

The Voice of Saint Anthony

October 2021

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Deadline for
November Newsletter is
Monday, 25 October

Please send to:
newsletter_church@aol.com

The Holy and Glorious Apostle Thomas



Reverend Father Peter Stratos, Pastor

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PRIEST'S MESSAGE



SAINT ANTHONY GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

Rev. Peter Stratos, Pastor

September 13, 2021

Re: Securing Our Community's Financial Future

To the members of St. Anthony, greetings:

This letter is intended as a brief preview of a presentation to be given at this year's November General Assembly.

As I informed the Special General Assembly held early in the COVID-19 pandemic, our community has historically operated with a deficit budget, meaning that the parish's expenses exceed its revenues. That has been true even in years when we have held successful festivals with record-breaking profits. Indeed, it has only been *with* a successful festival that we have been able to come close to having our revenues cover our annual expenses. In recent years, our only "safety net" has been two generous bequests that totaled approximately \$575,000. It would have been optimal to use those gifts for the development or execution of a master plan for the community, but more than \$200,000 of that amount was needed to be used simply to "make the ends meet" over the past several years.

Over the past many years on which I have served on the Parish Council, we have discussed both a master plan for developing the grounds owned by the community and a strategy for securing the long-term financial future of St. Anthony. Generally, those discussions have centered around acquiring or developing income-producing property that would support the church.

As most know, the community has, over the course of time, acquired several parcels of land that are either contiguous, adjacent, or nearby the church grounds. These are shown in the satellite photograph below and include the parking lot on Locksley Drive (across the street from the church grounds), 3745 Locksley Drive (immediately behind the sanctuary), 3759 Locksley Drive (to the east of 3745), and 3791 Locksley Drive (on the corner of Michigan Boulevard). We were unsuccessful in attempting to acquire 3775 Locksley Drive (between 3759 and 3791), despite the dedication of substantial time to that effort by our former President, John N. Vidalakis, and others. We believe that a development with 28 to 42 units could be built on the site of the parking lot on Locksley Drive, which is already zoned for multi-family dwelling.

PRIEST'S MESSAGE (continued)

Once paid for and fully leased, the funds generated by such a development would go a long way towards covering the church's annual expenses and could eventually be used to fund other potential development, such as a gym. Then, the community would have the option of using the proceeds from fundraisers such as the festival for worthy causes like outreach and evangelism, as opposed to praying for temperate weather for our festival, so we can (almost) cover our operating expenses while having limited funds for ministries.

In addition, the development of an apartment community would provide housing for senior members of the community in a location that would keep them close to the church and friends within the community, and it would allow them to continue to grow in their faith through participation in the ministries offered at St. Anthony.

Recently, a donor has offered to donate \$1.5 million for the development of an apartment community. Another family has pledged to donate \$100,000 to such a project. We are grateful for the generosity of those and all of the church's donors. These amounts alone, however, are

PRIEST'S MESSAGE (continued)**SAINT ANTHONY
GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH**

Rev. Peter Stratos, Pastor

almost half of the total amount we believe would be needed to acquire financing for the construction of a 28-unit project.

A project of this magnitude will require a separate foundation with a board of directors to be the stewards of funds donated to the foundation. It will also require the completion of a master plan that would likely involve rezoning of 3745 and 3759 Locksley Drive for parking or other non-residential use. **Of course, it would require the approval of the General Assembly, which we would intend to seek at this November's General Assembly or at a Special General Assembly thereafter.** In the meantime, proceeds from this year's Pasadena Golf Classic will benefit this enterprise.

Your Parish Council is interested in your views on these matters. So, if you have opinions or suggestions, please feel free to share them with me, our Vice President Pete Gallanis, or any member of the Parish Council.

Very truly yours,

Joseph N. Akrotirianakis
President, Parish Council

Save the Date***Special General Assembly******Sunday December 5******12 noon******Securing Our Community's Financial Future***

For more details of the proposal being presented, please refer to the letter above, written by Parish Council President Joe Akrotirianakis.

PRIEST'S MESSAGE (continued)



Parish Ministry Guidelines



Greek Orthodox Metropolis of San Francisco Effective 9.10.21

As ministries are reconnecting and re-launching programs within our parishes, questions have arisen as to guidelines for our youth programs, accessibility and use of parish facilities, and meeting spaces. Provided are guidelines to assist our parishes in these areas:

Core Guidelines

- Our parishes must continue to require and provide adequate safety measures (hand washing, social distancing, masks), as they deem appropriate for their situation, but in accordance with CDC, state, local or unique parish guidelines (*the Guidelines*).
- Masking: Those not fully vaccinated are respectfully asked to comply with the Guidelines by wearing a mask in all indoor settings, including worship services.
- Fully vaccinated individuals are encouraged to continue to wear masks indoors to further protect themselves and others from potential exposure.
- As faith, trust, and love are guiding principles for us as Orthodox Christians, we will not ask nor require proof of vaccination for any ministry activities.
- We must demonstrate respect and love as a Christian family to all our brothers and sisters in Christ, and the challenges many are facing during this time.

Ministry Meetings When approved, parish ministries and youth events may meet for in-person meetings and utilize parish facilities for the conduct of their respective meetings or activities.

Approval to Meet The final decision to open for an in-person meeting should be agreed-upon by the respective Proistamenos, the parish's Re-opening Team, its Health Officer, and the Parish Council. Ministries, or groups, may not conduct "in-person" gatherings or meetings until they have received the blessing of the Proistamenos on behalf of the above parties.

Greek Festivals Any festival, regardless of size, is approved, but must comply with the Guidelines.

Sunday School & Greek School Special care must be taken when considering the re-opening of live instruction for Sunday Schools, not only for the students, but also for their teachers, staff and visitors. Please comply with all of the following CDC guidelines (note: state and local guidelines, in many cases, are more restrictive. Please confirm all guidelines, as necessary).

- CDC recommends universal indoor masking by all students (age 2 and older), staff, teachers, and visitors to K-12 schools, regardless of vaccination status (note: some state and local guidelines mandate mask wearing).
- In addition to universal indoor masking, CDC recommends schools maintain at least 3 feet of physical distance between students within classrooms to reduce transmission risk.

Youth Dance and Sports Programs May be resumed but masks should be worn for all indoor practices and performances.

It is recommended to hold any activities or education sessions outdoors, if possible, which would alleviate masking by participants. Once again, however, please review the Guidelines.

Contact Tracing. For any youth-related activity, it is strongly recommended that the parish maintain their own contact tracing protocols (which can be as simple as a sign-in sheet), which will enable a parish to notify participants should a member of the program report they have acquired the virus.

STEWARDSHIP as of September 23

Stratos, Fr. Peter/Pres. Aida
 Akrotirianakis, Joseph N. & Sherese
 Albeck, Irene
 Albeck, Mark Gregory
 Ananiades, Constantine & Sapho
 Andros, Gus & Lorena
 Angelos, James & Sophia
 Angiuli, Joseph & Elizabeth
 Antsos, Dimitrios & Judith Din
 Apostolos, Margo K.
 Argueta, Cris & Teresa V.
 Arviso, Ange
 Aspiotes, Georgia
 Athanasoulis, Chris & Tina
 Athans, Tesi & Craig Lareau
 Athans, Tina & Dean P.
 Attalla, Philip "Ted" & Michelle Reagan
 Balas, Argiro Julie & Dino
 Balas, Christian
 Baliotis, Tina
 Balntas, Bill & Eleni
 Becker, Connie & Brian L.
 Becronis, Christina
 Begakis, Nicholas & Bronwen
 Bichai, Anthony & Anna
 Bicos, Chris & Eleni
 Bicos, John
 Bissias, Peter
 Bjorknert, Jan & Vicky
 Blaszcak, Frank
 Bloziu, Julian O. & Catalina E.
 Bonorris, Bill
 Bonorris, Donna & Pete
 Bouras, Tom Athanasios
 Bozikis, Demetra
 Broussinos, Angeliki & Chris
 Brown, Niki
 Bryant, Dan & Karen
 Burkard Jr., Frank J. & Penelope
 Buzas, John & Pamela
 Buzas, Nicholas & Danielle

Caire, John
 Chames, Anastasia.
 Christodoulelis, Jimmy & Tanya.
 Christodoulides, Loucas & Andri
 Christodoulou, Christine & Christakis
 Christopoulos, Judie & Gus
 Christopoulos, Tony and Lynnette
 Christou, Nicholas
 Coccia, Tina & Ginseppe
 Cokias, Jason & Karen
 Dallas, Saterios & Athena
 Damilatis, Dimitrios & Eleni
 Darlas, Paula
 Daughters, Janine & Chris
 Demetriades, Demetrios & Elizabeth
 Demopulos, Elizabeth & Andrew
 Dewar, Anastasia
 Dewar, Mary & Andrew
 Dupas, Katherine
 Dupas, Theodore & Evangeline
 Edwards, Nancy C.
 Efsthathiou, Teddi & Dean
 Elhaj, Elizabeth and Richard
 Floutsis, Penny & Ted
 Fryer II, Norman & Kay
 Fuerst, Nicolette & Jay
 Gallagher, Eleni & Matthew
 Gallanis, Pete & Danica
 Ganis, Maria C.
 Garbis, Spiros & Antigoni Manousopoulou
 Gavalas, Cleola & George
 Gelt, Brian & Pana
 Genkos, Mary
 Georgakopoulos, Eleni & George
 Gerontides, John & Angelike
 Giannoulis, Demetra
 Giannoulis, Irene
 Goettling, Mimika & Eckhard C.
 Grafos, Thean
 Grafos, Tom & Tania
 Grover, James & Maria
 Halias, Joanne & John
 Haniotis, Nick
 Haralambos, Aliko,
 Haralambos, Anthony & Kathleen
 Haralambos, Tom & Page
 Horaite, Anthony M.
 Horaite, George & Olympia
 Horaite, James
 Hronas, Maria & James W.
 Hunter, Nicole

STEWARDSHIP as of September 23

Ioannou, Christos & Elleni
 Johal, Demetra G.
 Johnsen, Eleni
 Johnson, Noah & Elain
 Kades, Christine
 Kades, Cleo
 Kades, Vicki & Louis
 Kalambakas, Vivian N.
 Kalivas, Elene & George
 Kalivas, Pota
 Kallas, Mark & Debra
 Kamar, April
 Kaparos, Lily & Stefanos
 Karaioannoglou, Phaeton & Jeanne
 Karamaras, Andriana
 Karnezis, James
 Karras, Maria
 Katsafados, Theoni & Pete
 Katsas, Alexandra K.
 Kazaltzes, Gina & Nickolas
 Kefalas, Evelyn & John
 Kefalas, Mike J.
 Kefalas, Modestos & Nina
 Kefallinos, Vicki & Nick
 Kiotas, Stavroula
 Kirimisi, Nitsa & John
 Kitchens, Christopher
 Kitridou, Rodanthi C.
 Kokoris, George & Carolina
 Kokoris, Maria & Nicholas
 Kolettis, Iliana
 Kolokotronis, Carolyn & James A.
 Koudanis, Helen
 Koulakis, John and Gisele
 Koulos, Joanna & Konstantinos
 Kousoulas, Gus & Johanna
 Koutras, Alexander E.
 Koutsoukos, Lin & George
 Kundanis, Christine
 Kypreos, George & Shana
 Kypreos, Maria & James
 Lagousis, Ted & Kendra
 Lambros, Helen L.
 Lappas, Virginia
 Loutsos, Anna & Georgia/John Grajeda
 Lubian, Daniel & Stephanie
 Lucas, John S. & Anthia
 Lucas, Katherine

Macris, Catherine & George
 Magaziotis, Phophi & Panteli
 Makris, Ted & Maria
 Malina, Dorothea
 Malisos, Fontaine
 Malisos, Samantha A
 Martin, Sam & Debbie
 Maslen, Larissa & Mark Carpenter
 Mathioulakis, Claudia & Stan
 Mavredakis, Vivian
 McCann, Liam
 McGregor, Richard & Kristen
 McNulty, Jennie & Chris
 Mechalas, Bess
 Meysenburg, John H. & Mary Ann
 Mitropoulos, Daphane
 Mitropoulos, Nick & Venetia
 Mitsinikos, Emmanuel & Natalia
 Mobayen, Chrissa & Syrus
 Molinari, Ynggrid
 Moreno, Eva Elizabeth
 Moutzouridis, Vasiliki & Peter
 Mouzakis, Courtney & Dennis
 Mowrey, Anthony & Tina Boykin
 Nicolaidis, Nicolas
 Nikolaidou, Maria
 Nunez, Alyssa & Angel
 Ochoa, Alexa
 Otis, Robert & Denise
 Panagiot, Harry & Anastasia
 Pantazis, Aleka & George
 Pappas, Constantine & Hope
 Pappas, Dean C. & Jennifer
 Pappas, Dr. James P.
 Pappas, Dr. Peter A.
 Pappas, Steven & Christine
 Pappas, Tony & Stergiani
 Paras, Gus
 Pastis, Leah
 Pastis, Patricia
 Patsavas, Bertha
 Patzakis, John & Andrea
 Paziouros, John
 Paziouros, Konstantina & Nick
 Paziouros, Patricia
 Pegadiotes, George S.
 Pegadiotes, Georgia & Sam
 Pegadiotes, Stan S.
 Petrossian, Stacy & Rafic R.
 Plumtree, Martha & Wayne

STEWARDSHIP as of September 23

Pollalis, Dino J.
 Polychronis, Eleftheria & Theodore
 Polychronis, Thalia
 Poulopoulos, Paris & Alexia
 Poulos, Anastasia
 Poulos, Yiota
 Reese, Helen
 Rellos, John, Theodora & Vasilios
 Riley, Thomas & Evangelia
 Russo, Rebecca A.
 Saigh, Mark & Mara R. Suchy
 Samaan, Evette
 Scolinos, Michael & Stephanie
 Scordelis, Alexander & Melissa
 Shankwiler James & Alexandria Darras
 Sideris, Athanasios & Anastasia
 Sipsas, Pantelis & Nafsika
 Skandale, Elizabeth
 Skandale, Helen
 Smith, Herman & Helen
 Soewers, Stephanie & Randy
 Stafylis, Chrysovalantis
 Stamos, Andy & Mary
 Stamos, Nikos A.
 Stavropoulos, Fonta (Xenofon)
 Stavropoulos, Peter T & Theodora
 Stavropoulos, Ted & Georgia
 Stephens, Kenneth & Angelina Maria
 Syrengelas, Christos & Sophia
 Tarazi, Ellie
 Tirado, Elizabeth
 Treantafelles, George P.
 Treantafelles, George T. & Helen
 Treantafelles, Stan & Vivian
 Triantafyllidi, Ioanna/Galino Barmparas
 Tripodes Zacharias N.
 Tripodes, Dena
 Tripodes, Georgia E.
 Tripodes, Koula J.
 Tripodes, Marika
 Tripodes, Stella
 Tsaggouri, Eleni/Anastassios Petropoulos
 Tsianos, George & Andria
 Tsianos, Nick P. & Elena
 Tsigkounis, Charalambos & Catherine
 Tsouvalas, Charles
 Tsouvalas, John & Jenny

Udria, Juan & Mary
 Vacalo, Eleni
 Vagenas, Alex & Tashia
 Vagenas, Dino & Krystina
 Vagenas, George & Polly
 Vagenas, John & Georgia
 Vagenas, Peter & Mindy
 Vagenas, Sophia
 Vagenas, Spiros and Family
 Vagenas, Vasilios & Nicolicha
 Varvitsiotis Varvas, Fotiny
 Vavoulis, Ted & Esther
 Vezzuto, Christopher
 Vezzuto, Robert & Stephanie
 Vidalakis, Nick and Nancy
 Vlahos, Tasia & Effie
 Vorgias, Zacharias & Alma
 Voyagis, Eleftherios & Pauline
 Webster, John & Jennifer
 Wood, Grant & Cindy
 Woodward, Scott/Katerina Ananiades
 Xanthos, Lisa
 Zarian, Vincent & Maria
 Zarifes, Peter & Tina
 Zoumberakis, Haralambos and Nikole

=262

CHURCH HISTORY

Early Greek Community of Pasadena & the San Gabriel Valley

Taken from the 50th Anniversary of St. Anthony, 2003.

Written by +Dr. Nikitas J. Tripodes and submitted to newsletter by Anthia Lucas

First Board of Directors and First Priest – 1955

After the charter was granted, eleven board members were selected for one to three year terms, depending on the number of votes they received, with service starting in 1955.

The first board of directors were: Peter Stefanos – president; Paris Tripodes – vice president; Leon Argyros – secretary; Paul Casacky – treasurer; George Adamson, Nick Andrews, Peter Dizikes, Stelios Horaites, Gus Pothos, Jack Tripodes, and Pantele Xanthos. After Peter Stefanos' untimely death in March 1956, Paris Tripodes became president.

Throughout 1954 and 1955 church services continued sporadically at the Ives and Warren Mortuary with Fathers Anthony Kosturos and Homer Demopulos alternating duties with occasional services conducted by Father Kallistos Samaras, the chancellor of the Diocese.

The new head of the western states Diocese, Bishop Demetrios of Olympus, appointed Father Markopoulos as the first full time priest to the Pasadena community in October, 1955. Prior to the assignment of Father Markopoulos, visiting priests from St. Sophia Cathedral were not paid by the new community. Since many of the Pasadena area Greeks were St. Sophia members, the cathedral's priests performed services as an outreach to these parishioners. Father Markopoulos was the first priest paid by the new community and his presence represented the independence of the Pasadena community from the Los Angeles Cathedral. Unfortunately, when Father Markopoulos left after only three months of service, the newly independent Pasadena community was without a priest for over a year.

Father Dan Zeatas – 1957

Bishop Demetrios ended the clergy vacancy in September 1957, by appointing Fr. Dionysios "Dan" Zeatas, who had formerly served the parish of St. George in Vancouver, British Columbia. Under Father Zeatas' ministry the community maintained a stable paid membership of 45 to 50 and was able to pay its expenses. The Ives and Warren Mortuary continued to allow its chapel to be used, free of charge, for the church services.

A fortuitous decree by Bishop Demetrios of delineation borders from which each church could draw its members actually helped the fledgling Pasadena community. Those living within the borders had to join the church in the jurisdiction. New communities, like Pasadena benefited at the expense of St. Sophia's more dispersed membership. The arbitrariness of the borders combined with the indignation felt by those who objected to being told which church they could attend eventually doomed the edict, but it did give the Bishop's support to the developing suburban communities.

CHURCH HISTORY (continued)

Searching for Church Property

Since the first board took office in 1953, there was great interest in purchasing a permanent church. Among the numerous locations considered was an ornate Victorian mansion built in 1884 on South Orange Grove Avenue. Pasadena's original "millionaire's row." The interest drawn to the property by the committee encouraged another buyer to purchase the property which now serves as the headquarters of the Pasadena chapter of the Red Cross. A three quarter acre lot on San Gabriel Boulevard, below Longden, in San Gabriel was conditionally purchased subject to the Los Angeles County Planning Commission's granting of a variance for church construction. Residents were "bussed in" to the hearing to voice their strident opposition to a church in their neighborhood. The Planning Commission delivered a pyrrhic victory to the Greek Orthodox community. A variance was granted but burdened with such severe restrictions that the offer on the property was withdrawn. Another location considered was a lot across from the Santa Anita Race Track.

In 1958, the Board of Directors, who were meeting at the Pasadena YMCA, restricted their search for a property to a geographic triangle bordered by Los Robles Avenue to the west, Rosemead Boulevard to the east, Colorado Boulevard on the north and Las Tunas Drive in San Gabriel on the south.

Failure to find a suitable property for a church, apathy and discouragement among members, as well as a dismal annual bazaar in 1958 at Farnsworth Park in Altadena, disheartened the young community. Morale was low and the cohesion and energy which had bound the community together were waning. By 1959, with Andrew Demopoulos as president of the community, it was generally realized that if a suitable property was not found, the dream of a Greek Orthodox Church for Pasadena would come to an end and the community would disband. The community was up to the challenge.

In May of 1959, negotiations were underway to purchase the Church of Religious Science (officially the Institute of Religious Science, Santa Anita First Chapter) at 778 South Rosemead Boulevard, in an unincorporated part of Los Angeles County with a Pasadena mailing address. The building was actually an amalgamation of three separated houses joined together and formed into a modest church, a small hall and a kitchen on almost an acre of land. The Greek Orthodox Community Board of Directors took the daring and insightful step of approving the purchase without a general meeting of the community. The committee could have searched for a property for years and never received the support of the entire community. Several factions opposed the purchase for various reasons. Some thought the property was too far east. Others felt it was not east enough and was too close to St. Sophia. Another group, influenced by the opulence of St. Sophia felt the church was too simple and small for a Greek Orthodox congregation. The Church of Religious Science building was unarguably a tribute to Protestant minimalism. A general assembly convening to discuss the purchase could have been a divisive conflagration of Mediterranean tempers and egos. The Board of Directors focused on the potential benefits of the property, did what they were elected to do, and went forward with the purchase on their own.

CHURCH HISTORY (continued)

A purchase price of \$76,500 was agreed to, but an unexpected \$500 contribution from a member of the Church of the Religious Science brought the price listed in the escrow instruction to \$76,000. The community gave the Religious Science a \$5,000, refundable deposit in September of 1959 and needed to produce a \$21,000 down payment by December. The \$50,000 balance would be carried by the Church of Religious Science for 100 monthly payments (eight years, four months), at 6% interest. Monthly payment would be approximately \$750. Only one obstacle remained to purchase the Rosemead property - a dire lack of money. A two pronged solution was proposed, a long escrow and an aggressive fundraising drive. A campaign was organized with chairman Louis Tripodes and George Mavredakis as building fund chairman. An eight page Greek and English brochure was distributed explaining the history of the community, as well as the immediate and future plans for the property. From October 1959 to January 1960, committee members visited and cajoled their friends, family and business contacts for pledges. The Greek Orthodox Community of Pasadena and the San Gabriel Valley was able to make their down payment by the December 16, 1959 deadline and by February 1, 1960 almost \$35,000 had been pledged.

The initial funds collected for October 1959 to January 1960, for the purchase of the church property came from 95 pledges, mostly from individuals and families, but also from business and organizations as well. The largest single donation, \$4,000, came from the Pasadena Philoptochos. Other contributing organizations were the Pasadena AHEPA (Rose Bowl Chapter #373), Daughters of Penelope (Pasadena and Hollywood chapters), Pasadena Junior GOYA (Greek Orthodox Youth of America), Hellenic Society of Pasadena, and the Pan-Icarian Brotherhood (Oinoe Chapter #14).

In a spirit of good will, the Church of Religious Science gave the Greek Orthodox community possession of the property before escrow had closed. The first Greek Orthodox services were held in the new church on November 29, 1959.

Epilogue

The earliest Greek in the area, the 19th century camel driver, Greek George, had been separated from his roots for so many decades that he had forgotten his language and was cut off from his Greek Orthodox faith. An account by Charles Lummis, historian, author, founder of the Southwest Museum, and Los Angeles Times editor, noted that after almost a half century in the United States, he "Had forgotten all his Greek," learned no English and spoke only Spanish. Greek George was coaxed at a 1903 dinner party, at Lummis' Los Angeles home, to search his memory for the Greek folk songs of his youth. Timidly he sang one out, then another. One by one, the songs of his youth came back to him. As he sang, tears streamed down his thick beard also bringing tears to many of the guests. He sang for half an hour unable to hide the aching nostalgia for his homeland. Without the fellowship of their countrymen, many early Greek immigrants were entirely cut off from their roots and died among strangers. Over 40 years after the death of Greek George, the local Greek Orthodox community had finally achieved its goal of establishing its own sanctuary for its spirit and a bastion for its culture. Greek George's fate would never need to be repeated and future generations of Greek Orthodox residents of the San Gabriel Valley would always have a church and cultural center for the needs.

CHURCH HISTORY (continued)



The first permanent home of the Greek Orthodox Community of Pasadena and the San Gabriel Valley was a former Church Religious Science at the corner of Locksley and Rosemead in Pasadena. The property was purchased in 1959.



The presentation of St. Anthony pins to past presidents of the community by the Bishop on January 16, 1961.

Standing in front of the altar of the old St. Anthony Church—left to right:

George Mavredakis, Bishop Demetrios, Andrew Demopulos, and Paris Tripodes.

Greek Orthodox community leaders meet at Paris' Restaurant, Monterey Park, October 1955

Left to right:

Mike Poulos, Stelios Horaites, Nick Andrews, Paris Tripodes, Bishop Demetrios, Father Anthony Pentikis, Paul Casacky, Pan Xanthos, Jack Tripodes and Louis Tripodes



PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Next Parish Council Meeting

Tuesday, October 12th

We pray you are staying healthy by wearing your mask, social distancing, washing your hands often, and praying.

Let us take a moment to say thank you to all essential workers: first responders, doctors, nurses, health care workers, and researchers who despite facing direct exposure to COVID 19 and the Delta Variant, continue to do their job of helping others. Let's also thank those who are volunteering to help get the vaccine to as many people as possible. Please continue to pray for them.

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

This year, our Archdiocese commemorates **National Church Music Sunday** on October 3rd, the Sunday after the Feast Day of Saint Romanos, patron saint of church musicians. This day is set aside across the Archdiocese to recognize the work of church musicians in local parishes.

We reprint here one of the oldest prayers for chanters and church singers as we also continue to pray for our deliverance from the peril of the coronavirus against us, so that our church may be filled once again with the music that is an essential part of our religious life.

" Through the prayers of St. John the Damascene, St. Romanos the Melodist, St. John Koukouzelis, and all of our Holy Fathers, Our Lord Jesus Christ, have mercy upon us!

We pray to You to open and consecrate our spiritual and physical hearing.

Give us the strength to testify with our modest mouth Your endless perfections in fullness of Truth, Goodness, and Beauty.

Help us to clean ourselves, in body and soul, in clear thoughts and calm spirit, and that through singing that we dress ourselves in light of love and life, in communion with You and all the saints.

Help us to praise and glorify You through singing in a proper way, fervently praying and endlessly praising You for all the undeserved gifts that you have poured upon us, and not to sing in vanity and to judge ourselves, but to join the Angelic choirs who constantly glorify You with Your eternal Father and with Your Most Holy, Meek, and Life-giving Spirit, now and ever and unto the ages of all ages.

Amen."



SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

In-person Sunday School Fellowship and Little Lambs Fellowship kicked off with a wonderful and successful Meet-&Greet/Registration Day on September 12th! Students and their families attended Divine Liturgy together followed by registration, ice cream, and social hour. Special thanks to our teachers and to those who volunteered to help register students and pass out ice cream (Dylan Udria, Esther Vavoulis, Maria Kokoris, Mary Udria, & Vangie Dupas).

The first day of Sunday School Fellowship was on September 19th and was an incredibly joyful day! We had almost 50 kids attending grades Pre K through High School and it was so wonderful to see our classrooms full of kids eager to be back together again to learn about our Orthodox faith. The kids bounced right back to where they left off in March of 2020 and it was a true example of the special bond and sense of family that we have at St. Anthony.

Little Lambs, led by Teresa Argueta, had a fun first day of class! Parents and little ones got to meet, pray, sing, and make a craft together. Babies and children who turn 4 after December 31st 2021 are encouraged to join this parent participation class, as it's the very first ministry for our youngest children and lays a foundation for faith and fellowship.

We are incredibly grateful to the teachers who have volunteered their time and talents to our Sunday School Fellowship and Little Lamb Fellowship programs. It would not have been possible to bring our youth back together to learn about our Orthodox faith if it weren't for the following individuals:

Teresa Argueta - Little Lambs

Irene Albeck, Eleni Wojcik, & Maria Wojcik - Pre K/TK

Sophia Syrengelas - Kindergarten/1st

Theoni Vagenas & Vicki Kades (tech support) - 2nd/3rd

Maria Kypreos - 4th/5th

Chris Syrengelas & Polly Vagenas - 6th, 7th, 8th

Presvytera Aida Stratos - High School

Classes are held from 11:00 until 11:15am each Sunday, with the exception of the last Sunday of each month, which is reserved for Family Worship Sunday and an opportunity for our youth to participate in Father Peter's lesson and interactive sermon. Little Lambs and Pre K/TK will have class on the last Sunday.

Please be sure to register your student(s) if you have not already done so! We will have registration forms in the courtyard for the next few Sundays.

Contact Sophia Syrengelas with any questions (sophiajammie@gmail.com).

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS (continued)



SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS (continued)



SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS (continued)

Dear High School Senior of 2022

Congratulations on your upcoming graduation this Spring 2022!

Despite the many challenges created by the pandemic, you have successfully reached this milestone in your academic life.

The Panagia Chapter of Saint Anthony Philoptochos benefits many programs, nationally and locally. Scholarships for Graduating Seniors is one of the ways the Philoptochos demonstrates its support of the youth of our church.

Each year this scholarship is offered and awarded based on academic/merit, service to the community, church involvement, leadership abilities and creativity.

The poet Maya Angelou, spoke to the strength and resilience of the human spirit when she wrote:

*"You may not control all the events that happen to you,
but you can decide not to be reduced by them".*

This sentiment, of rising in the face of adversity, describes our own amazing youth and families of the Saint Anthony community.

This past academic year, you:

- Adapted to learning from home
- Stayed focused on school work
- Learned a new way of connecting with family members and friends
- Made the most of every single day, whether studying remotely or going to school wearing masks

Finally as you prepare to graduate,

"Be on your guard: stand firm: be courageous: be strong." Corinthians 16:33

Sincerely, Presvytera Aida Stratos

Mrs. Irene Albeck Scholarship Chair Scholarship Co-Chair

If you wish to apply for a scholarship, please contact:

Presvytera Aida: presaida7@gmail.com

Mrs. Albeck-email: mcmg2a@aol.com

YOUTH & YOUNG ADULT NEWS

OrthoTalks: Dealing With Difficult People

For All Middle/Junior High School Students and Parents

Join Father Gary Kyriacou, Metropolis Pastor of Youth and Young Adult Ministries, and the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of San Francisco Family Wellness Ministry team for an in-depth discussion on ZOOM! The gathering will focus on the Orthodox Christian response to bullying, how to deal with someone that is mean, and understanding brokenness.

As the new school year begins our children are going to endure difficult situations. This series will aid the student's social development by reinforcing the teachings of our Lord and His Church. If you are a Middle/Junior High School Student, we invite you and your parents to join us!

Join the discussion to understand our Orthodox Christian response to bullying and mean people. We will take a look at ourselves too, and do a little self-awareness.

SESSION ONE: Tuesday, October 19 • 6:30 p.m. (PDT)

SESSION TWO: Tuesday, October 26 • 6:30 p.m. (PDT)

Register online to receive the Zoom link.
For more information, **please see flyer on page 20**

You can also contact program facilitator Rev. Father Gary Kyriacou Metropolis Pastor of Youth and Young Adult Ministries (frgary@sanfran.goarch.org)



FDF Is Coming Back!

Save the date for the Folk Dance and Choral Festival to be held in-person February 17 thru 21, 2022 (Presidents' Day Weekend). The FDF team intends to run the weekend event in its traditional format, while acknowledging that flexibility and on-site arrangements may need to be adjusted based on any CDC or state guideline updates. Stay tuned for more news about FDF 2022 in the coming weeks!

Help Our Graduates Stay Connected to the Church

Thousands of our Orthodox youth graduate from High School and go away to schools across our country. While blessed with unprecedented educational opportunities, at the same time, many face difficult challenges in the environment of the college campus. The Greek Orthodox Metropolis of San Francisco wants to help maintain their connection to the Church! Complete the Online Form or visit www.gosfyouth.org. The Metropolis will make sure that an Orthodox Priest in a community near your student's college connects with your loved one. For more information, **please see flyer on page 21**.

COMMUNITY NEWS (continued)



GREEK ORTHODOX METROPOLIS OF SAN FRANCISCO
ΙΕΡΑ ΜΗΤΡΟΠΟΛΙΣ ΑΓΙΟΥ ΦΡΑΓΚΙΣΚΟΥ



ORTHO TALKS

ALL MIDDLE/JR. HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS & PARENTS



Dealing with Difficult People

Two Thursdays OR Two Tuesdays in September-October 2021

Join Father Gary Kyriacou, Metropolis Pastor of Youth and Young Adult Ministries, and members of the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of San Francisco Family Wellness team for an in-depth discussion on ZOOM! The gathering will focus on the Orthodox Christian response to bullying, how to deal with someone that is mean, and understanding brokenness.

As the new school year begins our children are going to endure difficult situations. This series will aid the student's social development by reinforcing the teachings of our Lord and His Church. If you are a Middle/Junior High School Student, we invite you and your parents to join us!

Join the discussion to understand our Orthodox Christian response to bullying and mean people. We will take a look at ourselves too, and do a little self-awareness.

DATES

SESSION ONE: Thursday, September 30 • 6:30 p.m. (PDT)

SESSION TWO: Thursday, October 7 • 6:30 p.m. (PDT)

The same two sessions will be repeated on Tuesdays for those who cannot attend Thursday evenings:

SESSION ONE: Tuesday, October 19 • 6:30 p.m. (PDT)

SESSION TWO: Tuesday, October 26 • 6:30 p.m. (PDT)

Register Now

www.sanfran.goarch.org/orthotalks

For more information, please contact program facilitator
Rev. Father Gary Kyriacou Metropolis Pastor of Youth and
Young Adult Ministries (frgary@sanfran.goarch.org)

YOUTH & YOUNG ADULT NEWS (continued)

CONNECTING COLLEGE STUDENTS TO THE ORTHODOX CHURCH

Do you have a son, daughter, or grandchild graduating from High School who will be leaving home for the first time to attend college, or are they already in college living away from home?

Thousands of our Orthodox youth graduate from High School every year and go away to schools across our country. Our college students are blessed with unprecedented educational opportunities, but, at the same time, they face many difficult challenges in the environment of the college campus. Would you like to keep your loved ones connected to the Church while they study?

If so, please complete the form below and mail it to the Metropolis Office in San Francisco. The Metropolis of San Francisco Youth Director, Johanna Duterte, will make sure that an Orthodox Priest and community near your student's college connects with your loved one.

Student's Name _____ Student's Date of Birth _____
 Student's Home Parish, City, State _____
 Student's Email Address _____ Student's Cell _____
 Name of College _____ City, State _____
 Expected Graduation Date _____ Major _____
 Student's Address while at school _____
 Will your student have a car while at school? _____ Student's Patron Saint _____
 Do you know which parish your student will attend while at school? If so, which one? _____
 Your Name _____ Your relationship to Student _____
 Your Home Parish, City, State _____
 Your Email Address _____ Your Phone Number _____
 Your Mailing Address _____ City, State, Zip _____

Questions? Contact Johanna Duterte, our Metropolis Director of Youth & Young Adult Ministries.
 Email: JDuterte@sanfran.goarch.org Phone: (415) 753-3075 Fax: (415) 753-1165 Website: www.gosfyouth.org



YOUTH & YOUNG ADULT MINISTRIES

PLEASE MAIL THIS FORM BACK TO:
 Greek Orthodox Metropolis of San Francisco
 Office of Youth & Young Adult Ministries
 245 Valencia Street, San Francisco, CA 94103



YOUTH & YOUNG ADULT NEWS (continued)

HOPE & JOY Ministries



Mission Statement

The mission of HOPE, & JOY is to strengthen your child's relationship with our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, through service to the church and community. HOPE & JOY provides an opportunity for children (HOPE) (4-6) and JOY (7-10) to meet, socialize and interact with one another. This experience will help them learn the importance of being a steward of the church. These two youth ministries are designed to promote bonding between the child and the faith, and promote the tenets of Greek Orthodox Christianity.

Parents are encouraged to attend and assist in both ministries.

Meetings will be held ten minutes after the conclusion of Sunday School. Lunch/snacks to be determined.

Tentative list of meeting dates, activities and service projects for October 2021 to May 2022

October 10-collect food for Pasadena Animal shelter

Falling leaves

November 14-fill turkey (paper) feather with coins to support VIP project

We are thankful for....

December 12-bring a new ball (any kind of ball) to donate to a school

Christmas celebration with Sunday School/Church School

January 9-random acts of kindness

New Year/Vasilopita

February 13-valentines for our VIPs

Valentine

March 14-make or purchase kites for flying

Kites

April 10

HOPE & JOY parent Bible challenge

May 8-make koliva and honor those who have served in the military.

We Remember

An ongoing project beginning October we will be collecting pennies, only pennies to be donated to a charity of the childrens' choice.

Dates and times are subject to change

YOUTH & YOUNG ADULT NEWS (continued)



GOYA NEWS

The Greek Orthodox Basketball League (GOBL) is happy to announce plans to begin the 2022 season beginning in March right after FDF.

Representatives from the parishes of, Assumption, St. Basil, St. George, St. John, St. Katherine, St. Nicholas, St. Sophia and our own St. Anthony have been meeting via Zoom for several months.

Representatives of the GOBL have been working on opening the GOYA Basketball in an organized and safe manner. Please stay tuned for additional information in the coming months.

PHILOPTOCHOS NEWS

Thank You to Our Community

Thank you to everyone who participated in Philoptochos's Back to School Backpack Drive! Through your generosity, several boxes of school supplies and a donation of \$1000 was made to Foothill Unity, who assembles and distributes backpacks to children in need throughout the community. We are extremely grateful to those very generous Angels who made this event so successful.

Past Events

The September General Dinner Meeting was held at the home of Maria Kokoris. It was a wonderful evening welcoming back members presented by our chapter. Attendees enjoyed delicious individually boxed high tea fare under the stars, fellowship, and an update on chapter happenings.



PHILOPTOCHOS NEWS (continued)



PHILOPTOCHOS NEWS (continued)**Good Works**

Philoptochos continues to donate to national, Metropolis and community needs. We were able to contribute recently to Greece Fires Relief and to both Hellenic College and Holy Cross Greek School of Theology. In addition to our monthly donations to Union Station and Friends In Deed, we will be contributing sheets and pajamas to Coalition Against Slavery and Trafficking (CAST) to be used at their new shelter.

Membership - We are still accepting Philoptochos membership for 2021. To renew your membership or become a new member, go to <https://stanthonypiloptochos.square.site>. Scroll down to Annual Membership Dues.

Upcoming Meetings

Christmas Benefit Committee Meeting - Monday, October 11, 7:15PM, church hall.

Board Meeting - Wednesday, October 13 at 7:00PM in church hall

October General Meeting - Wednesday, October 20 at 7:00PM, church hall.

Guest speaker to be announced.

Upcoming Chapter Events

Save the Date! Our 52nd annual Christmas benefit, *LET'S CELEBRATE*, will be held on Saturday, December 4, 2021, at Le Méridien Hotel in Arcadia. This year's event will be a luncheon hosted in the Grandstand Ballroom and will include the Christmas Boutique, Santa's Kitchen, and gift vendors along with holiday entertainment and raffle. The event invitation will be available in late October. Early reservations are encouraged since seating will be limited.

Upcoming Metropolis Events

Metropolis Philoptochos Women's Wellness and Awareness Seminar: *Stories of Struggle and Resilience amidst the Pandemic* via Zoom will be held on Thursday, November 11, 2021 from 6:30 to 8:00 PM. More information will be emailed.

LIGHT THE PATH will be held on Saturday, December 11, 2021. This important event will support the Philoptochos Bishop Anthony Philoptochos Student Aid Endowment Fund (BAPSAEF) which provides assistance to students and seminarians enrolled at Hellenic College and Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology, as well as their families. Event details will be forthcoming.

PHILOPTOCHOS NEWS (continued)

Metropolis Election Results

The San Francisco Metropolis Philoptochos Board for 2021-2023 has just been appointed by Metropolitan Gerasimos.

The elections took place during the SF Metropolis Fall Virtual Spiritual Conference.

Congratulations to our Philoptochos members Maria Kypreos who has been newly appointed to the Board, and both Judie Christopoulos and Lisa Xanthos who have been reappointed.



FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA

Facebook: St. Anthony Philoptochos
Instagram: stanthonypiloptochos

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



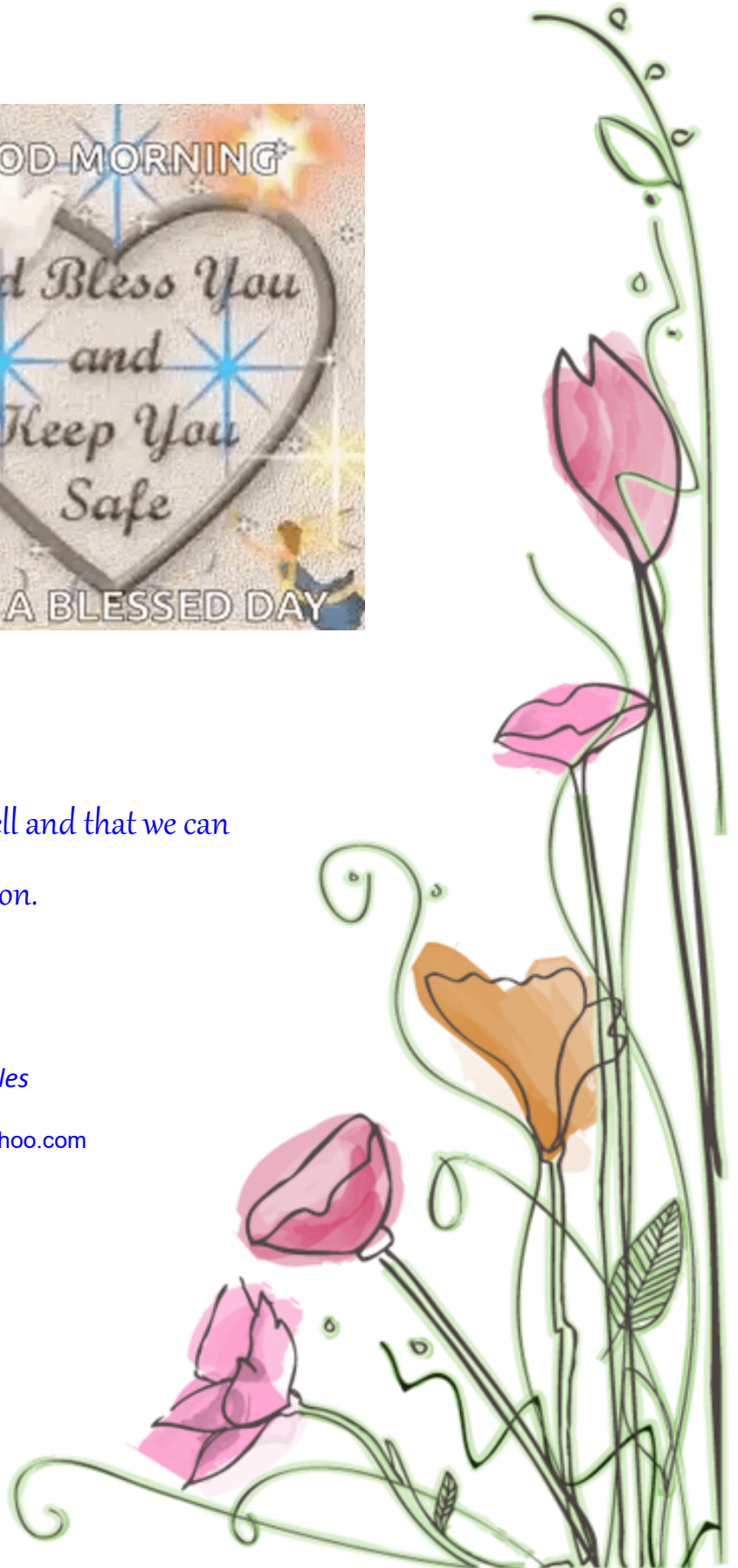
VIP NEWS



I hope that everyone is doing well and that we can return to in-person meetings soon.



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

Christian Balas
Tom Grafos
Christos Ioannou
Pete Katsafados
Liam McCann
James Pappas
Patricia Paziouros
Perry Vidalakis
Vincent Zarian
Nikole Zoumberakis



CHOIR

Jim Hronas, Choir Director

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

CHANTERS

Jim Hronas
Liam McCann
Pres Aida Stratos

READERS

TBD



OFFICE STAFF

Alma Vorgias – Office Administrator



CUSTODIAL STAFF

Carlos Sosa



SUNDAY SCHOOL STAFF

Teresa Argueta—Little Lambs, Pre-PreK
Irene Albeck, Eleni & Maria Wojcik - Pre K/TK
Sophia Syrengelas - Kindergarten, 1st
Theoni Katsafados, Vicki Kades - 2nd, 3rd
Maria Kypreos - 4th, 5th
Polly Vagenas, Chris Syrengelas - 6th, 7th, 8th
Presvytera Aida Stratos - High School



MINISTRIES (continued)

PHILOPTOCHOS SOCIETY

Panagia Chapter Board 2021

Executive Board

President

Judith Din

1st Vice President

Jeanne Karaionnoglou

2nd Vice President

Helen Skandale and Lisa Xanthos

Corresponding Secretary

Mary Udria and Irene Albeck

Recording Secretary

Mary Dewar

Treasurer

Connie Becker

Assistant Treasurer

Maria Grover

Advisor

Maria Kypreos

Spiritual Advisor

Father Peter Stratos

Board of Directors

Beautification

Maria Kokoris

Community Outreach

Fontaine Malisos, Liz Skandale, Stephanie Soewers

Fellowship

Tanya Christodoulelis and Maria Kypreos

Publicity

Christine Pappas

Scholarship

Presbytera Aida Statros and Irene Albeck

Social Media/Webmaster

Sophia Syrengelas

Sunshine and Visitation

Fontaine Malisos, Liz Skandale, Stephanie Soewers

Union Station

Irene Albeck and Stephanie Soewers

Operation Classroom

Nicolette Fuerst and Jennifer Webster



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	TBD
Greek Language	Anastasia McClain
JOY/HOPE	Irene Albeck
Myrrh Bearers	Irene Albeck
Oratorical Festival	TBD
Golf Classic	Golf Committee
Vacation Bible School	Sophia Syrengelas Mary Udria
VIPs	Helen Treantafelles



COMMUNITY NEWS



St. Anthony Bowling League Returns

We are very happy to announce that the St. Anthony Bowlers are back at it again at Bowlero Lanes in Pasadena. The league began on September 8, and the fall season will conclude on November 17.

This season we have 7 teams of new and returning bowlers:

Team 1: Mihai Serban, Nicoleta and Vlasia Masouris,

Team 2: Jim Nichols, Maria Conley (St. Paul) and Chrissa Mobayen,

Team 3: Anthia Lucas, Peter Bissias, Alice Jacquez,

Team 4: Andrea Lappas, Lee Anton, Marianne Nichols,

Team 5: Joyce Nichols, Jim Horaites, Chris Conley (St. Paul),

Team 6: Pana Gelt, Tricia Johnston, Syrus Mobayen,

Team 7: Jim Xanthos, Sophia Angelos, Ted Dupas.

God willing, if all goes well we will begin our Winter/ Spring season after the New Year.

If anyone is interested in participating as a regular bowler/substitute please contact:

Anthia Lucas (626) 274-6133 (text or call) ADLJSL02@yahoo.com (e-mail)

COMMUNITY NEWS (continued)**Practical Ways We Can All Make a Difference**

- Give someone a compliment
- Offer Christian forgiveness
- Smile to people you encounter
- Pray
- Give love
- Be kind to people
- Help someone in need
- Share a meal with someone
- Call/text someone at random to see how they are doing
- Thank people
- Lead by example
- Don't annoy people
- Be mindful of how you are feeling
- Be mindful of how others are feeling
- No road rage
- Send texts of encouragement to people
- Adjust your own attitude
- Be there for people when they need it
- Share
- Volunteer
- Give someone a compliment
- Abstain from social media
- Have compassion
- Put others first
- Seek out someone who needs help
- Ask how someone is doing and actually listen to the answer
- Recognize that everyone is battling something
- Be patient
- Be encouraging
- Give positive feedback when you like something

COMMUNITY NEWS (continued)**Monthly Lesson from Father Stavros Akrotirianakis...**

Saint Paul describes the Church (and by extension all of society) as one body, with many parts. Comparing the Church to a human body, there are many parts and when all work in unity, the body is successful in its work. The hand doesn't function independent of the brain. The heart must beat constantly. Without our eyes, we would miss 90% of our sensory input. Take away the ability to speak and it would be hard to express ourselves. We need our legs for moving around, ears to hear, all of our fingers and toes, our elbows and knees, our noses, eyelids, teeth and tongue. Each part has a purpose. Each part is necessary for the whole body to function at its best.

The Church community is the same—we need a choir, a parish council, ushers, greeters, community outreach, Sunday school teachers, and all kinds of other volunteers. These are ministries where people are called to serve, to provide labor for the work of the church. There are other ministries like youth groups and Bible studies where people go to learn, for fellowship and to be ministered to. Ideally, everyone should belong to two groups—A group where one can do the work of ministry, and a group where one can be ministered to. There are other groups that are also needed in a church community, such as a group for people who are grieving, or who are divorced, or who are coping with illness.

There are an infinite number of needs as well as possibilities in a church community. There are also a diverse group of people with different talents in each community. When each person steps up to offer their particular talent, they allow for the possibilities to become realities.

In the community where I serve, a woman came to me one day and asked if she could start a support group for people who are grieving. She had lost someone and had participated in a similar group and had really benefited from it. Her stepping forward led to the creation of a "Griefshare" group in the parish, which would never have come into existence had she not stepped forward to volunteer.

Many churches have found great success with the concept of "small groups," groups where members share something in common—i.e. they are divorced, or single, or dads, or cancer survivors, or parents of high school students. The possibilities are infinite. People go to their small group and it is a place where they feel accepted, loved and free to be vulnerable. These groups become supports groups, in spiritual and other ways.



COMMUNITY NEWS (continued)

Small groups are unfortunately not part of the culture of every church community. In these days when people feel scattered and not together, small groups can be an anchor that keeps people united and potentially a lifeline to those who feel isolated. This is certainly a subject worthy of thought and development in every community.

Lord, thank You for my unique and special gifts (bring those to your prayer and thank God specifically for them). Help me to realize how I can use these gifts in my church community, to grow my faith and to encourage the faith of others. Inspire me to be someone that others can lean on. Help me to find others that I can lean on as well. Amen.

Consider what kind of small groups can be established in your church community!

Stop being afraid
of what can go wrong.
Start being excited about
what can go right.



COMMUNITY NEWS (continued)

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

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

FEASTS & SAINTS OF THE MONTH

Saint Romanos the Melodist

October 01

Romanos was a Syrian Christian who lived in the beginning of the 6th century. A convert to Orthodoxy from Judaism, he was ordained a deacon and served in the Church of Beirut. His talent was great. Unlike others, he wrote his hymns in simple language and produced a pleasant meter in the verse by the way he accented words. The hymns he composed appealed to the hearts of the people and are still sung today.

Romanos has been called “Sweet Singer” (Ghlykophonos), “Melodist” (Melodhos), and “Righteous Chanter” (Psaltis Dhikeosinis). He wrote hundreds of hymns celebrating the mystery of the Incarnation, the Crucifixion, the Resurrection and the living of a Christian life. One of the most famous compositions is the hymn celebrating the Nativity of our Lord, *“Today the Virgin gives birth to the One who is above all living things...”* St. Romanos is said to have composed the Akathist Hymn, a kontakion that we still chant during the Friday evening Heretismoi services of Great Lent.

Romanos died on October 1st in 510 AD. He was a productive genius and artist, writing and accenting thousands of kontakia. He has been called the patron saint of all who sing for the Church. Others say he is the leader in the world of religious hymnology. Surely he has made a profound contribution to divine worship and deserves to be recognized by all who sing and by all who listen to the hymnology of our services.



FEASTS & SAINTS OF THE MONTH (continued)**Saint Thomas the Apostle****October 06**

The Holy and Glorious Apostle Thomas was born in the Galilean city of Pansada. He was a fisherman. Hearing the good tidings of Jesus Christ, he left all and followed after Him. The Apostle Thomas is included in the number of the Twelve Apostles of the Savior.

According to Holy Scripture, the holy Apostle Thomas did not believe the reports of the other disciples about the Resurrection of Jesus Christ: *"Unless I see in His hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into the print of the nails, and thrust my hand into His side, I will not believe."* (John 20:25).

On the eighth day after the Resurrection, the Lord appeared to the Apostle Thomas and showed him His wounds. *"My Lord and my God,"* the Apostle cried out (John 20:28). *"Thomas, being once weaker in faith than the other apostles,"* says St John Chrysostom, "toiled through the grace of God more bravely, more zealously and tirelessly than them all, so that he went preaching over nearly all the earth, not fearing to proclaim the Word of God to savage nations."

Some icons depicting this event are inscribed "The Doubting Thomas." This is incorrect. In Greek, the inscription reads, "The Touching of Thomas." In Slavonic, it says, "The Belief of Thomas." When St Thomas touched the Life-giving side of the Lord, he no longer had any doubts.

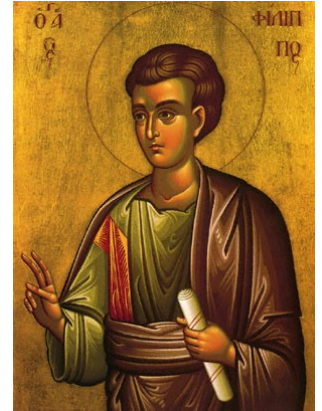
According to Church Tradition, the holy Apostle Thomas founded Christian churches in Palestine, Mesopotamia, Parthia, Ethiopia and India. Preaching the Gospel earned him a martyr's death. For having converted the wife and son of the prefect of the Indian city of Meliapur, the holy apostle was locked up in prison, suffered torture, and finally, pierced with five spears, he departed to the Lord. Part of the relics of the holy Apostle Thomas are in India, Hungary and on Mt. Athos.



FEASTS & SAINTS OF THE MONTH (continued)

Saint Philip the Apostle of the 70 October 11

Saint Philip, who had four daughters that prophesied, was from Caesarea of Palestine. He preached throughout Samaria; it was he also who met the eunuch of Candace, the Queen of the Ethiopians, as the eunuch was reading the Prophet Esaias, and he instructed and baptized him (Acts 8:26-39). He reposed in Tralles of Asia Minor while preaching the Gospel.



Saint Luke the Evangelist October 18

Luke was a native of Syrian Antioch, a companion of the holy Apostle Paul (Phil.1:24, 2 Tim. 4:10-11), and a physician enlightened in the Greek medical arts. Hearing about Christ, Luke arrived in Palestine and fervently accepted the preaching of salvation from the Lord Himself. As one of the Seventy Apostles, St Luke was sent by the Lord with the others to preach the Kingdom of Heaven during the Savior's earthly life (Luke 10:1-3). After the Resurrection, the Lord Jesus Christ appeared to Saints Luke and Cleopas on the road to Emmaus.

Luke accompanied St Paul on his second missionary journey, and from that time they were inseparable. When Paul's co-workers had forsaken him, only Luke remained to assist him in his ministry (2 Tim. 4:10-11). After the martyric death of the First-Ranked Apostles Peter and Paul, St Luke left Rome to preach in Achaia, Libya, Egypt and the Thebaid. He ended his life by suffering martyrdom in the city of Thebes.



Tradition credits St Luke with painting the first icons of the Mother of God. "Let the grace of Him Who was born of Me and My mercy be with these Icons," said the All-Pure Virgin after seeing the icons. St Luke also painted icons of the First-Ranked Apostles Peter and Paul. St Luke's Gospel was written in the years 62-63 at Rome, under the guidance of the Apostle Paul. In the preliminary verses (1:1-3), St Luke precisely sets forth the purpose of his work. He proposes to record, in chronological order, everything known by Christians about Jesus Christ and His teachings. By doing this, he provided a firmer historical basis for Christian teaching (1:4).

FEASTS & SAINTS OF THE MONTH (continued)**Saint Luke the Evangelist - continued**

He carefully investigated the facts, and made generous use of the oral tradition of the Church and of what the All-Pure Virgin Mary Herself had told him.

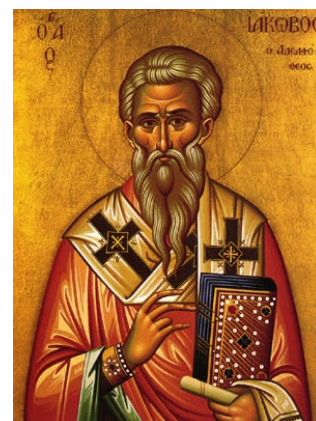
In St Luke's Gospel, the message of the salvation made possible by the Lord Jesus Christ, and the preaching of the Gospel, are of primary importance. St Luke also wrote the Acts of the Holy Apostles in Rome around 62-63 A.D. The Book of Acts, which is a continuation of the four Gospels, speaks about the works and the fruits of the holy Apostles after the Ascension of the Savior. At the center of the narrative is the Council of the Holy Apostles at Jerusalem in the year 51, a Church event of great significance, which resulted in the separation of Christianity from Judaism and its independent dissemination into the world (Acts 15:6-29). The theological focus of the Book of Acts is the coming of the Holy Spirit, Who will guide the Church "into all truth" (John 16:13) until the Second Coming of Christ.

The holy relics of St Luke were taken from Constantinople and brought to Padua, Italy at some point in history. The Roman Catholic bishop of Padua, noting that Orthodox pilgrims came to Padua to venerate the relics, while many Catholics did not even know that the relics were there, appointed a committee to investigate the relics in Padua, and the skull of St Luke in the Catholic Cathedral of Prague. The skeleton was determined to be that of an elderly man of strong build. A rib from the relics of Saint Luke resides in St Luke's original tomb in the Orthodox cathedral at Thebes.

FEASTS & SAINTS OF THE MONTH (continued)**Saint James the Apostle
October 23**

According to some, this Saint was a son of Joseph the Betrothed, born of the wife to whom Joseph was married, before he was betrothed to the Ever-Virgin. Hence he was the brother of the Lord, Who was also thought to be the son of Joseph (Matthew 13:55). But some say that he was a nephew of Joseph and the son of his brother Cleopas, who was also called Alphaeus and his wife, Mary, who was the first cousin of the Theotokos. But even according to this genealogy, he was still called, according to the idiom of the Scriptures, the Lord's brother, because of their kinship.

This Iakovos is called the Less (Mark 15:40) by the Evangelists to distinguish him from Iakovos, the son of Zebedee, who was called the Great. He became the first Bishop of Jerusalem, elevated to this Episcopal rank by the Apostles, according to Eusebius, and was called Obliah, that is, the Just, because of his great holiness and righteousness. Having ascended the crest of the Temple on the day of the Passover at the prompting of all, he bore testimony from there concerning his belief in Jesus and he proclaimed with a great voice that Jesus sits at the right hand of the great power of God and shall come again upon the clouds of heaven. On hearing this testimony, many of those present cried, "Hosanna to the Son of David." But the Scribes and Pharisees cried, "So, even the just one hath been led astray," and at the command of Ananias the high priest, the Apostle was cast down headlong from thence and stoned. While he prayed for his slayers, his head was crushed by the wooden club wielded by a certain scribe. The first of the Catholic (General) Epistles written to the Jews in the Diaspora who believed in Christ was written by this Iakovos.

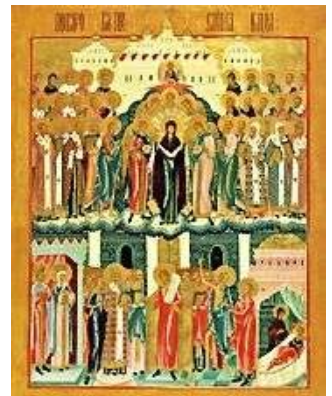


FEASTS & SAINTS OF THE MONTH (continued)**Saint Demetrios the Myrrh-Streamer****October 26**

Saint Demetrios was a Thessalonian, a most pious son of pious and noble parents, and a teacher of the Faith of Christ. When Maximian first came to Thessalonica in 290, he raised the Saint to the rank of Duke of Thessaly. But when it was discovered that the Saint was a Christian, he was arrested and kept bound in a bath-house. While the games were under way in the city, Maximian was a spectator there. A certain friend of his, a barbarian who was a notable wrestler, Lyaeus by name, waxing haughty because of the height and strength of his body, boasted in the stadium and challenged the citizens to a contest with him. All that fought with him were defeated. Seeing this, a certain youth named Nestor, acquaintance of Demetrios, came to the Saint in the bath-house and asked his blessing to fight Lyaeus single-handed. Receiving this blessing and sealing himself with the sign of the precious Cross, he presented himself in the stadium, and said, "O God of Demetrios, help me!" and straightway he engaged Lyaeus in combat and smote him with a mortal blow to the heart, leaving the former boaster lifeless upon the earth. Maximian was sorely grieved over this, and when he learned who was the cause of this defeat, he commanded that Demetrios be pierced with lances while he was yet in the bath-house, As for Nestor, Maximian commanded that he be slain with his own sword.

**The Holy Protection of the Theotokos****October 28**

The Feast of the Protection commemorates the appearance of the most holy Theotokos in the Church of Blachernae in Constantinople in the tenth century, as recorded in the life of Saint Andrew the Fool for Christ's sake. While the multitudes of the faithful were gathered in church, Epiphanius, the friend of Saint Andrew, through the Saint's prayers, beheld the Virgin Mary above the faithful and spreading out her veil over them, signifying her unceasing protection of all Christians. Because of this we keep a yearly feast of gratitude, imploring our Lady never to cease sheltering us in her mighty prayers.



Orthodox Calendar

October 2021

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					 1 Holy Portection of the Holy Theotokos	2
3 2nd Sunday of Luke 8:45am Orthros 10am Divine Liturgy Indoor & Live-stream	4	5	 6 Thomas Apostle 7pm Union Station Philoptochos	7	 8	9
10 3rd Sunday of Luke 8:45am Orthros 10am Divine Liturgy Indoor & Live-stream	11 Phillip Apostle of the 70	12 7pm Parish Council Meeting	 13 7pm Philoptochos Board Meeting	14	 15	16
17 9unday of the 7t h Ecumenical Council 8:45am Orthros 10am Divine Liturgy Indoor & Live-stream	18 Luke the Evangelist	19	 20	21	 22	23 James the Apostle
24 6th Sunday of Luke 8:45am Orthros 10am Divine Liturgy Indoor & Live-stream	25	26 Saint Demetrios Myrrh Streamer 9am Orthros 10am Divine Liturgy	 27 7pm Philoptochos General Meeting	28 Holy Protection of the Holy Theotokos	 29 Anastasia of Rome	30
31 5th Sunday of Luke 8:45am Orthros 10am Divine Liturgy Indoor & Live-stream		Strict Fast Refrain from meat, fish, wine, oil, dairy & eggs	Fish, Oil & Wine Allowed 	Wine and Oil Allowed 	Dairy, Eggs, & Fish Allowed; Refrain from Meat 	Fast Free



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A monk asked a holy man: how can we perform miracles? The holy Saint answered:

If you teach a person to read the Gospel, you have opened the eyes of the blind.

If you teach a person to help the needy, you have healed the paralyzed.

If you teach a person to go to church, you have healed the crippled.

If you lead someone to repentance, you have raised the dead.

Now go and perform miracles!