The Voice of Saint Anthony January 2022



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Priest's Message	2
Ministries	5
Parish Council	7
Choir	8
Sunday School	9
Youth/Young Adult	12
Philoptochos	15
VIPs	23
Church History	24
Monthly Lesson	28
Community News	30
Saints of the Month	32
Orthodox Calendar	39



Saint Anthony the Great January 17

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

Message from Father Peter



SAINT ANTHONY GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

Rev. Peter Stratos, Pastor

November 30,2021 (Andrew the First-Called Apostle)

"Commit your work to the Lord, and your plans will be established." (Proverbs 16:3)

It is with these words from Scripture that we set our sights on the upcoming calendar New Year. The exhortation here, is to commit our work fully to the Lord. We are not to be superficial in our commitment. We must maintain a delicate balance: trusting God as if everything depends on Him, while working as if everything depends on us. This commitment all begins with our Stewardship to God.

Stewardship can be described as our total commitment to God through the giving of our time, talents and treasures. In St. Paul's 2nd Letter to the Corinthians we read these beautiful words: "So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity, for God loves a cheerful giver." (2 Corinthians 9: 7) This is St. Paul's landmark teaching of Christian Stewardship. Our attitude when we give is more important than the amount we give. We do not have to be embarrassed if we can give only a small gift. God is concerned about how we give from the resources we have. He is also concerned about how we offer our time and talents, as evidenced in the Parable of the Talents. (Matthew 25:14-30)

As we conclude this year and are about to enter 2022, we ask for your loving commitment again. We have enclosed your 2022 Stewardship Card with a return envelope. Please, prayerfully, complete and return your Stewardship Card as soon as possible. From past experience, we know that some parishioners will fulfill their financial commitment in a one lump-sum year-end donation in order to declare a tax-exempt contribution for this year's tax return. We appreciate and are grateful for all donations monthly and year-end. We humbly ask that those who make their contribution in the year-end manner to also consider give throughout the coming year. Expenses occur each month in our parish just as they occur in our households. Monthly contributions help our parish meet our financial obligations throughout the calendar year.

We also ask that you prayerfully complete your Stewardship Card with the contribution of your time and talents included. We are afforded ample opportunities to participate in the life of the Church and our parish community. Cheerful giving includes all aspects of Christian Stewardship.

We are very excited and look forward to a great year for our community. Thank you all for your continued love and generosity to the Saint Anthony Community. We remain strong because of each and everyone of you. Continue to pray to our Lord for strength, and heed the words of the Lord, "I have said this to you, that in Me you may have peace... be of good cheer." (John 16:33)

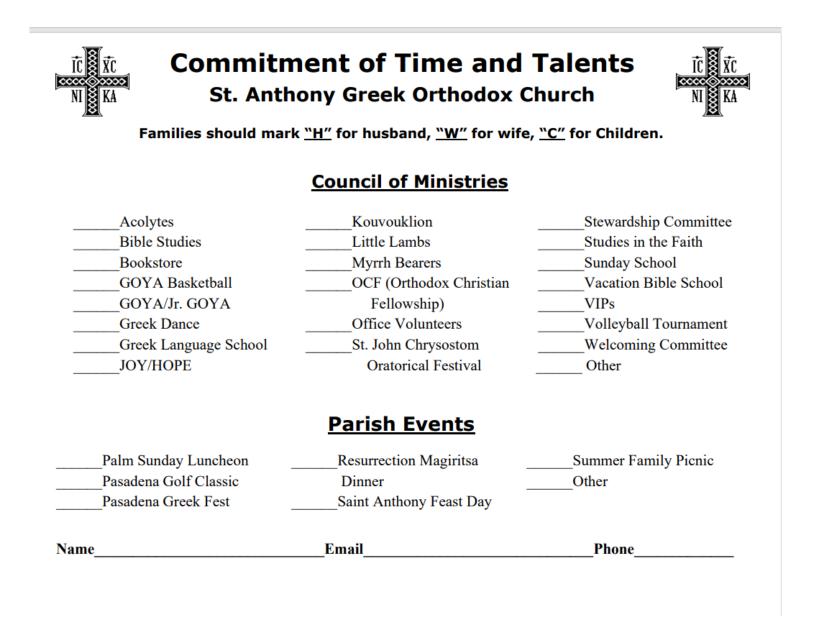
Fr. Peter Stratos Proistamenos

Joseph Akrotirianakis Parish Council President

Stewardship

SAINT ANTHONY GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH		Iship Fina received a gift, us vards of God's gra	e it to serve of	ne another,
LAST NAME FIRST NAM	ME(S), PLEASE INCLUDE CHILI	DREN UNDER 18.		
STREET ADDRESS	CITY		STATE	ZIP
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Stewardship, continued



Ministries at Saint Anthony

2021 PARISH COUNCIL

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

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



OFFICE STAFF

Alma Vorgias – Office Administrator



CUSTODIAL STAFF

Carlos Sosa



<u>CHOIR</u>

Jim Hronas, Choir Director

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

CHANTERS Jim Hronas Liam McCann Pres Aida Stratos **READERS** Nicholas Kokoris Rebecca Russo

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 at Saint Anthony, continued

PHILOPTOCHOS SOCIETY

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

JOY/HOPE

Myrrh Bearers

Oratorical Festival

Golf Classic Golf Co

Golf Committee

Mary Udria

TBD

Irene Albeck

Irene Albeck

Vacation Bible School Sophia Syrengelas

VIPs

Helen Treantafelles

Anastasia McClain



Parish Council

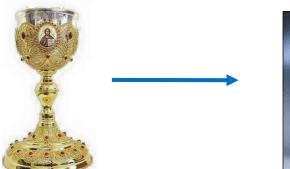
Next Parish Council Meeting Tuesday, January 11th

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



Έν Ίορδάνη βαπτιζομένου σου Κύριε, ή τῆς Τριάδος ἐφανερώθη προσκύνησις· τοῦ γὰρ Γεννήτορος ἡ φωνὴ προσεμαρτύρει σοι, ἀγαπητόν σε Υίὸν ὀνομάζουσα καὶ τὸ Πνεῦμα ἐν εἴδει περιστερᾶς, ἐβεβαίου τοῦ λόγου τὸ ἀσφαλές. Ὁ ἐπιφανεὶς Χριστὲ ὁ Θεός, καὶ τὸν κόσμον φωτίσας δόξα σοι.

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

Kali Kronia Saint Anthony!

The Choir Family wishes our beloved community a safe,

healthy, happy, and prosperous New Year!

Sunday School

Children's Sunday School



Our Sunday School Fellowship students put on a beautiful Christmas pageant for our parishioners on Sunday, December 19th. Their voices singing carols and reading the story of the Nativity filled our church and our hearts with the love, joy, and hope of the Christmas season.

A very special thank you to the volunteers whose time and talents made our pageant possible:

Jenni Nassos Pulos for coordinating the pageant.

Presvytera Aida for leading the children in the Christmas hymn and songs.

Chris and Celka Vezzuto for playing the organ and viola.

Nick Kleissas for audio and visual support.

Tanya Grafos and Zoe Vidalakis for helping with the dance choreography

On behalf of the teachers and students of St. Anthony Sunday School, we wish our parishioners a beautiful, joyful, blessed, and healthy New Year!

Classes resume on Sunday, January 9th.

Sophia Syrengelas



Sunday School, continued









Page 11

Sunday School, continued







Youth & Young Adults



GOYA Basketball 2022

ATTENTION GIRLS ages 12-21 AND BOYS ages 12-19. Plans are underway for the 2022 GOYA Basketball season!

The games will begin **Sunday**, **February 27!** Please email us as soon as possible to let us know if your children will be playing.

We need to know how many teams we will have so gyms can be reserved for games and practices. We also need parents to get involved and help with finding gyms, keeping track of the uniforms and scorekeeping at the games.

Please let us know if your children will be playing!Pana Geltpgelt3@gmail.comPatricia Paziourosppaziouros@yahoo.com



FDF Is Coming Back!

Please join us for the 45th Annual Greek Orthodox Folk Dance and Choral Festival (FDF), President's Weekend, **February 17-20, 2022,** in Phoenix, Arizona at the Sheraton Phoenix Downtown Hotel.

The FDF team intends to run the weekend event in its traditional format, while acknowledging that flexibility and on-site arrangements may need to adjusted based on any CDC or state guideline updates. Stay tuned for more news about FDF 2022 in the coming weeks!

Youth & Young Adults, continued



We're back! Join us for this beautiful retreat, located at a private retreat center on the shore of Lake Tahoe with spectacular views, delicious catered meals, and awesome accommodations. We have a weekend packed full of fun, faith, and fellowship with Orthodox peeps from all over the Archdiocese.

Adventures in the South Shore and Reno await! This retreat will sell out with a limited capacity, register today! Invite your parea, siblings, cousins, YAL gang, etc.

We can't wait to see you!

DATE:	January 14-17, 2022 - MLK Weekend
LOCATION:	Galilee Episcopal Camp & Retreat Center, South Lake Tahoe
	1776 Hwy 50, Glenbrook, NV 89413
ARRIVAL TIME:	Friday beginning at 5:30pm
DEPARTURE:	Monday 9:00am
AGES:	18-30's
REGISTRATION:	https://gosfyouth.org/young-adult-winter-retreat
	(Includes lodging and meals)
QUESTIONS:	e-mail Johanna JDuterte@sanfran.goarch.org

Youth & Young Adults - Hope & Joy



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 thru May 2022:

- 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'

Dates and times are subject to change



Philoptochos

Good Works

Philoptochos members were busy in December supporting Friends In Deed, St. Anthony's GOYA Toy Drive, and Trinity Youth Services.

Philoptochos partnered once again with Friends In Deed making possible "Christmas For The Kids", a gift giving event for underprivileged children in our community. Thank you to all our generous donors who participated in the event.



GOYA members collecting the new unwrapped toys donated by guests at the Philoptochos Christmas Party.

Church Community Happenings

Weekly Parish Coffee Hour returning in 2022 – we are looking for individuals/families to host weekly coffee hours after liturgy. Please look for the signup poster in the parish hall/foyer.

Vasilopita Celebration – Sunday, **January 9**. Philoptochos will host the Vasilopita celebration in the church hall following Divine Liturgy.

Great Vespers Dinner – Sunday, **January 16.** Philoptochos along with the Parish Council will host a dinner following the Great Vespers.

Upcoming Meetings:

- January Board Meeting Wednesday, January 12 at 7:00 PM in church hall
- January General Meeting Wednesday, **January 26** at 6:30 PM. Our special guest speaker will talk with us about starting the new year fresh and healthy. Details forthcoming...

Philoptochos prepared Christmas stockings with gift cards, earbuds, socks, cards and candy for ten youth at Trinity Youth Services. They will also be providing monies for the boys to go out for their Christmas dinner.



Cathleen of Trinity receives one of the stockings delivered on December 20th

2022 Philoptochos Membership

We encourage everyone 18 and over to join Philoptochos. A ministry that promotes charitable, benevolent, and philanthropic outreach. Please look for more details on the upcoming membership drive. We would love for you to be a part of this wonderful organization.

Philoptochos Christmas Party - December 15 - Trinity Ballroom

All attendees enjoyed a delicious meal, good fellowship and Christmas cheer. Thank you to our First Vice President, Jeanne Karaioannoglou, for organizing this wonderful event.









Annual Christmas Benefit - Let's Celebrate

Thank you to everyone who made our 52nd Annual Christmas Benefit, *Let's Celebrate*, a tremendous success! This year's sold out event was a luncheon held at Le Méridien Hotel in Arcadia.

Over 300 guests enjoyed entertainment by the Pasadena Civic Ballet and the Sugarplum Singers. The Christmas Boutique, Santa's Kitchen and gift vendors provided a delightful shopping experience for all. Charities supported by this year's event were CAST (Coalition to Abolish Slavery and Trafficking) in Los Angeles, Friends In Deed in Pasadena, and other Philoptochos charities.

Special thanks to Maria Kypreos and Maria Kokoris who co-chaired the event.



2021 Benefit Committee



Entertainment by the Sugarplum Singers

Pasadena Civic Ballet performs dances from the Nutcracker





Maria Kokoris and Maria Kypreos 2021 Benefit Co-Chairs



Philoptochos President, Judith Din, welcomes our guests to the 52nd annual Christmas benefit, *Let's Celebrate*

Mary Udria and Judie Christopoulos greet guests and promote the Grand Awards in the outdoor Holiday Marketplace



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 use 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:

Adult Center 412 S. Raymond Ave. Pasadena, CA 91105 Open for donations from 8:00am-2:30pm

IN-KIND DONATION NEEDS

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

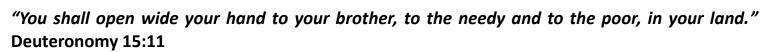
KITCHEN NEEDS

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

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.



"Lord when did we see you hungry and feed you? The King will answer and say to you, in as much as did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me." Matthew 25:40, 41

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

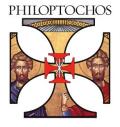
Contact:

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



FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA

Facebook: St. Anthony Philoptochos Instagram: stanthonyphiloptochos





VIPs

Happy New Year, Xronia Polla to our beloved parishioners!

DECEMBER VIP GATHERING

In spite of the inclement weather, the VIP December gathering was well-attended and a good time was had by all! Special thanks to Stavrula Kiotas, Gena Pegadiotes and Sapfo Ananiades for providing the delicious holiday luncheon following our meeting. The festive atmosphere was enhanced with white tablecloths and beautiful centerpieces courtesy of Stavrula.

We plan to get together again for our next meeting on **Tuesday**, **January 11th**, **2022**, at 10:30 a.m., followed by a light luncheon and Vasilopita.

I pray that you all had a joyous and Blessed Christmas. Wishing you a Happy New Year with the hope that you will have many blessings in 2022.

Helen Treantafelles VIP President





Church History

History of Saint Anthony Church 1954-2004

Wrítten by: Andrew N. Demopulos , 1959 Parísh Council President and Nicholas Demopulos + submítted to newsletter by Anthia Drulías Lucas

Building A New Church (1971-1977)

With church membership over two hundred and fifty members, the community of Saint Anthony's could wait no longer. Thus, in 1971 an Exploratory Committee was formed to decide whether Saint Anthony's could afford to build her The answer was yes' so in 1972 the Saint Anthony Building own church. Committee was formed to construct the new church. Serving on the Building were all past parish council presidents, with the addition of Dr. Michael Patzakis and Art Accomplished JPL Project Manager and Parish President, George Triaonis. Gianopulos, was elected Building Committee Chairman.

In 1973 Fr. Spiro Pieratos was transferred from Saint Anthony Church to San Antonio, Texas. For thirteen years Father Pieratos served Saint Anthony Church faithfully. He lived an exemplary priestly life... working without a secretary and accepting a lower salary to help save money for his beloved Saint Anthony. Now with Father Pieratos' transfer, Father Nicholas Liberis, the assistant priest at Saint Sophia Cathedral was transferred to Saint Anthony's as her full time pastor.

In 1974, it was time for the Building Committee to select a Building Fund Committee, to raise funds for the construction of the new Byzantine style church. The person chosen to chair this committee not only closely assisted Louis Tripodes in raising funds to buy the church in 1959, but also led the drive to raise funds to build the Hellenic Cultural Center. In 1974 veteran fundraiser George Mavredakis was selected as the man in charge of raising funds to build the new church. Under George's guidance professional solicitation materials were printed. The San Gabriel Valley was divided into regions, and well-trained fundraising captains were assigned specific regions to solicit donations and to report back to the committee on a daily basis.

As for the interior of the new Byzantine style church, Art Trigonis was selected as Book of Needs Chairman. Listed inside the Book of Needs was everything needed to decorate the interior of the new church, including all the costly iconography projects, the ornate alter screen, custom made pews, and most of the alter items which were made from precious metal. Under Mr. Trigonis' direction, funds were collected to complete the interior of Saint Anthony Church.

Church History, continued

Groundbreaking for the new church took place on January 17, 1975, with the celebrated Hellenic Cultural Center builder, James Hagelis, serving once again as general contractor and Harry Harrison as architect. For nearly two years while construction on the new church took place, the community of Saint Anthony held all its religious services in the church hall. In early 1977, under the able leadership of George Gianopulos, construction of the new church was almost completed.

Only one large detail remained... raising the thirty-four-ton steel-reinforced dome atop the newly built church. On April 26, 1977, the entire Saint Anthony's congregation assembled in the church parking lot to witness the giant crane hoist the mammoth dome high into the air. Parishioners watched anxiously and held their breath as Mr. Hagelis carefully directed the lowering of this massive dome onto the roof top of the new church. Saint Anthony Greek Orthodox Church celebrated their first Diving Liturgy inside the new Byzantine style church on September 11, 1977.



Los Angeles Times, "Topping the Edifice," April 26, 1977 Giant crane raises the 34 ton dome on to the new church while parishioners watch.

Church History, continued



Groundbreaking for the New Byzantine Style Orthodox Church January 17, 1975

Father Liberis, Bishop Meletios, Pantele Xanthos (Parish Council President), Arcadia Mayor Gilb and a city official.

Church History, continued



Members of Building Committee, 1977

Front row, left to right: James Hagelis, Pantele Xanthos*, James Drulias*, James Angelos* Back row: John Tarazi, Leon Argyros, Nick Vayos*, Louis Tripodes, Andy Demopulos, George Gianopulos, George Mavredakis. Not pictured: Father Nicholas Liberis, Arry Pastis and Dr. Michael Patzakis. *denotes those participating on committee while serving as Parish Council President.

Next month: The Road Towards Consecration (1978-1984)

Monthly Lesson from Father Stavros Akrotirianakis...

Will You Accept the Invitation?

The Lord said this parable, "A man once gave a great banquet, and invited many; and at the time for the banquet he sent his servant to say to those who had been invited, 'Come; for all is now ready.' But they all alike began to make excuses. The first said to him, 'I have bought a field, and I must go out and see it; I pray you, have me excused.' And another said, 'I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I go to examine them; I pray you, have me excused.' And another said, 'I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot come.' So the servant came and reported this to his master. Then the householder in anger said to his servant, 'Go out quickly to the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in the poor and maimed and blind and lame.' And the servant said, 'Sir, what you commanded has been done, and still there is room.' And the master said to the servant, 'Go out to the highways and hedges, and compel people to come in, that my house may be filled. For I tell you, none of those men who were invited shall taste my banquet. For many are called, few are chosen."

This Gospel of Luke, is a parable. A parable is a story with a hidden meaning but a real life application. In this story, we read about a man who was giving a banquet, and when the food was ready, he sent out servants to tell his invited guests that the banquet was ready. Each made excuses why he could not come. The servants told the man about all the excuses people had made not to come to the banquet. The householder was angry and sent the servants into the streets of the city to invite the poor and lame to the banquet. When the servants told the householder there was still room, he told them to invite anyone they found to the banquet. He also gave a stern warning to those who did not accept his invitation.

In Jesus' time, this banquet referred His message. He was inviting people to Himself. The invited guests were His own people, the Jews, who made excuses to not believe. The "poor and lame" who were invited from the city represent the Gentiles, teaching that it wasn't only Jews who would come to the banquet, but Gentiles as well. As for going out to the *"highways and hedges"* and compelling everyone to come in, this meant that the Gospel of Jesus Christ is to be shared with ALL people, all nations everyone. As for those who were originally invited not being welcomed, this would refer to the Jewish Temple leadership, the ones who should have been the first to recognize Jesus as the Christ, the Messiah, but who instead would clamor for His crucifixion. They would not be invited to the banquet.

There are two other "banquets" that we can relate to this parable. The first is the banquet of the Divine Liturgy, specifically Holy Communion. Every time the Divine Liturgy is offered, we have the opportunity to "feast" on a "heavenly banquet" by receiving the Body and Blood of Christ through Holy Communion. The invitation is extended each Sunday and on many other days of the church year. How often do you answer the invitation and come to partake? And when you don't, what is the excuse? If a person invited me to dinner 50 times and I only accepted the invitation once, it wouldn't really reflect well on my feelings for that person. The invitation to partake of Communion is there, at every Divine Liturgy, whether we are in attendance or not. If we are only answering this invitation on Christmas and Easter, because that is how often we attend church, it doesn't really reflect well on our feelings for Christ. The intention of Christ in instituting the Eucharist was for us to partake of it often. For those who attend Divine Liturgy each Sunday, if we are not receiving often, we also have to ask ourselves, why?



Monthly Lesson from Father Stavros Akrotirianakis... continued

The second "banquet" to which we are invited is membership in the church. Membership in the church comes with certain blessings and with certain responsibilities. When I say "membership", I'm not referring specifically to filling out a pledge card and being able to vote at a meeting. I'm speaking about "belonging to the church." Many people feel more like "the church belongs to me," rather than "I belong to the church." The church does not belong to anyone. It is Christ's church. So, when we join the church, we are joining ourselves to Christ. After all, at the baptism service, the priest asks the person being baptized:

"Do you unite yourself to Christ?"

So, if we choose to belong to the church, we are in fact belonging to Christ. The greatest benefit in belonging to Christ is our potential for salvation. Along the way, there are other benefits—the sacraments, grace, forgiveness, to name a few. There are also some responsibilities. First and foremost: if we belong to Christ, it presupposes an interest in developing a relationship with Him, through prayer and worship. One would think there would be an expectation to come to worship regularly and on time, to contribute to the life of the parish, to being involved in ministries, and to be involved in some level of service to the greater community.

In my opinion, when our children join sports teams, there are expectations for them and for us as parents. There is an expectation that they will go to every practice and game, get there early or on time, be appropriately dressed with proper equipment, that we will provide snacks when it is our turn, etc. There are expectations if you want to own a car, hold down a job, or just about anything else. However, people seem to get their nose out of joint when someone suggests there are expectations when belonging to a church. Again, remember that we belong to the church, the church doesn't belong to us. And in belonging to the church, we really belong to Christ.

There are at least two banquets to which we are regularly invited:

the banquet of the Eucharist the banquet of belonging to the church

Will you accept Christ's invitation to these two banquets?

How often?

The best expression of the Christian life is when we accept both of these invitations on a regular basis.



What is New in the Community?

St. Anthony Bowling League 2020 Recap

The 2020 St. Anthony Bowling League began in 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 Pazouras
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 Pazouras., and Mihai Serban
5th place: Team 6 - Joyce Nicholas, Chrissa Mobayen and John Pazouras
6th place: Team 9 - Anthia Lucas, Jim Horaites and Jim Xanthos
7th place: Team 3 - Kiki Chryssogelos, 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:

<u>MEN</u>

Scratch Game: John Pazouras with **196** Scratch Series: Bill Drulias with **488**

Handicap Game: Steven Miller with **257** Handicap Series: John Lucas with **716**

<u>WOMEN</u>

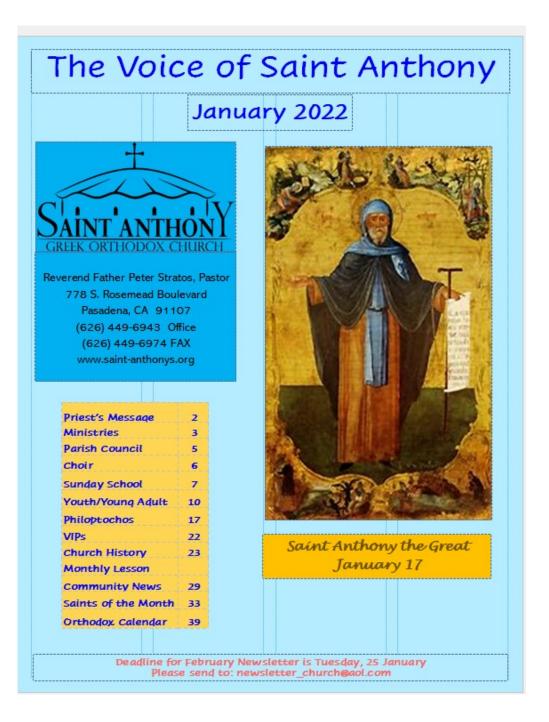
Scratch Game: Andrea Lappas with **179** Scratch Series: Patricia Pazouras with **439**

Handicap Game: Tricia Johnston with **235** Handicap Series Chrissa Mobayen with **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!



What is New in the Community? continued



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

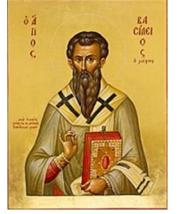
Feasts and Saints for this month Saint Basil the Great & the Circumcision of Christ

1 January

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

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

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



Holy Theophany/Epiphany

6 January

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

Synaxis of John the Baptist

7 January

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

Saint Anthony

17 January

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







Saint Anthony, continued...

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

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

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

Saint Athanasius says of him that "his countenance had a great and wonderful grace. This gift also he had from the Savior. For if he were present in a great company of monks, and any one who did not know him previously wished to see him, immediately coming forward he passed by the rest, and hurried to Anthony, as though attracted by his appearance. Yet neither in height nor breadth was he conspicuous above others, but in the serenity of his manner and the purity of his soul."

So Passing his life, and becoming an example of virtue and a rule for monastics, he reposed on January 17 in the year 356, having lived altogether some 105 years.

Saints Athanasios & Cyril

18 January

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





Saints Athanasios & Cyril, continued...

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

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

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

The great Athanasios passed the remaining seven years of his life in peace. Of his fifty-seven years as Patriarch, he had spent some seventeen in exiles. Shining from the height of his throne like a radiant evening star, and enlightening the Orthodox with the brilliance of his words for yet a little while, this much-suffering champion inclined toward the sunset of his life, and in the year 373 took his rest from his lengthy sufferings, but not before another luminary of the truth -- Basil the Great -- had risen in the East, being consecrated Archbishop of Caesarea in 370.

Saints Athanasios & Cyril, continued...

Besides all of his other achievements, Saint Athanasios wrote the life of Saint Anthony the Great, with whom he spent time in his youth; ordained Saint Frumentius first Bishop of Ethiopia; and in his Paschal Encyclical for the year 367 set forth the books of the Old and New Testaments accepted by the Church as canonical.

Saint Gregory the Theologian, in his "Oration On the Great Athanasios", said that he was:

"Angelic in appearance, more angelic in mind; ... rebuking with the tenderness of a father, praising with the dignity of a ruler .

Everything was harmonious, as an air upon a single lyre, and in the same key; his life, his teaching, his struggles, his dangers, his return, and his conduct after his return.

He treated so mildly and gently those who had injured him, that even they themselves, if I may say so, did not find his restoration distasteful."

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

Saint Gregory the Theologian

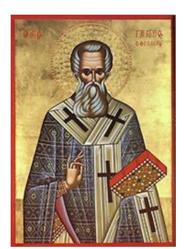
25 January

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

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

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

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



Saint Gregory the Theologian, continued

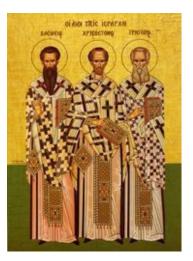
Having governed the Church until 382, he delivered his farewell speech - the Syntacterion, in which he demonstrated the Divinity of the Son - before 150 bishops and the Emperor Theodosius the Great; in this speech he requested, and received from all, permission to retire from the see of Constantinople.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

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

Synaxis of the Three Hierarchs

30 January

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



January 2022

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Orthodox Calendar							
	January 2022						
SUN	Mon	TUE	WED	Тни	Fri	SAT	
						1 Circumcision of our Lord St. Basil the Great New Years Day	
2 Sunday before Epiphany 8:45am Orthros 10am Divine Liturgy 11am Sunday School Indoor & Live-stream	3	4	7pm Union Station Philoptochos Outreach	6 <i>Holy Theophany/ Epiphany</i> 8:45am Orthros 10am Divine Liturgy	7 Synaxis of John the Baptist 9am Orthros 10am Divine Liturgy	8	
9 Sunday after Epiphany Vasilopita Sunday 8:45am Orthros 10am Divine Liturgy 11am Sunday School Indoor & Live-stream	10	11 7pm Parish Council Meeting	7pm Philoptochos Board Meeting	13	*** 14	15	
16	17	18	19	20	- 21	22	
12th Sunday ofLuke 8:45am Orthros 10am Divine Liturgy 11am Sunday School 7pm Vespers & Dinner for Saint Anthony Eve Indoor & Live-stream	St. Anthony the Great 9am Orthros 10am Divine Liturgy	Sts. Athanasios and Cyril		Euthymios the Great	UN	Timothy of the 70	
23 14th Sunday of Luke 8:45am Orthros 10am Divine Liturgy 11am Sunday School Indoor & Live-stream	24	25 Gregory the Theologian	7pm Philoptochos General Meeting	27		29	
30 Three Hierarchs 8:45am Orthros 10am Divine Liturgy 11am Sunday School	31	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	
Indoor & Live-stream		L.			2		

January 2022

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TIME SEASINIVE



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

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O Lord, grant me to greet this new year in peace. Help me in all things to rely upon Your holy will. In every moment of this year reveal Your will to me. Bless my dealings with all who surround me. Teach me to treat all that comes to me throughout the year with peace of soul, and with the firm conviction that Your will governs all. In all my deeds and words guide my thoughts and feelings. In unforeseen events let me not forget that everything is sent by You. Teach me to act firmly and wisely, without embittering or embarrassing others. Give me strength to bear the fatigue of this coming year with all that it will bring. Direct my will, teach me to pray, pray You Yourself in me. Amen.