The Voice of Saint Anthony

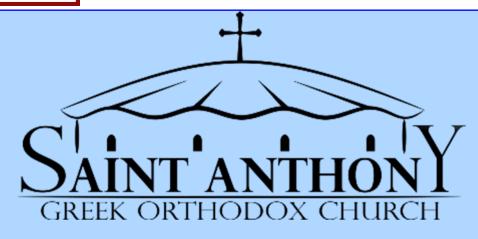
DECEMBER 2020

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Deadline for January Newsletter is Sunday, 27 December Please send to: 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

PARISH STEWARDSHIP MESSAGE 2021

"I have said this to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world." (John 16:33)

These words of Christ were a part of His final message to His Apostles. Within these words, we hear and acknowledge that in the world we will experience trials and tribulations. The message was relevant then in the time of Christ and it continues to still be relevant for us today.

Indeed, our dear brothers and sisters in Christ, 2020 has been filled with trials and tribulations. At the forefront is the deadly pandemic our country and our world is dealing with. The virus has spread through every state in our union and is intensifying. However, there is hope on the horizon. We are getting closer to trial vaccines that are showing promising results. Perhaps, by the middle of next year we can return to some form of normalcy if these vaccines work. We need to remain vigilant, follow the protocols of our local officials and, as our Lord commanded us, to be at peace and "be of good cheer."

Looking back on 2020, it must be noted that we are grateful of how very much our community has responded during the adversities we have faced together. It must be said, that when in person services were halted at the beginning of Great Lent and continued through Holy Week, not only were our Orthodox churches empty, but our hearts were as well. Our Greek Orthodox community was not able to celebrate the Resurrection of our Lord in person. This trial however, enabled us to be creative. With technology, we were able to bring the Church into our homes and thus make our homes an important part of our church.

Because of this technology we were able to keep our community connected through live-streaming our services, however we still required and needed financial stewardship and other important donations for our church to continue to operate properly. We are honored and pleased to announce that because of your love and generosity we remain in a strong and healthy position as we continue into 2021. Our financial Stewardship and donation giving by far exceeded any previous year. Yet again, our St. Anthony community has risen to the challenge and we thank you for your continued commitment to the Lord and His Church.

As we conclude this year and are about to enter 2021, we ask for your loving commitment again. We have enclosed your 2021 Stewardship Card with a return envelope. Please, prayerfully fill it out and return it as soon as possible. Through experience we know that some will fulfill their commitment in one lump sum donation in order to declare your tax-exempt contribution for this year's tax return. We appreciate and we encourage those able to do so and would humbly ask that those who make their contribution early to consider giving something more each month during this coming year. Expenses occur each month just as they occur in our households and the monthly contributions help our church meet these financial commitments. A practice that was developed during this pandemic included an offering envelope sent via the mail service monthly to our entire community. We will continue to mail our stewards these envelopes monthly, for us all to consider offering God and His Church.

Finally, even though 2020 was a difficult year, we need to count our many blessings even through adversity, trials and tribulations. We have faced these trials and tribulations even without our wonderful Greek Festival and Golf Tournament fundraisers. Hopefully they will return in some form in 2021, but the important point to consider is this; we were still able to remain viable because of your love and generosity. Thank you to all of you who made this a reality. We remain strong because of each and every one of you. We are looking forward to a great year for our community. Continue to pray to our Lord for strength, and heed the words of our Lord, "I have said this to you, that in Me you may have peace... be of good cheer."

Fr. Peter Stratos	Fr. Christopher Retelas	Joseph Akrotirianakis
Pastor	Associate Pastor	Parish Council President

PRIEST'S MESSAGE (CONTINUED)

IF YOU ARE IN NEED OF ASSISTANCE OF ANY KIND

due to limitations caused by the CoViD pandemic or the state and local "Safer at Home" ordinances, your community is here to help.

If you need assistance with groceries (picking up or paying for them), getting a prescription from the pharmacy, or even taking out trash cans, please let us know how your community can help during a time of need.

We are available to assist or coordinate assistance if we cannot provide it ourselves (masks and social distancing will be practiced).

Please CALL or TEXT:

Sherese Akrotirianakis	310.308.1431
Sophia Syrengelas	626.641.0335
Mary Udria	626.390.1680

Everything will be held in confidence.



STEWARDSHIP				
2021 Stewardship Financial Commitment SAINT ANTHON GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH 2021 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 NA	me(s), <i>PLEASE INCLUD</i>	e children under 1	8.	
STREET ADDRESS		CITY	STATE	ZIP
PREFERRED PHONE SIGNATURE	DTHER/SECOND PHO DATE		E-N [For office use only]	1AIL
ANNUAL GIVING LEVELS: *ARCHANGEL: \$15,000 and up \$288/week OR \$1,250/month & up *ANGEL: \$10,000 - \$14,999 \$192-\$288/week OR \$833-\$1,249/month *GUARDIAN: \$7,000 - \$9,999 \$135-\$192/week OR \$583-\$833/month *DISCIPLE: \$4,000 - \$6,999 \$77-\$135/week OR \$333-\$583/month *FAITHFUL: \$2,000 - \$3,999 \$38-\$77/week OR \$167-\$333/month SUPPORTER: \$1,000 - \$1,999 \$19-\$38/week OR \$83-\$167/month FRIEND: \$500 - \$999 \$9.60-\$19/week OR \$42-\$83/month CONTRIBUTOR: \$499 & below	the Churc <u>Please return you</u> Your card must In response to My Stewar I wi Contact the Cl -OR- set up your *To fully cover ou	ch in comparison to ur completed com be on file for you o God' s blessing rdship Commitm ill fulfill and pay n U Weekly at Monthly at D Anthly at	monthly utility/serv mitment card to o to be considered i gs, I/we pledge ment for 2021: \$_ my pledge: (CHEC \$/week \$/mont mually up easy recurring el ng at <u>saint-anthom</u> ses, our goal is to	hurch by Jan. 1, 2021 in 'Good Standing' a 2021 offering of: K ONE) h lectronic payments ys.churchgiving.com

STEWARDSHIP (CONTINUED)

St. ANTHONY STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

297 PLEDGES TOTALING	\$469,370
	¢400 744

COLLECTED AS OF 10/30/2020 \$422,744

AVERAGE PLEDGE GOAL	<u>\$2,000</u>
CURRENT AVERAGE PLEDGE	\$1580

Breakdown of Stewardship / Annual Giving to the Church				
Stewardship Levels Amount Pledge		Number of Pledges / families	% of Pledges Breakdown	
Contributor	0 - \$499	77	26%	
Friend	\$500 - \$999	67	23%	
Supporter	\$1,000 - \$1,999	76	26%	
Faithful	\$2,000 - \$3,999	48	16%	
Disciple	\$4,000 - \$6,999	21	07%	
Guardian	\$7,000 - \$9,999	3	01%	
Angel	\$10,000 - \$14,999	3	01%	
Archangel	\$15,000 - >	2	0%	
TOTAL ANNUAL PLEDGES		297	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, 75% OF OUR STEWARDS ARE UNDER THAT GOAL

CHURCH HISTORY

Early Greek Community of Pasadena & the San Gabriel Valley Taken from the 50th Anniversary of St. Anthony. Written by: +Dr. Nikitas J. Tripodes

Around 1910 Alexios Papaioanou (Alex Pappas) left Panitero for Pasadena to join his brothers Kosta and Vasili. The brothers, along with other newly arrived Greek bachelors, would share a house on South Raymond Avenue, dividing the cooking and cleaning duties. Kosta worked as a caddy for the golf club at the luxurious Raymond Hotel. Vasili like many Pasadena Greeks, was a gardener. Alex found odd jobs as a gardener by knocking on doors and asking the occupants in broken English, "Got a job for me mister?" Their time in Pasadena would be the last the brothers would share. From 1912 to 1913 Greece and its neighbors were entangled in the Balkan Wars. Thousands of Greek immigrants went back to fight for their homeland. Kosta and Vasili were induced by a specious rumor that they would never be allowed to return to Greece unless they enlisted in the Greek army. Kosta and Vasili Papaioanou fought and died in the Balkan Wars and were buried on newly liberated Greek soil.

Unlike most of his compatriots, Alex did not remain a bachelor or marry a local (non-Greek) woman. In the 1930s he returned to Greece and married Maria Demopulos from the village of Ayios Nikolaos (St. Nicholas) near Panitero. They returned to Pasadena where they started a family. Their children and grandchildren all became active in the St. Anthony community.

We may never know the identity of the first Kalavrytan immigrant to Pasadena, but he started an exodus for many others. For those from Panitero, Pasadena was as well-known as New York or Chicago. It was the Kalavrytan connection which gave the Pasadena Greeks their first sense of community. Descendants of some of the earliest Kalavrytan immigrants in the area have noted that gardening was the profession of choice for many of these men. Many worked at Busch Gardens as part of a full time staff of 30 nurserymen. Busch Gardens, a major Southern California tourist attraction, was part of beer magnate Adolphus Busch's estate on Arroyo Drive with 30 acres of sunken gardens, rolling lawns and miles of paths and roads. Other Greek gardeners worked as full time employees at the Raymond Hotel and for some of the large estates in town. Many were independent contractors doing smaller jobs for a large clientele base.

John B. Stathus was the personal gardener for the El Molino Avenue estate of Pasadena resident, Rex B. Clark. In the 1920s, Clark began developing the city of Norco in Riverside County, whose showpiece would be a huge luxury resort known as the Norconian Club and Hotel. Stathus used his connections with other Greek gardeners to act as a landscaping contractor for Clark's resort. After the hotel's completion, Stathus moved back to Pasadena and continued working as a gardener. He opportunistically became the owner the Oak Knoll Nursery on Glenarm in 1942, when its owner, Masaichi Matsumoto, was forced into an internment camp with other Japanese-Americans during World War II.

Gardening was a profession of necessity for immigrant men. The children of these pioneer Greeks were encouraged to advance their education and not follow in their fathers' footsteps. It is an impressive feat that so many immigrants were able to sacrifice and send their children to college for a more promising future. Some of the more "recent" immigrants from Planitero in the 1960s also took up landscaping and continue in this work today. They represent the last link to the vanguard of Pasadena's Greek gardeners.

CHURCH HISTORY



Los Angeles and Pasadena Greeks at a Kalavrytan picnic, 1921 Left to right: George Linardos, Tom Palmer, John Linardos, Vasilios(William)Linardos. Greeks from the Kalavryta region would have picnics at various locations in Los Angeles County.



Alexios Papaioanou (Alex Pappas) circa 1920

CHURCH HISTORY



1929 Riverside County, California, in what is now the town of Norco A crew of mostly Greek gardeners (Theodore Dolkas second from right, Andrew Dolkas on left with rake) are supervised by John B. Stathus (on right). Stathus later owned the Oak Knoll Nursery at 244 E. Glenarm in Pasadena. He was contracted to do landscaping during construction of the Norconian Club and Hotel. A number of Greek gardeners from Pasadena worked at the site under Stathus' supervision.

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

No Parish Council report this month...

For those of you who are attending live-stream services, and miss receiving Holy Communion because you are unable to attend an outdoor liturgy in person..

When the priest approaches with the Chalice.. drink some Holy Water. If you don't have any on hand, call the church office..



NEWS FROM THE LOFT



Ή Παρθένος σήμερον, τὸν προαιώνιον Λόγον, ἐν Σπηλαίῳ ἔρχεται, ἀποτεκεῖν ἀπορρήτως. Χόρευε ἡ οἰκουμένη ἀκουτισθεῖσα, δόξασον μετὰ Ἀγγέλων καὶ τῶν Ποιμένων, βουληθέντα ἐποφθῆναι, Παιδίον νέον, τὸν πρὸ αἰώνων Θεόν.

On this day the Virgin Maid goes to the grotto to give birth to the pre-eternal Word in an ineffable manner. Dance for joy, all the inhabited earth, on hearing. Glorify along with Angels and with the shepherds Him who willed that He appear as a newborn Child, the pre-eternal God

Hvery merry and blessed Christmas season

from our Choir family to you.

CHURCH SCHOOL NEWS

ST. ANTHONY YOUTH FELLOWSHIP MEETING VIRTUALLY EVERY MONTH!					
	Grade groups will meet via Zoom one Sunday a month starting at 11:30am				
1st Sundays	PK-K-1 with Mrs. Albeck				
2nd Sundays	2-3-4-5 with Mrs. Scolinos				
3rd Sundays	6-7-8 with Ms. Russo				
4th Sundays	9-10-11-12 with Pres. Aida				
	UP AT: S.ORG/FELLOWSHIP				

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December 2020

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YOUTH & YOUNG ADULT NEWS





With Yiayia and Papou A ministry of HOPE and JOY

Αγαπημένος,

We are looking forward to joining all of you during winter camp. Today it is 54 degrees in Athens.

will have a lot of fun playing winter games and completing



Camp ages: 5 to 9 years old Mark your calendar

Date: Wednesday, December 16

Time: 1:00 PM to 1:45 PM

Place: Comfort of your home

Zoom sign-in information will be sent prior to December 16



PHILOPTOCHOS NEWS



Friends In Deed

Philoptochos continues to support our local food bank at Friends In Deed (friendsindeedpas.org) with monthly food deliveries. In November we continued our tradition of delivering turkeys for Thanksgiving and will be providing hams for Christmas. Our members will also be participating in their Adopt A Child for Christmas program, bringing some much needed joy to underprivileged children in our community.

Trinity Boys Home

Our chapter will also continue our annual support of Trinity Boys Home (trinityys.org) with the purchase of two PS4 consoles. As in years past, we will be providing a Christmas Eve dinner for those boys who are unable to return to a safe environment for the holidays.

General Meeting

We held our general Zoom meeting on November 4th. As part of our Operation Classroom initiative, Mary Udria arranged for us to hear from a teacher in the Charter Oak School District, who spoke about the success of her class where the students produce news videos for the school, and the need for green screens for the children to be able to film from home. The Board subsequently voted to purchase some green screens for the school.

Additional Donations

A donation in December will also be made to the IOCC and Holy Cross, as well as to the seminarian our chapter has "adopted."

Bishop Spryidon Ordination

On Saturday, November 14th, Father Spencer T. Kezios was ordained as Bishop Spyridon of Amastris at Holy Cross Greek Orthodox Church in Belmont, California. Vice president Maria Hronas presented Bishop Spyridon with a donation from our chapter. Axios!

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PHILOPTOCHOS NEWS (CONTINUED)



His Grace Bishop Spyridon of Amastris accepts a monetary gift from the Panagia Chapter presented by vice president Maria Hronas upon his elevation to the episcopacy.

December 2020

PHILOPTOCHOS NEWS (CONTINUED)



St. Anthony Philoptochos Christmas Benefit

Home for Christmas

Saturday, December 12, 2020 at 11:00am

Announcing that our St. Anthony Philoptochos will be hosting our 51st Annual Christmas Benefit on December 12th! This VIRTUAL event will be reminiscent of years past, with focus on our charities, traditions, and Christmas joy, all from the comfort of our homes!

That's right! Saturday, **December 12, 2020 at 11:00 a.m**., we are hosting this one-hour event virtually on Zoom. So it's your choice, your home, to get dressed up or to just wear your comfy Christmas sweater and then settle in with a beverage and snacks for an hour of entertainment, presentations, fundraising, and great grand awards.

Like every year, we hope you support our organization's good works by donating to The Star Program and participating in the Grand Awards raffle. This year we are even offering menu items from Santa's Kitchen for pickup and gift shopping with wonderful boutiques from our Holiday Marketplace.

Proceeds from this year's virtual event will go to CALIFORNIA FIRE FOUNDATION and ONE TREE PLANTED and other Philoptochos charities.

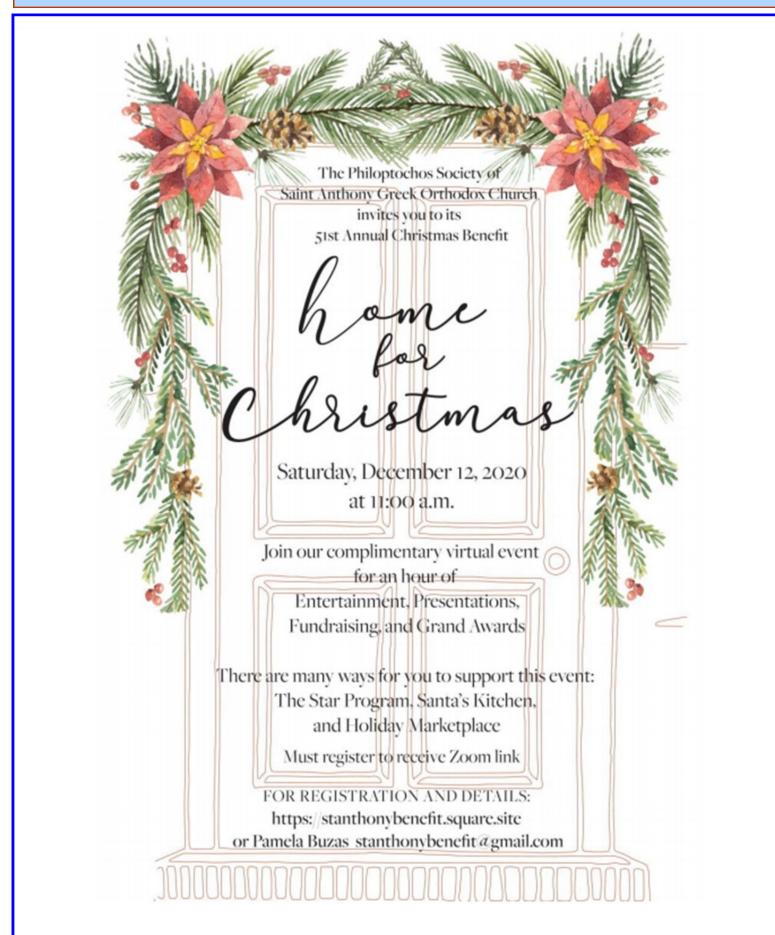
It's going to be fun!

FOR REGISTRATION AND DETAILS

Website: https://stanthonybenefit.square.site/

eMAIL: stanthonybenefit@gmail.com

Must register to receive Zoom link



December 2020

PHILOPTOCHOS NEWS (CONTINUED)

Your support enables our philanthropic organization to serve those in need in our community and to support the good works of the Metropolis and National Philoptochos.

Proceeds from this year's event will benefit CALIFORNIA FIRE FOUNDATION and ONE TREE PLANTED and other Philoptochos charities

> For every registrant we will plant one native tree with One Tree Planted for forest fire recovery in California. For every Star Donor we will plant 10 trees!

CALIFORNIA FIRE FOUNDATION

The California Fire Foundation provides financial and emotional support to the families of firemen injured or killed in the line of duty, as well as the victims of California's devastating wildfires.

ONE TREE PLANTED

One Tree Planted works with reforestation partners in California, the U.S., and globally to restore forests after major wildfires and floods by planting trees.

HOLIDAY MARKETPLACE

Shop with our boutiques during the month of December using the code **PHILO** and they will contribute a percentage of sales back to Philoptochos!

Fegari Jewelry www.FegariJewelry.com @fegarijewelry M&C Collective/Vivian Blythe www.collectiveco-op.com @thisisuscollective

m.andonía www.mandonia.com @m.andonia My Greek Home www.mygreekhome.net @my-greekhome

Jewels with a Purpose Virtual Silent Auction www.32auctions.com/PHILO2020

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The mission of the Operation Classroom Initiative is to assist and offer support to teachers and students in underserved or underfunded schools and provide resources that would not have been available through the local school district.

This is a National Philoptochos project. Operation Classroom is a total parish commitment, meaning that we encourage each member of our community, young and old, to get involved.

We are in the process of adopting a local school near St. Anthony's, Willard Elementary School. We will share their needs with you as we work with them to develop a list.

We also have a project with another local school where Mary Udria identified another way for us to help students during this pandemic. We will bring the details to you soon.

Additionally we are planning to reach out to several students and their families as the holidays approach. Please look for emails regarding these projects and how you can help us achieve our goals.

Our earlier appeal for school supplies was well-supported. Many thanks to those who contributed.

Join us as we help disadvantaged children to succeed.

Saint Anthony Philoptochos Santa's Kitchen Prepaid Order Form

ALL PREPAID ORDERS MUST BE RECEIVED BY TUESDAY, DECEMBER 1, 2020

ORDERS AVAILABLE FOR PICKUP:

St. Anthony Greek Orthodox Church, Trinity Ballroom 778 South Rosemead Blvd., Pasadena

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 11 from 11:00 AM TO 2:00 PM and SATURDAY, DECEMBER 12 from 1:00 PM TO 4:00 PM

Place prepaid order by:

 MAIL – Fill out Order Form below (check payable to St. Anthony Philoptochos and mail to St. Anthony Philoptochos, 778 South Rosemead Blvd., Pasadena CA 91107

Name:	Cell/Home Phone:			
Address:	_City:E	-mail:		
ITEM		COST	QUANTIT	Y \$TOTAL
J. J. C. Ju	Baklava (box of 12)			
1 1	Layers of phyllo dough brushed with butter and filled			
e fort	with chopped walnuts and almonds, cinnamon, sugar			
10.10	and soaked in honey syrup.	\$30		\$
004	Finikia/Melomakarona (box of 12)			
5-5-22	Honey-dipped cookies topped with ground walnuts,			
Contra and	sugar and cinnamon mixture.	\$25		\$
a a a t	Koulourakia (bag of 12)			
	Butter-based cookies with sweet delicate flavor			
	topped with egg glaze.	\$8		\$
COMMUNITA S	Koulourakia, Chocolate Dipped (box of 6)			
A ALANT	Butter cookies dipped in dark chocolate.			
1				
		\$7		\$
	Kourabiethes (box of 12)			
Z.	Shortbread butter cookies without nuts covered in			
	powdered sugar.	\$25		\$
	Marshmallow Chocolate Reindeer (1)			
STOR ADD	Marshmallow dipped in milk chocolate with			
	pretzel antlers.	\$3		¢
Contraction of the second seco	Santa's Candy Cane Sleigh (1)	4 3		Φ
11 into	Candy canes and mini chocolate bars.			
	candy canes and mini chocolate bars.			
		\$6		\$
Variety	4 Baklava, 4 Melomakarona, 4 Kourabiethes			
Pastry Box		\$25		\$
Optional	Pastry orders of \$50 or more within a 15 mile		7	
Local	radius of Pasadena - delivered the week after			
Delivery	the event.	\$5	Yes/No	\$
			_	

ORDER TOTAL

\$____

UNION STATION HOMELESS SERVICES

Irene Albeck and **Noula Serban** have resumed preparing meals for **Union Station** the first Wednesday of the month. The meals have to be delivered in individual servings during CoViD; hence, the monthly cost has increased. Donations of heavy duty plates, napkins, paper towels or store bought cookies would be very much appreciated.

Please contact **Irene Albeck - 626.792.8122** to make arrangements for items to be picked up if you care to donate.

Philoptochos continues to support our local food bank, Friends In Deed, with a monthly donation.

PLEASE NOTE

Non-food donations can be delivered to our Administrative Office 825 E. Orange Grove Blvd. Pasadena, CA 91104 Monday-Friday between 9:00am-4:30pm.

All food donations (perishable and non-perishable) can be delivered to the Adult Center 412 S. Raymond Ave. Pasadena, CA 91105. The Adult Center is open for donations from 8:00am-2:30pm.

IN-KIND DONATION NEEDS

Adult Diapers Baby diapers and baby formula Clorox or Lysol Wipes Disinfectant Spray Laundry basket and laundry soap Laundry pods and quarters New pillows and blankets New and gently used books Puzzles, activity books for adults and children Personal and feminine products

KITCHEN NEEDS

BBQ sauce Corn cooking oil Flour tortillas to make burritos Frozen burritos Frozen has brown patties Individual coffee packets Individual creamer packets Individual sugar packets Microwaveable dinners Sliced American cheese Teriyaki glaze

"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

We have dispensed with people volunteering to serve at the facility, however we continue our monthly commitment to prepare a hardy, nutritious dinner meal. We have generous donors to cover the meals. USHS has requested packaged dessert (cookies), single serve beverages (10 oz.) and single serve bottles of milk. You may continue to volunteer by donating toward purchasing individual packaged items. The following is an estimated cost: rolls-\$16.50, cookies, \$27.50, beverage, \$48.60, and milk, \$10.80.

Please make checks out to: Philoptochos of Saint Anthony

In memo box write: USHS

Thank you for being a part of the solution to homelessness.

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

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

We hope your Thanksgiving was filled with joy and hope.

Thank you everyone who donated to our Annual Outreach. Your donations made it possible for us to help the **Foothill Unity Center**.

The VIPs were able to supplement the donations received and Jim Hronas brought us a check for \$1,000.

Betty McWilliams, the Executive Director of Foothill Unity Center, was extremely grateful to receive our donation to help this year where there is an even greater need.

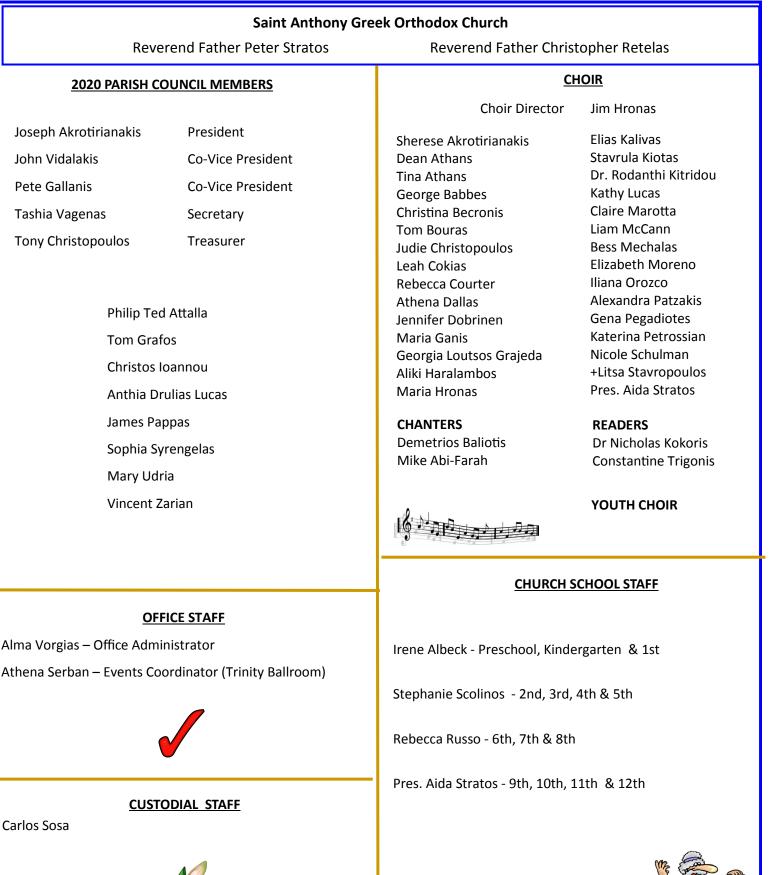
On behalf of the VIPs, I wish everyone peace, love, good will and all the other blessings of Christmas.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!



Helen Treantafelles VIP President

MINISTRIES



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 Karaiannoglou

Union Station

Irene Albeck

Welfare

Presbytera Maria Mylonas

Advisor

Connie Becker

Spiritual Advisor

Father Peter Stratos



ADDITIONAL MINISTRIES

Acolytes Bible Study Bookstore GOYA GOYA Basketball Greek Dance Groups

Greek Festival

Greek Language School

JOY/HOPE

Moms & Tots

Myrrh Bearers

Oratorical Festival Pasadena Golf Classic

Prayer Shawls

Vacation Bible School

VIPs

Young Adults

Fr. Peter Stratos Noah Johnson

Fr. Christopher Retelas

Fr. Christopher Retelas

Anthia Lucas Pana Gelt

Phophi Magaziotis

John Vidalakis Nick Demopulos Julie Balas

Anastasia McClain

Irene Albeck

Presbytera Kalli Retelas

Irene Albeck

Nicole Schulman

Jimmy Christodoulelis Roberto Crespo

Aliki Haralambos

Sophia Syrengelas Mary Udria

Helen Treantafelles

Mike Abi Farah



10x0x3 P 6x0x3

COMMUNITY NEWS



offered via ZOOM Wednesday nights at 7pm

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

HOLY BIBLE

Weekly Bible Study w/ Fr. Chris

offered via ZOOM Tuesday mornings at 11am

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

COMMUNITY NEWS (CONTINUED)

Share your Recipes to be included in the Saint Anthony Cookbook !!

As so many of us have had to stay at home these past several months, it would be fun to share our favorite recipes (Greek or non-Greek) with our church community.

Please email your recipes to: Newsletter_church@aol.com

We will include one in each monthly newsletter, and when we have enough for a cookbook, we will publish them all together.

The cookbook will be available for purchase at a later date.

Please join in the fun to share recipes.



December 2020

COMMUNITY NEWS (CONTINUED)



His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos and the Metropolis of San Francisco Philoptochos joyfully invite you to attend

Light the Path

A Virtual Celebration

Saturday, December 5, 2020 2:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. PST

Please join us for an inspiring virtual fundraising event in support of the Bishop Anthony Philoptochos Student Aid Endowment Fund that will feature special presentations from

Hellenic College Holy Cross Students Nicholas Fettis, Pianist from the Fettis Family Farm in Carmel, CA Citrus Singers from Citrus College in Glendora, CA

and an Archpastoral Message from

His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos of San Francisco

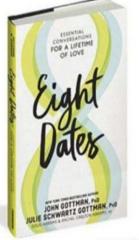
There is no cost to attend, however advance registration is required to receive Zoom login information. Register at: www.sfphiloptochos.org or by calling 415-431-2600 by December 1, 2020.

Donate today online: www.sfphiloptochos.org

COMMUNITY NEWS (CONTINUED)



"ESSENTIAL CONVERSATIONS FOR A LIFETIME OF LOVE"



Join us and other couples in our Orthodox community for 1-hour virtual sessions twice a month, in a complimentary series featuring discussions from *Eight Dates* by John Gottman, Ph.D., designed to strengthen your commitment to one another and to God.

THURSDAYS AT 6:30PM PST

OCTOBER 15 OCTOBER 29 NOVEMBER 12 DECEMBER 3 NOVEMBER 19 DECEMBER 17

JANUARY 7 JANUARY 21

FEBRUARY 4 FEBRUARY 18

VISIT EITHER WEBSITE BELOW FOR MORE INFORMATION

www.gosfyouth.org www.familywellnessministry.org

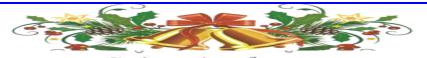


YOUTH & YOUNG ADULT MINISTRIES





COMMUNITY NEWS (CONTINUED)



Saint Anthony 2020 Community Christmas Card

With the start of the Nativity Fast our Church has officially entered the Christmas Season. During this special time of year, we turn our hearts and minds to the Nativity of Christ and we reflect on what this means for us. Of course, we have the opportunity to give thanksgiving to God by offering a gift to our church in our participating in the annual St. Anthony's Community Christmas Card. This beautiful Nativity card is being made available to the entire community, as it has been done in the past. Even as we continue to struggle with being separated amidst the pandemic crisis, let our prayers turn to unity with Christ our God, who was born in a cave and lay in a manger for our salvation.

Should you wish to participate and have your name(s) listed in the Community Christmas Card, please complete and mail the form below to the church office by Monday December 7, 2020



YES! I/We would like to participate in this year's Community Christmas Card!

Enclosed is my offering of: □ \$50 □ \$75 □ \$100 □ \$200 □ \$_

Please print clearly how you would like your name(s) to appear on the 2020 St. Anthony Community Christmas Card:

Checks can be made out to: St. Anthony Greek Orthodox Church Mail to: 778 S. Rosemead Blvd. Pasadena, CA 91107-5613 Or call the church office (626) 449-6943 to give by phone

*St. Anthony Greek Orthodox Church is a 501/c/3 non-profit. All donations are tax-deductible

COMMUNITY NEWS (CONTINUED) The Voice of Saint Anthony JULY 2020 Saint Panteleimon INSIDE THIS ISSUE Priest's Message 2 Stewardship 7 Parish Council News 11 126.00 Choir News 14 Church School 15 outh/Young Adult News 16 18 Philoptohos News 19 20 Ministries Community News 22 41 aints of the Month 47 rthodox Calenda Deadline for August Newsletter is Saturday, 25 July 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

If you would like the monthly newsletter mailed to your home each month, please contact the Church office. 626.449.6943

COMMUNITY NEWS (CONTINUED)

Monthly Lesson from Father Stavros Akrotirianakis...

God made every one of us in His image and likeness. However, just as God is infinite, in His great wisdom and love, He made each human being to be different. We can take an "infinite" number of people and not find two that are exactly the same. Even identical twins have different skill sets and talents. Our purpose in life is to glorify God, to let our light, His light, shine on others through our unique gifts, used to help those around us.

Thankfully, each person is not the same. We tend to place higher values on certain kinds of people. We rank the doctor ahead of the farmer. Yet we forget that without the farmer, we'd have no food and thus no life and no need for a doctor. And without the truck driver, we wouldn't get the food from the farm to the store. And without the person who puts the food on the shelves, there would be no food to buy. And without the person who sweeps the floor in the store, the food would be contaminated. And without the person who inventories the store, there wouldn't be enough food to buy. The point here is that each person has the potential to play an important role in the world. Not everyone is going to be doctor and that is a good thing. If, however, you shine God's light through your work, whatever work that may be, then God will be glorified, our neighbor will be loved, and we will be doing right in the eyes of God.

While we may each have unique gifts and talents, we shine the same Light. Going now to our theme of a thankful heart, we should be grateful for the Light of Christ, present in each of us. We should be thankful for gifts and talents we have received from Him. And if thankfulness is an action, our thankfulness should manifest itself in honest and consistent effort to use our talents as best as we can, to give a good effort.

Part of the problem in our world today is that people lament over who they aren't and what they DO NOT have, rather than being thankful for who they are and for what they DO have. I'm never going to be a millionaire, drive an expensive car, or take exotic trips, and that's okay. I'm satisfied that I can earn a living and at the same time give glory to God by hopefully helping others in some small way.

Someone once told me that God crowns effort, not success. Because sometimes we cannot control success. We can always, however, control our efforts.

COMMUNITY NEWS (CONTINUED)

We can plan a wonderful and edifying retreat and attendance could be held down by the weather. God will reward our effort, even if the event wasn't as successful because of the weather.

We can invite someone to church and they may turn down the invitation. God will reward our effort because it is the invitation that we can control, not necessarily its acceptance.

We can create opportunities to spread the Gospel. The Holy Spirit is the One Who converts the hearts. Thus we need to focus on throwing the seed, not necessarily the kind of soil it lands in. Recalling the Parable of the Sower, Luke 8:5-15, in this parable the sower threw the seed (which represents the Word of God) into all kinds of soil. He knew the seed on the rocks would not take root but he threw it anyway, because it's the effort to spread the Gospel that counts. It is the effort to use our unique talents that counts. It is our effort to make the most of what we've been given that counts in the eyes of God.

So, we need to be thankful for what we have, and do the best with what God has given us. And in this way, we will glorify Him, help our neighbor, and move ourselves closer to God's Kingdom.

Lord, thank You for the unique gifts and talents I have (name them). Help me to use these gifts today to bring glory to You and to help those around me. Help me to appreciate and use the gifts I have, celebrating what I have been given and honoring You, as the One who gave them to me. Let Your Light so shine in me that others will see my good works, done in Your name, and come to know and glorify You as well. Amen.

Make your effort reflect thankfulness for His gifts to you!

+Fr. Stavros



December 2020

FEASTS & SAINTS OF THE MONTH

Saint Barbara

4 December

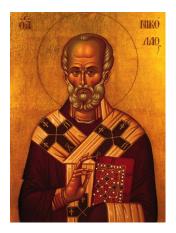
Saint Barbara was from Heliopolis of Phoenicia and lived during the reign of Maximian. She was the daughter of a certain idolater named Dioscorus. When Barbara came of age, she was enlightened in her pure heart and secretly believed in the Holy Trinity. About this time Dioscorus began building a bath-house; before it was finished he was required to go away to attend to certain matters and in his absence Barbara directed the workmen to build a third window in addition to the two her Father had commanded. She also inscribed the sign of the Cross with her finger upon the marble of the bath-house, leaving the saving sign cut as deeply into the marble as if it had been done with an iron tool. (When the Synaxarion of Saint Barbara was written, the marble of the bath-house and the cross inscribed by Saint Barbara were still preserved and many healings were worked there.) When Dioscorus returned, he asked why the third window had been added; Barbara began to declare to him the mystery of the Trinity. Because she refused to renounce her faith, Dioscorus tortured Barbara inhumanely and after subjecting her to many sufferings he beheaded her with his own hands, in the year 290.



Saint Nicholas

6 December

This Saint lived during the reign of Saint Constantine the Great, and reposed in 330. As a young man, he desired to espouse the solitary life. He made a pilgrimage to the holy city Jerusalem, where he found a place to withdraw to devote himself to prayer. It was made known to him, however, that this was not the will of God for him, but that he should return to his homeland to be a cause of salvation for many. He returned to Myra, and was ordained bishop. He became known for his abundant mercy, providing for the poor and needy, and delivering those who had been unjustly accused. No less was he known for his zeal for the truth. He was present at the First Ecumenical Council of 318 and in 325 at Nicaea ; upon hearing the blasphemies that Arius brazenly uttered against the Son of God, Saint Nicholas struck him on the face. Since the canons of the Church forbid the clergy to strike any man at all, his fellow bishops were in perplexity as to what disciplinary action was to be taken against this hierarch whom all revered. In the night, our Lord Jesus Christ and our Lady Theotokos appeared to certain bishops, informing them that no action was to be taken against him, since he had acted not out of passion, but extreme love and piety. The Dismissal Hymn for holy hierarchs, The truth of things hath revealed thee to thy flock ... was written originally for Saint Nicholas. He is the patron of all travelers and of sea-farers in particular. He is one of the best known and best loved Saints of all time.



FEASTS & SAINTS OF THE MONTH (CONTINUED)

The Conception of the Holy Theotokos

9 December

According to the ancient tradition of the Church, since Saint Anna, the Ancestor of God, was barren, she and her husband Joachim remained without children until old age. Therefore, sorrowing over their childlessness, they besought God with a promise that, if He were to grant them the fruit of the womb, they would offer their offspring to Him as a gift. And God, hearkening to their supplication, informed them through an Angel concerning the birth of the Virgin. And thus, through God's promise, Anna conceived according to the laws of nature, and was deemed worthy to become the mother of the Mother of our Lord .

Saint Spyridon

12 December

Spyridon, the God-bearing Father of the Church, the great defender of Corfu and the boast of all the Orthodox, had Cyprus as his homeland. He was simple in manner and humble of heart, and was a shepherd of sheep. When he was joined to a wife, he begat of her a daughter whom they named Irene. After his wife's departure from this life, he was appointed Bishop of Trimythus and thus became also a shepherd of rational sheep. When the First Ecumenical Council was assembled in Nicaea, he also was present and by means of his most simple words stopped the mouths of the Arians who were wise in their own conceit. By the divine grace which dwelt in him, he wrought such great wonders that he received the surname 'Wonderworker." So it is that, having tended his flock piously and in a manner pleasing to God, he reposed in the Lord in the year 350, leaving to his country his sacred relics as a consolation and source of healing for the faithful.

About the middle of the seventh century, because of the incursions made by the barbarians at that time, his sacred relics were taken to Constantinople, where they remained, being honored by the emperors themselves. But before the fall of Constantinople, which took place on May 29, 1453, a certain priest named George Kalokhairetes, the parish priest of the church where the Saint's sacred relics, as well as those of Saint Theodora the Empress, were kept, took them away due to the impending peril. Travelling by way of Serbia, he came as far as Arta in Epirus, a region in Western Greece opposite to the isle of Corfu. From there, while the misfortunes of the Christian people were increasing with every day, he passed over to Corfu in the year 1460. The relics of Saint Theodora were given to the people of Corfu but those of Saint Spyridon remain, according to the rights of inheritance, the most precious treasure of the priest's own descendants and they continue to be a staff for the faithful in Orthodoxy and a supernatural wonder for those who behold him; for even after the passage of 1,500 years, they have remained incorrupt, and even the flexibility of his flesh has been preserved. Truly wondrous is God in His Saints!





December 2020

FEASTS & SAINTS OF THE MONTH (CONTINUED)

Prophet Daniel

17 December

The Prophet Daniel and the Three Children were all descended from the royal tribe of Judah. In the year 599 before Christ, in the reign of Joachim, these righteous children were led away as captives into Babylon together with the other Jews by Nabuchodonosor. He singled them out from among the other captives to serve him, and renamed them thus: Daniel was named Baltazar; Ananias was named Sedrach; Misail was named Misach; and Azarias was named Abednago. They were reared in the royal court and taught the wisdom of the Chaldeans; after the passage of three years, they surpassed all the Chaldean sages (Daniel 1).

Thereafter, Daniel, being still a lad, interpreted a mysterious image seen by Nabuchodonosor in a dream, It was an image that was composed of different metals, but was shattered and ground to dust by a certain stone which had been hewn out of a mountain without the hand of man. This vision clearly portrayed through the mountain the height of the Virgin's holiness and the power of the Holy Spirit which overshadowed her. Through the image of the Stone, Christ was portrayed, Who was seedlessly born of her, and Who by His coming as the God-man would shatter and destroy all the kingdoms of the world, which were portrayed through the image; and He would raise them who believe in Him, into His Heavenly Kingdom, which is eternal and everlasting., thereupon, signifying the prophecy.

Daniel (whose name means "God is judge") was called "man of desires" by the Angels that appeared, because he courageously disdained every desire of the body, even the very bread that is necessary for nourishment. He also received this name because, in his longing for the freedom of those of his tribe and his desire to know their future condition, he ceased not supplicating God, fasting and bending the knee three times a day. Because of this prayer, he was cast into the den of lions, after he had been accused by his enemies as a transgressor of the decree issued through the proclamation of the king, that no one should worship or ask for anything from God or from men for thirty days, but only from the king. But having stopped the mouths of the lions by divine might and appearing among them as though he were a shepherd of sheep, Daniel showed the impious, the might of godliness.

As for the Three Children, Ananias ("Yah is gracious"), Misail ("Who is what God is?) and Azarias ("Yah is keeper").. since they refused to offer adoration to Nabuchodonosor's image, they were cast into the furnace of fire. They were preserved unharmed amidst the flames, even their hair was untouched, by the descent of the Angel of the Lord, that is, the Son of God. Walking about in the furnace, as though in the midst of dew, they sang the universal hymn of praise to God, which is found in the Seventh and Eighth Odes of the Holy Psalter. And coming forth there from, without even the smell of the fire on their clothes (Daniel 3), they prefigured in themselves the Virgin's incorrupt giving of birth; for she, on receiving the Fire of the Godhead within her womb, was not burned, but remained virgin, even as she was before giving birth.

Therefore the Church celebrates the Three Children and Daniel on this day, on the Sunday of the Forefathers, and on the Sunday before the Nativity of Christ, since they prefigured and proclaimed His Incarnation. Furthermore, they were of the tribe of Judah, wherefrom, Christ sprang forth according to the flesh. The holy Three Children completed their lives full of days. As for the Prophet Daniel, he lived until the reign of Cyrus, King of Persia, whom he also petitioned that his nation be allowed to return to Jerusalem and that the Temple be raised up again. His request was granted. He reposed in Peace, having lived about eighty-eight years. His prophetical book, which is divided into twelve chapters, is ranked fourth among the greater Prophets.

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December 2020

FEASTS & SAINTS OF THE MONTH (CONTINUED)

Daniel and the Three Children

Continued from page 35



Anastasia

22 December

This Saint, the daughter of Praepextatus and Fausta, was from Rome and was a most comely, wealthy and virtuous maiden. It was her mother who instructed her in the Faith of Christ. The Saint was joined to a man named Publius Patricius, who was prodigal in life and impious in disposition, but she was widowed after a short time. Henceforth, she went about secretly to the dwellings of the poor and the prisons where the Martyrs of Christ were, and brought them whatever was needed for their daily subsistence. She washed their wounds, loosed them from their fetters and consoled them in their anguish.

Because the Saint, through her intercessions, has healed many from the ill effects of spells, potions, poisons, and other harmful substances, she has received the name "Deliverer from Potions." Since the fame of her deeds had spread about, she was arrested by Diocletian's minions and after enduring many torments she was put to death by fire in the year 290.



December 2020

FEASTS & SAINTS OF THE MONTH (CONTINUED)

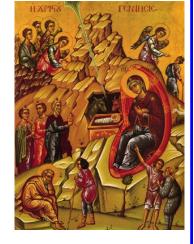
Nativity of Christ

25 December

The incomprehensible and inexplicable Nativity of Christ came to pass when Herod the Great was reigning in Judea; the latter was an Ascalonite on his fathers's side and an Idumean on his mother's. He was in every way foreign to the royal line of David; rather, he had received his authority from the Roman emperors and had ruled tyrannically over the Jewish people for some thirty-three years. The tribe of Judah, which had reigned of old, was deprived of its rights and stripped of all rule and authority. Such was the condition of the Jews when the awaited Messiah was born and truly thus was fulfilled the prophecy which the Patriarch Jacob had spoken 1,807 years before:

"A ruler shall not fail from Judah, nor a prince from his loins, until there come the things stored up for him and he is the expectation of the nations" (Genesis 49:10).

Thus, our Savior was born in Bethlehem, a city of Judea. Joseph had come from Nazareth of Galilee, taking Mary his betrothed, who was great with child. According to the decree issued in those days by the Emperor Augustus, they must be registered in the census of those subject to Rome. Therefore, when the time came for the Virgin to give birth, and since because of the great multitude there was no place in the inn, the Virgin's circumstance constrained them to enter a cave which was near Bethlehem. Having as shelter a stable of irrational beasts, she gave birth there and swaddled the Infant and laid Him in the manger (Luke 2:1-7). From this, the tradition has come down to us that when Christ was born He lay between two animals, an ox and an ass, that the words of the Prophets might be fulfilled:



"Between two living creatures shalt Thou be known" (Abbacum 3:2).

"The ox knoweth his owner & the ass his master's crib" (Esaias 1: 3).

But while the earth gave the new-born Savior such a humble reception, Heaven on high celebrated majestically His world-saving coming. A wondrous star, shining with uncommon brightness and following a strange course, led Magi from the East to Bethlehem, to worship the new-born King. Certain shepherds who were in the area of Bethlehem, who kept watch while tending their sheep, were suddenly surrounded by an extraordinary light and they saw before them an Angel who proclaimed to them the good tidings of the Lord's joyous Nativity. And straightway, together with this Angel, they beheld and heard a whole host of the Heavenly Powers praising God and saying:

"Glory to God in the highest, and peace on earth, good will towards men".

(Luke 2:8-14)

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FEASTS & SAINTS OF THE MONTH (CONTINUED)

Saint Stephen

27 December

Saint Stephen was a Jew by race and, as some say, a disciple of Gamaliel, the teacher of the Law mentioned in Acts 5:34 and 22:3. He was the first of the seven deacons whom the Apostles established in Jerusalem to care for the poor and to distribute alms to them. Being a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, he performed great signs and wonders among the people. While disputing with the Jews concerning Jesus and wisely refuting their every contradiction, so that no one was able to withstand the wisdom and the spirit whereby he spoke, he was slandered as a blasphemer and was dragged off to the Sanhedrin of the elders. There with boldness he proved from the divine Scriptures the coming of the Just One (Jesus), of Whom they had become the betrayers and murderers and he reproved their faithless and hardheartedness. And finally, gazing into Heaven and beholding the divine glory, he said:



"Lo, I see the Heavens opened and the Son of man standing at the right hand of God."

But when they heard this, they stopped up their ears, and with anger cast him out of the city and stoned him, while he was calling out and saying:

"Lord Jesus, receive my spirit."

Then, imitating the long-suffering of the Master, he bent his knees and prayed in a loud voice for them that were stoning him, and he said,

"Lord, lay not this sin to their charge,"

And saying this, he fell asleep, thus becoming the first among the Martyrs of the Church of Christ.

(Acts 6 & 7)



Orthodox Calendar						
		DECE	MBER 2	2020		
SUN	Mon	TUE	WED	ΤΗυ	Fri	SAT
		11am Bible Study via Zoom w/Father Chris	7pm Union Station Philoptochos Outreach	3	Saint Barbara	5
6 St. Nicholas the Wonderworker 10th Sunday of Luke 8:45am Orthros 10am Divine Liturgy Outdoor Patio and Live-stream	7	8 11am Bible Study via Zoom w/Father Chris 7pm Parish Council Meeting	9 Conception of the Holy Theotokos 7:15pm Philoptochos Board Meeting via Zoom	10	11am Santa's Ki tchen	12 Saint Spyridon 11am Philoptochos Christmas Benefit— virtual 1pm Santa's Ki tchen
13 11th Sunday of Luke 8:45am Orthros 10am Divine Liturgy Outdoor Patio and Live-stream	14	15 11am Bible Study via Zoom w/Father Chris	16 1pm JOY/HOPE Winter Camp	Prophet Daniel and the Three Youths	18	*** 19
20 Sunday before The Nativity 8:45am Orthros 10am Divine Liturgy Outdoor Patio and Live-stream	 21	22 Saint Anastasia 11am Bible Study via Zoom w/Father Chris	7pm Philoptochos Gen'l. Meeting via Zoom	<i>Christmas Eve</i> <i>5pm Great Vespers</i> <i>for Nativity</i>	25 Holy Nativity ف المعني 8am Orthros 9am Divine Liturgy	26
27 Saint Stephen Sunday after Nativity 8:45am Orthros 10am Divine Liturgy Outdoor Patio and Live-stream	28	29 11am Bible Study via Zoom w/Father Chris	30	31		
		Strict Fast	Fish Allowed	Wine and Oil Allowed	Dairy, Eggs, and Fish Allowed	Fast Free

December 2020

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



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

Salle

TIME SUNSTRUME

Place address label here

Let us journey towards the Feast of the Nativity with joyous hearts! Fast not only from food, but also from hatred and fear. Bring forth goodness and kindness to all. Forgive. Be generous. In all things, give glory to God.