

The Voice of Saint Anthony

February 2021

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Priest's Message	2
Stewardship	5
Church History	9
Parish Council	12
Choir	13
Church School	14
Youth/Young Adult	17
Philoptochos	21
VIPs	24
Ministries	25
Community News	27
Saints of the Month	33
Orthodox Calendar	37

Deadline for
March Newsletter is
Thursday, 25 February

Please send to:
newsletter_church@aol.com



Presentation of Christ in the Temple



Reverend Father Peter Stratos, Pastor

778 S. Rosemead Boulevard, Pasadena, CA 91107

(626) 449-6943 Office (626) 449-6974 FAX

www.saint-anthonys.org

PRIEST'S MESSAGE

Ways to Grow Spiritually During CoViD-19

During this last year we have all experienced a different way of life due to the CoViD-19 Pandemic. Some of us have been working many more hours than we were before the pandemic. Others have been working primarily from home with all of the challenges and struggles that can bring. Some sadly have lost their jobs and are not working at all. Our school age children and college-age young adults have been primarily attending school and studying remotely from home. In fact, the entire family, mothers, fathers and children are all in the same space for many more hours than before! Regardless of the situation in which we find ourselves, I'm sure that our daily routine has been adversely affected in some way.

Our usual "schedules" and "time management" are no longer the norm. Life as we knew it has changed. But human beings are remarkably flexible and adaptable to change, and we are all striving to adjust and create normalcy. I believe that in spite of all we are experiencing during this terrible pandemic, our adaptability presents us with a real chance to grow closer to God.

The number 9 is a Biblical symbol of the fruits of the Holy Spirit. As we always pray to the Holy Trinity for strength, peace and healing in our world, I will share with you a list of 9 ways I believe can help us grow closer to God. A God-centered life being our main priority as Orthodox Christians. As you read the list, focus on a few areas that you think will be most helpful to you and begin with those. Remember, this list is for all ages, from our children to the most senior members of our parish family, so please share with the younger children in your homes.

- ◆ Know that God exists, and that Christ His Son is the center of our lives. Consciously remind yourself of this fact each day. Our goal is to be united with Christ.
- ◆ Attend Divine Liturgy virtually each Sunday. If you are a family, participate together. If you cannot watch the Liturgy live, always make sure you tune in later that day.
- ◆ Develop a life of true prayer and union with God. Remember that the quality of prayer is more important than the quantity. So begin each day with, at least, a short prayer: The Lord's Prayer, the Jesus Prayer, or simple words of your own to thank God for a new day.
- ◆ Live the words of the Creed (Confession of Faith) and the Commandments, so that all you do can be pleasing to God, and reflect your Orthodox Christian values. Remember, every day, each of us is a witness for Christ.
- ◆ Remember and recognize that Christ is the Head of the Church and present in our Church. Listen to the legitimate leaders of the Orthodox Church, and cooperate with all the members of the Orthodox Church who strive to do God's will.

PRIEST'S MESSAGE (continued)

- ♦ Develop a deep and abiding concern for the unfortunate around you, those who are also God's creation, whether they be destitute, ill, lonely, grieving, homeless, or hated for their goodness. Keep their needs constantly in your prayers, and offer the precious gift of time, talents and resources for their welfare.
- ♦ Live each day as if it were your last. Before each action ask if this would be pleasing to Jesus Christ. Pray to discover God's will for your life.
- ♦ Respect yourself and others as children of God; also those who have positions of authority and responsibility. Pray that they will fulfill their roles with dignity and devotion.
- ♦ Read Holy Scripture each day. Also read good Orthodox literature to increase knowledge of your Faith. Attend a virtual class offered by our Church. Take every opportunity to learn what the Orthodox Church teaches. God gave us His Church to sanctify us, teach us, and keep us in His love. Remember to always honor and follow the teachings of the Orthodox Church.

During this difficult time of the COVID-19 Pandemic, we have learned how very fragile life really is. Death is unpredictable. We can never know when we will pass from this life to the next. The pandemic reminds us that our relationship with God is not something we can neglect or put off until tomorrow.

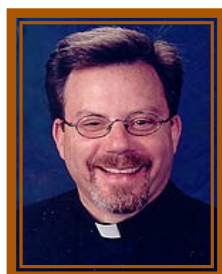
No one can know how the future will treat us. CoViD 19 cases and death tolls may continue to rise, they may fall, or they may level off. Whatever happens we must never let go of our faith in the Lord. As life gets more difficult, people sometimes tend to grow angry at God and claim that He abandoned them or He doesn't exist. When life gets better, people sometimes forget to thank God, and lose their diligence in acknowledging and thanking God for all their blessings. We mustn't ever be complacent.

Our goal for our lives, during and after the pandemic, should be to rely on God. God should always be at the center of our lives. We should take our stress and even our tragedies to God, and always ask for His help, His comfort and His mercy. We should not panic, but rather trust in God.

There is a great deal we can learn from and during this period of time we are living through. This is a moment for us to commit to growing spiritually. Put your trust in God and grow closer to Him.

In Christ,

Fr Peter



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

2020 Stewardship Summary as of December 31st

- 304 PLEDGES TOTALING \$483,953
- \$466,835 COLLECTED *(Includes \$65,250 Collected in 2019)*
- AVERAGE PLEDGE \$1,592

Breakdown Pledges		
Amount Pledge	# of Pledges	% of Pledges Breakdown
< \$499	76	25%
\$500 - \$999	65	21%
\$1,000 - \$1,999	83	27%
\$2,000 - \$3,999	51	17%
\$4,000 - \$6,999	21	07%
\$7,000 - \$9,999	3	01%
\$10,000 - \$14,999	3	01%
\$15,000 - >	2	01%
	Total Pledges 304	100%

STEWARDSHIP (continued)



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

Shoes and Hats

With a poor command of the English language any Greek immigrant with strong arms and little capital could open a shoe shine business. In the late 1890s Greeks began to encroach on the bootblack (shoe shine) business that was formerly dominated by Italians and African Americans. The earliest bootblacks were sometimes recruited by unscrupulous padrons, labor agents, who brought young Greek boys to America to work as apprentices, but they were virtually indentured servants. There is no evidence of the padrones operating in Los Angeles, but Pasadena's first bootblacks may have learned their trade in eastern cities where the practice was more common.

Although bootblacks got their start working from a simple stand, many opened ornate storefront parlors which also included hat cleaning services. Greeks came to dominate the bootblack and hat cleaning trade in many parts of the country. In Los Angeles, in the early 1920s, former bootblacks started manufacturing shoe polish and hat cleaning supplies under the Angelus label, owned and operated by the Angelos/Antonopoulos family, and the Omega brand owned by the Kiapos family. These products were sold by salesmen all over the United States predominately to Greek owned shoe shine parlors and hat cleaning shops.

In 1914, Alex Alexopoulos and Rigas Rigopoulos were not only the first Greek bootblacks to appear in a Pasadena business directory, they also represented 100% of the bootblack listings. Their business, like those of succeeding Greek bootblacks was almost always within a block or two of the well-traveled commercial intersection of Fair Oaks Avenue and Colorado Boulevard. Non-Greek, mostly African American shoe shiners had more peripheral locations along these main streets. From 1914 to 1924 most of Pasadena's bootblacks, listed in city directories, were Greeks. Prior to 1921 other Greek immigrant bootblacks were James Mitropoulos, Peter Pappas, Peter Rapanos, Vasilios Spiropoulos (William Spyres) Gust Vagenas and George Vaselacopulos. Nicholas Spathes had a shoe shine business in El Monte by 1927, followed a few years later by James Chibires in Alhambra.

Inevitably the shoe shine trade would prove to be too limiting for the ambitions of most Greek immigrants. Alex Alexopoulos and partner James Bicos moved to 31 East Colorado Boulevard and offered hat blocking and cleaning in addition to shoe shining. In 1920, Vasilios Spiropoulos and John Gianopulos joined Alexopoulos' growing operation, The Alex Hat Cleaning Company.

Church History (continued)

George Poulos (Georgakopoulos), an early 1900s immigrant to Los Angeles, realized that selling shoes was better than shining them. In 1923, after training his nephew Tom (Athanasios), the Poulos team opened a retail shoe store and repair shop in the eastern part of Pasadena then known as Lamanda Park. The business became the Lamanda Park Shoe Store at 2563 E. Colorado Boulevard and it was run by Tom's son George until 1958.

Pasadena Hat Cleaning and Repair Shop (208 East Colorado Boulevard) established in the late 1920s, was a partnership between former rival bootblacks John Gianopulos and Pete Rapanos, which also provided work for other Greek immigrants over the years. Businesses which extended the life of everyday items like shoes and hats were well adapted to weather the Depression in the 1930s, but the greatest boon came during World War II. Shoes and hats, like many other items, were rationed during the war placing a premium on the services of the repair trade. Throughout much of the 1930s and 1940s Greek immigrants such as George Soulakis, John Cootsoodis, Stephanos Pappas, and J.S. Spyre (Spiropoulos) dominated Pasadena's hat cleaning and blocking trade. The Gianopulos-Rapanos joint venture reflected the progression from simple shoe shine stands to a storefront business whose advertising boasted "Scientific Shoe Repairing and Hat Cleaning," in addition to shoe dying and shining. Whatever "scientific shoe repairing" was, remains a mystery, but the business continued under the ownership of John Gianopulos until 1961.

George Soulakis' hat cleaning business, the London Hat Store, and Gianopulos' shop were both started in the 1920s and for much of their existence were across the street from each other on Colorado Boulevard. For two decades, until the 1960s, the two businesses represented the only hat cleaning and blocking stores in Pasadena.

The 1960s were the end of Greek representation in the shoe shine, shoe repair and hat cleaning businesses in Pasadena. In 1961, John Gianopulos' hat cleaning and shoe repair business was sold to Isadoro Maldonado. The business continued at various locations (with no hat cleaning) until 2001, John Gianopulos' cousin, fellow bachelor and housemate, Jim Gianopulos, closed the Brunswick Shoe Shine (55 East Colorado Boulevard) in 1963. George Soulakis' son Edison (named for the immigrant passenger ship on which he was born) took over the family hat business and kept the London Hat Store until around 1967. The Soulakis family and Gianopulos cousins represented the last links to the trades once dominated by Greeks throughout the United States.

(Next month: Food and Beverages)

Church History (continued)

*John Gianopulos
(pictured circa 1940)*

Ran the Pasadena Hat Cleaning and Repair Shop on Colorado Boulevard in Pasadena from the early 1920s to 1961. Like many early 20th century Greek immigrants he started out shining shoes before opening a storefront business.

*Jim Gianopulos
(pictured circa 1940)*

Operated the Brunswick Shoe Shine stand on Colorado Boulevard in Pasadena for several decades until his retirement in 1963. He was the last of Pasadena's Greek shoeshiners.

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

As we begin a new year, we wish to honor and thank our former Parish Council members for their service in 2020:

Ted Attalla
Jeremiah Courter
Anthia Drulias Lucas
Sophia Syrengelas
Mary Udria
John Vidalakis
Perry Vidalakis

We welcome our new Parish Council members for 2021:

Liam McCann
Mark Nastri
Patricia Paziouros

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..

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



NEWS FROM THE LOFT



Staying Out of the Loft and Staying Safe...

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)



CHURCH SCHOOL NEWS (continued)

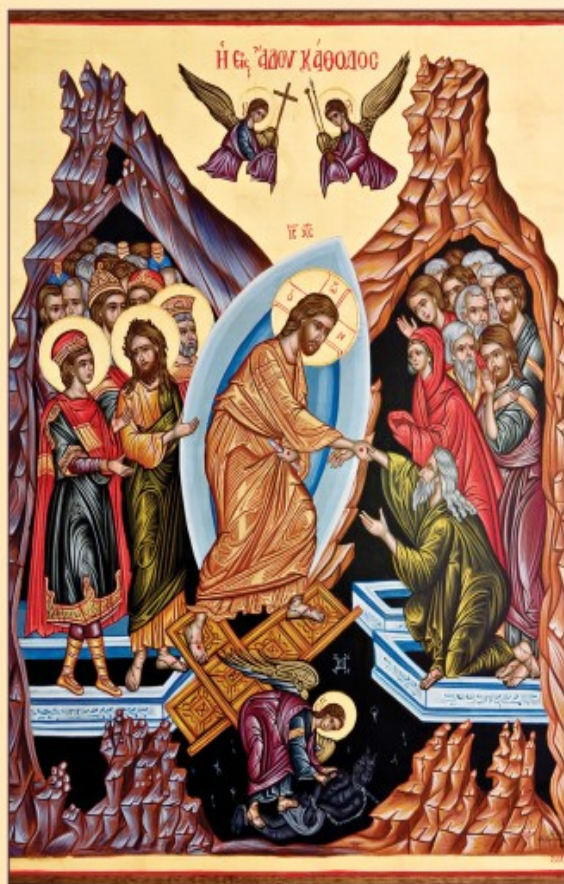
A LENTEN JOURNEY



METROPOLIS OF
SAN FRANCISCO

TO GREAT AND HOLY PASCHA

Metropolis-wide Youth Religious Education Program



- 11-week virtual youth Religious Education program
- Pre-Kindergarten through 8th Grade
- Lessons will include key themes of the liturgical cycle beginning with the Triodion, continuing into Great Lent, through Holy Week and concluding with Holy Pascha.
- Classes will be held on Zoom every Sunday beginning February 21 from 12:30 p.m. – 1:30 p.m. PST. The last session will be held on Good Friday, April 30.
- Sponsored by the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of San Francisco Christian Education Ministry, in collaboration with the Orthodox Youth Mentorship Program of Saint Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church in Camarillo, CA.
- A team of volunteer teachers will engage students with lessons, activities, and service projects. High school and college students will participate as mentors and activity leaders.
- **Register Today!** There is no cost to attend, but registration is required, prior to Friday, February 5, 2021.

"This is a wonderful opportunity for our youth to participate in insightful lessons, activities and service projects, all designed to enrich their Lenten journey and prepare them for the celebration of the Lord's Resurrection," stated His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos of San Francisco.

"Our children deserve the best opportunities to be empowered with knowledge on their faith, and especially during these times of ongoing physical separation, this program creates an opportunity to enhance fellowship and friendships from across our Metropolis."



YOUTH & YOUNG ADULT NEWS



St. Anthony Junior & Senior GOYA

Virtual Bible Bowl Tournament



Saturday, March 20th 7:30 p.m.

Tournament, team study information, rules and regulations on next page

Participating in this tournament will be a lasting experience!

For further information contact Vicki Kades



YOUTH & YOUNG ADULT NEWS (continued)

Virtual Bible and History Tournament

Rules and Regulations

March 20, 2021

1. The following passages used for the tournament:

- Gospel of Saint Matthew, Chapter 7
- Gospel of Saint John, Chapter 17
- Saint Peter's 2nd Epistle, Chapter 1
- Saint Sava the Sanctified
- Macarius the Great of Egypt
- Mark, Archbishop of Ephesus
- The Sacraments, from Fr. Thomas Hopko, *The Orthodox Faith: An Elementary Handbook on the Orthodox Church Worship*
- "Marriage" from the Sacramental Life of the Orthodox Church by Father Alciviadis C. Calivas, *A Companion to the Greek Orthodox Church*

2. The official Bible for the tournament for the New Testament texts will be the New King James Version as found in the Orthodox Study Bible published in 2008.

3. There is no limit to the number of teams.

4. Each team is to have a captain. There is a maximum of 4 players per team; a team may have fewer than 4 players. It is suggested that one member of Junior GOYA be included on a team.

5. Bibles, study notes or other such items will not be allowed during the tournament play. This will be an honor system since we are unable to monitor players.

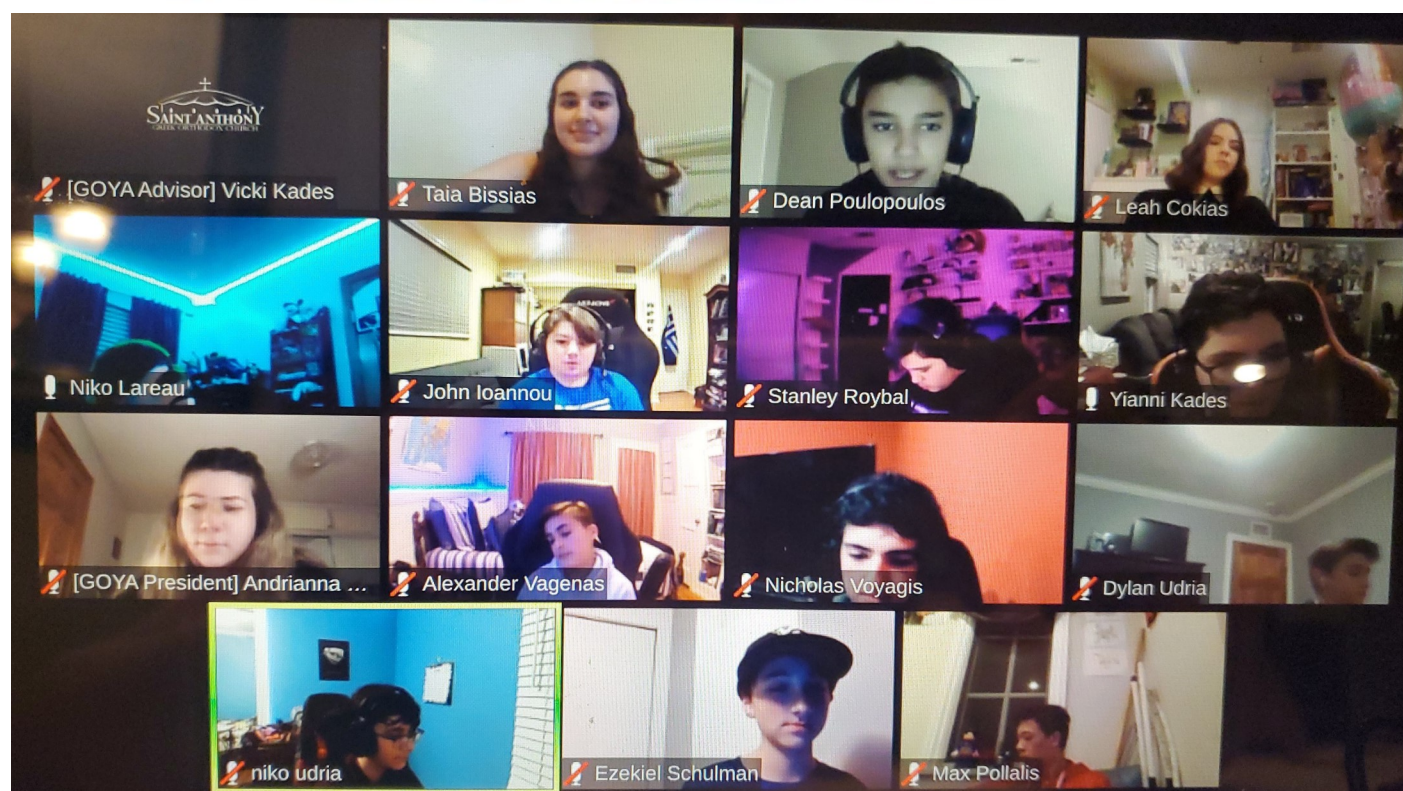
6. The questions will be asked by a panel of judges. The judges will conduct the tournament according to the prescribed rules. The judges will also keep track of time. The judges will decide if the questions are answered correctly and will keep track of the score of each team. The judges will be the final authority in the event of a disagreement or tie.

7. Answers must be answered in clear, concise and precise terms. Either oral or written answers may be required.

8. Awards

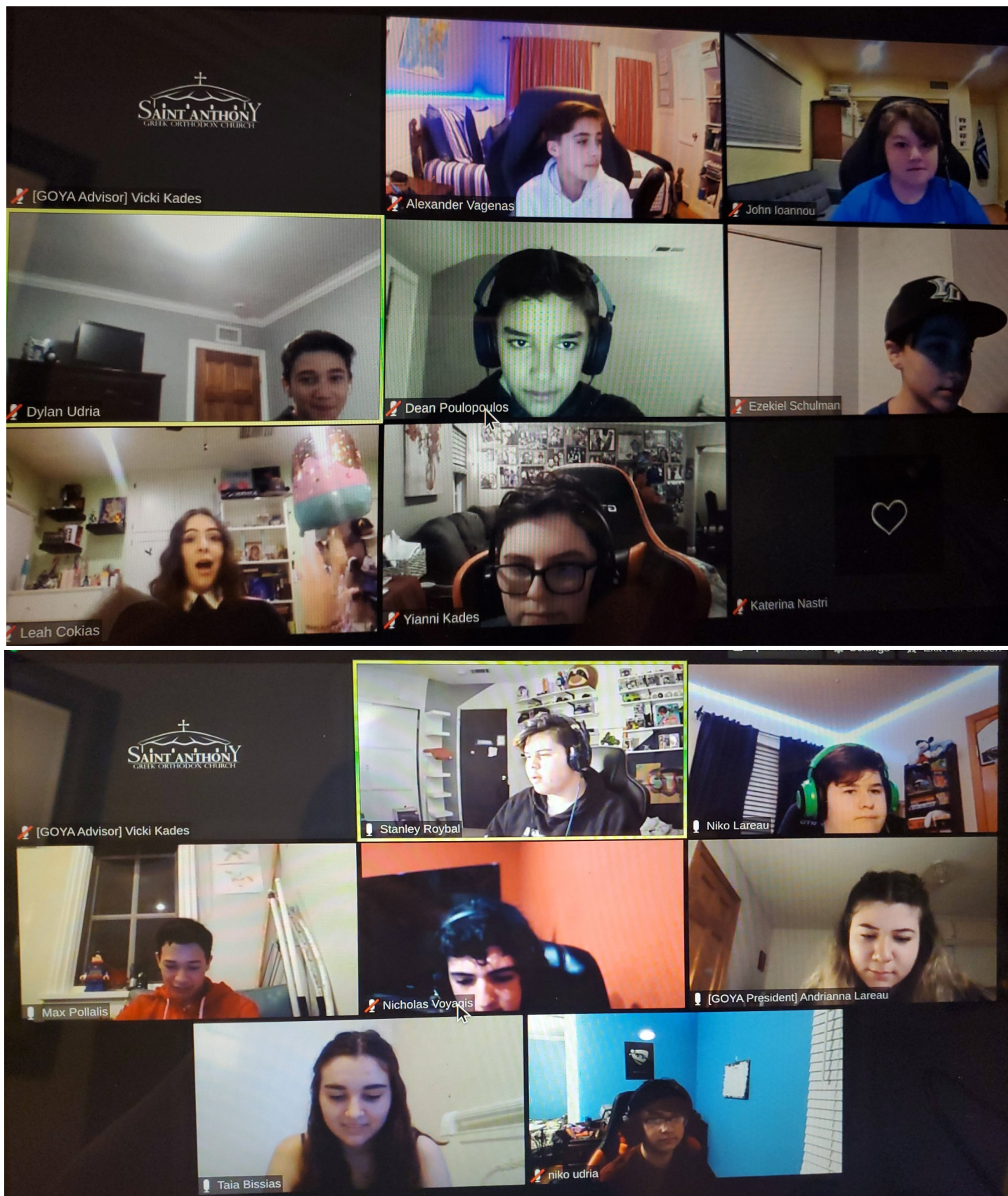
YOUTH & YOUNG ADULT NEWS (continued)

GOYA Among Us Night January 2021



YOUTH & YOUNG ADULT NEWS (continued)

GOYA Among Us Night January 2021



PHILOPTOCHOS NEWS



PHILOPTOCHOS MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

We invite you to renew your membership or join us as a new member! Our Panagia Chapter has been contributing to our community on a local, national and international basis for more than 65 years. Our support of numerous charities would not be possible without the support of our members. We thank you for your continued support, even during this most difficult time of CoViD.



Attention High School Seniors !!

If you are planning to continue your education at a college or university, you are invited and encouraged to apply for the 2021 Saint Anthony Philoptochos scholarship award.

Philoptochos scholarships are available to graduating seniors from Saint Anthony Parish whose parent is a current member of Philoptochos, Panagia Chapter.

Academic, spiritual, and community service will be taken into consideration.

Scholarship awards can value as much as \$500.

Applications will be available at the church office during office hours. You may download or request an application be sent to you.

Completed applications must be received by **4:00 PM Friday, April 9, 2021.**

Seniors are encouraged to begin applying early due to current pandemic protocols.

For further information contact: Fontaine Malisos - fontaineachilles@gmail.com
Irene Albeck - mcmg2a@aol.com

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 hash 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 miss our members and our social gatherings.
We look forward to when we will be able to visit in person.
Stay safe and healthy..
You are in our prayers.



Helen Treantafelles
VIP President
htreantafelles@yahoo.com

MINISTRIES

Saint Anthony Greek Orthodox Church Reverend Father Peter Stratos

2021 PARISH COUNCIL

Joseph Akrotirianakis	President
Pete Gallanis	Vice President
Tashia Vagenas	Secretary
Tony Christopoulos	Treasurer

Tom Grafos	Mark Nastri
Christos Ioannou	James Pappas
Liam McCann	Patricia Paziouros



OFFICE STAFF

Alma Vorgias – Office Administrator
Athena Serban – Events Coordinator
(Trinity Ballroom)



CUSTODIAL STAFF

Carlos Sosa



CHOIR

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

CHANTERS

+Demetrios Baliotis
Mike Abi-Farah

READERS

Nicholas Kokoris
Constantine Trigonis



YOUTH CHOIR

TBD

CHURCH SCHOOL STAFF

Irene Albeck – Preschool, Kindergarten & 1st
Stephanie Scolinos – 2nd, 3rd, 4th & 5th
Rebecca Russo – 6th, 7th & 8th
Pres. Aida Stratos – 9th, 10th, 11th & 12th



MINISTRIES (continued)

PHILOPTOCHOS SOCIETY

Panagia Chapter Board 2020

President

Maria Kypreos

1st Vice PresidentMaria Hronas, Elizabeth Skandale
and 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 OutreachMary Dewar, Stephanie Soewers
and Presbytera Aida Stratos**Fellowship**

Athena Dallas

Publicity / Webmaster

+Terese Caire

Scholarship

Irene Albeck & Judith Din

Sunshine and Visitation

Jeanne Karaianoglou

Union Station

Irene Albeck

Welfare

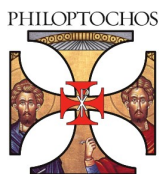
Presbytera Maria Mylonas

Advisor

Connie Becker

Spiritual Advisor

Father Peter Stratos



ADDITIONAL MINISTRIES

Acolytes

Fr. Peter Stratos

Bible Study

Fr. Peter Stratos

Bookstore

Noah Johnson

GOYA

Fr. Peter Stratos

GOYA Basketball

Anthia Lucas
Pana Gelt

Greek Dance Groups

Phophi Magaziotis

Greek Festival

Nick Demopulos
Julie Balas

Greek Language

Anastasia McClain

JOY/HOPE

Irene Albeck

Moms & Tots

TBD

Myrrh Bearers

Irene Albeck

Oratorical Festival

Nicole Schulman

Golf Classic

Jimmy Christodoulelis
Roberto Crespo

Prayer Shawls

Aliko 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 !!

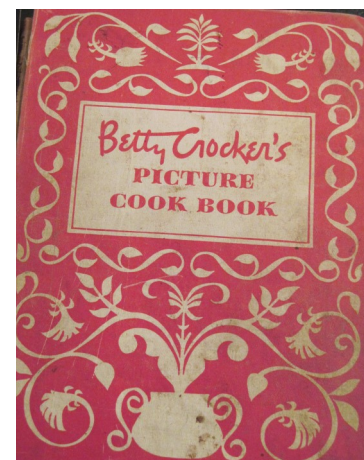
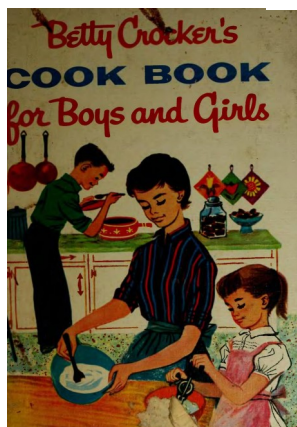
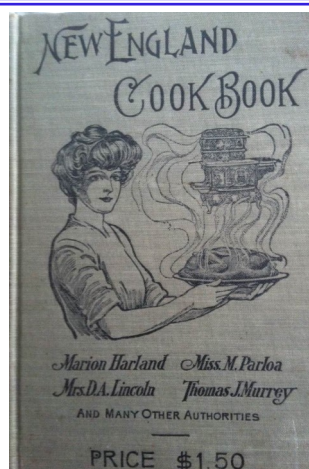
As so many of us have had to stay at home these past several months, it would be fun to share our favorite recipes (Greek or non-Greek) with our church community.

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)



St. Anthony Bowling League 2020 Recap

The 2020 St. Anthony Bowling League began last January with excitement and anticipation! With 27 bowlers forming 9 3-person teams, we were 2 weeks from completing our 3rd year of bowling when everything came to a halt on March 13, 2020.

We want to thank Pana Gelt our diligent bowling President who was finally able to reach out to Bowlero Lanes and get the final standings.

1st place: Team 7	Jim Nichols, Trisha Johnston and Patricia Paziouros
2nd place: Team 8	Peter Bissias, Andrea Lappas and Ted Dupas
3rd place: Team 1	Pana Gelt, Parri Livanos and George Dupas
4th place: Team 5	Tanya Christodulelis, Nick Paziouros and Mihai Serban
5th place: Team 6	Joyce Nicholas, Chrissa Mobayen and John Paziouros
6th place: Team 9	Anthia Lucas, Jim Horaites and Jim Xanthos
7th place: Team 3	Kiki Chrysosgelos, John Lucas and Bill Drulias
8th place: Team 4	Syrus Mobayen, Sophia Angelos and Nicky Gekas
9th place: Team 2	Marianne Nicholas, Steven Miller and Liam McCain

CONGRATS to the individual prizes winners:

MEN

Scratch Game:	John Pazouras	196	Scratch Series:	Bill Drulias	488
Handicap Game:	Steven Miller	257	Handicap Series:	John Lucas	716

WOMEN

Scratch Game:	Andrea Lappas	179	Scratch Series:	Patricia Pazouras	439
Handicap Game:	Tricia Johnston	235	Handicap Series:	Chrissa Mobayen	651

We look forward to when the bowling alley can reopen and we can enjoy fellowship and fun again. We are always looking for new bowlers!

COMMUNITY NEWS (continued)

The Voice of Saint Anthony

JANUARY 2021

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Priest's Message	2
Stewardship	5
Church History	8
Parish Council News	11
Choir News	12
Church School	13
Youth/Young Adult News	17
Philoptochos News	19
VIPs	24
Ministries	25
Community News	27
Saints of the Month	33
Orthodox Calendar	39

Deadline for
February Newsletter is
Monday, 25 January
Please send to:
newsletter_church@aol.com



Reverend Father Peter Stratos, 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...****A THANKFUL HEART**

I give thanks to the Lord with my whole heart. Psalm 9:1

It's Not About Me, It's About HIM!

He must increase, but I must decrease. John 3:30

One of the most humble statements in the Bible was uttered by St. John the Baptist, in John 3:30, "*He must increase, but I must decrease.*" In other words, St. John was saying "It's not about me, it's all about Him (Christ)." Let's look at the role of John the Baptist critically. He was not the Christ, but the one who announced that Christ was coming. His role was to introduce/endorse Jesus as the Christ, and then get out of the way. John had a group of disciples, followers, groupies, whatever you want to call them. He had a certain level of popularity and respect. But he knew that he was not the Christ. In human terms, he knew he wasn't the star of the team, or the head of the company. His job was to endorse someone else as the central figure. His job was to eventually tell all of his disciples to leave him and to go with Christ.

How many times have you felt like John the Baptist—you lay the groundwork, someone else gets the glory? In these situations, "They must increase, while I decrease" is probably not the phrase we are readily saying. It's more like, "I did the work, why does someone else get the credit?" And this is because we many times make it about the credit, we make it about us, more than we make it about other people. Many times we make it about us and not about Him (the Lord).

Imagine if we all took the attitude of John the Baptist when it comes to credit—if we all put others ahead of ourselves and we did it all the time. To truly love means to do this—to love someone means that they increase while we decrease. Because love is taking sentiment from ourselves and giving it to someone else. John the Baptist truly loved God. He was willing to play his role in God's divine plan with humility, love and even joy.

John said "*He who has the bride is the bridegroom; the friend of the bridegroom, who stands and hears him, rejoices greatly at the bridegroom's voice; therefore this joy of mine is now full. He must increase, but I must decrease.*" (John 3: 28-30) Who rejoices in being the friend of the bridegroom? Most people would prefer to be the bridegroom, not the friend of one. Yet, this was John's calling and he embraced it.



COMMUNITY NEWS (continued)

Many times in life, we wish to be the “bridegroom”—the star of the company, the star of the sports team, the owner of the flashy car, the parent of the accomplished athlete rather than the kid who struggles. And sometimes it is hard to share the joy of the person who has what you wish you had. In fact, many times we want to tear others down so they can be like us, rather than building them up and being happy for them.

The thankful heart is not only thankful for what it has, but it is thankful for what others have. A thankful heart rejoices in the successes of others. A thankful heart says “I am really happy for you” rather than thinking, “Why is that success yours and not mine?”

We each play a role in God’s divine plan. Some of those roles may be more public and be perceived as more “glamorous.” Other roles may be more private or be perceived as more “mundane.” In some ways, it must have been hard to be John the Baptist—to build up the people, only to step aside for Christ. Yet, without John preparing the way, Christ would have come to a people totally unprepared. John’s role was crucial. Just like the Virgin Mary’s role was crucial and JUST LIKE YOUR ROLE is crucial. Are you ready to embrace your role, whatever that role is, if that is the role that He has called you to do? Are you willing to decrease in order so that He can increase in your life and in our world?

Lord, thank You for the unique gifts You have given me. (List them). Help me to always know that I am special to You. Help me to understand and embrace whatever my role is in Your plan for the salvation of the world. Help me rejoice in my successes but also to rejoice in the successes of others. Help me to serve with humility, to encourage others, and to make it all about You, rather than about me. Amen.

Tell someone who has accomplished something that you haven’t, “I’m really happy for you.”

+Fr. Stavros



FEASTS & SAINTS OF THE MONTH**The Presentation of the Lord****2 February**

When the most pure Mother and Ever-Virgin Mary's forty days of purification had been fulfilled, she took her first-born Son to Jerusalem on this, the fortieth day after His birth, that she might **present Him in the temple** according to the Law of Moses, which teaches that every first-born male child be dedicated to God, and also that she might offer the sacrifice of a pair of turtle-doves or two young pigeons, as required by the Law (Luke 2:22-24; Exod. 13:2; Lev. 12:6-8).

On this same day, a just and devout man, the greatly aged Symeon, was also present in the temple, being guided by the Holy Spirit. For a long time, this man had been awaiting the salvation of God and he had been informed by divine revelation that he would not die until he beheld the Lord's Christ. Thus, when he beheld Him at that time and took Him up into his aged arms, he gave glory to God, singing: "Now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace, O Master. . ." And he confessed that he would close his eyes joyfully, since he had seen the Light of Revelation for the nations and the Glory of Israel (Luke 2:25-32).

From ancient times, the Holy Church has retained this tradition of the churching of the mother and new-born child on the fortieth day and of the reading of prayers of purification.

**Saint Theodore Commander and Great Martyr****8 February**

The Holy Martyr Theodore was from Euchaita of Galatia and dwelt in Heraclea of Pontus. He was a renowned commander in the military. Emperor Licinius was told that he was a Christian and abominated the idols. Licinius therefore sent certain men to him from Nicomedia, to honor him and ask him to appear before him. Through them, however, Saint Theodore sent back a message that it was necessary for various reasons, that Licinius come to Heraclea. Licinius, seeing in this a hope of turning Saint Theodore away from Christ did as was asked of him.

When the Emperor came to Heraclea, Saint Theodore met him with honor and the Emperor in turn gave Theodore his hand, believing that through him he would be able to draw the Christians to the worship of his idols.



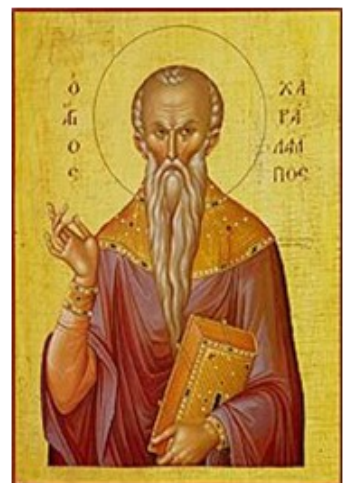
FEASTS & SAINTS OF THE MONTH (continued)**Saint Theodore—continued**

Seated upon his throne in the midst of the people, he publicly bade Theodore offer sacrifice to the gods. But Theodore asked that the emperor entrust him with the most venerable of his gods, those of gold and silver, that he might take them home and himself attend upon them that evening, promising that the following day he would honor them in public. The Emperor, filled with joy at these tidings, gave command that Theodore's request be fulfilled.

When the Saint had taken the idols home, he broke them in pieces and distributed the gold and silver to the poor by night. The next day a centurion named Maxentius told Licinius that he had seen a pauper pass by carrying the head of Artemis. Saint Theodore, far from repenting of this, confessed Christ boldly. Licinius, in an uncontrollable fury, had the Saint put to many torments, then crucified. While upon the cross, the holy Martyr was further tormented -- his privy parts were cut off, he was shot with arrows, his eyes were put out and he was left on the cross to die. The next day Licinius sent men to take his corpse and cast it into the sea; but they found the Saint alive and perfectly whole. Through this, many believed in Christ. Seeing his own men turning to Christ and the city in an uproar, Licinius had Theodore beheaded, about the year 320. The Saint's holy relics were returned to his ancestral home on June 8, which is also a feast of the Great Martyr Theodore.

Heiromartyr Haralambos**10 February**

This Saint was a priest of the Christians in Magnesia, the foremost city of Thessaly, in the diocese having the same name. He contested during the reign of Alexander Severus (222-235), when Lucian was Proconsul of Magnesia. At the time of his martyrdom this Saint was 103 years of age.



FEASTS & SAINTS OF THE MONTH (continued)

Theodore the Tyro & Martyr

17 February

Saint Theodore who was from Amasia of Pontus, contested during the reign of Maximian (286-305). He was called Tyro, from the Latin *Tiro*, because he was a newly enlisted recruit. When it was reported that he was a Christian, he boldly confessed Christ. The ruler, hoping that he would repent, gave him time to consider the matter more completely and then give his answer. Theodore gave his answer by setting fire to the temple of Cybele, the "mother of the gods," and for this he suffered a martyr's death by fire.



Triodion Begins—Sunday of the Publican & the Pharisee

21 February

The Pharisees were an ancient and outstanding sect among the Jews known for their diligent observance of the outward matters of the Law. Although, according to the word of our Lord, they "did all their works to be seen of men" (Matt. 23:5), and were hypocrites (ibid. 23: 13, 14, 15, etc.). Because of the apparent holiness of their lives they were thought by all to be righteous and separate from others, which is what the name Pharisee means. On the other hand, Publicans, collectors of the royal taxes, committed many injustices and extortions for filthy lucre's sake and all held them to be sinners and unjust. It was therefore according to common opinion that the Lord Jesus in His parable signified a virtuous person by a Pharisee and a sinner by a Publican, to teach His disciples the harm of pride and the profit of humble-mindedness.

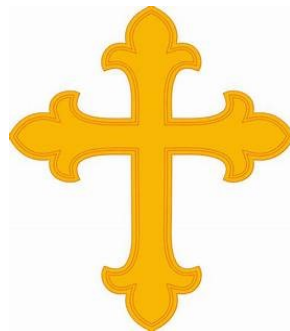
Since the chief weapon for virtue is humility and the greatest hindrance to it is pride, the divine Fathers have set these three weeks before the Forty-day Fast as a preparation for the spiritual struggles of virtue. This present week they have called Harbinger, since it declares that the Fast is approaching; and they set humility as the foundation for all our spiritual labors by appointing that the parable of the Publican and the Pharisee be read on this day, even before the Fast begins, to teach, through the vaunting of the Pharisee, that the foul smoke of self-esteem and the stench of boasting drives away the grace of the Spirit, strips man of all his virtue and casts him into the pits of Hades; and, through the repentance and contrite prayer of the Publican, that humility confers upon the sinner's forgiveness of all his wicked deeds and raises him up to the greatest heights. No fasting the week that follows this Sunday.



FEASTS & SAINTS OF THE MONTH (continued)**Triodion—Sunday of the Prodigal Son****28 February**


Through the parable of today's Gospel, our Saviour has set forth three things for us: the condition of the sinner, the rule of repentance, and the greatness of God's compassion. The divine Fathers have put this reading the week after the parable of the Publican and Pharisee so that, seeing in the person of the Prodigal Son our own wretched condition -- inasmuch as we are sunken in sin, far from God and His Mysteries -- we might at last come to our senses and make haste to return to Him by repentance during these holy days of the Fast.

Furthermore, those who have wrought many great iniquities and have persisted in them for a long time, oftentimes fall into despair, thinking that there can no longer be any forgiveness for them; so being without hope, they fall every day into the same and even worse iniquities. Therefore, the divine Fathers, that they might root out the passion of despair from the hearts of such people, and rouse them to the deeds of virtue, have set the present parable at the forecourts of the Fast, to show them the surpassing goodness of God's compassion, and to teach them that there is no sin -- no matter how great it may be -- that can overcome at any time His love for man.



Orthodox Calendar

February 2021

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1	2 <i>Presentation of our Lord to the temple</i>	3  7pm Union Station Philoptochos Outreach 7pm Studies in the Faith via Zoom	4	5 	6
7 <i>16th Sunday of Matthew</i> 8:45am Orthros 10am Divine Liturgy <i>Live-stream only</i>	8 <i>Theodore the General</i>	9 11am Bible Study via Zoom 7pm Parish Council Meeting	10  <i>Haralambos the Martyr</i> 11am Bible Study via Zoom 7:15pm Philoptochos Board Meeting via Zoom	11	12 	13
14 <i>Sunday of the Canaanite</i> 8:45am Orthros 10am Divine Liturgy <i>Live-stream only</i>	15	16 11am Bible Study via Zoom	17  <i>Theodore The Tyro</i> 7pm Studies in the Faith via Zoom	18	19 	20
21 <i>Sunday of Publican and the Pharisee</i> <i>Triodion Begins</i> 8:45am Orthros 10am Divine Liturgy <i>Live-stream only</i>	22	23 11am Bible Study via Zoom	24 7pm Studies in the Faith via Zoom 7pm Philoptochos Gen'l Meeting via Zoom	25	26	27
28 <i>Sunday of the Prodigal Son</i> 8:45am Orthros 10am Divine Liturgy <i>Live-stream only</i>						
		<i>Strict Fast</i> 	<i>Fish Allowed</i> 	<i>Wine and Oil Allowed</i> 	<i>Dairy, Eggs, and Fish Allowed</i> 	<i>Fast Free</i>

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

February 2021

POSTAGE
STAMP

TIME SENSITIVE

Place address label here

**We are not all in the
same boat. We are in
the same storm. Some
have yachts, some
canoes, and some are
drowning. Just be
kind and help whoever
you can.**