



Rev. Father Peter Stratos, Pastor

Rev. Father Christopher Retelas, Associate Pastor

778 S. Rosemead Blvd, Pasadena, CA 91107 • Tel. 626-449-6943 • Fax: 626-449-6974

Website: saint-anthonys.org • E-mail: office@saint-anthonys.org

Church office hours: Monday-Friday: 9:00am to 4:00pm (Closed Saturday & Sunday)

For pastoral emergencies only please call 626-855-3640

DECEMBER 20, 2020 – SUNDAY BEFORE NATIVITY

Saint: Ignatios the Hieromartyr, the God-bearer, Bishop of Antioch;

John the New Martyr of Thassos

OUTDOOR DIVINE SERVICES (RESERVATIONS REQUIRED)

ORTHROS ~ 8:45 A.M.

[\(ORTHROS SERVICE TEXT CLICK HERE\)](#)

TRISAGION MEMORIAL ~ 9:45 A.M.

Pantele Xanthos, 5 years

Vivian Kalafatis, 19 years; Alicia Koutsouflakis, 22 years;

Despina (Des) Kalafatis, 40 years

[\(TRISAGION SERVICE TEXT CLICK HERE\)](#)

DIVINE LITURGY ~ 10:00 A.M.

[\(LITURGY SERVICE TEXT CLICK HERE\)](#)

SUNDAY SERVICES ARE ONLY OFFERED OUTDOORS TO A LIMITED CAPACITY.

JOIN US IN PRAYER VIA LIVE-STREAM (CLICK THE LINKS BELOW):

SAINT-ANTHONYNS.ORG/LIVESTREAM

FACEBOOK.COM/STANTHONYNSPASADENA

YOUTUBE.COM/CHANNEL/UCXSG4uJFWmElsOEIjx96pCA

UPCOMING DIVINE SERVICES: (saint-anthonys.org/calendar):

Thursday, December 24th: Christmas Eve

(LIVE STREAM ONLY: Great Vespers of Christmas 5:00pm)

Friday, December 25th: Christmas-The Nativity of our Lord

(LIVE STREAM ONLY: Orthros 8:00am, Liturgy 9:00am)

RESURRECTIONAL APOLYTIKION. MODE 3 (BEFORE ENTRANCE)

Let the heavens sing for joy, and let everything on earth be glad. For with His Arm the Lord has worked power. He trampled death under foot by means of death; and He became the firstborn from the dead. From the maw of Hades He delivered us; and He granted the world His great mercy.

Εὐφραινέσθω τὰ οὐράνια, ἀγαλλιάσθω τὰ ἐπίγεια, ὅτι ἐποίησε κράτος, ἐν βραχίονι αὐτοῦ, ὁ Κύριος, ἐπάτησε τῷ θανάτῳ τὸν θάνατον, πρωτότοκος τῶν νεκρῶν ἐγένετο, ἐκ κοιλίας ἄδου ἐρρύσατο ἡμᾶς, καὶ παρέσχε τῷ κόσμῳ τὸ μέγα ἔλεος.

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APOLYTIKION OF THE FOREFEAST OF CHRISTMAS. MODE 4

O Bethlehem, prepare, Eden is opened unto all. And be ready, Ephrata, for the Tree of life has in the grotto blossomed forth from the Virgin. Indeed her womb is shown to be spiritually a Paradise, in which is found the God-planted Tree. And if we eat from it we shall live, and shall not die, as did Adam of old. Christ is born, so that He might raise up the formerly fallen image.

Ἐτοιμάζου Βηθλεέμ, ἠνοικταὶ πᾶσιν ἡ Ἐδέμ. Εὐτρεπίζου Ἐφραθᾶ, ὅτι τὸ ξύλον τῆς ζωῆς, ἐν τῷ Σπηλαίῳ ἐξήνηθησεν ἐκ τῆς Παρθένου. Παράδεισος καὶ γάρ, ἡ ἐκείνης γαστήρ, ἐδείχθη νοητός, ἐν ᾧ τὸ θεῖον φυτόν, ἐξ οὗ φαγόντες ζήσομεν, οὐχὶ δὲ ὡς ὁ Ἄδὰμ τεθνηξόμεθα. Χριστὸς γεννᾶται, τὴν πρὶν πεσοῦσαν, ἀναστήσων εἰκόνα.

PRE-NATIVITY APOLYTIKION OF THE ANCESTORS. MODE 2

Magnificent are the accomplishments of faith! The holy Three Servants greatly rejoiced, as they stood in the fountain of fire, as if beside the still waters; and the Prophet Daniel appeared to be a shepherd of lions, as if they were sheep. At their entreaties, O Christ God, save our souls.

Μεγάλα τὰ τῆς πίστεως κατορθώματα! Ἐν τῇ πηγῇ τῆς φλογός, ὡς ἐπὶ ὕδατος ἀναπαύσεως, οἱ ἅγιοι Τρεῖς Παῖδες ἠγάλλοντο, καὶ ὁ προφήτης Δανιήλ, λεόντων ποιμὴν, ὡς προβάτων ἐδείκνυτο. Ταῖς αὐτῶν ἰκεσίας Χριστὲ ὁ Θεός, σῶσον τὰς ψυχὰς ἡμῶν.

MEMORIAL HYMN. MODE PLAGAL 4.

Remember, O Lord, as You are good, Your servants, and forgive every sin they have committed in this life. For no one is sinless except You, Who have power to grant rest to those who have fallen asleep.

Μνήσθητι Κύριε, ὡς ἀγαθὸς τῶν δούλων σου, καὶ ὅσα ἐν βίῳ ἡμάρτον συγχώρησον· οὐδεὶς γὰρ ἀναμάρτητος, εἰ μὴ σὺ ὁ δυνάμενος, καὶ τοῖς μεταστᾶσι δοῦναι τὴν ἀνάπαυσιν.

APOLYTIKION OF ST. ANTHONY THE GREAT. MODE 4

Emulating the ways of Elijah the zealot, and following the straight paths of the Baptist, O Father Anthony, you made the wilderness a city, and did support the world by your prayers. Wherefore intercede with Christ our God, that our souls be saved.

Τὸν ζηλωτὴν Ἡλίαν τοῖς τρόποις μιμούμενος, τῷ Βαπτιστῇ εὐθείαις ταῖς τρίβοις ἐπόμενος, Πάτερ Ἀντώνιε, τῆς ἐρήμου γέγονας οἰκιστής, καὶ τὴν οἰκουμένην ἐστήριξας εὐχαῖς σου· διὸ πρέσβευε Χριστῷ τῷ Θεῷ σωθῆναι τὰς ψυχὰς ἡμῶν.

SEASONAL KONTAKION. MODE 3

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.

Ἡ 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.

EPISTLE READING

Sunday before Nativity

Prokeimenon. Blessed are you, O Lord, the God of our fathers.

Verse: For you are just in all you have done.

The reading is from St. Paul's Letter to the Hebrews 11:9-10; 32-40

BRETHREN, by faith Abraham sojourned in the land of promise, as in a foreign land, living in tents with Isaac and Jacob, heirs with him of the same promise. For he looked forward to the city which has foundation, whose builder and maker is God. And what more shall I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets - who through faith conquered kingdoms, enforced justice, received promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched raging fire, escaped the edge of the sword, won strength out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight. Women received their dead by resurrection. Some were tortured, refusing to accept release, that they might rise again to a better life. Others suffered mocking and scourging, and even chains and imprisonment. They were stoned, they were sawn in two, they were tempted, they were killed with the sword; they went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, afflicted, ill-treated - of whom the world was not worthy - wandering over deserts and mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth. And all these, though well attested by their faith, did not receive what was promised, since God had foreseen something better for us, that apart from us they should not be made perfect.

GOSPEL READING

Sunday before Nativity

The Gospel According to Matthew 1:1-25

The book of the Genealogy of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham. Abraham was the father of Isaac, and Isaac the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers, and Judah the father of Perez and Zerah by Tamar, and Perez the father of Hezron, and Hezron the father of Aram, and Aram the father of Amminadab, and Amminadab the father of Nahshon, and Nahshon the father of Salmon, and Salmon the father of Boaz by Rahab, and Boaz the father of Obed by Ruth, and Obed the father of Jesse, and Jesse the father of David the king. And

SCRIPTURE READINGS OF THE DAY:

David was the father of Solomon by the wife of Uriah, and Solomon the father of Rehoboam, and Rehoboam the father of Abijah, and Abijah the father of Asa, and Asa the father of Jehoshaphat, and Jehoshaphat the father of Joram, and Joram the father of Uzziah, and Uzziah the father of Jotham, and Jotham the father of Ahaz, and Ahaz the father of Hezekiah, and Hezekiah the father of Manasseh, and Manasseh the father of Amon, and Amon the father of Josiah, and Josiah the father of Jechoniah and his brothers, at the time of the deportation to Babylon. And after the deportation to Babylon: Jechoniah was the father of Salathiel, and Salathiel the father of Zerubbabel, and Zerubbabel the father of Abiud, and Abiud the father of Eliakim, and Eliakim the father of Azor, and Azor the father of Zadok, and Zadok the father of Achim, and Achim the father of Eliud, and Eliud the father of Eleazar, and Eleazar the father of Matthan, and Matthan the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom Jesus was born, who is called Christ. So all the generations from Abraham to David were fourteen generations, and from David to the deportation to Babylon fourteen generations, and from the deportation to Babylon to the Christ fourteen generations. Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child of the Holy Spirit; and her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. But as he considered this, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit; she will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: "Behold, a virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and his name shall be called Emmanuel" (which means, God with us). When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took his wife, but knew her not until she had borne a son; and he called his name Jesus.

PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Today is Fr. Christopher's final Sunday Liturgy as a Priest at St. Anthony's.
Join us for a farewell Zoom to wish him and his family well, today at 12:15pm.
<https://goarch.zoom.us/j/92055968285> Meeting ID: 920 5596 8285

Note: The Church Office will be closed for Christmas on December 24 & 25.

YOUTH FELLOWSHIP SUNDAY TODAY for grades 6-7-8 at 11:30pm.

Studies in the Faith with Fr. Peter is offered every Wednesday evening at 7:00pm.
Email frpeter@saint-anthonys.org for information on how to join.

Bible Study with Fr. Chris is offered every Tuesday morning at 11:00am. Email
frchris@saint-anthonys.org for information on how to join.

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 your volunteerism by donating toward purchasing individual packaged items. For more information contact Irene Albeck at mcmg2a@aol.com.

MAKE SURE YOU ARE A REGULAR SUPPORTER OF OUR CHURCH!

The healthiest and most effective way of fulfilling and enhancing your stewardship is to do so on a recurring basis. This is made VERY EASY by setting up monthly or weekly recurring stewardship donations via our online giving platform. Just go to saint-anthonys.churchgiving.com, or click the icon below and you can set up a no-hassle stewardship account in just minutes!



Or you can call the church office to set up regular giving through credit cards or checks

PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Dear Parishioners and Friends of Saint Anthony Greek Orthodox Church,

I hope and pray you are having a blessed Advent Season. As we approach the Holy Nativity of our Lord, I would like to share some important news for our community.

On Tuesday December 15 His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos met via zoom with our clergy and Parish Council to inform us that our beloved priest, Fr. Christopher Retelas, would be assigned as Proistamenos of Saint John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church in Anaheim. His assignment is effective at the beginning of the year, January 1st, 2021.

We are excited for Fr. Christopher, Presbyteria Kalli, Simi, and Demetri as they embark on a new chapter in their lives. We were honored to have them with us. Their family has served here for more than four years with grace, and dignity. Well done good and faithful servants!

Fr. Christopher has been a dear brother and co-worker in the Lord and is more than ready to lead his own flock. Most of us will be sad to see him and his beautiful family leave. However, I can remember when I was faced with a similar situation. I loved the community I was serving but felt the call to be a Proistamenos. This, my dear people, is Fr. Christopher's time to answer his call.

Fr. Christopher will serve the Divine Services through the feast of Christmas, with Christmas day being his final Divine Liturgy as our priest. However, those services will be offered via live stream only. This means that this coming Sunday, December 20th, will be the final Sunday that Fr. Christopher will serve with us in person. Due to COVID restrictions we cannot gather for a coffee hour or luncheon. I would like to propose that we at least host a farewell Zoom call to say goodbye at 12:15 pm after the Divine Liturgy which he will serve. *Zoom information is below.*

Lastly, if you would like to send a monetary gift of support for Fr. Christopher, please make your donation to Saint Anthony Greek Orthodox Church and write 'gift to Fr. Christopher' in the memo.

May God bless us all,
Fr. Peter

St. Anthony Greek Orthodox Church is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting

Topic: Fr. Chris's farewell Zoom call

Time: Dec 20, 2020 12:15 PM

Join Zoom Meeting <https://goarch.zoom.us/j/92055968285>

Meeting ID: 920 5596 8285

PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS:

**HOLY SERVICES PROGRAM – CHRISTMAS, THEOPHANY, &
FEAST OF ST. ANTHONY**

DECEMBER 2020

Thursday, Dec. 24	CHRISTMAS EVE (<i>LIVE STREAM ONLY</i>) Vespers of Christmas 5:00 p.m.
Friday, Dec. 25	THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD (<i>LIVE STREAM ONLY</i>) Orthros8:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great9:00 a.m.
Sunday, Dec. 27	SUNDAY AFTER NATIVITY Orthros8:45 a.m. Divine Liturgy.....10:00 a.m.

JANUARY 2021

Sunday, Jan. 3	SUNDAY BEFORE THEOPHANY Orthros8:45 a.m. Divine Liturgy.....10:00 a.m.
Wednesday, Jan. 6	HOLY THEOPHANY (<i>LIVE STREAM ONLY</i>) AGHIASMOS (GREAT BLESSING OF THE WATERS) Orthros8:45 a.m. Divine Liturgy of St. Basil.....10:00 a.m.
Thursday, Jan. 7	SYNAXIS OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST (<i>LIVE STREAM ONLY</i>) Orthros9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy.....10:00 a.m.
Sunday, Jan. 10	SUNDAY AFTER THEOPHANY Orthros8:45 a.m. Divine Liturgy.....10:00 a.m.
Saturday, Jan. 16	EVE OF FEAST OF ST. ANTHONY (<i>LIVE STREAM ONLY</i>) Great Vesper Service w/ Artoklasia..... 5:00 p.m.
Sunday, Jan. 17	FEAST OF ST. ANTHONY Orthros9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy.....10:00 a.m.

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

SIGN UP AT:

SAINT-ANTHONY.S.ORG/FELLOWSHIP



Studies in the Faith w/ Fr. Peter

offered via ZOOM
Wednesday nights
at 7pm

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

Weekly Bible Study w/ Fr. Chris

offered via ZOOM
Tuesday mornings
at 11am

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



LIGHT A CANDLE SAY A PRAYER



While we cannot be in church together, we invite you to make a candle donation to the church. With this, our clergy will gladly light candles for you in the church and pray the names of your loved ones that you provide us, either living or those who have passed on.

[CLICK HERE TO DONATE NOW](#)

***Eugenia the Righteous Nun-martyr of Rome.
(December 24)***

This Martyr was the daughter of most distinguished and noble parents named Philip and Claudia. Philip, a Prefect of Rome, moved to Alexandria with his family. In Alexandria, Eugenia had the occasion to learn the Christian Faith, in particular when she encountered the Epistles of Saint Paul, the reading of which filled her with compunction and showed her clearly the vanity of the world. Secretly taking two of her servants, Protas and Hyacinth, she departed from Alexandria by night. Disguised as a man, she called herself Eugene while pretending to be a eunuch, and departed with her servants and took up the monastic life in a monastery of men. Her parents mourned for her, but could not find her. After Saint Eugenia had laboured for some time in the monastic life, a certain woman named Melanthia, thinking Eugenia to be a monk, conceived lust and constrained Eugenia to comply with her desire; when Eugenia refused, Melanthia slandered Eugenia to the Prefect as having done insult to her honour. Eugenia was brought before the Prefect, her own father Philip, and revealed to him both that she was innocent of the accusations, and that she was his own daughter. Through this, Philip became a Christian; he was afterwards beheaded at Alexandria. Eugenia was taken back to Rome with Protas and Hyacinth. All three of them ended their life in martyrdom in the years of Commodus, who reigned from 180 to 192.

***Please visit saint-anthonys.churchgiving.com to make your offering
and schedule your regular stewardship giving***

