

The Voice of Saint Anthony

MAY 2020

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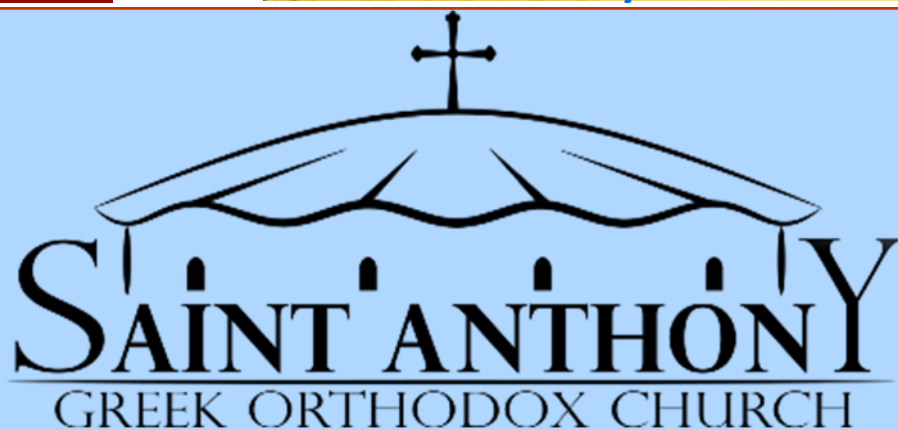
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**Deadline for
June Newsletter is
Monday, 25 May**

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



Holy Ascension



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

**CHRIST IS RISEN!
TRULY HE IS RISEN!**

**XRISTOS ANESTI!
ALITHOS ANESTI!**

Though we cannot all be together (*temporarily!*), we wish you all of the blessings of our Lord's Resurrection on this Feast of Feasts, this glorious celebration of Pascha! May the light of the Risen Christ shine brightly in your homes, and throughout your lives. We so earnestly look forward to seeing you all again!

Thank you, from the bottom of our hearts, for your prayers and your love during this trying time. We have received so much love from you all and it means the world to us.

Happy Easter! Kalo Pascha! Christ is Risen! Xristos Anesti!

With love in the Risen Lord,

Fr. Peter & Fr. Chris



PRIEST'S MESSAGE (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.



STEWARDSHIP

ST. ANTHONY STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

243 PLEDGES TOTALING: **\$393,783**

COLLECTED AS OF 4/14/2020: **\$266,396**

AVERAGE PLEDGE GOAL: **\$2,000**

CURRENT AVERAGE PLEDGE: ***\$1,621***

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>	<i>\$0 - \$499</i>	<i>58</i>	<i>24%</i>
<i>Friend</i>	<i>\$500 - \$999</i>	<i>53</i>	<i>22%</i>
<i>Supporter</i>	<i>\$1,000 - \$1,999</i>	<i>66</i>	<i>27%</i>
Faithful	\$2,000 - \$3,999	40	16%
Disciple	\$4,000 - \$6,999	20	8%
Guardian	\$7,000 - \$9,999	0	0%
Angel	\$10,000 - \$14,999	4	2%
Archangel	\$15,000 and up	2	1%
TOTAL ANNUAL PLEDGES		243	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

Stay tuned for Special General Assembly Meeting via Zoom..

Sunday 3rd of May

After Divine Liturgy

Login details were sent via postal mail to all stewards..

NEWS FROM THE LOFT



We miss you Saint Anthony and we pray that our risen Lord will bring us safely together again soon for communal worship.



CHURCH SCHOOL NEWS

A MESSAGE FROM PRESCHOOL...

Christos Anesti!

Our class is the first formal introduction to the teachings of the Orthodox Church. The Corona-virus pandemic cut short our lessons.

We felt it was necessary to continue the lessons via weekly emails. During our physical absence from class, the lessons we would have covered are:

The Feast of the Elevation of the Holy Cross

Nativity of our Lord,

Presentation of the Theotokos at the Temple

The Resurrection

Feast of the Ascension

Feast of Pentecost

We will conclude with a few miracles.

The lessons and activities have been placed in folders for each member of our class. They include an adapted version of each feast day, the feast day icon, and a simple follow up activity which requires glue sticks. When it is permissible we will distribute the materials.

We are so sad because our routine was interrupted: Trisagion Prayer, lesson, transition time, extended lesson, music, movement activity and "see you next Sunday". We had great attendance up to the time we had to follow the "Stay at Home" announcement.

We encourage parents to watch the live stream services Sundays and special holy days and saints days that the church celebrates.

Christ has risen! Truly He has risen!

Mrs. Albeck, Ms. Nikolitsa, Ms. Alik

CHURCH SCHOOL NEWS (CONTINUED)

**WE ALL
CHURCH SCHOOL—A PLACE YOUR CHILDREN WANT TO BE!**



Pres. Aida



Miss Nikolitsa



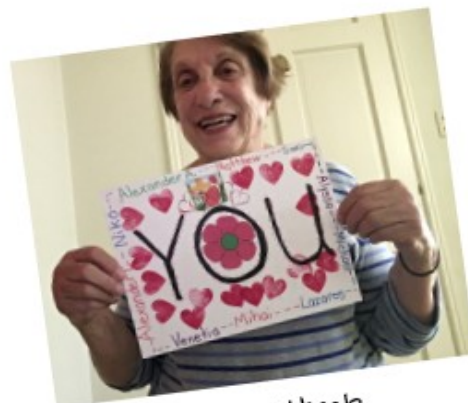
Mrs. Scolinos



Mrs. Kathy



Mr. Vagenas



Mrs. Albeck



Miss Russo



Miss Kyriaki



Mrs. Trigonis

YOUTH & YOUNG ADULT NEWS



HOPE ages 4 ½ to 6

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

Holy Friday Retreat

This year we had an unusual experience. We had a virtual Holy Friday Retreat with Father Christopher. He took us on a tour of the church, sharing some interesting facts about our icons. We were shown where Father Peter and Father Christopher stored their robes when they are not using them. We saw how the icons used in the narthex are stored and cataloged. He gave us a peek at what was behind the altar.

Father Peter and Father Christopher sent us downloads of information and projects we could do during Holy Week, helping us to make the week a meaningful experience.

Thank you Father Peter and Father Christopher for the Zoom experience, downloads and virtual tour. It was great seeing some of our friends.

Myrrh-bearers 2021

A Myrrh-bearer is enrolled and participates in church school, second to fifth grades, attends practices, completes a community outreach, and continues to be a steward of the church by learning how to be a responsible caretaker of Christ's Church. She enjoys church life, caring for others and is happy in church work, committing to using her time, talent, and treasure.

In 2019 the voices of our young sixteen 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, Elleni Ioannou, who directed, organized, and taught the stanza they sang, and Helen Smith who crocheted fifteen capes for the girls.

Congratulations to: Anna B., Gia B., Kathryn B., Sophia B., Madeline G., Tessa G., Kostandina I., Eleni K., Evangelia K., Faye K., Gianna K., Nicoletta K., Mary N., Alexis S., Maria S., and Ava V.

The Myrrh-bearer community outreach this year is to collect peanut butter and jelly for **Friends in Deed**. Help the Myrrh-bearers meet their goal of forty jars of peanut butter and forty jars of jelly.

NOTE: Since girls between 2nd and 5th grade were not able to participate this year, those who participated in 2019 but would have aged out in 2020 will be eligible to participate in 2021 .



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 when we can again resume our games, the community will come 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

As all of us shelter in place, Philoptochos continues to remain busy supporting our community the best we can remotely. Unfortunately, we are no longer able to provide food for the Friends In Deed food bank, but have been sending a monthly donation. Union Station will not allow outside groups to serve dinner, so Irene Albeck has been making arrangements to have meals delivered. Philoptochos continues to support our Metropolis and National with ongoing charities.

We would like to acknowledge our wonderful ladies, **Christina Becronis**, **Joanna Koulos** and **Presvytera Maria Mylonas**, who have been tirelessly sewing masks! Christina and Joanna made more than 400 masks that were donated to the Cancer Center at Huntington Hospital for patients and staff and also for the staff of doctors' offices. Presvytera Maria has made more than 100 masks so far that she will be distributing to nursing homes in our area. We are so proud of them!

We had our first Zoom general meeting last week, and about 21 members attended. It was great fun to see everyone and chat. We will be doing another one in May. If you are not receiving our emails, please contact **Maria Grover**: mag@kpclegal.com 818-522-4225. If you'd like to join Philoptochos or if you still need to pay your dues and can do so, please send a check to **Philoptochos c/o St. Anthony Greek Orthodox Church, 778 S Rosemead Blvd, Pasadena, CA 91107**

Philoptochos is here to assist in any way we can. If you or someone you know needs some assistance during these challenging times, please contact **President Maria Kypreos** 626-272-2720 mkypreos@gmail.com.



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

Due to circumstances beyond our control, we are **extending the deadline** to submit applications from April 1 to **May 31, 2020**.

Submit whatever you have collected prior to this pandemic. Your essay will be weighted. It is important you focus on how your **spiritual growth** within the church has influenced your way of serving the church and your community, setting goals, and how it has impacted your core values.

Information may be emailed to Irene Albeck - mcmg2a@aol.com

Be at peace among yourselves. 1 Thessalonians 4:13

Irene Albeck and Fontaine Malisos

Scholarship Committee Chairs

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~~ **May 31, 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***

Please Note..

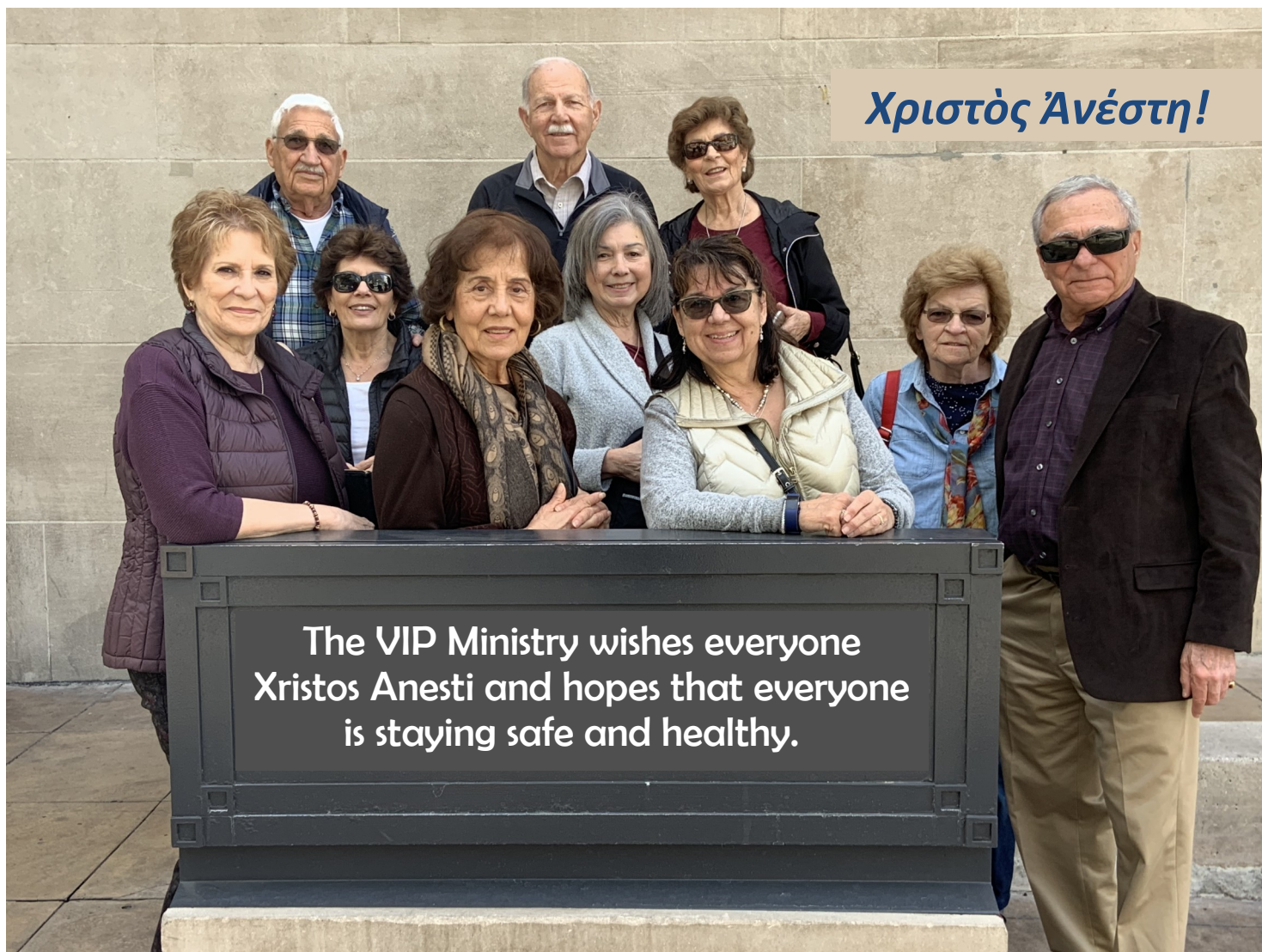
Due to the Covid19 quarantine, we will dispense with community volunteers serving at the facility. We will continue to honor our commitment of providing a complete meal each month. Food will be prepared by an outside source and delivered to Union Station Homeless Services on 412 South Raymond Avenue, Adult Services. Donation of heavy duty plates, napkins, paper towels, or store bought cookies would be welcomed. Please call Irene Albeck to make arrangements to pick up the items.

Contact:

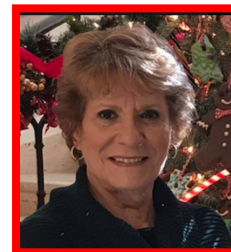
Sophia Angelos	sangelos2000@gmail.com	626-795-0848 (home)
Stephanie Soewers	szanglis@gmail.com	818-209-5026 (cell)
Irene Albeck	mcmg2a@aol.com	626-792-8122



VIP NEWS



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

Tom Grafos

Christos Ioannou

Anthia Drulias Lucas

James Pappas

Sophia Syrengelas

Mary Udria

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

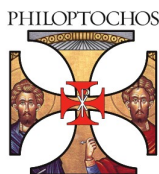
Presbytera Maria Mylonas

Advisor

Connie Becker

Spiritual Advisor

Father Peter Stratos



ADDITIONAL MINISTRIES

Acolytes

Fr. Christopher Retelas

Bible Study

Fr. Peter Stratos

Bookstore

Noah Johnson

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

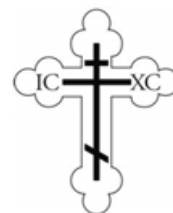
Sophia Syrengelas
Mary Udria

VIPs

Helen Treantafelles

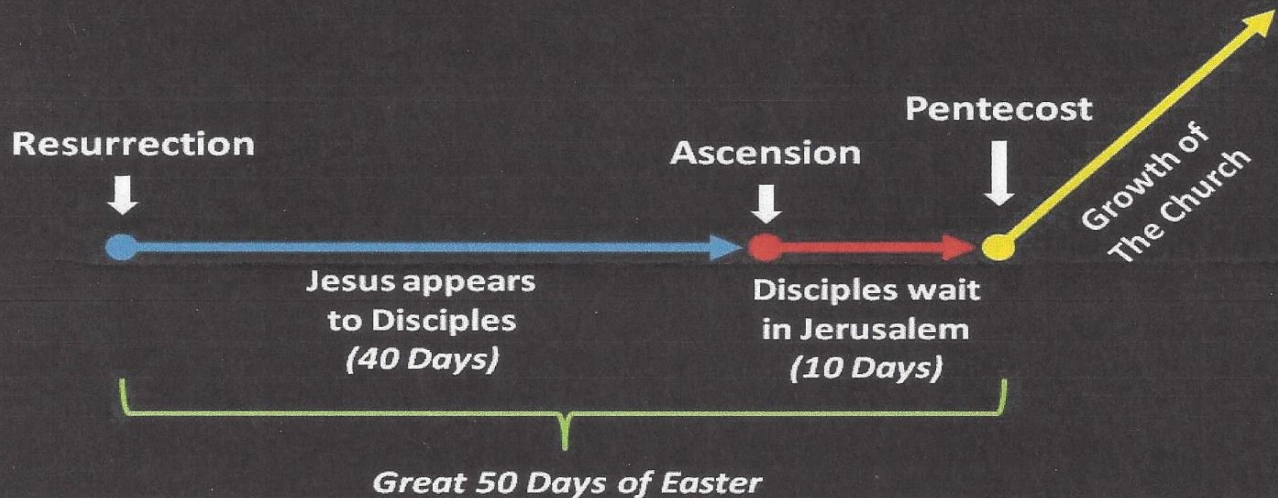
Young Adults

Mike Abi Farah



COMMUNITY NEWS

Events After Jesus' Death



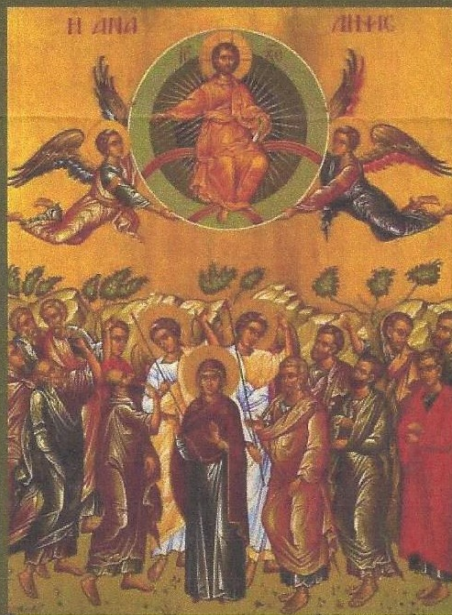
The Ascension of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ Forty Days after Pascha

"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 almond-shaped design that signifies His divinity and glorified state.
- + He is being carried by one angel on either side.



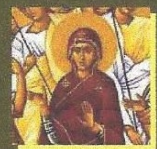
- + With His right hand, Christ gives His blessing as He departs from His beloved people.
- + We, the Church, receive His blessing in countless ways every day.
- + The icon of the Ascension includes some who did not witness the Ascension.
- + St. Paul is shown to the left of the Theotokos, but we know 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.



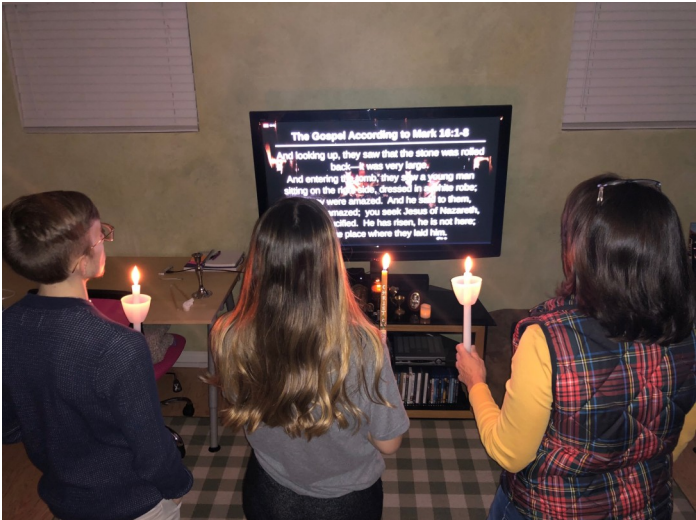
- + The entire group of people, the Theotokos and the disciples, represent the Church.
- + Just as their gaze is riveted upon their beloved Christ, so we are called in every Divine Liturgy to "lift up our hearts to the Lord."



COMMUNITY NEWS (CONTINUED)

Celebrating Easter 2020

Steven Pappas Family



COMMUNITY NEWS (CONTINUED)

Dimitris Constantinou Family



COMMUNITY NEWS (CONTINUED)

Courter Family



Holy Saturday Morning



COMMUNITY NEWS (CONTINUED)

The Lubians



COMMUNITY NEWS (CONTINUED)

The Light from the Holy Sepulcher - Jerusalem



COMMUNITY NEWS (CONTINUED)

How to Worship at Home

a guide for live-streaming services



CREATE A HOLY SPACE AT HOME

plan ahead to live-stream worship in or near your prayer corner, or create a space with icons, a Bible, candles, and incense



FOLLOW ALONG

service books and bulletins can be downloaded from our website or call the church office to have one sent to you



CHRIST IS IN OUR MIDST

share the kiss of peace with your family or reach out via text message, Facebook post or call someone

PREPARE TO ATTEND

be on time to worship
light a candle (or two)
light your home censer and offer incense
and pray before the service begins



PRAY FOR ONE ANOTHER

be attentive
read along and listen to the Scripture readings
fervently pray the petitions
sing along with the clergy and chanters
pray for the sick, the suffering,
the lonely and afflicted
pray for everyone in need of God's help



WITH THE FEAR OF GOD, FAITH, AND LOVE, DRAW NEAR

take time to thank God for His abundant mercy and love and pray that the time we can all be together again to receive His Body and Blood at Church comes soon



COMMUNITY NEWS (CONTINUED)



**Studies in the Faith
w/ Fr. Peter**

offered via ZOOM
Wednesday nights
starting 4/29 at 7pm

Email
frpeter@saint-anthonys.org
for information on how
to join.

**Weekly Bible Study
w/ Fr. Chris**

offered via ZOOM
Tuesday mornings
starting 4/28 at 11am

Email
frchris@saint-anthonys.org
for information on how
to join.



COMMUNITY NEWS (CONTINUED)

If anyone is devout and a lover of God, let them enjoy this beautiful and radiant festival.

If anyone is a grateful servant, let them, rejoicing, enter into the joy of his Lord.

If anyone has wearied themselves in fasting, let them now receive recompense.

If anyone has labored from the first hour, let them today receive the just reward.

If anyone has come at the third hour, with thanksgiving let them feast.

If anyone has arrived at the sixth hour, let them have no misgivings; for they shall suffer no loss.

If anyone has delayed until the ninth hour, let them draw near without hesitation.

If anyone has arrived even at the eleventh hour, let them not fear on account of tardiness.

For the Master is gracious and receives the last even as the first; He gives rest to him that comes at the eleventh hour, just as to him who has labored from the first.

He has mercy upon the last and cares for the first; to the one He gives, and to the other He is gracious.

He both honors the work and praises the intention.

Enter all of you, therefore, into the joy of our Lord, and, whether first or last, receive your reward.

O rich and poor, one with another, dance for joy!

O you ascetics and you negligent, celebrate the day!

You that have fasted and you that have disregarded the fast, rejoice today!

The table is rich-laden: feast royally, all of you!

The calf is fatted: let no one go forth hungry!

CONTINUED

COMMUNITY NEWS (CONTINUED)

Let all partake of the feast of faith. Let all receive the riches of goodness.

Let no one lament their poverty, for the universal kingdom has been revealed.

Let no one mourn their transgressions, for pardon has dawned from the grave.

Let no one fear death, for the Saviour's death has set us free. He that was taken by death has annihilated it!

He descended into **Hades** and took Hades captive!

He embittered it when it tasted His flesh! And anticipating this, **Isaiah** exclaimed: "*Hades was embittered when it encountered Thee in the lower regions*".

It was embittered, for it was abolished!

It was embittered, for it was mocked!

It was embittered, for it was purged!

It was embittered, for it was despoiled!

It was embittered, for it was bound in chains!

It took a body and came upon God!

It took earth and encountered Heaven!

It took what it saw, but crumbled before what it had not seen!

O death, where is thy sting?

O Hades, where is thy victory?

Christ is risen, and you are overthrown!

Christ is risen, and the demons are fallen!

Christ is risen, and the angels rejoice!

Christ is risen, and life reigns!

Christ is risen, and not one dead remains in a tomb!

For Christ, being raised from the dead, has become the First-fruits of them that have slept.

To Him be glory and might unto the ages of ages.

Amen.

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 when we can again resume our games, the community will come 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.



COMMUNITY NEWS (CONTINUED)

CORONAVIRUS SAFETY



Follow these easy steps to help prevent the spread of COVID-19.



Disinfect surfaces around your home and work.



Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds.



Sneeze or cough? Cover your mouth with your elbow.

... maintain a 6-foot distance and wear a mask !!

Until there is a vaccine, this is not over.... Be cautious.. Use common sense!

6 ways you CAN'T catch Coronavirus!



PRAYING

Intercessory Prayer is the greatest thing you can do for others



CALLING SOMEONE

Speaking with someone will help brighten their day as well as yours



WAVING AT A NEIGHBOR

Friendliness eases peoples anxieties



DOING SOMETHING KIND

Grocery shopping, dropping off food, picking up medicine for a friend... all show you care



WRITING A NOTE

Your greeting card will let someone know you care and might bring some joy to their life



SMILING

It shows there is much to be thankful for and might make you feel better too

FEASTS & SAINTS OF THE MONTH**Sunday of Myrrh Bearing Women****3 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 silent.

Together with them we also celebrate 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 (Matthew 27:60).



FEASTS & SAINTS OF THE MONTH (CONTINUED)

Sunday of the Paralytic

10 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 was 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



Sunday of the Samaritan Woman

17 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.

FEASTS & SAINTS OF THE MONTH (CONTINUED)***Sunday of the Samaritan Woman—continued***

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 Photini, and her feast is kept on February 26.

Saints Constantine & 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.



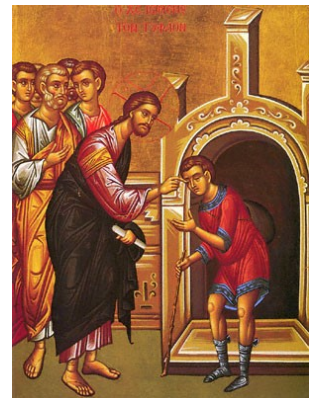
FEASTS & SAINTS OF THE MONTH (CONTINUED)***Saints Constantine & Helen—continued***

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 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 deposited 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 Savior 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.

Sunday of the Blind Man***24 May***

The Lord Jesus was coming from the Temple on the Sabbath, when, while walking in the way, He saw the blind man mentioned in today's Gospel. This man had been born thus from his mother's womb, that is, he had been born without eyes. When the disciples saw this, they asked their Teacher, "Who did sin, this man, or his parents, that he was born blind?" They asked this because when the Lord had healed the paralytic at the Sheep's Pool, He had told him, "Sin no more, lest a worse thing come unto thee" (John 5:14); so they wondered, if sickness was caused by sin, what sin could have been the cause of his being born without eyes. But the Lord answered that this was for the glory of God. Then the God-man spat on the ground and made clay with the spittle. He anointed the eyes of the blind man and said to him, "Go, wash in the Pool of Siloam." Siloam (which means "sent") was a well-known spring in Jerusalem used by the inhabitants for its waters, which flowed to the eastern side of the city and collected in a large pool called "the Pool of Siloam."



FEASTS & SAINTS OF THE MONTH (CONTINUED)***Sunday of the Blind Man—continued***

Thus, the blind man believed in Jesus' words, obeyed His command, went and washed himself, and returned, no longer blind, but having eyes and seeing. This was the greatest miracle that our Lord had yet worked; as the man healed of his blindness himself testified, "Since time began, never was it heard that any man opened the eyes of one that was born blind," although the Lord had already healed the blind eyes of many. Because he now had eyes, some even doubted that he was the same person (John 9:8-9); and it was still lively in their remembrance when Christ came to the tomb of Lazarus, for they said, "Could not this man, who opened the eyes of the blind man, have caused that even this man should not have died?" Saint John Chrysostom gives a thorough and brilliant exposition of our Lord's meeting with the woman of Samaria, the healing of the paralytic, and the miracle of the blind man in his commentaries on the Gospel of Saint John.

Holy Ascension***28 May***

The Lord Jesus passed forty days on earth after His Resurrection from the dead, appearing continually in various places to His disciples, with whom He also spoke, ate, and drank, thereby further demonstrating His Resurrection. On this Thursday, the fortieth day after Pascha, He appeared again in Jerusalem. After He had first spoken to the disciples about many things, He gave them His last commandment, that is, that they go forth and proclaim His Name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. But He also commanded them that for the present, they were not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait there together until they receive power from on high, when the Holy Spirit would come upon them.

Saying these things, He led them to the Mount of Olives, and raising His hands, He blessed them; and saying again the words of the Father's blessing, He was parted from them and taken up. Immediately a cloud of light, a proof of His majesty, received Him. Sitting thereon as though on a royal chariot, He was taken up into Heaven, and after a short time was concealed from the sight of the disciples, who remained where they were with their eyes fixed on Him. At this point, two Angels in the form of men in white raiment appeared to them and said, "Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into Heaven? This same Jesus, Who is taken up from you into Heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen Him go into Heaven" (Acts 1:11). These words, in a complete and concise manner, declare what is taught in the Symbol of Faith concerning the Son and Word of God. Therefore, having so fulfilled all His dispensation for us, our Lord Jesus Christ ascended in glory into Heaven, and sat at the right hand of God the Father. As for His sacred disciples, they returned from the Mount of Olives to Jerusalem, rejoicing because Christ had promised to send them the Holy Spirit.



FEASTS & SAINTS OF THE MONTH (CONTINUED)

Holy Ascension—continued

It should be noted that the Mount of Olives is a Sabbath's day journey from Jerusalem, that is, the distance a Jew was permitted to walk on the day of the Sabbath. Ecumenius writes, "A Sabbath day's journey is one mile in length, as Clement says in his fifth Stromatis; it is two thousand cubits, as the Interpretation of the Acts states." They draw this conclusion from the fact that, while they were in the wilderness, the Israelites of old kept within this distance from the Holy Tabernacle, whither they walked on the Sabbath day to worship God.

Fathers of the First Ecumenical Council

31 May

The heresiarch Arius was a Libyan by race and a protopresbyter of the Church of Alexandria. In 315, he began to blaspheme against the Son and Word of God, saying that He is not true God, consubstantial with the Father, but is rather a work and creation, alien to the essence and glory of the Father, and that there was a time when He was not. This frightful blasphemy shook the faithful of Alexandria. Alexander, his Archbishop, after trying in vain to correct him through admonitions, cut him off from communion and finally in a local council deposed him in the year 321. Yet neither did the blasphemer wish to be corrected, nor did he cease sowing the deadly tares of his heretical teachings; but writing to the bishops of other cities, Arius and his followers requested that his doctrine be examined, and if it were unsound, that the correct teaching be declared to him. By this means, his heresy became universally known and won many supporters, so that the whole Church was soon in an uproar.

Therefore, moved by divine zeal, the first Christian Sovereign, Saint Constantine the Great, the equal to the Apostles, summoned the renowned First Ecumenical Council in Nicaea, a city of Bithynia. It was there that the shepherds and teachers of the Church of Christ gathered from all regions in the year 325. All of them, with one mouth and one voice, declared that the Son and Word of God is one in essence with the Father, true God of true God, and they composed the holy Symbol of Faith up to the seventh article (since the remainder, beginning with "And in the Holy Spirit," was completed by the Second Ecumenical Council). Thus they anathematized the impious Arius of evil belief and those of like mind with him, and cut them off as rotten members from the whole body of the faithful.

Therefore, recognizing the divine Fathers as heralds of the Faith after the divine Apostles, the Church of Christ has appointed this present Sunday for their annual commemoration, in thanksgiving and unto the glory of God, unto their praise and honor, and unto the strengthening of the true Faith.



Orthodox Calendar

MAY 2020

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					 1	2
3 Sunday of Myrrh-bearing Women 8:45am Orthros 10am Divine Liturgy Live-stream General assembly mtg. via Zoom	4	5 11am Bible Study via Zoom	6  7pm Studies in the Faith via Zoom	7	8 	9 Saint Christopher the Martyr 9am Orthros 10am Divine Liturgy Live-stream
10 Sunday of Paralytic 8:45am Orthros 10am Divine Liturgy Live-stream	11	12 11am Bible Study via Zoom	13  Mid-Pentecost 7pm Studies in the Faith via Zoom	14	15 	16
17 Sunday of Samaritan Woman 8:45am Orthros 10am Divine Liturgy Live-stream	18	19 11am Bible Study via Zoom	20  7pm Studies in the Faith via Zoom	21 Saints Constantine and Helen 9am Orthros 10am Divine Liturgy Live-stream	22 	23
24 Sunday of the Blind Man 8:45am Orthros 10am Divine Liturgy Live-stream	25 Church Office closed in celebration of Memorial Day	26 11am Bible Study via Zoom	29  7pm Studies in the Faith via Zoom	28 Holy Ascension 9am Orthros 10am Divine Liturgy Live-stream	29 	30
31 Fathers of the First Ecumenical Council 8:45am Orthros 10am Divine Liturgy Live-stream		Strict Fast 	Fish Allowed 	Wine and Oil Allowed 	Dairy, Eggs, and Fish Allowed 	Fast Free

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May 2020

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Christ Is Risen
Χριστός Ανέστη

The Icon of the Resurrection

Icons are about meaning. What does the mosaic of the Resurrection tell us about the Resurrection of Jesus from the dead? What are its implications for us? The central figure in this icon is the Risen Lord Jesus wearing a radiant white robe with a blue mandorla or aura symbolizing His glory as the Son and Word of the living God. Reaching down, He is lifting up Adam and Eve—symbolizing us, the entire human race—out of tombs, freeing them from death and raising them up to eternal life with Him.

This icon is a depiction of our true destiny as human beings. Jesus has rescued us from death! This icon provides an image for the most radical reversal one can imagine—the undoing of the kingdom of death. The doors of Hades—the realm of death—have been smashed open and lie in the shape of a cross beneath His feet. It is an action of breathtaking love and mercy. In the darkness beneath the doors of Hades are the locks and chains by which all of humanity had been bound by death prior to the Resurrection of Jesus. Next to and behind Adam is David, the prophet and king of ancient Israel, for the Lord Jesus is from the royal line of David. Next to and behind Eve stand the Apostles who will take the message of Jesus' Resurrection from the dead to the entire world. And, at the bottom of the icon is written the proclamation that the Lord Jesus made to Martha, the sister of Lazarus, before He raised her dead brother, who had been in the tomb for four days, back to life:

"I AM the Resurrection and the Life" (John 11:25).