

The Voice of Saint Anthony

JANUARY 2021

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**Deadline for
February Newsletter is
Monday, 25 January
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**Departing message to the parish of St. Anthony****Fr. Christopher Retelas**

To our beloved and faithful St. Anthony family,

"If there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind." (Philippians 2:1-2)

These words come from the Holy Apostle Paul to the Church in Philippi, encouraging the faithful, and imploring them to keep in mind their unity in Christ. The unity the faithful share in their common Christian experience is one to be cherished and revered. As the Church, the body of Christ, each and every parish is called to be a beacon of the Gospel, a partaker of, and a revelation of, the fullness of God's holiness and the Ark of Salvation. While I say something of a goodbye to you in this message, the truth of our Orthodox theology also reveals the truth that our unity shall never be taken away, as we will always be of one body, one family, and one Eucharistic community in Christ our Lord.

This truth of our unity in the Church is a comfort for me and, while it is a reality, we know it to be a mystical reality. With that in mind, I cannot negate or ignore the pain one feels whenever we have to depart and say our goodbyes, especially to a family that has welcomed me, loved me, and been so generous and kind to me and my wife and children these past four and a half years. Nor can I ignore the trepidation one feels as they set forth to take on new and uncharted tasks, particularly one so sacred as the pastorship of another community in Christ. However, it is with the experiences, the love, the friendships, the lessons, the triumphs, and the struggles that we have faced together this past half decade, that I set forth on this new journey with trust and fidelity that indeed God is the One who guides us and He will provide and continue to fill that which is lacking in my humble person.

St. Anthony is a tremendous and unique church community. It is a parish family with beautiful and diverse demographics, a community with a rich history, and a bright future of which my family and I have been the beneficiaries, and we give praise to God for our time together. For that, I offer you one of the holiest things a person can offer: Ευχαριστηριά μου-- my genuine thanks. It is in this community that I was ordained a priest, that our son Demetri was born and baptized, where I taught classes, spent time with our youth, baptized children, wedded couples, buried loved ones, and administered the Sacraments of our Church, all alongside the loving and truly pastoral care of Fr. Peter. For this, even my heartfelt thanks will never be enough, so please accept my prayers for you all as I continue my priestly duties. I humbly ask you to continue to pray for me.

Lastly, I make one final request to you all. That is: forgive me—for my shortcomings, my stumblings, my failures, my letting you down, my disappointing you or offending you in any way, or for not measuring up to your expectations or your needs. I ask your forgiveness.

Please know that, while I may be "moving on" to pastor a new community, I will not be far away, and that St. Anthony's and you all will always be a home for me and my family.

With love and deepest gratitude,

Fr. Chris

PRIEST'S MESSAGE (CONTINUED)

Wishing our parishioners a
Happy New Year !

May 2021 be filled with
the Fruits of the Holy Spirit:
love, joy, peace, faithfulness,
patience, kindness, goodness,
gentleness and self-control.



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

*"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

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

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

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

Please return your completed commitment card to church by Jan. 1, 2021

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

In response to God's blessings, I/we pledge a 2021 offering of:

My Stewardship Commitment for 2021: \$_____

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

☐ Weekly at \$_____/week

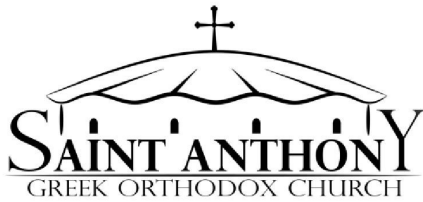
☐ Monthly at \$_____/month

☐ 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 or above per family*

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.

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

Greek Confectioners

Early in the twentieth century, Greek immigrants were a conspicuous and dominant presence in the confectionery business throughout the United States. Confectionery shops were a combination of soda fountains and candy stores and were disproportionately Greek owned. In 1912, there were over 50 Greek confectioners in San Francisco, over 60 in Boston, almost 90 in New York and more than 200 in Chicago. The first Greek owned business of any kind in Pasadena was the candy store owned by Panayiotis Vasiliou (Peter Vasilion) in 1897 located at 6 West Colorado Boulevard. Vasiliou kept the business until at least 1901 and then moved out of the area. Vasilion's son William, (Vasilios) was born in the family apartment above the store in 1900 – probably the first Greek Orthodox child born in Southern California. He was affectionately known by the family and friends as “Americanaki” (the little American).

John K. Heliotes opened a confectionery business at 34 West Colorado Boulevard in 1902, but city directory records show it being operated by Konstantinos (Gust) P. Legakes the next year. Legakes and Heliotes may have had a business partnership that went awry, not an uncommon occurrence with Greeks, because by 1907 there were competing Heliotes and Legakes confectionery businesses within one block from the corner of Fair Oaks Avenue and Colorado Boulevard, a situation which lasted at least until 1925.

Both Heliotes and Legakes attempted to expand their businesses by opening additional stores. Gus Legakes opened a second store at 169 North Fair Oaks Avenue in 1908 and the next year John Gidanos joined the venture. John Heliotes may have also been behind the brief joint venture between his brother Sam Heliotes and Peter Cocores in a second Pasadena location at 14 South Fair Oaks Avenue in 1908. Heliotes also owned a confectionery store on West First Street in downtown Los Angeles at least since 1907.

In 1912, Peter Cocores' brother John, an Altadena resident, owned a sweet shop on West Fifth Street in Los Angeles. Cocores did so well with the property investments he made from his candy store profits, he was able to retire at the young age of 40 in the 1930s.

Other Pasadena Greek confectionery businesses, all within three blocks of each other, were opened by John Castoris in 1914, and Louis K. Chrones in 1919, Tom Tamplos in 1920, George Andrews, Vasilios Linard (Linardos), Anthony N. Manos and Tom Rose all in the 1920s.

Sam (Stylianos) Heliotes, John's brother, was injured while working as a sponge diver off the coast of Florida. Sam returned West to learn candy making from his brother. By the late 1920s both brothers had their own candy and ice cream stores (Sam at 9 North Fair Oaks Avenue and John at 174 East Colorado Boulevard). Sam kept the business going with the help of his wife Mary (Panayiota), an accomplished chocolate dipper. The Heliotes specialty was an English toffee which was shipped all over Southern California. Sam Heliotes maintained good relations with city officials by hosting a monthly poker game which included the mayor, police chief, and the city manager. The evening was highlighted by a Greek feast prepared by Mary Heliotes.

CHURCH HISTORY

Sam's ice cream and candy business continued into the 1930s until he was stricken with tuberculosis. Public health concerns prevented tubercular patients from selling food products so in 1937 Sam converted his business into a liquor store. Sam Heliotes' liquor store ended its operation in 1942 when Sam was too ill to work.

Peter Stefanos (Stephanopoulos) was from a successful confectionery family in Chicago. The Stefanos' Chicago store known as Dove's Candies Shop had invented the thick, dark chocolate covered ice cream "Dove Bar" (now produced by M&M/Mars Company). Stefano moved his family to the Pasadena area in the 1940s and opened the Juliette Candy Company on Green Street. Stefanos became the first president of the Pasadena Greek Orthodox Community in 1954. Stefanos died in 1956 ending the family's candy business in the area.

One of the last of Pasadena's Greek confectioners was James Yankos who, by 1934, owned a business at 200 North Lake Avenue. He was an active member of the Pasadena Hellenic Society and Ahepa and an early supporter of the church. In 1965, after retiring to Athens, Greece he was called upon one last time to assist the community of St. Anthony's by procuring the block of Pentelic marble used as the cornerstone of the church hall, the former the Hellenic Cultural Center.

In other parts of the San Gabriel Valley, John M. Colores owned a candy and ice cream store in Alhambra's Main Street in the mid-1920s. In the 1930s George Kantias opened a sweet shop two blocks away from Colores' store (which had been taken over by Leo C. Drivas) and by 1939 Gus J. Zaffiras owned Curries Ice Cream Company, in San Gabriel. Members of the Legakes family had moved to Alhambra in the 1930s and operated an ice cream parlor at 1820 West Valley Boulevard which became the Temptation Sweet Shop.

The Legakes family represented the alpha and the omega of the Greek confectionery business. It was Constantine P. Legakes who opened one of Pasadena's first Greek confectioner in the San Gabriel Valley. When Temptation Sweet Shop closed after the mid-1960s, a unique chapter in the history of Greek-American entrepreneurship ended as well.



*Vasilios P. Linardos with pet cat
Late 1920s*

Linardos was one of many Greek confectioners in Pasadena in the 1920s and 30s.

CHURCH HISTORY

The Sam (Harry) Heliotes family enjoying a Thanksgiving Day dinner at their 13 N. Fair Oaks Avenue confectionery store, circa 1930. *Left to right:* Panagiota (mother), Catherine (daughter), Gus (son), John (son), Sam Heliotes (father).

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



Ἐν Ἰορδάνῃ βαπτιζομένου σου Κύριε, ἡ τῆς Τριάδος ἐφανερώθη προσκύνησις· τοῦ γὰρ Γεννήτορος ἡ φωνὴ προσεμαρτύρει σοι, ἀγαπητόν σε Υἱὸν ὀνομάζουσα καὶ τὸ Πνεῦμα ἐν εἵδει περιστερᾶς, ἐβεβαίον τοῦ λόγου τὸ ἀσφαλές. Ὁ ἐπιφανεὶς Χριστὲ ὁ Θεός, καὶ τὸν κόσμον φωτίσας δόξα σοι.

As You were baptized in the Jordan, O Lord, then the worship of the Trinity became manifest, for the voice of the Father bore witness to You, naming You the Beloved Son; and the Spirit, in the form of a dove, confirmed the certainty of the word. O Christ God, who appeared and illumined the world, glory to You.

Kali Kronia Saint Anthony!

Dear Father Christopher, Presbytera Kalli, Simi, and Dimitri

Our Choir Family wishes you all the best as you begin the next chapter of your lives at Saint John the Baptist in Anaheim.

Come often to visit us!

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

SIGN UP AT:

SAINT-ANTHONY.S.ORG/FELLOWSHIP

CHURCH SCHOOL NEWS (CONTINUED)

SUNDAY SCHOOL AT HOME

Pre K, Kindergarten, First Grade



During this year of CoViD we have been navigating in uncharted waters. Mrs. Albeck, Mrs. Dallas, and Niko Udria, our tech assistant, are doing a fantastic job providing supplies and engaging the youngsters via monthly Zoom meetings. We are grateful for their diligence, creativity, and enthusiasm during the year's holiday season.

We meet with our 4, 5, and 6 year olds right after liturgy the first Sunday of each month. Using Zoom to communicate we have prayed together standing on our prayer circles, listened to bible stories like The Ten Commandments, looked at pictures that depict our Orthodox sacraments, , sang songs, raised our hands and arms and shouted "Amen" and even completed a few crafts.

The craft with coins on the Christmas tree will be used to support Operation Classroom, a Philoptochos ministry.

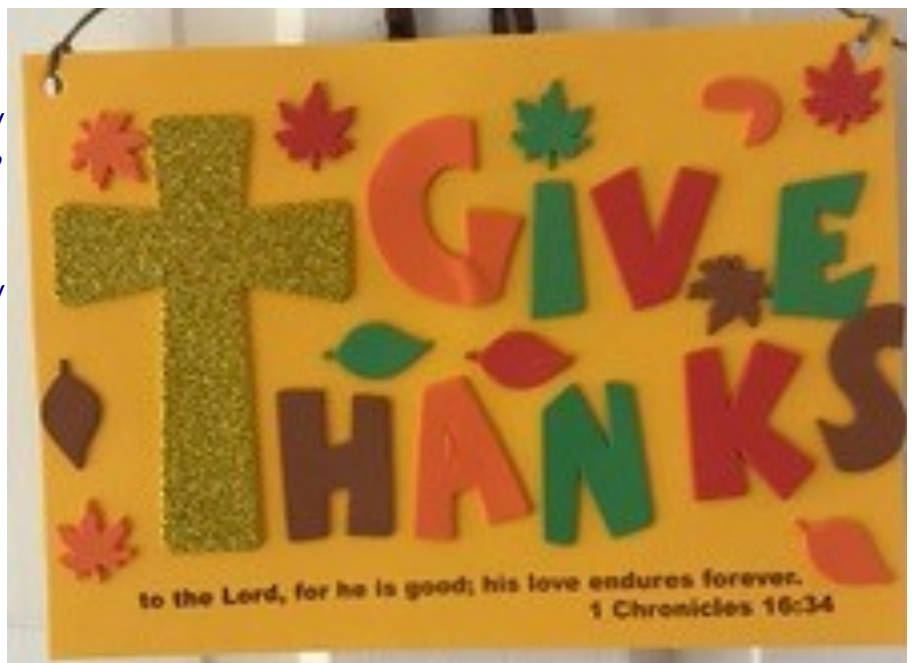
We have had a great time with our enthusiastic and attentive group including Mihai, Alyssa, two Alexanders, two Nikos, Michael, Andrew, Seme, Venetia, Gabriella, Hudson, Vasili and Anastasia (see page 15). We close our sessions with this prayer that we would like to share with you:

For those we love, bless, O Lord Jesus, my parents, and all who love me and take care of me.

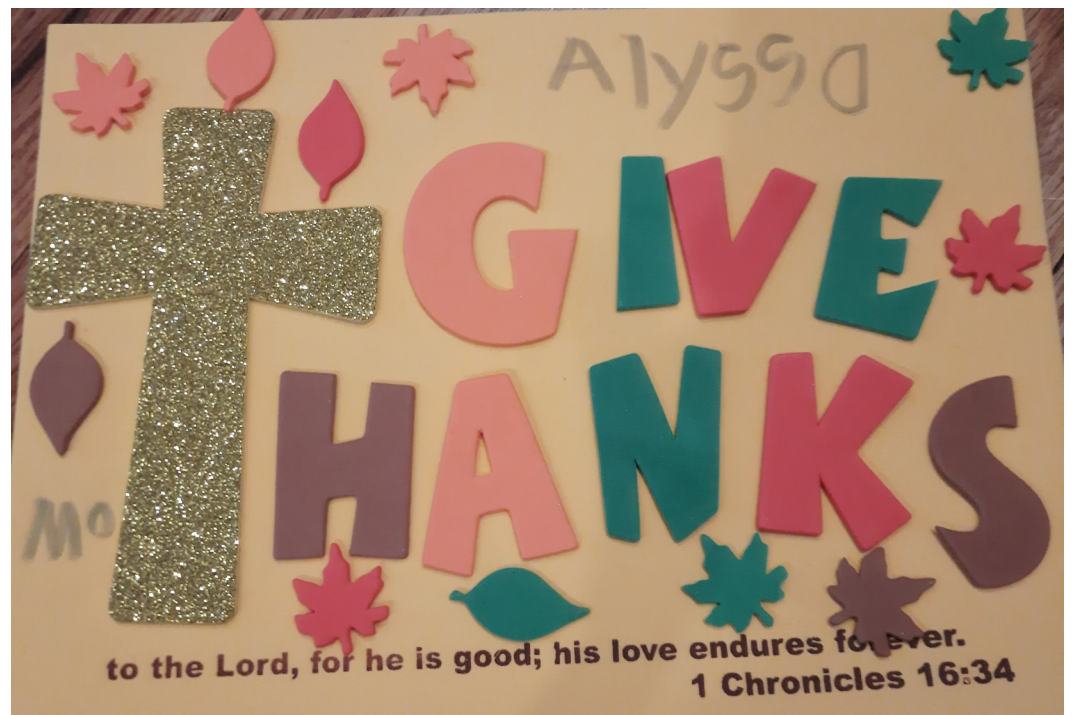
Make me loving to them, polite and obedient, helpful and kind.

Amen.

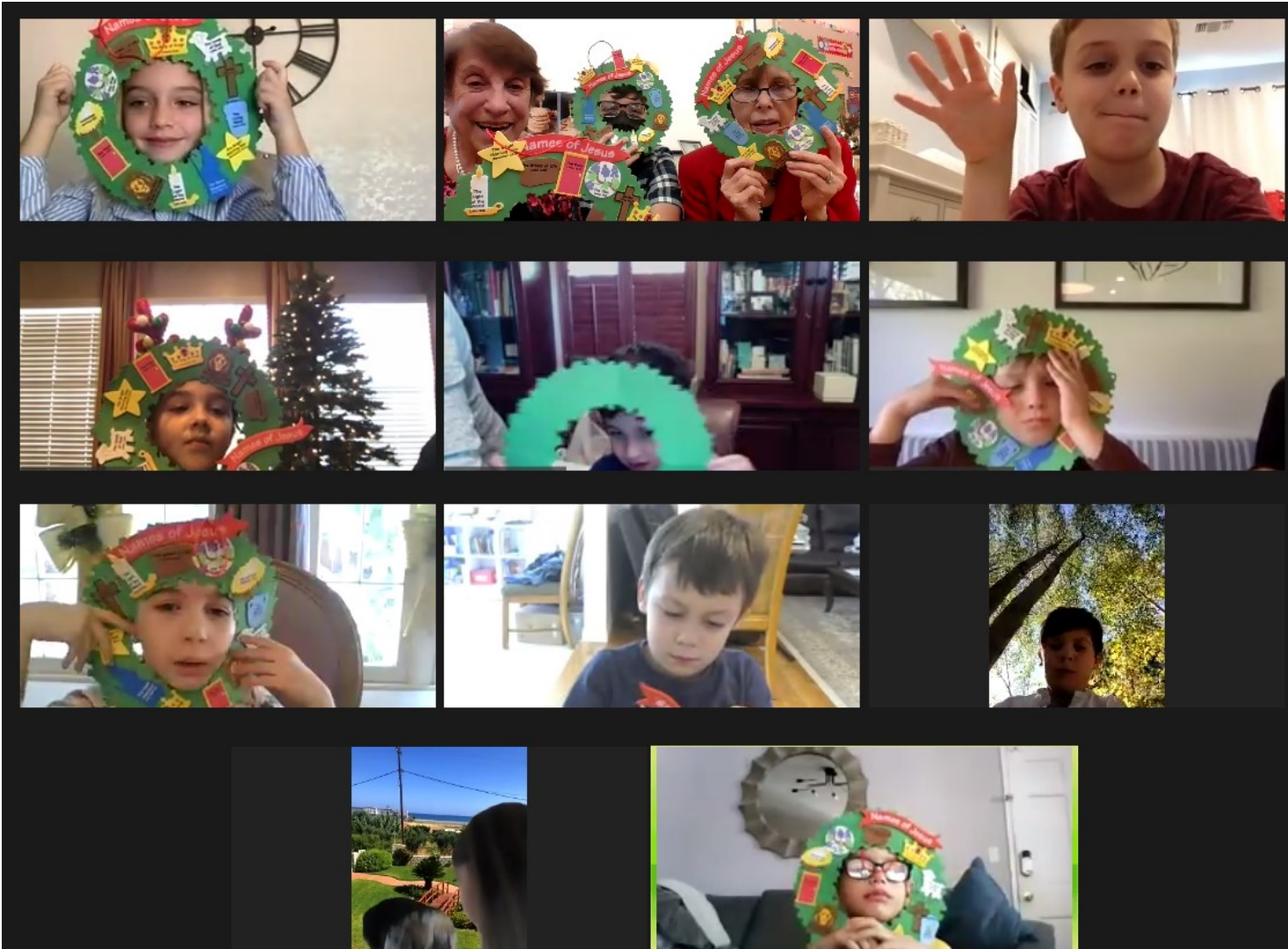
Enjoy some of the crafts our children have completed.



CHURCH SCHOOL NEWS (CONTINUED)



CHURCH SCHOOL NEWS (CONTINUED)



YOUTH & YOUNG ADULT NEWS

Winter Camp Yiayia and Papou

Camp Yiayia and Papou was great fun. Venetia won the "How many candies are in the jar?" Matthew and Evy won the "spinning the top" race, Gabriella caught a hundred snowflakes on her tongue in charades, Alyssa shared her dancing snowmen, Hudson won "I like to share how I feel", Simi showed us how she filled her Christmas tree cut out with coins to help other children, Anastasia joined us also. Vasili shared he was going to have a birthday soon, so we all sang "Happy Birthday" to Vasili. Anthia Lucas and Yiayia had a snowball fight. Yiayia said she won but Anthia said she won so we called it a tie. Frosty the Snowman came dancing but soon melted away. Yiayia read a very nice story about the Nativity.

The book, Our Hymn of the Nativity, The Sisters of All Saints Orthodox Monastery, has simple a narrative and beautiful illustrations depicting the love the Theotokos had for baby Jesus. She held him gently and kissed him sweetly. Moms and dads love to hug and kiss their children, just like the Theotokos.

It was so cold we dressed warm and drank hot chocolate.
MMMMMM HOT!



God gave us the gift of imagination, and we had fun virtually.

Every good tree bears good fruit. Thank you parents for bearing and nurturing good fruit.

Heaven and earth sing for joy. A child has been born to us and He is the son of God.

Have a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Mrs. Albeck and Anthia Lucas



Intergenerational Pen Pals

Myrrh Bearers, HOPE & JOY (ages 4 ½ to 9).

Introducing an intergenerational pen pal outreach. Two or more generations meeting each other. The children will receive an "All About Me" survey. They will complete the form and forward to the pen pal who has expressed interest to participate in this project. The receiver will fill out a similar introduction and mail it to a pen pal. Saint Anthony VIPs will be given priority.

Sound interesting? Contact, Irene Albeck at mcmg2a@aol.com.

YOUTH & YOUNG ADULT NEWS





THE GREEK ORTHODOX
METROPOLIS OF SAN FRANCISCO
PRESENTS

*VIRTUAL
YAL CONF*

Saturday January 9th & Sunday January 10th

RECLAIM!

NO COST TO ATTEND
REGISTER NOW AT
<https://cvent.me/ZQ2bzt>

PHILOPTOCHOS NEWS

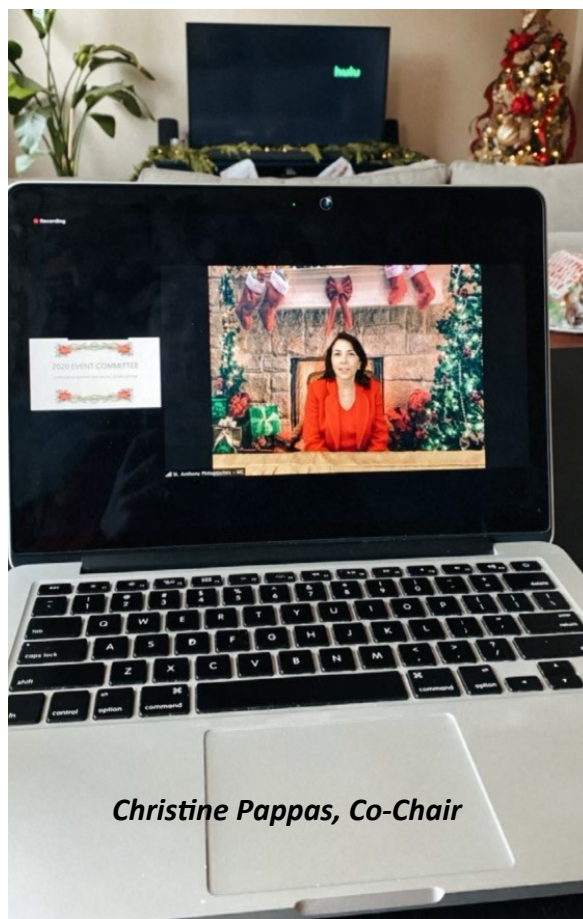


Home for Christmas

Thank you to everyone who made our **51st Annual Christmas Benefit** a tremendous success! This virtual event was held on Saturday, December 12th, where we were joined on Zoom by approximately 125 participants. Our guests enjoyed entertainment by the Pasadena Civic Ballet and the Sugarplum Singers and also heard about two charities that were chosen to receive our support this year, One Tree Planted and the California Fire Foundation, as well as other Philoptochos charities supported during the last two years. Santa's Kitchen was also a huge success! We also want to thank everyone who supported our Holiday Marketplace vendors. Special thanks to Christine Pappas and Maria Kypreos who co-chaired the event and to our technical directors - Dr. Dimitrios Antsos (host/content sharing) and Steve Pappas (A/V producer) and their technical production crew.

Because of the generosity of our Star donors – more than 100! – the raffle tickets purchased, and Santa's Kitchen, we will be able to continue with our charitable contributions in 2021.

Thank you!!



Christine Pappas, Co-Chair

PHILOPTOCHOS NEWS (CONTINUED)

Philoptochos Board members once again participated in the **Friends In Deed Adopt A Child for Christmas** program, making Christmas special for more than 20 underprivileged children in the Pasadena area. Our chapter also presented the food bank with a check for \$500 for the holiday season and will continue to provide monthly food assistance in 2021.

We continued our traditional Christmas giving for Trinity Home by purchasing two Playstation-4 consoles for the 45 boys in residence and providing Christmas Eve dinner for the 25 boys that were unable to return home for Christmas.

Many other national and local charities were supported in December and will continue to be supported throughout 2021.

We would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude to Father Christopher and Presbytera Kalli for their dedication, support and love for our Panagia Chapter. We will miss them and their beautiful children Simi and Demetri tremendously. We wish them much happiness and many blessings as they begin their ministry at St. John's in Anaheim where Father Chris will assume the position of Proistamenos.



PHILOPTOCHOS NEWS (CONTINUED)

As part of our **Operation Classroom** project, we were able to provide gift cards to four families whose children attend **Willard School in Pasadena**, close to St. Anthony's. Due to the effects of the pandemic, many have suffered financially making it difficult to provide for their families, especially during the Christmas season.

Thanks to Mary Udria, we were made aware of another family who could benefit from our help. This is a family of 8— grandparents and six grandchildren ranging in age from 5 to 14 years. Their grandparents have legal guardianship of these six boys who have learning disabilities, behavioral and emotional issues, among other things. The grandmother was amazed that complete strangers would care enough to help their family.

We encourage everyone in our St. Anthony community to donate to our **Operation Classroom** projects by sending a check to St. Anthony Philoptochos, with **Operation Classroom** in the memo line.

Philoptochos will continue its **Operation Classroom** program but in order to make this happen, **WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT**.



Lisa Xanthos, Alejandra Campos, Irene Albeck

PHILOPTOCHOS NEWS (CONTINUED)

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

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

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 Christmas was filled with joy and hope. Thanks to everyone who donated to our Annual Outreach to help the **Foothill Unity Center**. The VIPs were able to supplement the donations received, and Jim Hronas delivered a check for \$1,000.

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

On behalf of the VIPs, I wish everyone peace, love, good will and a Happy and Healthy 2021!

Helen Treantafelles

VIP President



MINISTRIES

Saint Anthony Greek Orthodox Church

Reverend Father Peter Stratos

Reverend Father Christopher Retelas

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Aliki Haralambos	+Litsa Stavropoulos
Maria Hronas	Pres. Aida Stratos

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Carlos Sosa



CHURCH SCHOOL STAFF

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Stephanie Scolinos - 2nd, 3rd, 4th & 5th

Rebecca Russo - 6th, 7th & 8th

Pres. Aida Stratos - 9th, 10th, 11th & 12th



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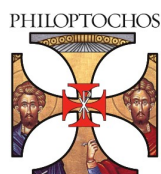
Presbytera Maria Mylonas

Advisor

Connie Becker

Spiritual Advisor

Father Peter Stratos



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Bible Study

Fr. Peter Stratos

Bookstore

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GOYA

Fr. Christopher Retelas

GOYA Basketball

Anthia Lucas

Pana Gelt

Greek Dance Groups

Phophi Magaziotis

Greek Festival

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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



Studies in the Faith

offered via ZOOM
Wednesday nights
at 7pm starting
January 20

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

Tuesday Bible Study

offered via ZOOM
Tuesday mornings
at 11am starting
January 19

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



COMMUNITY NEWS (CONTINUED)

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

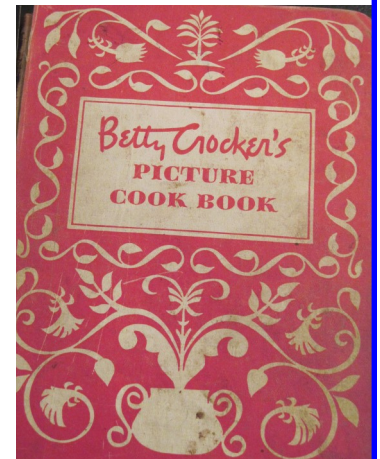
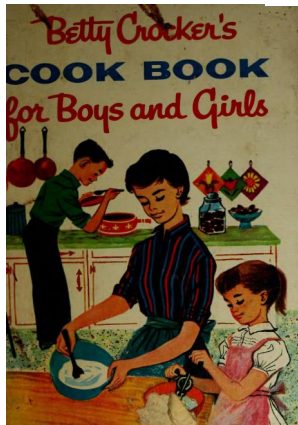
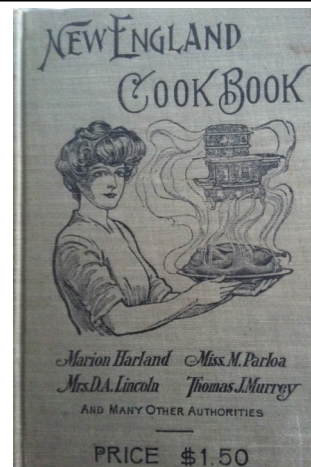
As so many of us have had to stay at home these past several months, it would be fun to share our favorite recipes (Greek or non-Greek) with our church community.

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.

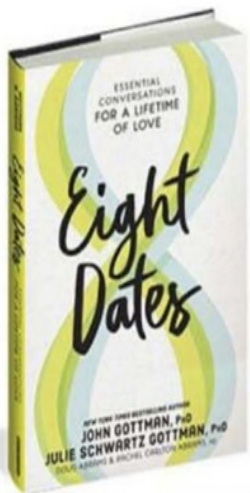
Please join in the fun to share recipes.



COMMUNITY NEWS (CONTINUED)

METROPOLIS OF SAN FRANCISCO YOUNG MARRIED COUPLES

"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
NOVEMBER 19

DECEMBER 3
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



Family Wellness Ministry



COMMUNITY NEWS (CONTINUED)

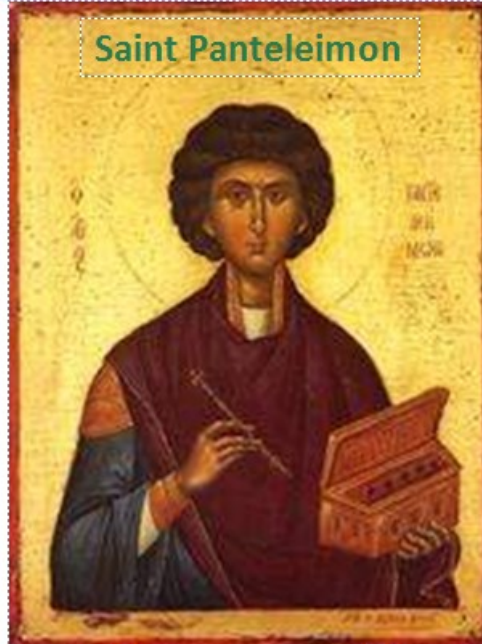
The Voice of Saint Anthony

JULY 2020

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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...**

Christ is Born! Glorify Him!

When it comes to looking at a glass of water that is not full, people are divided into two camps. Some see that glass as half-empty, and others see it as half-full. All who look at the glass see the same glass with the same amount of water, but some see the half-filled glass in a positive light and others in a negative one.

The same is true with many things in life where many people see the same thing but react to it differently. The "glass half-full" people tend to see things in a positive light. They tend to see the good in things and in people and they see the potential for at least some positive outcome even in a negative situation. The "glass half empty" people tend to see things in a negative light. They tend to see the bad in things and in people and they see the potential for at least some negative outcome even in a positive situation.

Recently someone said to me that they were disappointed with their Christmas presents. I guess in a material way, they didn't get what they wanted. As I think back to Christmas, just a few days ago, if someone asked me what I got for Christmas, I wouldn't even think of material things (and yes, I got some presents). I got to worship in church, I got to receive Holy Communion, I got to have some quality time with my family, went to the movies, had some great food, and expressed great sentiments with friends on the occasion of the holiday. And I got to sleep, and I have decent health and great weather in Tampa where I live. All of these things take precedence over whatever material gifts I received or didn't. I can't think, in fact, about any gift that I would want if I had to give up any of the above gifts.

So, we need think of our lives in terms of what do I have, and not what do I not have. If you woke up today, you received a gift of life. Some people didn't wake up today. If you are reading this message, it means that you can read. Many people cannot. If you are reading this message on a phone or a computer, it means that you own a phone or computer. Many people do not. If you are reading this message inside a home, that means you have a roof over your head to protect you from the elements, the cold and the heat. Many people do not have a home. If you can read this message, it means that you can see—some people cannot. And if you are reading this message, please know that I care enough about the people reading it to continue writing every day. There are people who have no one to care for them.

The point of today's writing is to encourage us to be thankful for what we have, and not what we don't have. I believe that God is a glass half-filled God. He sees the best in us. He wants us to see the best in each other. He hopes for the best for us. And He wants us to hope for the best in each other. He is easy to entreat and easy to forgive. And He wants us to be those things for one another. His mercy is without limit. And He wants us to follow His example. Whatever material gifts you received or didn't receive this Christmas cannot compare to the spiritual gifts we receive from the Lord on a daily basis, not just for Christmas.



COMMUNITY NEWS (CONTINUED)

So be grateful today for what you have, and make the most of today and the opportunities it presents. Because for some people there are truly no opportunities today. However, if you are reading this message, you are not one of those people. Be thankful !

Lord, thank You for the many gifts You give to me, not only at Christmas but throughout the year.

Thank You that I am alive today.

Thank You that I am reading this message through technology I am blessed to own.

Thank You for the eyes I have to see and the brain I have to comprehend.

Thank You for the roof over my head.

Thank You for the ability to read.

Thank You for a heart that beats.

May it beat in a way that is thankful and positive.

Help me to see the good in those around me.

Help me glorify You in some way in the presence of others today.

Amen.

Have a positive outlook today!

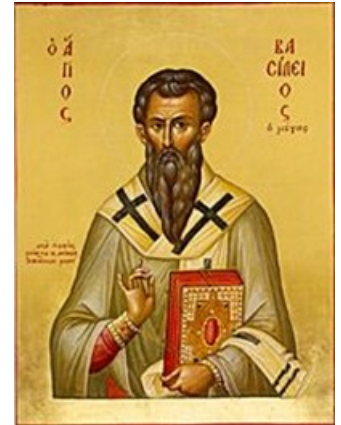
+Fr. Stavros



FEASTS & SAINTS OF THE MONTH

Saint Basil the Great and the Circumcision of Christ **1 January**

Saint Basil the Great was born about the end of the year 329 in Caesarea of Cappadocia, to a family renowned for their learning and holiness. His parents' names were Basil and Emily. His mother Emily and his grandmother Macrina are Saints of the Church, together with all his brothers and sisters: Macrina, his elder sister, Gregory of Nyssa, Peter of Sebastia, and Naucratus. Basil studied in Constantinople under the sophist Libanius, then in Athens, where also he formed a friendship with the young Gregory, a fellow Cappadocian, later called "the Theologian." Through the good influence of his sister Macrina, he chose to embrace the ascetical life, abandoning his worldly career. He visited the monks in Egypt, in Palestine, in Syria, and in Mesopotamia, and upon returning to Caesarea, he departed to a hermitage on the Iris River in Pontus, not far from Annesi, where his mother and his sister Macrina were already treading the path of the ascetical life; here he also wrote his ascetical homilies.



About the year 370, when the bishop of his country reposed, he was elected to succeed to his throne and was entrusted with the Church of Christ, which he tended for eight years, living in voluntary poverty and strict asceticism, having no other care than to defend holy Orthodoxy as a worthy successor of the Apostles. The Emperor Valens, and Modestus, the Eparch of the East, who were of one mind with the Arians, tried with threats of exile and of torments to bend the Saint to their own confession, because he was the bastion of Orthodoxy in all Cappadocia, and preserved it from heresy when Arianism was at its strongest. But he set all their malice useless, and in his willingness to give himself up to every suffering for the sake of the Faith, showed himself to be a martyr by volition. Modestus, amazed at Basil's fearlessness in his presence, said that no one had ever so spoken to him. "Perhaps," answered the Saint, "you have never met a bishop before." The Emperor Valens himself was almost won over by Basil's dignity and wisdom. When Valens' son fell gravely sick, he asked Saint Basil to pray for him. The Saint promised that his son would be restated if Valens agreed to have him baptized by the Orthodox; Valens agreed, Basil prayed, and the son was restored. But afterwards the Emperor had him baptized by Arians, and the child died soon after. Later, Valens, persuaded by his counsellors, decided to send the Saint into exile because he would not accept the Arians into communion; but his pen broke when he was signing the edict of banishment. He tried a second time and a third, but the same thing happened, so that the Emperor was filled with dread, and tore up the document, and Basil was not banished. The truly great Basil, spent with extreme ascetical practices and continual labors, at the helm of the church, departed to the Lord on the 1st of January, in 379. at the age of forty-nine.

His writings are replete with wisdom and erudition, and rich are these gifts he set forth the doctrines concerning the mysteries both of the creation and of the Holy Trinity. Because of the majesty and keenness of his eloquence, he is honored as "the revealer of heavenly things" and "the Great."

FEASTS & SAINTS OF THE MONTH (CONTINUED)

Holy Theophany/Epiphany 6 January

About the beginning of our Lord's thirtieth year, John the Forerunner, who was some six months older than Our Savior according to the flesh, and had lived in the wilderness since his childhood, received a command from God and came into the parts of the Jordan, preaching the baptism of repentance unto the remission of sins. Then our Savior also came from Galilee to the Jordan, and sought and received baptism though He was the Master and John was but a servant. Whereupon, there came to pass those marvelous deeds, great and beyond nature: the Heavens were opened, the Spirit descended in the form of a dove upon Him that was being baptized and the voice was heard from the Heavens hearing witness that this was the beloved Son of God, now baptized as a man (Matt. 3:13-17; Mark 1:9-11; Luke 3:1-22). From these events the Divinity of the Lord Jesus Christ and the great mystery of the Trinity were demonstrated. It is also from this that the present feast is called "Theophany," that is, the divine manifestation, God's appearance among men. On this venerable day the sacred mystery of Christian baptism was inaugurated; henceforth also began the saving preaching of the Kingdom of the Heavens.



Synaxis of John the Baptist 7 January

Today, the day after Epiphany, we celebrate the Synaxis in honor of the most sacred Forerunner, since he ministered at the Mystery of the Divine Baptism of our Lord Jesus Christ, on January 6th.



Saint Anthony 17 January

The Father of monks, was born in Egypt in 251 of pious parents who departed this life while he was yet young. On hearing the words of the Gospel: "If thou wilt be perfect, go and sell what thou hast, and give to the poor" (Matt. 19:21), he immediately put it into action. Distributing to the poor all he had, and fleeing from all the turmoil of the world, he departed to the desert. The manifold temptations he endured continually for the span of twenty years are incredible. His ascetic struggles by day and by night, whereby he mortified the uprisings of the passions and attained to the height of dispassion, surpass the bounds of nature; and the report of his deeds of virtue drew such a multitude to follow him that the desert was transformed into a city, while he became, so to speak, the governor, lawgiver, and master-trainer of all the citizens of this newly-formed city.



FEASTS & SAINTS OF THE MONTH (CONTINUED)

Saint Anthony—continued...

The cities of the world also enjoyed the fruit of his virtue. When the Christians were being persecuted and put to death under Maximinus in 312, he hastened to their aid and consolation. When the Church was troubled by the Arians, he went with zeal to Alexandria in 335 and struggled against them in behalf of Orthodoxy. During this time, by the grace of his words, he also turned many unbelievers to Christ.

Saint Anthony began his ascetic life outside his village of Coma in Upper Egypt, studying the ways of the ascetics and holy men there, and perfecting himself in the virtues of each until he surpassed them all. Desiring to increase his labors, he departed into the desert, and finding an abandoned fortress in the mountain, he made his dwelling in it, training himself in extreme fasting, unceasing prayer, and fierce conflicts with the demons. Here he remained for about twenty years. Saint Athanasius the Great, who knew him personally and wrote his life, says that he came forth from that fortress "initiated in the mysteries and filled with the Spirit of God."

Afterwards, because of the press of the faithful, who deprived him of his solitude, he was enlightened by God to journey with certain Bedouins, until he came to a mountain in the desert near the Red Sea, where he passed the remaining part of his life.

Saint Athanasius says of him that "his countenance had a great and wonderful grace. This gift also he had from the Savior. For if he were present in a great company of monks, and any one who did not know him previously wished to see him, immediately coming forward he passed by the rest, and hurried to Anthony, as though attracted by his appearance. Yet neither in height nor breadth was he conspicuous above others, but in the serenity of his manner and the purity of his soul." So Passing his life, and becoming an example of virtue and a rule for monastics, he reposed on January 17 in the year 356, having lived altogether some 105 years.

Saints Athanasios & Cyril 18 January

In the half-century after the First Ecumenical Council held in Nicea in 325, if there was one man whom the Arians feared and hated more intensely than any other, as being able to lay bare the whole error of their teaching, and to marshal, even from exile or hiding, the beleaguered forces of the Orthodox, it was **Saint Athanasios the Great**. This blazing lamp of Orthodoxy, which imperial power and heretics' plots could not quench when he shone upon the lampstand, nor find when he was hid by the people and monks of Egypt, was born in Alexandria about the year 296. He received an excellent training in Greek letters and especially in the sacred Scriptures, of which he shows an exceptional knowledge in his writings. Even as a young man he had a remarkable depth of theological understanding; he was only about twenty years old when he wrote his treatise, "The Incarnation."



FEASTS & SAINTS OF THE MONTH (CONTINUED)

Saints Athanasios & Cyril—continued...

Saint Alexander, the Archbishop of Alexandria, brought him up in piety, ordained him his deacon, and after deposing Arius for his blasphemy against the Divinity of the Son of God, took Athanasios to the First Council in Nicea in 325. Saint Athanasios was to spend the remainder of his life laboring in defense of this Holy Council. In 326, before his death, Alexander appointed Athanasios his successor.

In 325, Arius had been condemned by the Council of Nicea; yet through his hypocritical confession of Orthodox belief, Saint Constantine the Great was persuaded by Arius's supporters that he should be received back into the communion of the Church. But Athanasios, knowing well the perverseness of his mind, and the disease of heresy lurking in his heart, refused communion with Arius. The heresiarch's followers then began framing false charges against Athanasios. Finally Saint Constantine the Great, misled by grave charges of the Saint's misconduct (which were completely false), had him exiled to Tiberius (Treves) in Gaul in 336. When Saint Constantine was succeeded by his three sons Constantine II, Constans, and Constantius, in 337, Saint Athanasios returned to Alexandria in triumph. But his enemies found an ally in Constantius, Emperor of the East, and he spent a second exile in Rome. It was ended when Constans prevailed with threats upon his brother Constantius to restore Athanasios. For ten years Saint Athanasios strengthened Orthodoxy throughout Egypt, visiting the whole country and encouraging all: clergy, monastics, and lay folk, being loved by all as a father. After Constans's death in 350, Constantius became sole Emperor, and Athanasios was again in danger. On the evening of February 8, 356, General Syrianus with more than five thousand soldiers surrounded the church in which Athanasios was serving, and broke open the doors. Athanasios's clergy begged him to leave, but the good shepherd commanded that all the flock should withdraw first; and only when he was assured of their safety, he also, protected by divine grace, passed through the midst of the soldiers and disappeared into the deserts of Egypt, where for some six years he eluded the soldiers and spies sent after him.

When Julian the Apostate succeeded Constantius in 361, Athanasios returned again, but only for a few months. Because Athanasios had converted many pagans, and the priests of the idols in Egypt wrote to Julian that if Athanasios remained, idolatry would perish in Egypt, the heathen Emperor ordered not Athanasios's exile, but his death. Athanasios took a ship up the Nile. When he learned that his imperial pursuers were following him, he had his men turn back, and as his boat passed that of his pursuers, they asked him if he had seen Athanasios. "He is not far," he answered. After returning to Alexandria for a while, he fled again to the Thebaid until Julian's death in 363. Saint Athanasios suffered his fifth and last exile under Valens in 365, which only lasted four months because Valens, fearing a sedition among the Egyptians for their beloved Archbishop, revoked his edict in February, 366.

The great Athanasios passed the remaining seven years of his life in peace. Of his fifty-seven years as Patriarch, he had spent some seventeen in exiles. Shining from the height of his throne like a radiant evening star, and enlightening the Orthodox with the brilliance of his words for yet a little while, this much-suffering champion inclined toward the sunset of his life, and in the year 373 took his rest from his lengthy sufferings, but not before another luminary of the truth -- Basil the Great -- had risen in the East, being consecrated Archbishop of Caesarea in 370. Besides all of his other achievements, Saint Athanasios wrote the life of Saint Anthony the Great, with whom he spent time in his youth; ordained Saint Frumentius first Bishop of Ethiopia; and in his Paschal Encyclical for the year 367 set forth the books of the Old and New Testaments accepted by the Church as canonical. Saint Gregory the Theologian, in his "Oration On the Great Athanasios", said that he was "*Angelic in appearance, more angelic in mind; ... rebuking with the tenderness of a father, praising with the dignity of a ruler ... Everything was harmonious, as an air upon a single lyre, and in the same key; his life, his teaching, his struggles, his dangers, his return, and his conduct after his return ... he treated so mildly and gently those who had injured him, that even they themselves, if I may say so, did not find his restoration distasteful.*"

FEASTS & SAINTS OF THE MONTH (CONTINUED)

Saints Athanasios & Cyril—continued...

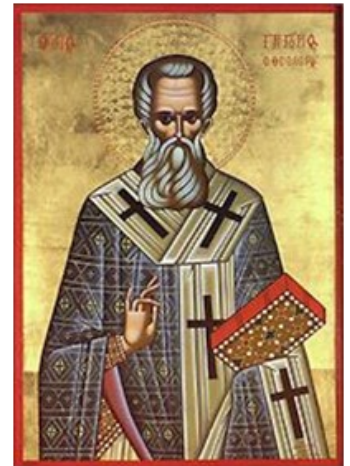
Saint Cyril was also from Alexandria, born about the year 376. He was the nephew of Theophilus, Patriarch of Alexandria, who also instructed the Saint in his youth. Having first spent much time with the monks in Nitria, he later became the successor to his uncle's throne in 412. In 429, when Cyril heard tidings of the teachings of the new Patriarch of Constantinople, Nestorius, he began attempting through private letters to bring Nestorius to renounce his heretical teaching about the Incarnation. When the heresiarch did not repent, Saint Cyril, together with Pope Celestine of Rome, led the Orthodox opposition to his error. Saint Cyril presided over the Third Ecumenical Council of the 200 Holy Fathers in the year 431, who gathered in Ephesus under Saint Theodosius the Younger. At this Council, by his most wise words, he put to shame and convicted the impious doctrine of Nestorius, who, although he was in town, refused to appear before Cyril. Saint Cyril, besides overthrowing the error of Nestorius, has left to the Church full commentaries on the Gospels of Luke and John. Having shepherded the Church of Christ for thirty-two years, he reposed in 444.

Saint Gregory the Theologian 25 January

This great Father and Teacher of the Church was born in 329 in Arianzus, a village of the second district of Cappadocia, not far from Nazianzus. His father, who later became Bishop of Nazianzus, was named Gregory and his mother was named Nonna ; both are among the Saints, and so are his brother Caesarius and his sister Gorgona . At first he studied in Caesarea of Palestine, then in Alexandria, and finally in Athens. As he was sailing from Alexandria to Athens, a violent sea storm put in peril not only his life but also his salvation, since he had not yet been baptized. With tears and fervor he besought God to spare him, vowing to dedicate his whole self to Him, and the tempest gave way to calm.

At Athens Saint Gregory was later joined by Saint Basil the Great, whom he already knew; but now their acquaintanceship grew into a lifelong brotherly love. Another fellow student of theirs in Athens was the young Prince Julian, who later as Emperor was called the Apostate because he denied Christ and did all in his power to restore paganism. Even in Athens, before Julian had thrown off the mask of piety; Saint Gregory saw what an unsettled mind he had, and said, "What an evil the Roman State is nourishing"

After their studies at Athens, Gregory became Basil's fellow ascetic, living the monastic life together with him for a time in the hermitages of Pontus. His father ordained him presbyter of the Church of Nazianzus, and Saint Basil consecrated him Bishop of Sasima, which was in the archdiocese of Caesarea. This consecration was a source of great sorrow to Gregory, and a cause of misunderstanding between him and Basil; but his love for Basil remained unchanged, as can be plainly seen from his Funeral Oration on Saint Basil .



FEASTS & SAINTS OF THE MONTH (CONTINUED)

Saint Gregory—continued...

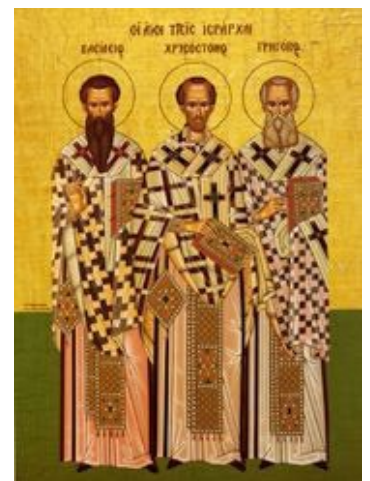
About the Year 379, Saint Gregory came to the assistance of the Church of Constantinople, which had already been troubled for forty years by the Arians; by his supremely wise words and many labors he freed it from the corruption of heresy, and was elected Archbishop of that city by the Second Ecumenical Council, which assembled there in 381, and condemned Macedonius, Archbishop of Constantinople, the enemy of the Holy Spirit. When Saint Gregory came to Constantinople, the Arians had taken all the churches and he was forced to serve in a house chapel dedicated to Saint Anastasia the Martyr. From there he began to preach his famous five sermons on the Trinity, called the Triadica. When he left Constantinople two years later, the Arians did not have one church left to them in the city. Saint Meletius of Antioch, who was presiding over the Second Ecumenical Council, died in the course of it, and Saint Gregory was chosen in his stead; there he distinguished himself in his expositions of dogmatic theology.

Having governed the Church until 382, he delivered his farewell speech - the Syntacterion, in which he demonstrated the Divinity of the Son - before 150 bishops and the Emperor Theodosius the Great; in this speech he requested, and received from all, permission to retire from the see of Constantinople. He returned to Nazianzus, where he lived to the end of his life, and reposed in the Lord in 391, having lived some sixty-two years.

His extant writings, both prose and poems in every type of metre, demonstrate his lofty eloquence and his wondrous breadth of learning. In the beauty of his writings, he is considered to have surpassed the Greek writers of antiquity, and because of his God-inspired theological thought, he received the surname "Theologian." Although he is sometimes called Gregory of Nazianzus, this title belongs properly to his father; he himself is known by the Church only as Gregory the Theologian. He is especially called "Trinitarian Theologian," since in virtually every homily he refers to the Trinity and the one essence and nature of the Godhead.














Synaxis of the Three Hierarchs 30 January

This common feast of these three teachers was instituted a little before the year 1100, during the reign of the Emperor Alexis I Comnenus, because of a dispute and strife that arose among the notable and virtuous men of that time. Some of them preferred **Basil**, while others preferred **Gregory**, and yet others preferred **John Chrysostom**, quarreling among themselves over which of the three was the greatest. Furthermore, each party, in order to distinguish itself from the others, assumed the name of its preferred Saint; hence, they called themselves Basilians, Gregorians, or Johannites. Desiring to bring an end to the contention, the three Saints appeared together to the saintly John Mavropous, a monk who had been ordained Bishop of Euchaita, a city of Asia Minor. They revealed to him that the glory they have at the throne of God is equal, and told him to compose a common service for the three of them, which he did with great skill and beauty. .



Orthodox Calendar

JANUARY 2021

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1 Saint Basil the Great New Years Day	2
3 Sunday before Theophany 8:45am Orthros 10am Divine Liturgy Outdoor Patio and Live-stream	4	5 	6 Holy Theophany (Agiasmos) 9am Orthros 10am Divine Liturgy Live-stream only 7pm Union Station Philoptochos Outreach	7 Synaxis of St. John the Baptist 9am Orthros 10am Divine Liturgy Live-stream only	8 	9
10 Sunday after Theophany 8:45am Orthros 10am Divine Liturgy Outdoor Patio and Live-stream	11	12 7pm Parish Council Meeting	13  7:15pm Philoptochos Board Meeting via Zoom	14	15 	16 5pm Great Vespers for Eve of the Feast of St. Anthony Live-stream only
17 Saint Anthony 12th Sunday of Luke 8:45am Orthros 10am Divine Liturgy Outdoor Patio and Live-stream	18 Athanasios and Cyril	19 11am Bible Study via Zoom	20  7pm Studies in the Faith via Zoom	21	22 	23
24  14th Sunday of Luke 8:45am Orthros 10am Divine Liturgy Outdoor Patio and Live-stream	25 Gregory the Theologian	26 11am Bible Study via Zoom	27  7pm Philoptochos Gen'l. Meeting via Zoom 7pm Studies in the Faith via Zoom	28	29 	30 The Three Hierarchs 9am Orthros 10am Divine Liturgy Live-stream only
31 Sunday of Zacchaeus 8:45am Orthros 10am Divine Liturgy Outdoor Patio and Live-stream		Strict Fast 	Fish Allowed 	Wine and Oil Allowed 	Dairy, Eggs, and Fish Allowed 	Fast Free

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



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

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

January 2021

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