

The Voice of Saint Anthony

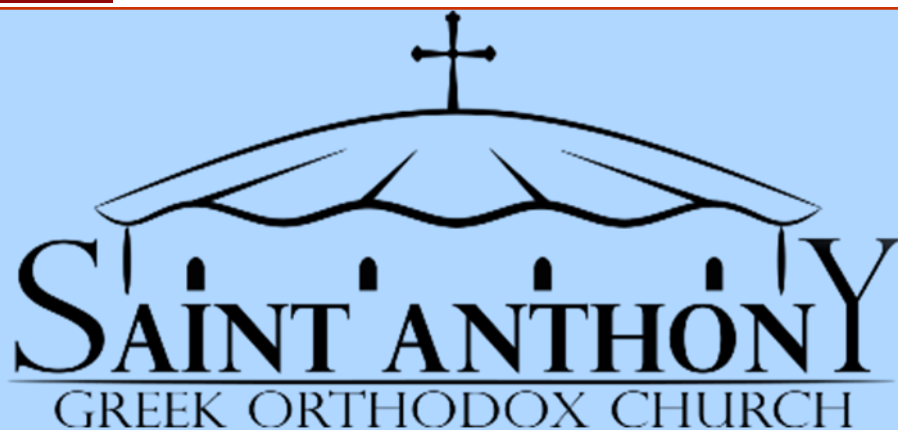
APRIL 2020

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**Deadline for
May Newsletter is
Saturday, 25 April**

**Please send to:
frchris@saint-anthonys.org OR
newsletter_church@aol.com**



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

1 OF 3



SAINT ANTHONY GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

Rev. Peter Stratos, Pastor
Rev. Christopher Retelas, Associate Pastor

March 30, 2020
+St John Climacus

*“And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God,
to those who are called according to the will of God.” Romans 8:28*

Dearest faithful and loving Parishioners,

Fr. Peter, Fr. Christopher, and the Parish Council Executive Board greet you all in the name of our Lord, God, and Savior Jesus Christ. We hope and pray that your time at home has been productive in terms of this Lenten Season of prayer, fasting, and drawing closer to God. In the uncertainty and worry of this period, we should focus on God, our loved ones, and our prayers for the world. More than anything, we ask that you pray for one another, for all healthcare workers, and all those essential workers in harm's way. We are working in our best and safest way to bring the Holy Services of Great Lent and the Divine Liturgies to you all by live-streaming our services. They are also available on our parish website to watch if you miss them live. We realize we are not reaching all our parishioners this way and are working to find a way to maintain our faith links with everyone. Please know that we are working with Philoptochos and the Parish office to organize a system of weekly connectedness with everyone. As your priests, our hearts are heavy as we all struggle through this new chapter in our lives together.

As of this writing, in the US we have more than 160,000 people infected and more than 3,000 people who have died. The statistical and medical precedents of China and Italy indicate that these numbers will grow exponentially. We implore you all to stay at home so that we can “flatten the curve.” I know it is difficult, but we must all do our part in beating this global pandemic. Our state and local civic leaders have restricted all gatherings, at least until April 19th. For Orthodox Christians, April 19 is the Feast of Great and Holy Pascha. With tremendous sadness we must inform you all that Holy Week Services will be restricted to live-stream format only. For your convenience we are enclosing the Holy Week Schedule with times for all the services. We are also including a form to list the names of your loved ones who have passed. We will read these names and pray aloud for them at the Lamentations Service on Holy Friday evening before the kouvouklion.

See pages
26 & 27
for Holy
week
schedule
and form..

At each Divine Liturgy we offer special prayers for our entire community, our country and the world. We offer special prayers for those who have lost their livelihood, those who have lost some or all of their income, and those who have lost some or all of their savings. We are all suffering to varying degrees. The suffering of our Churches is something unique. You may have read that the

PRIEST'S MESSAGE**2 OF 3**

Church of the Holy Sepulcher in Jerusalem is now also closed. The very place where our Lord Jesus Christ was Crucified and Resurrected. The last time this historic church was closed indefinitely was in 1349 at the time of the Black Plague. As we pray the services of the church, we, your priests, feel tremendous sadness as we look out from the Holy Altar and see empty pews and an empty church. Your absence is a specific and shocking experience. Worship, without the full body of Christ, you the beloved faithful, is a pain we have never experienced before.

This emptiness affects our church community in all aspects of the life of our campus of St. Anthony Church. All meetings, all gatherings, all classes, all events including rentals have been postponed or cancelled. Further, we cannot foresee hosting our St Anthony Golf Tournament or our Pasadena Greek Fest this year. We have trimmed some of our expenditures, but expenses of our Church and campus do continue with very small amounts of revenue coming in due to all these unprecedented changes. Our challenge is to find ways to remain solvent and continue the work of the Church in our Orthodox community and the greater community.

We are confident that our parish community can and will rise to this occasion. We can all begin with our Paschal Offering envelope enclosed in this mailer. Those of us who have the capability to give, please be generous to our Church. As we worship together – remotely – we will not be able to make our daily and weekly offerings to the Church. This then is an opportunity to lump our Holy Week offerings into one envelope. If you would prefer, log on to saint-anthonys.churchgiving.com and make a one-time Paschal donation.

Currently, we have 40 families already utilizing “online giving” on a recurring basis either weekly or monthly. So that we can continue to support our Church, and remain safe in this current health crisis, we ask that those who have not yet signed up for online giving, please consider doing so. This keeps everyone safe and our community solvent. Traditionally, many people attend Holy Week services and find these opportunities to give lovingly to our Church. We ask that you think of God and our Church, which is always here for the faithful and their needs, and which, in turn, needs the support of the faithful in these difficult times.

We have been thinking, discussing, and praying a great deal about how, in the upcoming months of uncertainty, we can all do our part to help our Church community stay connected, continue its mission, and grow stronger in its service to God’s people. We are discussing the further use of ZOOM meetings for our organizations and various classes offered at St. Anthony. Our parish is vibrant, extensive and committed to God’s Service. If we work together, our beloved St. Anthony Greek Orthodox Church Parish will continue to thrive and grow, now and in the future.

It is our heartfelt request that you all consider totaling all you have traditionally contributed throughout a calendar year. What do we mean by this? We ask that you please refer to your last year’s statement reflecting all giving, which Alma in the Church Office sends to each of us at

PRIEST'S MESSAGE**3 OF 3**

year's end. Several parishioners have already committed to giving the funds for their donations and donations in kind, such as Tee Sponsorships at the Golf Tournament, Booth Sponsorships and various food donations for Pasadena Greek Fest in addition to their pledged stewardship (despite the cancellation of these events this year). We ask that those who are in a position to give in this manner, please do so. This way, we will be in a stronger position to meet all our parish financial obligations. Our growth as a community has been tremendous, and we pray that this current national health crisis will not be an obstacle to our future endeavors and accomplishments in Christ's service. Let us seize this moment in prayer and full faith to draw nearer to Christ. We would also add, when the strictest 'shelter in place' guidelines are lifted, that we all make a concerted effort to support the businesses of our fellow parishioners and help them to bounce back as quickly as possible. Those who can do so now, as well, please support the businesses of our fellow parishioners as much as you can.

Please forgive the length of this letter. It is the only way that we can assure complete communication with our entire St. Anthony Greek Orthodox family. Finally, we thank you all for your prayers, your love, your expressions of appreciation for the live-streaming Church Services, and for your support. Please continue to worship together at home via live-stream, and please continue praying for God's mercy and healing of our world, that He may bless us all.

Kali Anastasi,



Reverend Father Peter Stratos
Proistamenos



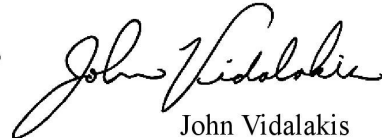
Joseph Akrotirianakis
Parish Council President



Reverend Father Christopher Retelas
Associate Pastor



Pete Gallanis
PC Vice President



John Vidalakis
PC Vice President

STEWARDSHIP

ST. ANTHONY STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

217 PLEDGES TOTALING: **\$348,067**
COLLECTED AS OF 3/10/2020: **\$217,416**

AVERAGE PLEDGE GOAL: **\$2,000**
CURRENT AVERAGE PLEDGE: **\$1,604**

Breakdown of Stewardship/Annual Giving to the Church			
Stewardship Levels	Total Annual Giving to the Church	Number of Pledges/families	% of Pledges Breakdown
<i>Contributor</i>	\$0 - \$499	51	24%
<i>Friend</i>	\$500 - \$999	45	21%
<i>Supporter</i>	\$1,000 - \$1,999	63	29%
Faithful	\$2,000 - \$3,999	36	17%
Disciple	\$4,000 - \$6,999	16	7%
Guardian	\$7,000 - \$9,999	1	0%
Angel	\$10,000 - \$14,999	3	1%
Archangel	\$15,000 and up	2	1%
TOTAL ANNUAL PLEDGES		217	100%

To fully cover our operating expenses, our goal is to have our average annual giving be \$2,000 per family or more

RIGHT NOW, 73% OF OUR STEWARDS ARE UNDER THAT GOAL

STEWARDSHIP (CONTINUED)



"As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's grace." (1 Peter 4:10)

FAQs

Frequently Asked Questions about Stewardship:

Q: IS THERE A DIFFERENCE BETWEEN "DUES" & "STEWARDSHIP"?

A: Yes! Three or four generations ago, it was commonplace for families throughout our Archdiocese to pay their annual "dues" or required membership fee to be a member of their local parish. Over time it was clear that this was not the healthiest way of committing to a local church as giving remained stagnant and the authentic Christian commitment of sacrificial giving became an afterthought. (note: the annual "dues" of \$300-350 *back then* would equate to roughly \$2,500-\$3,000 *today*) Stewardship, however, offers us the chance to recognize our unique blessings from God, and to give back based on what we have received. Stewardship is management of another's property, and all our blessings and gifts we have been given ultimately belong to God. We are but his caretakers, his priests, his **stewards** on this earth.

Q: HOW MUCH SHOULD I GIVE?

A: The foundations of Christian stewardship is both from Scripture and the teachings of our Lord. You may have heard the term *tithing* (the word *tithe* literally means *tenth* in Hebrew), and this refers to the biblical giving goal of 10% of your household income to your local church (*Lev. 27:30; Num. 18:25-28; Deut. 14:22-24; 2 Chron. 31:5-6*). Yet, we also hear from our Lord Jesus Christ that true giving is when we offer sacrificially "all that we have" (*Luke 21:4*), "store up your treasures in heaven" (*Matt. 6:20*), "it is more blessed to give than to receive" (*Acts 20:35*), "for God loves a cheerful giver" (*2 Cor. 9:7*). With this in mind, you are invited to prayerfully reflect on your own household income, and make your sacrificial offering based on what you receive. Consider also what you offer to Christ's Church in comparison to your monthly utility/service payments. ("Am I giving my phone more than my Church?") Use the chart to the right as a guide.

Annual Income	2.5%	5%	10%	15%
\$20,000	\$500	\$1,000	\$2,000	\$3,000
\$50,000	\$1,250	\$2,500	\$5,000	\$7,500
\$75,000	\$1,875	\$3,750	\$7,500	\$11,250
\$100,000	\$2,500	\$5,000	\$10,000	\$15,000
\$250,000	\$6,250	\$12,500	\$25,000	\$37,500

Q: WHAT DOES MY STEWARDSHIP PAY FOR?

A: It costs approximately \$2,000/day to keep the church open. Most operating expenses are paid from stewardship. Some examples are mortgage, utilities, office staff and pastoral salaries, candles, permits, and facilities maintenance. Additional costs are directly related to church programs.

Q: WHAT IS THE EASIEST WAY TO FULFILL MY PLEDGE?

A: The easiest way is online! Pledging and paying online is fast and EASY and is the preferred method for many of our families. Simply go to our website saint-anthonys.org and click the DONATE button and this will take you to our online giving platform. Under "Regular" click the Make a Donation button, then click Create a Recurring Donation, enter your weekly/monthly/semi-annually amount and fill in the necessary information. You can always call the church office for assistance in setting up easy recurring giving payments. Paying your pledge can also be done by check, envelopes, or credit card payments, though these are not as convenient for you.

Q: WHEN SHOULD I MAKE MY ANNUAL PLEDGE?

A: We would ask you to turn in your pledge card by January 31st. Our church budget is based on our expected annual income and expenses. Forecasting stewardship in January helps meet our parish goals.

STEWARDSHIP (CONTINUED)**Q: I DON'T LIKE TO PAY MY PLEDGE UNTIL DECEMBER. SHOULD I STILL PLEDGE IN JANUARY?**

A: Yes. January pledging allows for effective fiscal budgeting. Pledge your annual amount, then pay weekly, monthly, semi-annually or annually.

Q: WHY DO I HAVE TO UPDATE MY INFORMATION EVERY YEAR?

A: We ask for updated information to provide you the opportunity to review your pledge for the upcoming year. As cost of living increases every year, so do our own parish expenses, and our giving to the church needs to adjust accordingly. We anticipate automatic online giving to become the standard in order to simplify the process.

Q: DOESN'T THE GREEK FESTIVAL BRING IN MOST OF THE FUNDING FOR THE CHURCH?

A: No. While the annual Pasadena Greek Fest is an important source of funding and support, it actually accounts for less than 15% of the total revenue brought in each year. Stewardship raises four times as much and is our primary source of funding for operating expenses. Ultimately, the goal is to have zero reliance on outside sources of funding, which would then make the Festival an outreach and community building opportunity, thus greatly alleviating the stress and dependency of this event.

Q: I ALREADY PAY FOR GREEK DANCE, GREEK LANGUAGE SCHOOL, BASKETBALL, ETC. WHY DO I HAVE TO PAY STEWARDSHIP TOO?

A: These programs operate independently from the church operating budget. The church provides the facility in addition to expenses enabling their operation and receives no money from these organizations. *It is also important to know that families participating in our children's ministries must be currently pledged stewards.*

Q: IF I DONATE TO A MEMORIAL FUND, BUILDING FUND, FESTIVAL, OR EVENT, DOES THAT COUNT AS PART OF MY STEWARDSHIP?

A: No. Your stewardship is represented entirely by your stated pledge.

Q: IF I MAKE A NON-MONETARY DONATION TO THE CHURCH, CAN THIS REPRESENT MY STEWARDSHIP?

A: No. Your stewardship pledge cannot be substituted for non-monetary donations. However, your various donations to the festival and the church are always greatly appreciated and are tax-deductible.

Q: WHEN SHOULD MY CHILDREN BECOME STEWARDS?

A: As the principles of stewardship is that of sacrificial giving from what we have received, everyone is encouraged to become a "cheerful giver" as soon as one begins to generate his/her own income.

Q: WHAT IF I OR MY FAMILY EXPERIENCE A FINANCIAL HARDSHIP OR SEVERE CHANGE IN INCOME?

A: Parishioners who are experiencing financial hardships and are unable to fulfill their stewardship obligation, but still want to be considered in "good standing", can always contact the church office, and you may always speak with one of our priests.

Fact: With our congregation at roughly 300 families, to fully cover our operating expenses our goal is to have average stewardship be \$2,000 per family or above. Right now, 83% of our stewards are under that goal.

STEWARDSHIP (CONTINUED)**2020 Stewardship Financial Commitment**

*"As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another,
as good stewards of God's grace." (1 Peter 4:10)*

LAST NAME

FIRST NAME(S), PLEASE INCLUDE CHILDREN UNDER 18.

STREET ADDRESS

CITY

STATE

ZIP

PREFERRED PHONE

OTHER/SECOND PHONE

E-MAIL

[For office use only]

SIGNATURE

DATE

ST. ANTHONY GIVING LEVELS:**CONTRIBUTOR: \$499 & below**

\$9.60/week OR \$42/month & below

FRIEND: \$500 - \$999

\$9.60-\$19/week OR \$42-\$83/month

SUPPORTER: \$1,000 - \$1,999

\$19-\$38/week OR \$83-\$167/month

*** FAITHFUL: \$2,000 - \$3,999**

\$38-\$77/week OR \$167-\$333/month

*** DISCIPLE: \$4,000 - \$6,999**

\$77-\$135/week OR \$333-\$583/month

*** GUARDIAN: \$7,000 - \$9,999**

\$135-\$192/week OR \$583-\$833/month

*** ANGEL: \$10,000 - \$14,999**

\$192-\$288/week OR \$833-\$1,249/month

*** ARCHANGEL: \$15,000 and up**

\$288/week OR \$1,250/month & up

*Review your stewardship commitment prayerfully, consider what you offer to Christ's Church
in comparison to your monthly utility/service payments.*

Please return your completed commitment card to church by January 31, 2020

Your card must be on file for you to be considered in 'Good Standing'

In response to God's blessings, I/we pledge a 2020 offering of:

My Total Commitment for 2020: \$ _____

I will fulfill and pay my pledge: (CHECK ONE)

☐ Weekly at \$ _____/week

☐ Monthly at \$ _____/month

☐ Annually

Contact the Church office to set up easy recurring electronic payments
-OR- set up your own recurring giving at saint-anthonys.churchgiving.com

****To fully cover our operating expenses, our goal is to
have our average stewardship be \$2,000 per family or above***

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

NO REPORT THIS MONTH

NEWS FROM THE LOFT

At this most special time of the ecclesiastical year, we in the loft very much look forward to participating as a choir in the Paschal worship experience of our beloved Saint Anthony Family.

In mid-March, because the majority of our choir members have at least one risk factor working against us (namely our age), the agonizingly difficult decision was made to stay out of the loft for at least two weeks. It was hoped that we would see concrete evidence that progress was being made in stemming the proliferation of the COVID-19 pandemic. Unfortunately, as the month progressed, we saw more requests from city, state and federal agencies that social distancing be ramped up significantly.

To quote Dr. Vickie Pappas, the chairman of the National Forum of Greek Orthodox Church Musicians, “Now as guidance about services from our hierarchs have made decisions easier for us, I hope some of the many questions we’ve pondered as church musicians have become somewhat clearer, if not simpler.”

As it is the function of the choir and chanters to represent the laity in responding to the liturgical dialogues set by the clergy, we want to express our sincere appreciation and thanks to Patrick, Katerina (and Isaiah) Lynch and Michael Abi-Farah for “stepping up to the plate” in maintaining this liturgical dialogue; enabling the rest of us to participate in our homes by way of live-stream, in compliance with California’s “Stay at Home” directive as well as the Archdiocesan directives.

We pray that we can all get together again for communal worship sooner rather than later; but failing this, we in the choir want to wish our Saint Anthony Community a blessed Lenten journey and Kali Anastasi.



CHURCH SCHOOL NEWS**News You
Can Use**

As we are nearing Holy Week and Pascha, it's a good time to reevaluate our priorities and focus on repentance, prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. Once the pandemic restriction is over, we hope to see our students return to church and church school!

Pending the pandemic restrictions that have been extended thru the month of April, all church school events have been cancelled.

Children's Sunday School

*"Let the
little children
come to me"*

MATTHEW 19:14

YOUTH & YOUNG ADULT NEWS



HOPE ages 4 ½ to 6

JOY ages 7 to 9 (10 year olds may be Junior Volunteers)

HOPE & JOY next meeting:

CANCELLED until further notice pending pandemic restrictions

12:15 PM to 1:00 PM, rooms 1A and 1B.

This youth group is: based on Faith, Friends and Fun.

Lenten lunch will be served.

This year's theme: Caring for and Protecting God's Creation.

The service project is collecting socks for souls of all ages. We will have follow up activities, and games.

Adult volunteers welcomed.

TENTATIVE Future Meeting dates:

April 5 **CANCELLED**

May 3 **TBD**

May 17 -This will be an offsite outing. **TBD**

Possible ideas: Rock and Jump in Glendora, Bowling, etc.

YOUTH & YOUNG ADULT NEWS (CONTINUED)

G.O.Y.A. Basketball

The Southern California Greek Orthodox Basketball League activities have been placed **ON HOLD pending the pandemic restrictions.**

We hope that once we can again resume our games, the community comes out to support our basketball program. It has been a ministry of the church for over 45 years.

Watch for schedule updates !!

We look forward to seeing you cheer for our St. Anthony youth !



PHILOPTOCHOS NEWS

Due to current challenging times, our Philoptochos Board has made some very difficult and sad recent decisions.

**** We will be **cancelling** our annual Christmas Benefit event in December 2020. This will be the first time in 50 years. We will reassess the situation and consider another possible fundraiser for this year.**

**** Our Easter Bake Sale is **cancelled**. The proceeds were to supplement and support Kids n' Cancer. We will still do our best to provide the donation to this very important cause of our Metropolis.**

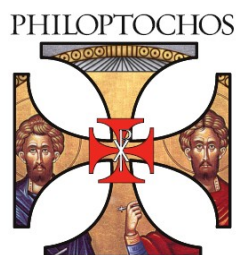
**** We are not planning an end-of-year meeting at this time. However, we are still planning on awarding scholarships to high school seniors. Please contact Irene Albeck - mcmg2a@aol.com or Fontaine Malisos for further information. Deadline to submit applications is March 31, 2020.**

**** We are making every effort to keep in touch with our members. You should be receiving emails almost weekly. We are also coordinating with our VIP's, to offer any assistance needed. We are here to help as much as possible.**

****We are collectively praying and thinking of all of our members and parishioners. We pray for your good health and well-being. Please reach out with a phone call, email or text with the name of anyone you feel may need our help at this time.**

Maria Kypreos
makypreos@gmail.com
(626) 914-6269

Be well everyone



PHILOPTOCHOS NEWS (CONTINUED)

PHILOPTOCHOS SCHOLARSHIP AWARD APPLICATION – 2020

APPLICANT INFORMATION	
Name	
Date of birth	Phone
Current Address	
Email	
High School Attended	
School Address	
Dates Attended	GPA
Please list extracurricular activities you have participated in while In school:	
Please list activities you have participated in while attending Saint Anthony:	
FAMILY INFORMATION	
Parents' Names	
Names of Siblings	
SIGNATURE	
<i>I VERIFY THAT THE INFORMATION PROVIDED ABOVE IS TRUE AND CORRECT.</i>	
Applicant's Signature	Date

ATTACH A RECENT PHOTO OF YOURSELF TO THIS APPLICATION

Completed applications must be submitted to the church office by 4:00 PM, **April 1, 2020**

Attention: Philoptochos Scholarship Committee

PHILOPTOCHOS NEWS (CONTINUED)**PHILOPTOCHOS SCHOLARSHIP AWARD – 2020 RULES & REGULATIONS**

1. The parents of the applicant (or the applicant) must be members in good standing with Saint Anthony Greek Orthodox Church for at least one year preceding the date of the scholarship application.
2. A parent of the applicant must be a member of Saint Anthony Philoptochos, Panagia Chapter.
3. The applicant must be planning to continue his or her education for the upcoming 2020-2021 school year.
4. The applicant must have a minimum 3.0 GPA.
5. Applicants will be evaluated on the following criteria:
 - a. Academic achievement
 - b. Church and Church School participation
 - c. Community service
 - d. Citizenship
6. Application must be completed and submitted with all required documents by April 1, 2020.
7. The applicant's current academic transcript must be mailed from the academic institution to the church office (Attention: Philoptochos Scholarship Committee).
8. An autobiographical essay (approximately 300 words) describing influences that have had an effect on the applicant's life, must be submitted to include how the church experience has helped shape your belief system and future goals.
9. Two (2) letters of recommendation, must be submitted. One must be from a high school counselor, teacher or someone who has worked directly with the student.
10. Must be available for a personal interview at the request of the Scholarship Committee and the application form must include a recent photo of the applicant.
11. The Philoptochos Society of Saint Anthony Greek Orthodox Church is not obligated to grant any scholarships in a given year. The Scholarship Committee and Father Peter will carefully review all applications. The Committee's decision shall be final.
12. Scholarship recipients will be notified by mail. The scholarship award will be presented at a date to be determined.

APPLICATIONS (INCLUDING REQUIRED DOCUMENTATION)**RECEIVED AFTER THE DEADLINE WILL BE DISQUALIFIED**

PHILOPTOCHOS NEWS (CONTINUED)

***“You shall open wide your hand to your brother, to the needy and to the poor, in your land.”
Deuteronomy 15:11***

“Lord when did we see you hungry and feed you? The King will answer and say to you, inasmuch as did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me.” Matthew 25:40, 41.

Union Station Homeless Services

In 1973 a group of community volunteers opened Union Station as a simple hospitality center to serve poor and homeless men in downtown Pasadena. Since then, Union Station has grown..

Under the guidance of Philoptochos for over 25 years our community has participated once a month (rain or shine, holiday or no holiday) providing and serving hot meals for about 50-60 individuals

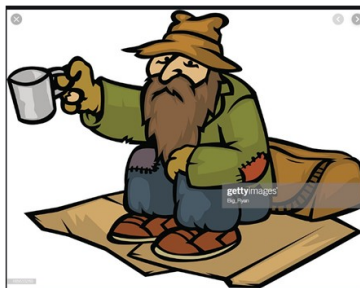
***“Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.”
Hebrews 13:16***

Food is prepared in our kitchen, and then delivered to the center. Other necessities will be purchased and taken to the facility.

Make a New Year’s resolution to book a month to serve at least one time during 2020. The 2020 calendar is open so choose a month to sign up to serve the homeless. This is a small way all of us can contribute to help those less fortunate. We must be examples for our children and our church. It only takes an hour and a half to participate. No cooking involved. Servers are asked to bring dessert (i.e. cookies) to serve sixty people and sturdy paper plates (optional)..

Contact:

Sophia Angelos	sangelos2000@gmail.com	626-795-0848 (home)
Stephanie Soewers	szanglis@gmail.com	818-209-5026 (cell)
Irene Albeck	mcmg2a@aol.com	626-792-8122



VIP NEWS

To all Saint Anthony VIPs,

It has been eleven days since our last e-mail communication with you, and I'm sure you'll agree that these are indeed extraordinary times!

Because of the COVID-19 pandemic:

- Our Archdiocese and Metropolis issued advise to the faithful not to be exposed in places of public assembly (including attending church).
- Governor Newsom issued a "Stay At Home" directive for the State of California.
- Mayor Garcetti issued a similar directive for the City of Los Angeles.

In keeping with the direction from the Holy Eparchial Synod and Metropolitan Gerasimos that ALL parochial programs be cancelled, our next VIP meeting, which was scheduled to take place on **Tuesday, April 7, 2020**, has been **CANCELLED**.

In these times where social distancing has become the order of the day, it might be easy to feel isolated and lonely. Should you be experiencing these feelings, you are encouraged to reach out to your friends by way of phone calls, Face-Time, e-mails and/or other social media platforms.

In the event you are in need of assistance of any kind, please feel free to reach out to:

Helen Treantafelles	626-688-2196
Jim Hronas	626-695-3235
Irene Albeck	626-252-5062

During a conference call last evening of our parish Philoptochos Board, the topic of assisting any of our senior parishioners in need was discussed at length. Be aware that the Philoptochos is also ready and willing to render assistance should you require it. You may call our Philoptochos president, Maria Kypreos— 626-272-2720.

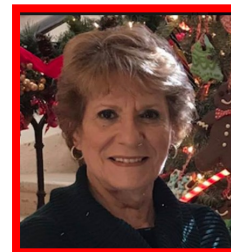
If any of the above individuals cannot help you directly, we will put you in touch with someone who can.

In closing, please remember to stay safe and use common sense by adhering to CDC guidelines for frequent hand washing, covering coughs and sneezes and social distancing including staying at least six feet away from others when/if you need to venture out of your home.

Best,

Jim Hronas

Helen Treantafelles
VIP President
htreantafelles@yahoo.com



MINISTRIES

Saint Anthony Greek Orthodox Church

Reverend Father Peter Stratos

Reverend Father Christopher Retelas

2020 PARISH COUNCIL MEMBERS

Joseph Akrotirianakis	President
John Vidalakis	Co-Vice President
Pete Gallanis	Co-Vice President
Tashia Vagenas	Secretary
Tony Christopoulos	Treasurer

Philip Ted Attalla

Jeremiah Courter

Tom Grafos

Christos Ioannou

Anthia Drulias Lucas

James Pappas

Sophia Syrengelas

Mary Udria

Perry Vidalakis

Vincent Zarian

CHOIR

Choir Director Jim Hronas

Sherese Akrotirianakis	Elias Kalivas
Dean Athans	Stavrula Kiotas
Tina Athans	Dr. Rodanthi Kitridou
George Babbes	Kathy Lucas
Christina Becronis	Claire Marotta
Tom Bouras	Liam McCann
Judie Christopoulos	Bess Mechalas
Leah Cokias	Elizabeth Moreno
Rebecca Courter	Iliana Orozco
Athena Dallas	Alexandra Patzakis
Jennifer Dobrinen	Gena Pegadiotes
Maria Ganis	Katerina Petrossian
Georgia Loutsos Grajeda	Nicole Schulman
Aliki Haralambos	+Litsa Stavropoulos
Maria Hronas	Pres. Aida Stratos

CHANTERS

Patrick Lynch
Katerina Lynch
Demetrios Baliotis
Mike Abi-Farah

READERS

Dr Nicholas Kokoris
Constantine Trigonis

YOUTH CHOIR

Katerina Lynch



OFFICE STAFF

Alma Vorgias – Office Administrator

Athena Serban – Events Coordinator (Trinity Ballroom)



CUSTODIAL STAFF

Carlos Sosa



CHURCH SCHOOL STAFF

Irene Albeck - Preschool

Nikolitsa Vagenas - Preschool

Kathy Tsigkounis - Kindergarten & 1st

Kyriaki Tsigkounis - Kindergarten & 1st

Fotene Trigonis - 2nd & 3rd

John Vagenas - 4th & 5th

Rebecca Russo/Stephanie Scolinos - Middle School/6th—8th

Pres. Aida Stratos - High School/9th—12th

Fotene Trigonis - Director



MINISTRIES (CONTINUED)

PHILOPTOCHOS SOCIETY

Panagia Chapter Board 2020

President

Maria Kypreos

1st Vice President

Maria Hronas, 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

Scholarship

Irene Albeck & Judith Din

Sunshine and Visitation

Jeanne Karaianoglou

Union Station

Irene Albeck

Welfare

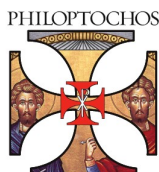
Presbytera Maria Mylonas

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**Elder Zacharias of Great Britain, on the Pandemic..****1 of 3**

Many people are in confusion and others panic because of the threat of the Corona-virus epidemic that spread in the whole world. I think, however, that this should not happen, for whatever God does with us, He does it out of love. The God of Christians is a good God, a God of mercy and loving kindness, *'Who loveth mankind'*. God created us out of His goodness in order to share His life and even His glory with us. When we fell into sin, He allowed death to enter our life again out of goodness, so that we may not become immortal in our wickedness, but to seek for a way of salvation. Although we have fallen, God has never stopped to provide for us, not only material goods in order to sustain our race, but He also sent prophets and righteous, preparing His way so that He might come and solve our tragedy, and bring eternal salvation through the Cross and Resurrection of His inconceivable love. He came and took upon Himself the curse of sin, and He showed His love to the end: *'Having loved His own which were in the world, He loved them unto the end'* (John 13:1). All the things that God did when He created us, when He provided goods in order to sustain the world, when He prepared His way for Him to come on earth, when He came Himself in person and wrought our salvation in such an awesome way, all these things He did out of goodness. His goodness is boundless. He saves us and is so longsuffering towards us, waiting until we *'come to the knowledge of the truth'* (1 Timothy 2:4) and bring true repentance, so that we may be with Him for all eternity. Thus, at every stage of His relationship with man, our God shows only His goodness and mercy, *'which is better than life'* (Ps. 63:3); goodness is His Nature and He does all things for the benefit and salvation of man.

Consequently, when He shall come again to judge the world, will a different God judge it? Will it not be the same good God, the God of mercy and loving kindness, Who loves mankind? Let us be certain that we shall not appear before any other God than Him Who created us and saved us. And so, it is again with the same mercy and love that He will judge us. For this reason, we should neither panic nor waver, for it will be the same God that will receive us in the other life and will judge us with the same kindness and compassion. Some fear that the hour of their end has come. This plague of Corona-virus has also a positive aspect, because we have a few weeks from the moment it will assail us until our end. Therefore, we can dedicate this time to prepare ourselves for our meeting with God, so that our departure may not occur unexpectedly and without preparation, but after we have run through our whole life. Each time we stand in prayer before God, at times with thanksgiving unto the end for all the things God has done for us and at other times with repentance, we are seeking forgiveness of our transgressions. Nothing can harm us with such a God, Who allows all things out of His goodness. We must simply keep thanksgiving unto the end and the humble prayer of repentance for the forgiveness of our sins.

As for myself, this plague is helping me. I longed to find again the prayer I had before, with which I can run through my whole life from my birth until now, thanking God for all His benefits *'whereof I know and whereof I know not'*; and also, with which I can run through my whole life repenting for all my sins and transgressions. It is wonderful to be able to run through your life praying, bringing all things before God with persistence in prayer. Then you feel that your life is redeemed. This is why this situation is truly helping me. I am not panicking but *'I will be sorry for my sin'* (Ps. 38:18).

COMMUNITY NEWS (CONTINUED)**2 of 3**

We must see the goodness of God in all the things that are happening now. The Holy Fathers did see His loving kindness. A similar epidemic occurred in the 4th century in the Egyptian desert, which harvested more than a third of the monks, and the Fathers were saying with great inspiration that, 'God is harvesting souls of saints for His Kingdom,' and they did not waver. The Lord Himself speaks in the Gospel about the last days, about the trials and afflictions which the world will go through before His Second Coming. However, we discern neither morbid sadness nor despair in His words. The Lord Who prayed in the garden of Gethsemane with a sweat of blood for the salvation of the whole world, says that *when we see the terrible things that precede His Second Coming, we should lift up our heads with inspiration, for our redemption draws nigh* (cf. Luke 21:28). Some tell me, 'May God extend His helping hand.' But this is precisely the hand of God. *He desires and works our salvation 'at sundry times and in divers manners'* (Heb. 1:1): *'My Father worketh hitherto, and I work'* (John 5:17). This virus may be a means that God uses in order to bring many to themselves and to repentance, and to harvest many ready souls for His eternal Kingdom. Therefore, for those who surrender and entrust themselves to the Providence of God all will contribute for their good: *'All things work together for good to them that love God'* (Rom. 8:28).

Thus, there is no room for morbid dismay. Neither should we resist the measures that the government is taking in order to diminish the spreading of the afflictions we see in the lives of so many people. It is wrong to go against the authorities. We should do whatever the Government says, because they are not asking for us to deny our faith, they are only asking us to take a few measures for the common welfare of all people, so that this trial may pass. This is not at all unreasonable. Some people take it too 'confessionally', when they raise flags and play the martyrs and the confessors. For us there is no doubt: we shall show pure submission to the orders of the Government. It is unfair to disobey the Government since, when we fall ill, it is to their hospitals that we run and they are the ones who undertake all the expenses and our care.

This is the ethos of Christ that God showed in His life on earth and this is the apostolic commandment that we have received: *'...be subject to principalities and powers, obey magistrates, be ready to every good work, speak evil of no man, be no brawlers, but gentle, shewing all meekness unto all men'* (cf. Titus 3: 1-2); and *'Submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord's sake: whether it be to the king, as supreme...'* (1 Peter 2:13-17). If we do not obey our governors who are not asking much, how will we obey God, Who gives us a divine law, which is far more sublime than any human law? If we keep the law of God we are above human laws, as the apologists of the 2nd century said during the Roman Empire which was persecuting the Christians. It is surprising to see in the country where we live, in the United Kingdom, that the footballers show such understanding and discernment so as to be the first to withdraw from their activities with docility towards the indications of the Government to take prophylactic measures. It would be sad for us, people of faith, to fail reaching the measure of the footballers and showing the same docility towards the authorities for which our Church prays.

If they ask us to stop our Church services, let us simply surrender and bless the Providence of God. Besides, this reminds us of an old tradition that the Fathers had in Palestine: in Great Lent, on the Sunday of Cheese fare, after the mutual forgiveness, they would go out in the desert for forty days without Liturgy; they would only continue in fasting and prayer so as to prepare and return on Palm Sunday to celebrate in a godly way the Passion and the Resurrection of the Lord.

COMMUNITY NEWS (CONTINUED)**3 of 3**

And so, our present circumstances force us to live again that which existed of old in the bosom of the Church. That is to say, they force us to live a more hesychastic life, with more prayer, which will however make up for the lack of the Divine Liturgy and will prepare us to celebrate with greater desire and inspiration the Passion and Resurrection of the Lord Jesus. Thus, we will turn this plague into a triumph of hesychasm. In any case, whatever God allows in our life is out of His goodness for the well-being of man, for He never wants His creature to be harmed in any way.

Certainly, if we will be deprived of the Divine Liturgy for a longer period of time, we can endure it. What do we receive in the Liturgy? We partake of the Body and Blood of Christ, which are filled with His grace. This is a great honor and benefit for us, but we also receive the grace of God in many other ways. When we practice hesychastic prayer, we abide in the Presence of God with the mind in the heart calling upon the holy Name of Christ. The Divine Name brings us the grace of Christ because it is inseparable from His Person and leads us into His Presence. This Presence of Christ which is purifying, cleanses us from our transgressions and sins, it renews and illumines our heart so that the image of God our Savior, Christ, may be formed therein.

If we shall not have Easter in the Church, let us remember that every contact with Christ is Easter. We receive grace in the Divine Liturgy because the Lord Jesus is present in it, He performs the sacrament and He is the One imparted to the faithful. However, when we invoke His Name, we enter the same Presence of Christ and receive the same grace. Therefore, if we are deprived of the Liturgy, we always have His Name, we are not deprived of the Lord. Moreover, we also have His word, especially His Gospel. *If His word dwells continually in our heart, if we study it and pray it, if it becomes our language with which we speak to God as He spoke to us, then we shall have again the grace of the Lord. For His words are words of eternal life* (John 6:68), and the same mystery is performed, we receive His grace and are sanctified.

Furthermore, each time we show kindness to our brethren the Lord is well-pleased, He considers that we did it in His Name and He rewards us. We show kindness to our brethren and the Lord rewards us with His grace. This is another way in which we can live in the Presence of the Lord. We can have the grace of the Lord through fasting, alms giving and every good deed. So, if we are forced to avoid gathering in Church, we can also be united in spirit in these holy virtues which are known within the Body of Christ, the holy Church, and which preserve the unity of the faithful with Christ and with the other members of His Body. All the things we do for God is a Liturgy, for they minister unto our salvation. The Liturgy is the great event of the life of the Church, wherein the faithful have the possibility to exchange their little life with the boundless life of God. However, the power of this event depends on the preparation we perform before, through all the things we have mentioned, through prayer, good deeds, fasting, love for neighbor, repentance.

Therefore, my dear brethren, it is not necessary to make heroic confessions against the Government for the prophylactic measures that it takes for the good of all people. Neither should we despair, but only wisely machinate ways so as not to lose our living communication with the Person of Christ.

Nothing can harm us, we must simply be patient for a certain period of time and God will see our patience, take away every obstacle, every temptation and we shall again see the dawn of joyful days and we shall celebrate our common hope and love that we have in Christ Jesus.

COMMUNITY NEWS (CONTINUED)**LET US PRAY...**

Lord Jesus Christ our God, You traveled through towns and villages “curing every disease and illness.” At Your command, the sick were made well. Come to our aid now, in the midst of the global spread of the corona-virus, that we may experience Your healing love.

Heal those O Lord who are sick with the virus. May they regain their strength and health through quality medical care.

Heal us from our fears, which prevents nations from working together and neighbors from helping one another.

Heal us from our pride, which can make us claim invulnerability to a disease that knows no borders.

Lord Jesus Christ, healer of all and physician of our souls and bodies, stay by our side in this time of uncertainty and sorrow. Be with those who have died from the virus. May they be at rest with you in your eternal peace.

Be with the families of those who are sick or have died. As they worry and grieve, defend them from illness and despair. May they know Your peace. Be with the doctors, nurses, researchers and all medical professionals who seek to heal and help those affected and who put themselves at risk in the process. May they know Your protection and peace.

Be with the leaders of all nations. Give them the foresight to act with charity and true concern for the well-being of the people they are meant to serve. Give them the wisdom to invest in long-term solutions that will help prepare for or prevent future outbreaks. May they know Your peace, as they work together to achieve it on earth.

Whether we are home or abroad, surrounded by many people suffering from this illness or only a few, Lord Jesus Christ, stay with us as we endure and mourn, persist and prepare. In place of our anxiety, give us your peace.

For You are the Physician of our souls and bodies Christ our God and to You do we offer glory, thanksgiving and worship together with Your Eternal Father and Your All Holy Good and Life-giving Spirit now and forever and unto the ages of ages.

Amen

COMMUNITY NEWS (CONTINUED)

We are all astounded, as if a new World War has been declared by an invisible enemy, the Corona-virus.

We are all standing uneasily before the unforeseen changes, brought about by this unprecedented pandemic, to the life of the rich and poor, to the educated and simple people, to health, to the economy, to transportation, to the various forms of leisure and to celebrations.

It behooves us to avoid panic, depression and despair. Composure, sobriety and careful concern and discipline towards the instructions and health directives of the responsible governments are required of us. Likewise, we owe wholehearted thanks to those who are tasked with maintaining public cleanliness, order and information, and especially to the healthcare professionals who are on the vanguard of the battle for the care of the infected.

Remaining inside our homes, let us not permit irritations and conflicts to fester, but let us cultivate creativity, a peaceful disposition, kindness, understanding, affection, and love.

All who are faithful, let us intensify our prayer for the period of this trial to not be protracted, for the recovery of those who are seriously afflicted and for the spread of the pandemic COVID-19 to be limited. Even more, let us pray that God enlightens the researchers to swiftly determine the proper preventive and therapeutic processes.

Primarily, it is imperative to strengthen our trust in God. Faith and love are the most powerful defensive weapons against the attack of this invisible virus that threatens humanity. Something good will ultimately come out of this crisis and we hope that human societies will reexamine their values and priorities.

Therefore, my brothers and sisters: No anxiety, no disquiet! Let us have more courage, an agreeable attitude, obedience to the instructions and above all sincere solidarity. May the peace and the hope of God strengthen our patience and resistance and let them guide us to make the required choices and changes in our lives after this grave crisis.

+Anastasios

Archbishop of Tirana, Durres and all Albania

COMMUNITY NEWS (CONTINUED)

ST. ANTHONY GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH **HOLY WEEK AND EASTER/PASCHA PROGRAM** **APRIL 11 – 19, 2020**

*THE CHURCH WILL REMAIN CLOSED TO PUBLIC AT THIS TIME. PLEASE JOIN US VIA LIVE-STREAM
 AT SAINT-ANTHONY.S.ORG/LIVESTREAM OR [FACEBOOK.COM/STANTHONYSPASADENA](https://www.facebook.com/stanthonySPASADENA)*

SATURDAY OF LAZARUS – April 11

Orthros..... 9:00 am
 Divine Liturgy.....10:00 am

PALM SUNDAY – April 12

Orthros..... 8:45 am
 Divine Liturgy.....10:00 am
 Service of the Bridegroom 6:00 pm

HOLY MONDAY – April 13

Service of the Bridegroom 6:00 pm

HOLY TUESDAY – April 14

Service of the Bridegroom (Hymn of Kassiani) 6:00 pm

HOLY WEDNESDAY – April 15

Service of the Bridegroom 6:00 pm
(The Sacrament of Holy Unction will be prayed and offered at a later date)

HOLY THURSDAY – April 16

Vespers Liturgy of St. Basil 8:00 am
 The Service of the Holy Passion (12 Gospels)..... 6:00 pm

HOLY FRIDAY – April 17

The Royal Hours 9:00 am
 The Descent from the Cross 3:00 pm
 The Graveside Lamentations 6:00 pm

HOLY SATURDAY – April 18

Vespers Liturgy of St. Basil 9:00 am
 Vigil for the Holy Resurrection11:00 pm
 "Come Receive the Light" – The Resurrection Service & Divine Liturgy 11:45 pm

PASCHA/EASTER SUNDAY – April 19

The Agape Vespers Service.....11:00 am

COMMUNITY NEWS (CONTINUED)

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE
SOULS OF THE DECEASED



ΤΕΘΝΩΤΕΣ

PLEASE PRINT NAMES CLEARLY

COMMUNITY NEWS (CONTINUED)

**Information about the Annual Greek Easter Picnic
Brookside Park, Pasadena
CANCELLED**

The World Health Organization has officially declared the Corona Virus (CoV19) a pandemic. Due to the infectious nature of this virus everyone is being asked to limit their physical interactions.

Therefore, in the interest of mitigating a risk to our health and the health of the 1,800 guests who attend the Easter Picnic each year, the Easter Picnic committee, in conjunction with the Saint Sophia Foundation, has decided to make the difficult decision to **CANCEL** the 2020 Easter Picnic that was to be held at Brookside Park in Pasadena on April 19th.

We put the health and safety of our guests first and do not want to increase the risk of anyone becoming infected with the virus.

We look forward to resuming our picnic next year on May 2, 2021, and we plan to make this great tradition a wonderful, joy-filled event!

May everyone have a blessed Lent and a glorious Resurrection!!

Ted Pappas and Stephanie Caiopoulos Lubian, Easter Picnic Co-Chairs
Constantine M. Boukidis, Saint Sophia Foundation President

COMMUNITY NEWS (CONTINUED)**St. Anthony Bowling League**

The St. Anthony Bowling League activities have been placed **ON HOLD** pending the **pandemic restrictions**.

We hope that once we can again resume our games, the community comes out to support our league

Meet new people and see old friends! The more the merrier!

Bowlers will meet every **Tuesday 6:30pm**
Bowlero Lanes on Foothill Boulevard in Pasadena.

Open to all levels!
Anyone interested consider joining us again in September!

This seasons bowlers include:

Sophia Angelos, Peter Bissias, Tanya Christodoulelis, Kiki Chryssogelos, Bill Drulias, George Dupas, Ted Dupas, Nick Gekas, Pana Gelt, Jim Horaites, Patricia Johnston, Andrea Lappas, Parri Livanos, Anthia Lucas, John Lucas, Liam McCain, Steven Miller, Chrissa Mobayen, Syrus Mobayen, Jim Nichols, Joyce Nichols, Marianne Nichols, John Paziouros, Nick Paziouros, Patricia Paziouros, Mihai Serban and Jim Xanthos.



FEASTS & SAINTS OF THE MONTH

Sunday of Saint Mary of Egypt

5 April

The memory of this Saint is celebrated on April 1, where her life is recorded. Since the end of the holy Forty Days is drawing nigh, it has been appointed for this day also, so that if we think it hard to practice a little abstinence forty days, we might be roused by the heroism of her who fasted in the wilderness forty-seven years; and also that the great loving-kindness of God, and His readiness to receive the repentant, might be demonstrated in very deed.



Lazarus Saturday

11 April

Lazarus and his sisters Martha and Mary, the friends of the Lord Jesus, had given Him hospitality and served Him many times (Luke 10:38-42; John 12:2-3). They were from Bethany, a village of Judea. This village is situated in the eastern parts by the foothills of the Mount of Olives, about two Roman miles from Jerusalem. When Lazarus, whose name is a Hellenized form of "Eleazar," which means "God has helped," became ill some days before the saving Passion, his sisters had this report taken to our Saviour, Who was then in Galilee. Nonetheless, He tarried yet two more days until Lazarus died; then He said to His disciples, "Let us go into Judea that I might awake My friend who sleepeth." By this, of course, He meant the deep sleep of death.

On arriving at Bethany, He consoled the sisters of Lazarus, who was already four days dead. Jesus groaned in spirit and was troubled at the death of His beloved friend. He asked, "Where have ye laid his body?" and He wept over him. When He drew nigh to the tomb, He commanded that they remove the stone, and He lifted up His eyes, and giving thanks to God the Father, He cried out with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come forth." And he that had been dead four days came forth immediately, bound hand and foot with the grave clothes, and Jesus said to those standing there, "Loose him, and let him go." This is the supernatural wonder wrought by the Saviour that we celebrate on this day.



According to an ancient tradition, it is said that Lazarus was thirty years old when the Lord raised him; then he lived another thirty years on Cyprus and there reposed in the Lord. It is furthermore related that after he was raised from the dead, he never laughed till the end of his life, but that once only, when he saw someone stealing a clay vessel, he smiled and said, "Clay stealing clay." His grave is situated in the city of Kition, having the inscription: "Lazarus the four days dead and friend of Christ." In 890 his sacred relics were transferred to Constantinople by Emperor Leo the Wise, at which time the Emperor composed his stichera for Vespers, "Wishing to behold the tomb of Lazarus . . ."

FEASTS & SAINTS OF THE MONTH (CONTINUED)**Palm Sunday****12 April**

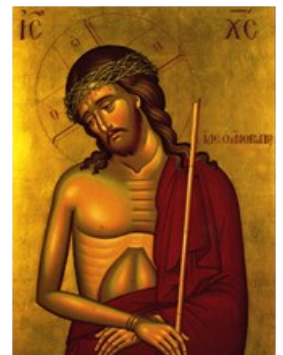
On Sunday, five days before the Passover of the Law, the Lord came from Bethany to Jerusalem. Sending two of His disciples to bring Him a foal of an ass, He sat thereon and entered into the city. When the multitude there heard that Jesus was coming, they straightway took up the branches of palm trees in their hands, and went forth to meet Him. Others spread their garments on the ground, and yet others cut branches from the trees and strewed them in the way that Jesus was to pass; and all of them together, especially the children, went before and after Him, crying out: "Hosanna: Blessed is He that cometh in the Name of the Lord, the King of Israel" (John 12:13). This is the radiant and glorious festival of our Lord's entry into Jerusalem that we celebrate today.

The branches of the palm trees symbolize Christ's victory over the devil and death. The word Hosanna means "Save, I pray," or "Save, now." The foal of an ass, and Jesus' sitting thereon, and the fact that this animal was untamed and considered unclean according to the Law, signified the former uncleanness and wildness of the nations, and their subjection thereafter to the holy Law of the Gospel.

**Holy Monday****13 April**

The Holy Passion of our Savior begins today, presenting Joseph the all-comely as a prefiguring of Christ. He was the eleventh son of Jacob, and his first son by Rachel; because he was so beloved of his father, his own brethren came to envy him and cast him into a pit. Later they sold him to foreigners for thirty pieces of silver, who later sold him again in Egypt. Because of his virtue, his master gave him much authority in governing his house; because he was fair of countenance, his master's wife sought to draw him into sin with her; because of his chastity, he refused her, and through her slanders was cast into prison. Finally, he was led forth again with great glory and was honored as a king. He became lord over all Egypt and a provider of wheat for all the people. Through all this, he typifies in himself the betrayal, Passion, death, and glorification of our Lord Jesus Christ (see Gen., chapters 37, 39-41).

To the commemoration of Patriarch Joseph is added also the narration concerning the fig tree, which on this day was cursed and subsequently dried up because of its unfruitfulness. It portrayed the Jewish synagogue, which had not produced the fruit demanded of it, that is, obedience to God and faith in Him and which was stripped of all spiritual grace by means of the curse (Matt. 21:18-20).



FEASTS & SAINTS OF THE MONTH (CONTINUED)***Holy Tuesday******14 April***

Today we bring to mind the parable of the ten virgins, which our Savior related as He was coming to His Passion. This parable teaches us that the accomplishment of the great work of virginity should not make us careless in other matters, especially in almsgiving, wherewith the lamp of virginity is made radiant. Furthermore, it teaches us that we should not be remiss about the end of our life, but should be prepared for it at every moment, like the wise virgins, so that we may meet the Bridegroom, lest He come suddenly and the doors of the heavenly bride chamber be shut, and we also, like the foolish virgins, hear that dread sentence: "Amen, I say unto you, I know you not" (Matt. 25:1-13).

***Holy Wednesday******15 April***

Two women - say the more discerning interpreters of the Gospel - anointed the Lord with myrrh; the one, a long time before His Passion; the other, a few days before. One was a harlot and sinner; the other, chaste and virtuous. The Church commemorates this reverent act today. While mentioning herein the person of the harlot, it also mentions Judas' betrayal; for, according to the account in Matthew, both of these deeds took place two days before the Passover, on Wednesday.

That woman, then, anointed Jesus' head and feet with very precious myrrh, and wiped them with the tresses of her hair. The disciples, especially the avaricious Judas, were scandalized, supposedly because of the waste of the myrrh, which could be sold for a great price and given to the poor. The Lord Jesus reproved them and told them not to trouble the woman. Indignant, Judas went to the high priests, who were gathered in the court of Caiaphas and were already taking counsel against Jesus. On agreeing with them to betray his Teacher for thirty pieces of silver, Judas sought from that time opportunity to betray Him (Matt. 26:14-16). Because the betrayal took place on Wednesday, we have received the tradition from Apostolic times to fast on Wednesday throughout the year.



FEASTS & SAINTS OF THE MONTH (CONTINUED)**Holy Thursday****16 April**

On the evening of this day, which was the eve of the feast of unleavened bread (that is, the Passover), our Redeemer supped with His twelve disciples in the city. He blessed the bread and the wine, and gave us the Mystery of the Divine Eucharist. He washed the feet of the disciples as an example of humility. He said openly that one of them was about to betray Him, and He pointed out the betrayer by revealing that it was he "*that dippeth his hand with Me in the dish.*" And after Judas had straightway gone forth, Jesus gave the disciples His final and sublime instructions, which are contained in the first Gospel Reading of the Holy Passion (John 13:31-18:1 known as the Gospel of the Testament).

After this the God-man went forth to the Mount of Olives, and there He began to be sorrowful and in anguish. He went off alone, and bending the knees He prayed fervently. From His great anguish, His sweat became as it were great drops of blood falling to the ground. As soon as He had completed that anguished prayer, Judas came with a multitude of soldiers and a great crowd; on greeting the Teacher guilefully with a kiss, he betrayed Him.

The Lord Jesus was then apprehended and taken prisoner to the high priests Annas and Caiaphas. The disciples were scattered, but Peter, who was more fervent than the others, followed Him even into the court of the high priest, but in the end denied thrice that he was His disciple.

Then our divine Teacher was brought before the lawless Sanhedrin and was interrogated concerning His disciples and His teaching. The high priest adjured Him before God that He tell them whether He was truly the Christ. And having spoken the truth, He was judged guilty of death, supposedly as one who had blasphemed. Then they spat in His face, beat Him, smote Him with the palms of their hands, and mocked Him in every way, throughout the whole night until the morning.



FEASTS & SAINTS OF THE MONTH (CONTINUED)**Holy Friday****17 April**

When Friday dawned, Christ was sent bound from Caiaphas to Pontius Pilate, who was then Governor of Judea. Pilate interrogated Him in many ways, and once and again acknowledged that He was innocent, but to please the Jews, he later passed the sentence of death against Him. After scourging the Lord of all as though He were a runaway slave, he surrendered Him to be crucified.

Thus the Lord Jesus was handed over to the soldiers, was stripped of His garments, was clothed in a purple robe, was crowned with a wreath of thorns, had a reed placed in His hand as though it were a scepter, was bowed before in mockery, was spat upon, and was buffeted in the face and on the head. Then they again clothed Him in His own garments, and bearing the cross, He came to Golgotha, a place of condemnation, and there, about the third hour, He was crucified between two thieves. Although both blasphemed Him at the first, the thief at His right hand repented, and said: *"Remember me, O Lord, when Thou comest in Thy Kingdom,"* to which our Savior answered, *"Today shalt thou be with Me in Paradise."* As He hung upon the Cross, He was blasphemed by those who were passing by, was mocked by the high priests and by the soldiers was given vinegar to drink mixed with gall.

About the ninth hour, He cried out with a loud voice, saying, *"It is finished."* And the Lamb of God *"Which taketh away the sin of the world"* (John 1:29) expired on the day when the moon was full, and at the hour when, according to the Law, was slain the Passover lamb, which was established as a type of Him in the time of Moses.

Even lifeless creation mourned the death of the Master, and it trembled and was altered out of fear. Yet, even though the Maker of creation was already dead, they pierced Him in His immaculate side, and forthwith came there out Blood and Water. Finally, at about the setting of the sun, Joseph of Arimathea came with Nicodemus (both of them had been secret disciples of Jesus), and they took down the all-holy Body of the Teacher from the Cross and anointed it with aromatic spices, and wrapped it in a clean linen cloth. When they had buried Him in a new tomb, they rolled a great stone over its entrance.

Such are the dread and saving sufferings of our Lord Jesus Christ commemorated today, and in remembrance of them, we have received the Apostolic commandment that a fast be observed every Friday.



FEASTS & SAINTS OF THE MONTH (CONTINUED)**Holy Saturday****18 April**

On Saturday, the high priests and Pharisees gathered together before Pilate and asked him to have Jesus' tomb sealed until the third day; because, as those enemies of God said, "We suspect that His disciples will come and steal His buried body by night, and then proclaim to the people that His resurrection is true, as that deceiver Himself foretold while He was yet alive; and then the last deception shall be worse than the first." After they had said these things to Pilate and received his permission, they went and sealed the tomb, and assigned a watch for security, that is, guards from among the soldiers under the supervision of the high priests (Matt. 27:62-66).

While commemorating the entombment of the holy Body of our Lord today, we also celebrate His dread descent with His soul, whereby He destroyed the gates and bars of Hades, and made His light to shine where only darkness had reigned (Job 38 : 17; Esaias 49:9; 1 Peter 3:18-20). Death was put to death, Hades was stripped of all its captives, our first parents and all the righteous who died from the beginning of time ran to Him Whom they had awaited and the holy angelic orders glorified God for the restoration of our fallen race.

**Great and Holy Pascha****19 April**

Mary Magdalene, and the other women who were present at the burial of our Savior on Friday evening, returned from Golgotha to the city and prepared fragrant spices and myrrh, so that they might anoint the body of Jesus. On the morrow, because of the law which forbids work on the day of the Sabbath, they rested for the whole day. But at early dawn on the Sunday that followed, almost thirty-six hours since the death of the Life-giving Redeemer, they came to the sepulcher with the spices to anoint His body. While they were considering the difficulty of rolling away the stone from the door of the sepulcher, there was a fearful earthquake; and an Angel, whose countenance shone like lightning and whose garment was white as snow, rolled away the stone and sat upon it. The guards that were there became as dead from fear and took to flight. The women, however, went into the sepulchre, but did not find the Lord's body. Instead, they saw two other Angels in the form of youths clothed in white, who told them that the Saviour was risen, and they sent forth the women, who ran to proclaim to the disciples these gladsome tidings. Then Peter and John arrived, having learned from Mary Magdalene what had come to pass, and when they entered the tomb, they found only the winding sheets. Therefore, they returned again to the city with joy, as heralds now of the supernatural Resurrection of Christ, Who in truth was seen alive by the disciples on this day on five occasions.

*continued*

COMMUNITY NEWS (CONTINUED)**Great and Holy Pascha****continued**

Our Lord, then, was crucified, died, and was buried on Friday, before the setting of the sun, which was the first of His "three days" in the grave; observing the mystical Sabbath, that "seventh day" in which it is said that the Lord "rested from all His works" (Gen. 2:2-3), He passed all of Saturday in the grave; and He arose "while it was yet dark, very early in the morning" on Sunday, the third day, which, according to the Hebrew reckoning, began after sunset on Saturday.

As we celebrate today this joyous Resurrection, we greet and embrace one another in Christ, thereby demonstrating our Savior's victory over death and corruption, and the destruction of our ancient enmity with God, and His reconciliation toward us, and our inheritance of life everlasting. The feast itself is called Pascha, which is derived from the Hebrew word which means "Passover"; because Christ, Who suffered and arose, has made us to pass over from the curse of Adam and slavery to the devil and death unto our primal freedom and blessedness. In addition, this day of this particular week, which is the first of all the rest, is dedicated to the honor of the Lord; in honor and remembrance of the Resurrection, the Apostles transferred to this day the rest from labor that was formerly assigned to the Sabbath of the ancient Law.

All foods allowed during Renewal Week

**Saint George****23 April**

George, this truly great and glorious Martyr of Christ, was born of a father from Cappadocia and a mother from Palestine. Being a commander of a thousand troops, he was illustrious in battle and highly honored for his courage. When he learned that the Emperor Diocletian was preparing a persecution of the Christians, Saint George presented himself publicly before the Emperor and denounced him. When threats and promises could not move him from his steadfast confession, he was put to unheard-of tortures, which he endured with great bravery, overcoming them by his faith and love towards Christ. By the wondrous signs that took place in his contest, he guided many to the knowledge of the truth, including Queen Alexandra, wife of Diocletian, and was finally beheaded in 296 in Nicomedia.

His sacred remains were taken to Lydda in Palestine, the homeland of his mother and then were finally transferred to the church which was raised up in his name.

If April 23 falls on or before Great and Holy Pascha, the Feast of St. George is translated to Bright Monday.

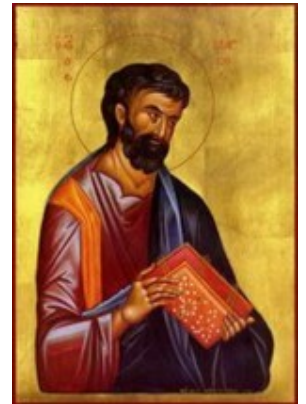


FEASTS & SAINTS OF THE MONTH (CONTINUED)**Saint Elizabeth****24 April**

This saint was born in Heraclea of Thrace. She lived in virginity and exhausted herself with ascetical labors and every kind of hardship from the time of her youth and was deemed worthy of the grace of wonderworking from God. She reposed in peace in Constantinople in the middle of the fifth century.

**Saint Mark****25 April**

Mark was an idolater from Cyrene of Pentapolis, which is near Libya. Having come to the Faith of Christ through the Apostle Peter, he followed him to Rome. While there, at the prompting of Peter himself and at the request of the Christians living there, he wrote his Gospel in Greek, and it is second in order after Matthew's. Afterwards, travelling to Egypt, he preached the Gospel there and was the first to establish the Church in Alexandria. The idolaters, unable to bear his preaching, seized him, bound him with ropes, and dragged him through the streets until he, cut to pieces on rocks, gave up his soul. It is said that he completed his life in martyrdom about the year 68. He is depicted in holy icons with a lion next to him, one of the living creatures mentioned by Ezekiel (1:10), and a symbol of Christ's royal office, as Saint Irenaeus of Lyons writes.

**Sunday of Thomas****26 April**

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.*"

*continued*

FEASTS & SAINTS OF THE MONTH (CONTINUED)

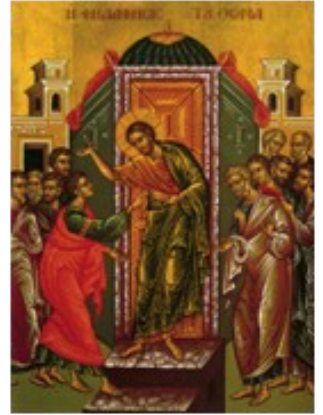
Sunday of Thomas

continued

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).

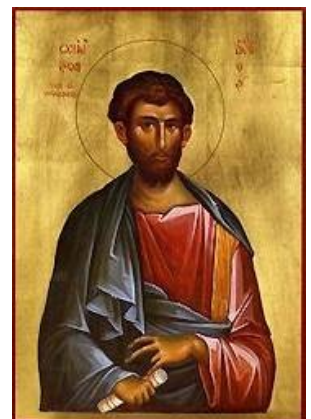
This day is called Antipascha (meaning "in the stead of Pascha," not "in opposition to Pascha") because with this day, the first Sunday after Pascha, the Church consecrates every Sunday of the year to the commemoration of Pascha, that is, the Resurrection.



James the Apostle

30 April

James was one of the Twelve, like his brother John (celebrated on Sept. 26), whom the Lord called "Sons of Thunder," because they became great preachers and because of their profound theology. It was the Saint's boldness in preaching the Gospel that Herod Agrippa, the son of Aristobulus and grandson of Herod the Great, could not endure, and so he took him into custody during the days of the Passover, and slew him with the sword (Acts 12: 1-2); and thus he drank the cup of which the Savior had spoken to him prophetically (Matt. 20:23). As for Herod, the following year he went down to Caesarea, and, as the Acts of the Apostles records: *"Upon a set day, Herod, arrayed in royal apparel, sat upon his throne, and made an oration"* to the elders of Tyre and Sidon; and the flatterers that surrounded him "gave a shout, saying, 'it is the voice of a god, and not of a man.' And immediately an Angel of the Lord smote him, because he gave not God the glory; and like his grandfather *"he was eaten of worms and gave up the spirit"* (Acts 12:21-23)



Orthodox Calendar

APRIL 2020

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			 1 6pm Pre-Sanctified Liturgy Live-stream	 2	 3 6pm Pre-Sanctified Liturgy Akathist Hymn Live-stream	 4
 5 Sunday of Mary of Egypt 8:45am Orthros 10am Divine Liturgy Live-stream	 6	 7	 8 6pm Pre-Sanctified Liturgy Live-stream	 9	 10 6pm Paraklesis Live-stream	 11 Saturday of Lazarus 9am Orthros 10am Divine Liturgy Live-stream
 12 Palm Sunday 8:45am Orthros 10am Divine Liturgy 6pm Serv. Bridegroom Live-stream	 13 Holy Monday 6pm Serv. of the Bridegroom Live-stream	 14 Holy Tuesday 6pm Serv. of the Bridegroom Live-stream	 15 Holy Wednesday 6pm Holy Unction Live-stream	 16 Holy Thursday 9am Vespertal Liturgy 6pm Holy Passion & 12 Gospels Live-stream	 17 Holy Friday 9am Service of the Royal Hours 3pm Descent from the Cross 6pm Lamentations & Epitaphio Service ** Live-stream	 18 Holy Saturday 9am Vespertal Liturgy of St. Basil 11pm Resurrection and Divine Liturgy Live-stream
19 Great & Holy Pascha 11am Agape Vespers Live-stream	20 Bright Week	21 Bright Week	22 Bright Week	23 Bright Week	24 Bright Week ** Live-stream on Holy Friday	25 Bright Week
26 Sunday of Saint Thomas 8:45am Orthros 10am Divine Liturgy	27	28	 29	30		
		Strict Fast 	Fish Allowed 	Wine and Oil Allowed 	Dairy, Eggs, and Fish Allowed 	Fast Free

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



Phone
626.449.6943
Fax
626.449.6974
E-mail
alma@saint-anthonys.org

We're on the Web!
www.saint-anthonys.org

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