT NICHOLAS RANCH

(3rd grade through recent HS graduates) Register at: **gosfyouth.org/summer camp** *(Register TODAY!)* Register for: **Week 2: JULY 14th – 20th**

SAINT SOPHIA CAMP

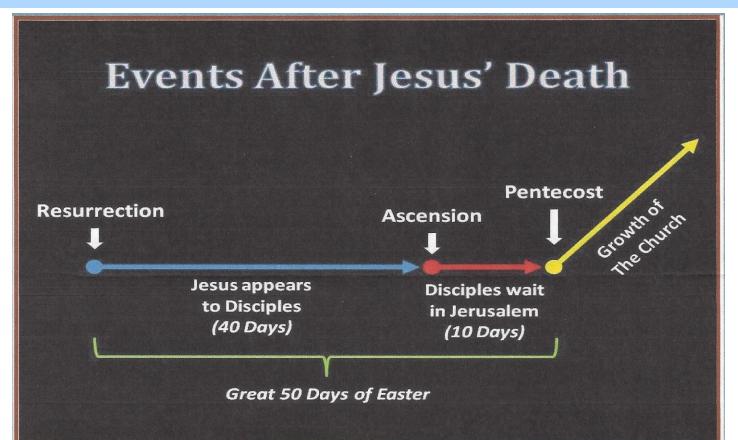
(ages 7 – 17)

Register at: saintsophiacamp.org (opens May 1st) Register for: Week 1: July 21st – 27th or Week 2: July 27th – August 3rd

Please know that they sell out every year, so be sure to register your children, grandchildren, godchildren, nieces, nephews, etc., as soon as possible!

SUMMER IS BACK! LET'S GO TO CAMP!





The Ascension of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ Forty Days after Pascha

"He was lifted up before their eyes in a cloud that took Him from their sight." (Acts 1:9)

Christ is shown ascending in His glory in a mandorla, a round or almondshaped design that signifies His divinity and glorified state



He is being carried by one angel on either side.

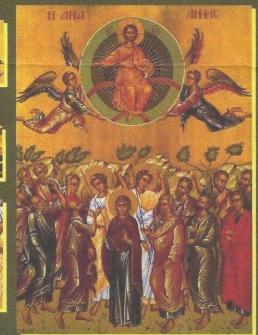
With His right hand, Christ gives His blessing as He departs from His beloved people.

We, the Church, receive His blessing in countless ways every day.

+ The icon of the Ascension includes some who did not witness the Ascension

St. Paul is shown to the left of the Theotokos, but we know that at that time, St. Paul did not yet believe in Jesus.

We, like St. Paul, are called to participate in Christ's Ascension and experience our own ascension, with our hearts and minds focused on Him.



In His left hand is a scroll, symbolizing that He fulfills the Old Testament. A scroll is a symbol of teaching. The icon affirms that Christ is the source of all knowledge.

The Theotokos occupies a special place in this icon. She stands out at the center, surrounded by the whiteness of the garments of angels. Her hands are in a gesture of prayer.



Her very calm pose is quite different from the appearance of the Disciples, who are moving about, talking to one another and looking and pointing towards heaven.

The entire group of people, the Theotokos and the disciples, represent the Church



Just as their gaze is riveted upon their beloved Christ, so we are called in every Divine Liturgy to "lift up our hearts to the Lord.



FEASTS & SAINTS OF THE MONTH

Sunday of Thomas

5 May

Though the doors were shut at the dwelling where the disciples were gathered for fear of the Jews on the evening of the Sunday after the Passover, our Savior wondrously entered and stood in their midst, and greeted them with His customary words, "Peace be unto you." Then He showed unto them His hands and feet and side; furthermore, in their presence, He took some fish and a honeycomb and ate before them, and thus assured them of His bodily Resurrection. But Thomas, who was not then present with the others, did not believe their testimony concerning Christ's Resurrection, but said in a decisive manner, "Except I shall see in His hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into the print of the nails, and thrust my hand into His side, I will not believe." Wherefore after eight days, that is, on this day, when the disciples were again gathered together and Thomas was with them, the Lord Jesus came while the doors were shut, as He did formerly. Standing in their midst, He said, "Peace be unto you"; then He said to Thomas, "Bring hither thy finger, and behold my hands; and bring hither thy hand, and thrust it into My side: and be not unbelieving, but believing."

And Thomas, beholding and examining carefully the hands and side of the Master, cried out with faith, "My Lord and my God." Thus he clearly proclaimed the two natures - human and divine - of the God-man (Luke 24:36-49; John 20:19-29).

This day is called Antipascha (meaning "in the stead of Pascha," not "in opposition to Pascha") because with this day, the first Sunday after Pascha, the Church consecrates every Sunday of the year to the commemoration of Pascha, that is, the Resurrection.

Saint Christopher 9 May

Saint Christopher was at first named Reprobus. Seeing the Christians persecuted, he rebuked the tyrants for their cruelty. Soldiers were sent to bring him to appear before the ruler; but he converted them to Christ, and with them was baptized, receiving the name Christopher. After he appeared before the ruler, he was imprisoned and two harlots were sent to seduce him, but he converted them also, and encouraged them in their martyrdom. He was subjected to torments and finally beheaded in the days of Decius. Many marvelous and mythical things are said about him out of ignorance and superstition, one of which is that it is impossible for one to die suddenly from some unexpected cause on the day on which one looks at the Saint's icon. This is the origin of that proverb that is quoted in various quarters: "If on Christopher thou shouldst gaze, thou shalt safely wend life's ways." The etymology of his name, which means "Christ-bearer," has undoubtedly moved iconographers to depict him carrying the infant Jesus on his shoulders; it is completely erroneous, however, to depict him, as some uninformed iconographers do, having the head of a dog, because of a statement in his life that he was dog-faced, by which is meant only that his countenance was exceedingly frightful to look upon.

FEASTS & SAINTS OF THE MONTH (CONTINUED)

Sunday of the Myrrh Bearing Women

12 May

About the beginning of His thirty-second year, when the Lord Jesus was going throughout Galilee, preaching and working miracles, many women who had received of His beneficence left their own homeland and from then on followed after Him. They ministered unto Him out of their own possessions, even until His crucifixion and entombment; and afterwards, neither losing faith in Him after His death, nor fearing the wrath of the Jewish rulers, they came to the sepulcher, bearing the myrrh-oils they had prepared to anoint His body. It is because of the myrrh-oils, that these God-loving women brought to the tomb of Jesus that they are called the Myrrh-bearers. Of those whose names are known are the following: first of all, the most holy Virgin Mary, who in Matthew 27:56 and Mark 15:40 is called "the mother of James and Joses" (these are the sons of Joseph by a previous marriage, and she was therefore their step-mother); Mary Magdalene (celebrated July 22); Mary, the wife of Clopas; Joanna, wife of Chouza, a steward of Herod Antipas; Salome, the mother of the sons of Zebedee, Mary and Martha, the sisters of Lazarus; and Susanna. As for the names of the rest of them, the evangelists have kept silence (Matt 27:55-56; Matt 28:1-10; Mark 15:40-41; Luke 8:1-3; Luke 23:55-24:11; Luke 22-24; John 19:25; John 20:11-18; Acts 1:14).

Together with them we celebrate also the secret disciples of the Savior, Joseph and Nicodemus. Of these, Nicodemus was probably a Jerusalemite, a prominent leader among the Jews and of the order of the Pharisees, learned in the Law and instructed in the Holy Scriptures. He had believed in Christ when, at the beginning of our Savior's preaching of salvation, he came to Him by night. Furthermore, he brought some one hundred pounds of myrrh-oils and an aromatic mixture of aloes and spices out of reverence and love for the divine Teacher (John 19:39). Joseph, who was from the city of Arimathea, was a wealthy and noble man, and one of the counselors who were in Jerusalem. He went boldly unto Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus, and together with Nicodemus he gave Him burial. Since time did not permit the preparation of another tomb, he placed the Lord's body in his own tomb which was hewn out of rock, as the Evangelist says (Matt. 27:60).

Sunday of the Paralytic

19 May

Close to the Sheep's Gate in Jerusalem, there was a pool, which was called the Sheep's Pool. It had round about it five porches, that is, five sets of pillars supporting a domed roof. Under this roof there lay very many sick people with various maladies, awaiting the moving of the water. The first to step in after the troubling of the water was healed immediately of whatever malady he had.

It was there that the paralytic of today's Gospel way lying, tormented by his infirmity of thirty-eight years. When Christ beheld him, He asked him, "Wilt thou be made whole?" And he answered with a quiet and meek voice, "Sir, I have no man, when the water is troubled, to put me into the pool." The Lord said unto him, "Rise, take up thy bed, and walk." And straightaway the man was made whole and took up his bed. Walking in the presence of all, he departed rejoicing to his own house. According to the expounders of the Gospels, the Lord Jesus healed this paralytic during the days of the Passover, when He had gone to Jerusalem for the Feast, and dwelt there teaching and working miracles. According to Saint John the Evangelist, this miracle took place on the Sabbath.

FEASTS & SAINTS OF THE MONTH (CONTINUED)

Saints Constantine and Helen 21 May

This great and renowned sovereign of the Christians was the son of Constantius Chlorus (the ruler of the westernmost parts of the Roman empire), and of the blessed Helen. He was born in 272, in (according to some authorities) Naissus of Dardania, a city on the Hellespont. In 306, when his father died, he was proclaimed successor to his throne. In 312, on learning that Maxentius and Maximinus had joined forces against him, he marched into Italy, where, while at the head of his troops, he saw in the sky after midday, beneath the sun, a radiant pillar in the form of a cross with the words: "By this shalt thou conquer." The following night, our Lord Jesus Christ appeared to him in a dream and declared to him the power of the Cross and its significance. When he arose in the morning, he immediately ordered that a labarum be made (which is a banner or standard of victory over the enemy) in the form of a cross, and he inscribed on it the Name of Jesus Christ. On the 28th Of October, he attacked and mightily conquered Maxentius, who drowned in the Tiber River while fleeing. The following day, Constantine entered Rome in triumph and was proclaimed Emperor of the West by the Senate, while Licinius, his brother-in-law, ruled in the East. But out of malice, Licinius later persecuted the Christians. Constantine fought him once and again, and utterly destroyed him in 324, and in this manner he became monarch over the West and the East. Under him and because of him all the persecutions against the Church ceased. Christianity triumphed and idolatry was overthrown. In 325 he gathered the First Ecumenical Council in Nicaea, which he himself personally addressed. In 324, in the ancient city of Byzantium, he laid the foundations of the new capital of his realm, and solemnly inaugurated it on May 11, 330, naming it after himself, Constantinople. Since the throne of the imperial rule was transferred thither from Rome, it was named New Rome, the inhabitants of its domain were called Romans, and it was considered the continuation of the Roman Empire. Falling ill near Nicomedia, he requested to receive divine Baptism, according to Eusebius (The Life of Constantine. Book IV, 61-62), and also according to Socrates and Sozomen; and when he had been deemed worthy of the Holy Mysteries, he reposed in 337, on May 21 or 22, the day of Pentecost, having lived sixty-five years, of which he ruled for thirty-one years. His remains were transferred to Constantinople and were deposed in the Church of the Holy Apostles, which had been built by him.

As for his holy mother Helen, after her son had made the Faith of Christ triumphant throughout the Roman Empire, she undertook a journey to Jerusalem and found the Holy Cross on which our Lord was crucified (see Sept. 13 and 14). After this, Saint Helen, in her zeal to glorify Christ, erected churches in Jerusalem at the sites of the Crucifixion and Resurrection, in Bethlehem at the cave where our Saviour was born, another on the Mount of Olives whence He ascended into Heaven, and many others throughout the Holy Land, Cyprus, and elsewhere. She was proclaimed Augusta, her image was stamped upon golden coins, and two cities were named Helenopolis after her in Bithynia and in Palestine. Having been thus glorified for her piety, she departed to the Lord being about eighty years of age, according to some in the year 330, according to others, in 336.

Third finding of the Precious Head of Saint John the Baptist 25 May

Because of the vicissitudes of time, the venerable head of the holy Forerunner was lost for a third time and rediscovered in Comana of Cappadocia through a revelation to 'a certain priest, but it was found not, as before, in a clay jar, but in a silver vessel, and "in a sacred place." It was taken from Comana to Constantinople and was met with great solemnity by the Emperor, the Patriarch, and the clergy and people.

FEASTS & SAINTS OF THE MONTH (CONTINUED)

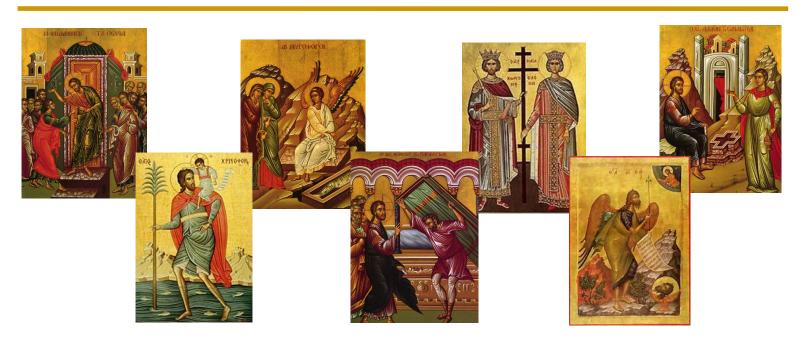
Sunday of the Samaritan Woman

26 May

One of the most ancient cities of the Promised Land was Shechem, also called Sikima, located at the foot of Mount Gerazim. There the Israelites had heard the blessings in the days of Moses and Jesus of Navi. Near to this town, Jacob, who had come from Mesopotamia in the nineteenth century before Christ, bought a piece of land where there was a well. This well, preserved even until the time of Christ, was known as Jacob's Well. Later, before he died in Egypt, he left that piece of land as a special inheritance to his son Joseph (Gen. 49:22). This town, before it was taken into possession by Samaria, was also the leading city of the kingdom of the ten tribes. In the time of the Romans it was called Neapolis, and at present Nablus. It was the first city in Canaan visited by the Patriarch Abraham. Here also, Jesus of Navi (Joshua) addressed the tribes of Israel for the last time. Almost three hundred years later, all Israel assembled there to make Roboam (Rehoboam) king.

When our Lord Jesus Christ, then, came at midday to this city, which is also called Sychar (John 4:5), He was wearied from the journey and the heat, and He sat down at this well. After a little while the Samaritan woman mentioned in today's Gospel passage came to draw water. As she conversed at some length with the Lord and heard from Him secret things concerning herself, she believed in Him; through her many other Samaritans also believed.

Concerning the Samaritans we know the following: In the year 721 before Christ, Salmanasar (Shalmaneser), King of the Assyrians, took the ten tribes of the kingdom of Israel into captivity, and relocated all these people to Babylon and the land of the Medes. From there he gathered various nations and sent them to Samaria. These nations had been idolaters from before. Although they were later instructed in the Jewish faith and believed in the one God, they worshipped the idols also. Furthermore, they accepted only the Pentateuch of Moses, and rejected the other books of Holy Scripture. Nonetheless, they thought themselves to be descendants of Abraham and Jacob. Therefore, the pious Jews named these Judaizing and idolatrous peoples Samaritans, since they lived in Samaria, the former leading city of the Israelites, as well as in the other towns thereabout. The Jews rejected them as heathen and foreigners, and had no communion with them at all, as the Samaritan woman observed, "the Jews have no dealings with the Samaritans" (John 4:9). Therefore, the name Samaritan is used derisively many times in the Gospel narrations. After the Ascension of the Lord, and the descent of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, the woman of Samaria was baptized by the holy Apostles and became a great preacher and Martyr of Christ; she was called Photine, and her feast is kept on February 26.







MAY 2019

SUN	Mon	TUE	WED	Тни	FRI	SAT
			1 Bright Wednesday 7pm Union Station Philoptochos	2 Bright Thursday 7pm Choir Rehearsal	3 Bright Friday Theotokos of the Life-giving Font 4pm Greek School	4 Bright Saturday
5 Sunday of Thomas 8:45am Orthros 10am Divine Liturgy 11am Church School 12pm Church School Staff meeting 12:15 HOPE/JOY	6 4pm Greek School	7 7:30 AHEPA Meeting	7:15 Philoptochos Board Meeting	9 Christopher the Martyr 9am Orthros 10am Divine Liturgy 7pm Choir Rehearsal	tornament St. Anthony Golf Tournament 4pm Greek School 7pm	11 GOYA Volleyball and Dinner
12 Sunday of the Myrrh- Bearing Women 8:45am Orthros 10am Divine Liturgy 11am Church School	13 4pm Greek School	14 10am VIPs 7pm Parish Council	*** 15	16 7pm Choir Rehearsal	4pm Greek School	18
19 Sunday of Paralytic 8:45am Orthros 9:45 AHEPA Day Memorial 10am Divine Liturgy 11am Church School— last day	20 4pm Greek School	21 Saints Constantine and Helen 9am Orthros 10am Divine Lit	7pm Philoptochos General Meeting	23 7pm Choir Rehearsal	NO Greek School	25 Third finding of the Precious Head of St. John the Baptist
26 Sunday of the Samaritan Woman 8:45am Orthros 10am Divine Liturgy	27 NO Greek School	28	брт Parish General Assembly Mtg.	30 7pm Choir Rehearsal	4pm Greek School	
		Strict Fast	Fish Allowed	Wine and Oil Allowed	Dairy, Eggs, and Fish Allowed	Fast Free

May 2019

POSTAGE

STAMP

Saint Anthony Greek Orthodox Community 778 South Rosemead Blvd Pasadena, California 91107



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TIME SEASTINE

Place address label here

THE LESSON?

Build beautiful churches, attend them, and cherish them. Build beautiful churches not because God needs such a house, but because their beauty reminds us of God's presence, of his love. Used stained glass, include fine paintings, icons, and statues. Build beautiful churches, not boxes. Build beautiful churches, not auditoriums with stages and coffee houses. Build beautiful churches to express the beauty of our Lord. And if they should burn down, rebuild them. And then fill them up with your presence, with your prayers and songs. With God's Word. With baptismal waters, with altars offering up body and blood. For these are the things that make a church truly beautiful. And the reason we build beautiful churches to begin with.

- Pr. Peter J. Scaer