

The Voice of Saint Anthony

February 2022



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Presentation of Christ in the Temple
February 2

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

Message from Father Peter

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I greet you in the name of the Lord! I am very excited to introduce the 2022 "Studies in the Faith Series" we will offer on Monday evenings from February 21 through April 11. This Catechism Class will incorporate a new and innovative book written by Dr. Eve Tibbs. The book is entitled, "A Basic Guide to Eastern Orthodox Theology: Introducing Beliefs and Practices."

Many of you already know Eve, and that she has faithfully served as the Chair of our Metropolis Christian Education Ministry for many years now. She is and has been, a visionary for our Metropolis of San Francisco, offering new programs to our parishes and to the faithful for our continuing Orthodox Christian Education.

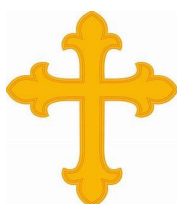
The informative classes and discussions of our Studies in the Faith will serve as an excellent introduction to the Orthodox Faith for those interested in the Orthodox Church. For those who are interested in converting to the Orthodox Christian Faith, your opportunity has arrived! For those already baptized into the Orthodox Faith, this series of classes will provide an inspiring enrichment and review of our abundantly rich faith. This book (or this book and class participation) can serve as our Lenten project to enrich our own faith and our personal journey to Holy Pascha. Reading, studying, discussing and learning more about our Faith and our Holy Orthodox Church will bring greater meaning and spiritual joy to our Lenten and Paschal experience.

We will meet via zoom for all eight classes. If you are interested, please send an email requesting the zoom logon information. My email address is: frpeter@saint-anthonys.org Please refer to the Class Syllabus for all pertinent information. To purchase this year's text please Google the title and author. Dr. Tibbs book is available for purchase from several merchants.

I look forward to hearing from you. Let us make this Lenten Season most uplifting and inspiring for us individually, for our families and for our Parish family.

In Christ,

Fr. Peter



Message from Father Peter

STUDIES IN THE FAITH

Spring Session, 2022
February 21st – April 11th

Our text for class will be: *A Basic Guide to Eastern Orthodox Theology: Introducing Beliefs and Practices*, by Dr. Eve Tibbs.

Classes will be organized into 8 sessions, on Monday evenings, 6:30 – 7:30, over eight Fthose interested in the Orthodox Church, these informative classes will serve as an excellent introduction to the Orthodox Faith and will also provide an inspiring enrichment and review for practicing Orthodox Christians.

I encourage you to read each week's assigned chapter and participate in class discussions so that the sessions will become an exciting and meaningful experience.

Please Google the title and author to purchase your copy.

Please contact Father Peter for the zoom logon information.
frpeter@saint-anthonys.org

Weekly Class Lessons

Introductory Session – Monday February 21st

Chapter One: "The Orthodox Christian
World View"

Session 2 – Monday February 28th

Chapter Two: "The Church"

Session 3 – Monday March 7th

Chapter Three: "Communion and Revelation"

Session 4 – Monday March 14th

Chapter Four: "Ministry and Leadership"

Session 5 – Monday March 21st

Chapter Five: "Christology"

Session 6 – Monday March 28th

Chapter Six: "Who are we?
What are we to do?"

Session 7 – Monday April 4th

Chapter Seven: "The Holy Trinity"

Session 8 – Monday April 11th

Chapter Eight: "Orthodox Worship"

Stewardship



2022 Stewardship Financial Commitment

*"As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another,
as good stewards of God's grace." (1 Peter 4:10)*

LAST NAME

FIRST NAME(S), PLEASE INCLUDE CHILDREN UNDER 18.

STREET ADDRESS

CITY

STATE

ZIP

PREFERRED PHONE

OTHER/SECOND PHONE

E-MAIL

[For office use only]

SIGNATURE

DATE

ANNUAL GIVING LEVELS:

***ARCHANGEL: \$15,000 and up**
\$288/week OR \$1,250/month & up

***ANGEL: \$10,000 - \$14,999**
\$192-\$288/week OR \$833-\$1,249/month

***GUARDIAN: \$7,000 - \$9,999**
\$135-\$192/week OR \$583-\$833/month

***DISCIPLE: \$4,000 - \$6,999**
\$77-\$135/week OR \$333-\$583/month

***FAITHFUL: \$2,000 - \$3,999**
\$38-\$77/week OR \$167-\$333/month

SUPPORTER: \$1,000 - \$1,999
\$19-\$38/week OR \$83-\$167/month

FRIEND: \$500 - \$999
\$9.60-\$19/week OR \$42-\$83/month

CONTRIBUTOR: \$499 & below
\$9.60/week OR \$42/month & below

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

Please return your completed commitment card to church by Jan. 14, 2022

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

In response to God's blessings, I/we pledge a 2022 offering of:

My Stewardship Commitment for 2022: \$ _____

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

☐ Weekly at \$ _____/week

☐ Monthly at \$ _____/month

☒ **Annually**

Contact the Church office to set up easy recurring electronic payments -OR- set up your own recurring giving at <https://saint-anthonys.churchgiving.com>

****To fully cover our operating expenses, our goal is to have our average stewardship be \$2,000 or above per family***

Stewardship, continued



Commitment of Time and Talents St. Anthony Greek Orthodox Church



Families should mark "H" for husband, "W" for wife, "C" for Children.

Council of Ministries

<input type="checkbox"/> Acolytes	<input type="checkbox"/> Kouvouklion	<input type="checkbox"/> Stewardship Committee
<input type="checkbox"/> Bible Studies	<input type="checkbox"/> Little Lambs	<input type="checkbox"/> Studies in the Faith
<input type="checkbox"/> Bookstore	<input type="checkbox"/> Myrrh Bearers	<input type="checkbox"/> Sunday School
<input type="checkbox"/> GOYA Basketball	<input type="checkbox"/> OCF (Orthodox Christian Fellowship)	<input type="checkbox"/> Vacation Bible School
<input type="checkbox"/> GOYA/Jr. GOYA	<input type="checkbox"/> Office Volunteers	<input type="checkbox"/> VIPs
<input type="checkbox"/> Greek Dance	<input type="checkbox"/> St. John Chrysostom	<input type="checkbox"/> Volleyball Tournament
<input type="checkbox"/> Greek Language School	<input type="checkbox"/> Oratorical Festival	<input type="checkbox"/> Welcoming Committee
<input type="checkbox"/> JOY/HOPE		<input type="checkbox"/> Other

Parish Events

<input type="checkbox"/> Palm Sunday Luncheon	<input type="checkbox"/> Resurrection Magiritsa	<input type="checkbox"/> Summer Family Picnic
<input type="checkbox"/> Pasadena Golf Classic	<input type="checkbox"/> Dinner	<input type="checkbox"/> Other
<input type="checkbox"/> Pasadena Greek Fest	<input type="checkbox"/> Saint Anthony Feast Day	

Name _____ Email _____ Phone _____

Ministries at Saint Anthony

2022 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



OFFICE STAFF

Alma Vorgias – Office Administrator



CUSTODIAL STAFF

Carlos Sosa



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

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

Maria Hronas

Community Outreach

Fontaine Malisos, Liz Skandale

Stephanie Soewers

Fellowship

Tanya Christodoulelis

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



Parish Council

Next Parish Council Meeting

Tuesday, February 8th

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/Omicron Variants, 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..



Parish Council continued



Installation of Saint Anthony's 2022 Parish Council

Joe Akrotirianakis
Christian Balas
Tony Christopoulos
Pete Gallanis
Tom Grafos

Chris Ioannou
Pete Katsafados
Liam McCann
Helen Mitropoulos
James Pappas

Patricia Paziouros
Tashia Vagenas
Perry Vidalakis
Vincent Zarian
Nikole Zoumberakis

News from the Loft



Staying Out of the Loft and Staying Safe..

Χαῖρε κεχαριτωμένη Θεοτόκε Παρθένε· ἐκ σοῦ γὰρ ἀνέτειλεν ὁ Ἥλιος τῆς δικαιοσύνης, Χριστὸς ὁ Θεὸς ἡμῶν, φωτίζων τοὺς ἐν σκότει. Εὐφραίνου καὶ σὺ Πρεσβύτα δίκαιε, δεξάμενος ἐν ἀγκάλαις τὸν ἐλευθερωτὴν τῶν ψυχῶν ἡμῶν, χαρίζόμενον ἡμῖν καὶ τὴν Ἀνάστασιν.

Lady full of grace, rejoice, O Virgin Theotokos, for Christ our God,
the Sun of righteousness has risen from you and
He illumined those in darkness.
And you, righteous Elder, be glad in heart,
receiving in your embraces the One who liberates our souls
and bestows on us the Resurrection.

Sunday School



"Let the
little children
come to me"

MATTHEW 19:14

On behalf of our Sunday School teachers and volunteers, we are excited to welcome our students back to class starting **Sunday, February 6th!** We miss our students and hope that everyone has been staying healthy and well while we have been apart.

In an effort to increase overall class time with our students, we will be holding classes on Sunday, February 27th in place of Family Worship Sunday.

Sunday School Fellowship schedule for the month of February is as follows:

February 6th: In Class

February 13th: In Class

February 20th: FDF Weekend/No Class

February 27th: In Class

Thank you,
Sophia Syrengelas

Youth & Young Adults



GOYA Basketball 2022 Season

It's time to register for the 2022 GOYA Basketball season! Join the fun!
The first game is **Sunday, February 27th**

Sign up Sunday, February 6th after church.*

Girls ages 12 - 21

Boys ages 12 - 19

Fee - \$80 Please address check to St. Anthony Greek Orthodox Church

Please encourage your children and their friends... we need new players...
It is a fun way to spend time with friends from other communities.

Questions:

Pana Gelt pgelt3@gmail.com 626-278-2808

Patricia Paziouros ppaziouros@yahoo.com (626) 497-2164

Anthia Drulias-Lucas adljsl02@yahoo.com (626) 274-6133

*If you will not be at church to register your child, please let Pana or Patricia know a.s.a.p. that your child will be participating!

Current Covid protocols will be followed



Youth & Young Adults - continued



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:

- 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

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.



Philoptochos

2022 Philoptochos Membership

We encourage all women 18 and over to join Philoptochos, a ministry that promotes charitable, benevolent and philanthropic outreach. At this time due to COVID restrictions, we do not have a specific date for our Membership drive. Please look for more details in the next few weeks.

We would love for you to be a part of this wonderful organization. Each \$50 stewardship supports our National, San Francisco Metropolis and St. Anthony Philoptochos obligations and projects.

Please renew/join by mail: Make check payable to St. Anthony Philoptochos
Mail to: 778 South Rosemead Blvd, Pasadena, CA 91107.

You may also register online: www.stanthonyphiloptochos.square.site.
Scroll down to "Annual Membership Dues".

We thank you for your continued support and helping to make a difference in our community.

For more information, please contact: Lisa Xanthos (626) 222-4374
 Helen Skandale (818) 618-4963

Good Works

Sunshine Committee

Sunday, January 9th, the Sunshine Committee delivered vasilopita to some of our homebound members. We wish the whole community a blessed and healthy New Year!



Fontaine Malisos, Stephanie Soewers, and Liz Skandale prepare for vasilopita delivery.

Philoptochos, continued

Operation Classroom

In 2018, Philoptochos started *Operation Classroom* in order to provide support to underfunded schools within the respective Philoptochos chapters' school districts.

Philoptochos recently supported Blair High School by donating a combo whiteboard-bulletin and two lamps. Additionally, Jones Coffee partnered with Philoptochos to also provide mouse pads to Blair. The school's staff and students were very happy and appreciative! Nicolette Fuerst and Jennifer Webster worked with Stephanie Linardos of Blair High School, and Tanya Christodoulelis facilitated the Jones Coffee collaboration.

Jennifer and Nicolette drop off donations to Blair High School in January.



Stephanie Linardos of Blair High School with donated equipment from Philoptochos.

Philoptochos, continued

Friends In Deed

Philoptochos continues to support our local food bank, Friends In Deed, with a monthly donation.

Union Station Homeless Services

We would like to thank Anthia Lucas, Elizabeth Demopoulos, and Sophia Angelos for their help in preparing and delivering the meals for Union Station the first Wednesday of the month.

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.



"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, 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."

For further information, please contact:

Sophia Angelos sangelos2000@gmail.com
Stephanie Soewers szanglis@gmail.com
Irene Albeck mcmg2a@aol.com

626-795-0848 (home)
818-209-5026 (cell)
626-792-8122

Philoptochos, continued

Community Happenings

Weekly Parish Coffee Hour returning in February 2022 !

We are looking for individuals or families to host weekly coffee hours after the liturgy. Please look for signup information in the hall or foyer.

For further information, please contact:

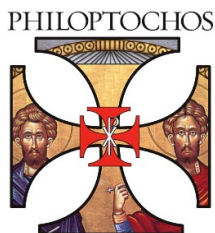
Tanya Christodoulelis (626) 579-2304

Maria Kypreos (626) 272-2720

Upcoming Meetings

February Board Meeting Wednesday, February 9 at 7:00 PM

February General Meeting Wednesday, February 23 at 7:00 PM
Further details forthcoming



FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA

Facebook: St. Anthony Philoptochos
Instagram: stanthonypiloptochos

VIPs

Happy New Year, Xronia Polla to our beloved parishioners!



Church History

History of Saint Anthony Church 1954-2004

*Written by: Andrew N. Demopoulos, 1959 Parish Council President
and Nicholas Demopoulos +
submitted to newsletter by Anthia Drulias Lucas*

The Road Towards Consecration (1978-1984)

Although the construction of Saint Anthony Church was complete, the Building Committee was not yet relieved from duty. The interior of the church and its wall were still bare. Between 1978 and 1979 the images of the Pantocrator in the center of the dome, the prophets surrounding the Pantocrator, and the Life of Christ depicted around the dome were painted. These were painted by the famed iconographer, George Filipakis. Father Nicholas Liberis worked closely with the committee to select the beautiful Byzantine icons that adorn the church. Early 1980 witnessed the painting of the Platytera, showing the Holy Mother of Christ with the Christ Child on her lap, the Four Hierarchs in the Apse, and the twelve floor-to-ceiling icons of the Saints painted on the north and south side of the nave. The Iconostasion, the icon screen separating the altar from the nave, the Bishop's throne, and the baptismal font were placed inside the church in 1980. The final iconographic project was completed in 1981 with the assembly of mosaic images of Christ and Saint Anthony on the front façade of the church. With the exterior and interior projects completed of the new church, Saint Anthony's had only one more holy task left to achieve...the Consecration.

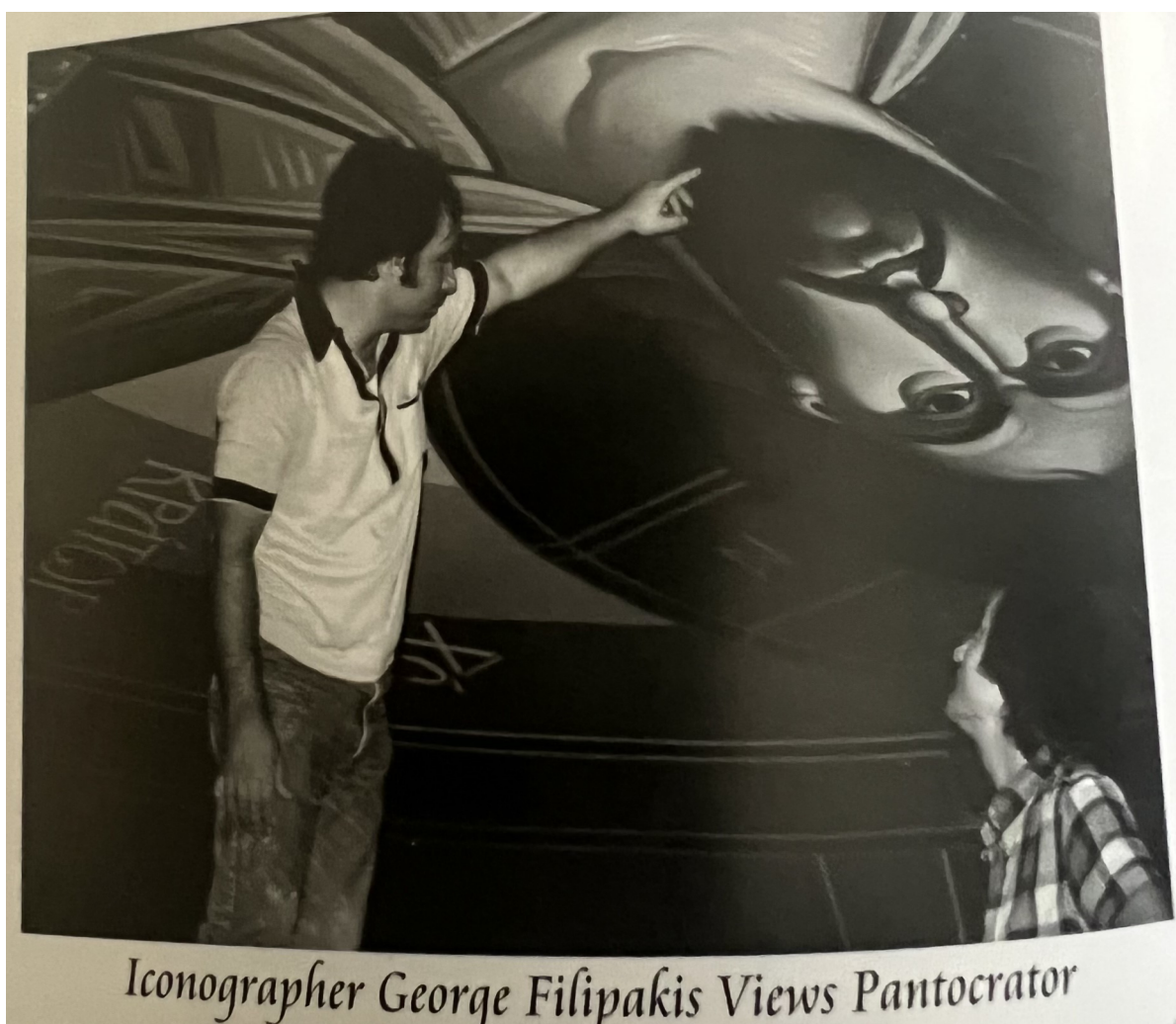
In December of 1982, after nine years of ministry, Father Nicholas Liberis completed his service to Saint Anthony Church. Replacing him on January 16, 1983 was Father John Zanetos, who was transferred to Saint Anthony's as her full time priest after twenty-five years of dedicated ministry as Dean of Annunciation Cathedral in Boston. Among one of the first goals the dynamic Father John set forth for his new community was the consecration of the newly built Greek Orthodox Church.

On the eve of Consecration Day, His Eminence Archbishop Iakovos, accompanied by His Grace Bishop Anthony and Father Zanetos, placed Relics of the Saints atop the Holy Alter Table. The next day during the Consecration Ceremony, His Eminence Archbishop Iakovos, holding the Holy Relics of the Saints, led the clergy, the choir and the entire congregation around the church building three times, stopping for an epistle reading each time the church entrance was approached.

Church History, continued

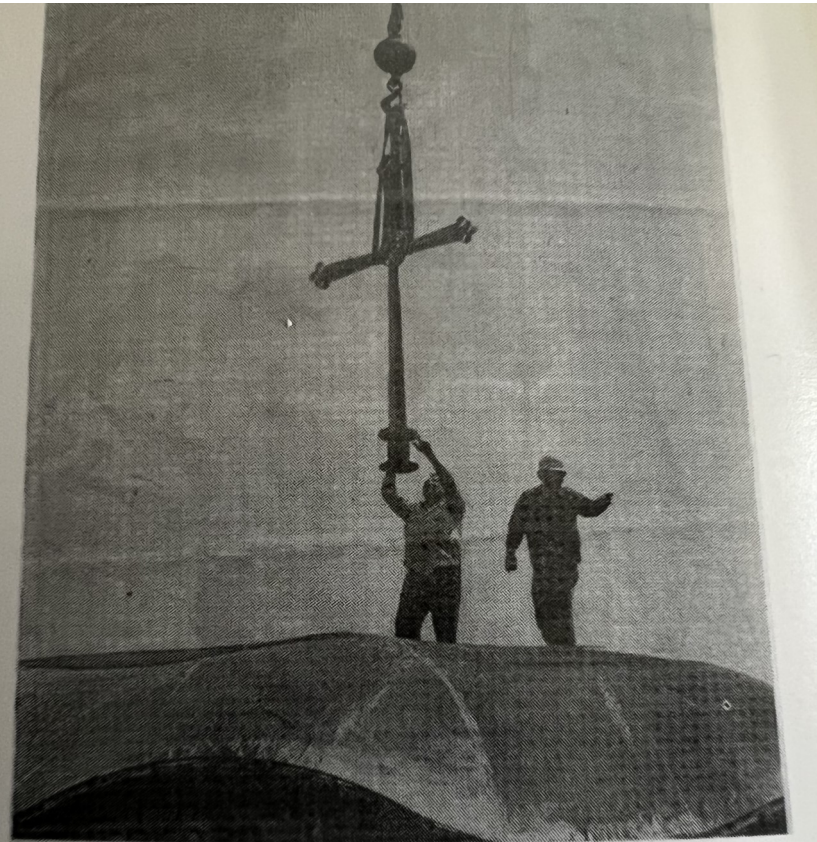
At the conclusion of the three processions, His Eminence Archbishop Iakovos entered the church carrying the Holy Relics, then he proceeded to the Holy Altar where he permanently sealed the Holy Relics of Saints in a crypt into the Holy Altar Table. Saint Anthony's congregation looked on as both His Eminence and His Grace washed the Holy Altar with ordinary soap and sponges. With the Holy Altar now fully vested, Bishop Anthony proceeded to anoint all the church walls and icons. As a final act of the Consecration Ceremony, His Eminence and His Grace removed their white consecration robes, which were cut into small pieces, and they bestowed them to the faithful at the end of the Liturgy.

Chartered in 1954, bought in 1959, then built in 1977, Saint Anthony Greek Orthodox Church was now baptized on June 10, 1984.



Filipakis and a worker discuss the "Pantocrator"
a 44 foot diameter icon of Jesus Christ in the center of the dome

Church History, continued



The 8 foot Byzantine cross is being placed atop the 52 foot diameter dome

Los Angeles Times , April 26, 1977



*"Thyranixia" the "Opening of the Doors"
September 11, 1977*

Father Liberis seen blessing the church before entering to serve the first Divine Liturgy in the newly built Saint Anthony Greek Orthodox Church.

Church History, continued



Congregation Stands Outside During "Thyranixia" Service
Clergy blesses the new church before entering for Divine Liturgy service



Clergy Kneel at Holy Altar during Consecration Service

Pictured left - Father George Venetos, Saint
Sophia Cathedral, Los Angeles
Pictured center - His Eminence Archbishop
Iakovos, Bishop Anthony
and Father John Zanetos

Holding the Chalice - Archbishop Iakovos
Left and behind - Olga & George Argyros
Right - Athena Zanglis, Steven Hartford and
Dan Bozikis



*Consecration of Saint Anthony Greek Orthodox Church
June 10, 1984*

Monthly Lesson from Father Stavros Akrotirianakis...

Kick-Starting My Faith in the New Year with Worship

*Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them.
And when they saw Him, they worshipped Him; but some doubted.
Matthew 28:16-17*

Worship is one of the most beautiful aspects of the Orthodox Christian life, but also, in some respects, one of the most confusing. Why confusing, you may ask? Because people approach worship in different ways. Some come often, others seldom. For some worship is exciting, for others it is boring. Some people take comfort in the repetitiveness of our services and others feel constrained by it. Here are a few thoughts on worship, as we reflect on kick-starting our faith in this new year.

Worship is communal prayer. Whether that is a small gathering of two or three or a large gathering of thousands, communal prayer is worship. In the Orthodox Church, we have formalized, codified worship services. This means that our worship is done the same way all over the world. The Divine Liturgy is celebrated essentially the same way throughout the world. Same with weddings, baptisms, funerals, Holy Week. I say “essentially” on purpose, because the essential elements of worship are the same. There may be some nuances that reflect a certain culture. For instance, all Divine Liturgies include a procession of the Holy Gifts called the Great Entrance. However, in Africa, at the Great Entrance, the people incorporate a liturgical dance into the procession. This is not done in other parts of the world.

One of the benefits of worship is that we feel a sense of community when we worship. We are not alone. We don’t feel lonely or isolated in our Christian walk when we are worshipping with others.

Another benefit of worship, especially at the Divine Liturgy, is that it is an all-encompassing guided prayer. What does that mean? It means that the Divine Liturgy offers the opportunity to pray for just about everything we can think of. How often do you pray for our country? Our president? For good weather? For people who are suffering or in captivity? How often do you pray for the forgiveness of your sins, or for a Christian end to your life, in other words, for a good death? In the Divine Liturgy, we pray for all of these things and more.

The “guiding” in the Divine Services is done by the clergy, namely the priest and the deacon, who offer petitions or prompts. The people answer with responses, either “*Lord, have mercy,*” “*Grant this, O Lord,*” or simply “*Amen.*” Without the people present, the clergy would simply be offering prompts or directions with no answers given. I’ve heard it said that it is the people who do much of the praying in the services. Thus, worship is work, it is communal prayer offered by the people, led by the clergy. This happens not only at the Divine Liturgy, but at the other services of the church, where all the people, not just the clergy or the choir or the chanters, raise their voices as one united Body of Christ, to offer prayers on behalf of all people for all things that we need for this life, as we prepare for entrance into the next life.

Monthly Lesson from Father Stavros Akrotirianakis... continued

Unique to the Divine Liturgy, and what makes the Divine Liturgy the most important of our services, is the opportunity to not only worship and pray, but to receive Christ in Holy Communion. The Divine Liturgy affords us the opportunity to touch God and for God to touch us. The most intimate thing a person can do is to touch God. And thus Holy Communion is an opportunity to receive the God's embrace and for us to embrace God, with our bodies - with our minds, our mouths, our hearts and our souls.

While many look at worship in a negative light, I see it in a positive light. I don't see worship as "I have to go to church" but rather "what a beautiful opportunity to be with God in worship." If receiving Holy Communion is supposed to bring us spiritual ecstasy, then this is something we should WANT to do frequently. And thankfully our church affords us, between Sundays and Feast days, over 100 opportunities in most communities every year. These are not obligations, but rather are privileges.

I chose the verses for this lesson on purpose. Because while we may worship with great joy and even great frequency, there will be times in our lives when we question the value of worship. We will wonder, does it really matter if I just skip today? We will wonder, does it really matter how often I receive Holy Communion? In Matthew 28:16-17, we read that Jesus directed His disciples to go to a mountain, presumably to worship. Because when they saw Jesus, that's exactly what they did, they worshipped Him. As a caveat in verse 17, we read that some of these disciples, these worshippers, doubted. And that's ok. We are going to have doubts. The devil will put doubts in our hearts. Other days we won't have doubts and we will come with confidence. The important thing about the disciples in these verses was that they showed up, doubts and all. And the most important aspect of worship is merely being there, being in the presence of God, being in community. There will be some days we come with joy and some days we come with doubt, but please come, as often as you can. Because as we read in I Corinthians 11:26, "*For as often as you eat this Bread and drink the Cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.*" As often as we receive Holy Communion, we proclaim our faith and our desire to be people of faith.

I will share with you that there are many days I worship and don't feel much of anything. And there are other days I worship and feel as if I were standing in heaven. It's not a profound experience every time out. But it can't be a profound experience of worship if you are not there. So come and worship, as often as you can.

Lord, thank You for the gift of worship.

Thank You for the gift of the Divine Liturgy and the gift of the Eucharist.

Help me to understand the importance of worship.

Help me come to worship with joy and with focus.

Help inspire me through worship to also inspire others, and for others to inspire me.

Be with me in my moments of doubt.

Walk with me through my spiritual valleys.

Enable me through worship to stand on spiritual mountain-tops.

Amen.

Come worship as often as you can. Come with joy. Come even if you have doubts. But come!

What is New in the Community?



ST. ANTHONY BOWLING LEAGUE WINTER/SPRING SEASON



Saint Anthony Bowling League is underway for the winter/spring season. Bowling began on Wednesday, January 26 at Bowlero Lanes in Pasadena.

We would like to encourage anyone who would like to be a substitute or just want to join in on the weekly fellowship of the evening to please join us at the bowling alley between 7 and 8:30!

Future bowlers who would like to participate can contact:

Anthia Drulias-Lucas
adljsl02@yahoo.com
(626) 274-6133



What is New in the Community? continued

The Voice of Saint Anthony

January 2022



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Saint Anthony the Great
January 17

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

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

The Presentation of the Lord

2 February

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

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

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



Saint Theodore Commander and Great Martyr

8 February

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

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



Feasts and Saints for this month, continued

Saint Theodore—continued

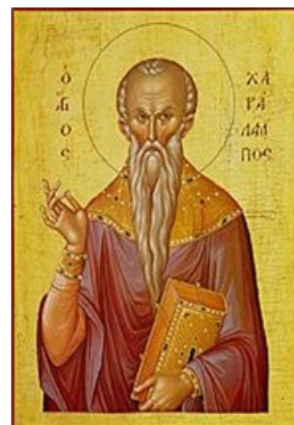
Seated upon his throne in the midst of the people, he publicly bade Theodore offer sacrifice to the gods. But Theodore asked that the emperor entrust him with the most venerable of his gods, those of gold and silver, that he might take them home and himself attend upon them that evening, promising that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

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

Heiromartyr Haralambos

10 February

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



Feasts and Saints for this month, continued

Triodion Begins—Sunday of the Publican & the Pharisee

13 February

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

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



Theodore the Tyro & Martyr

17 February

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



Feasts and Saints for this month, continued

Triodion - Sunday of the Prodigal Son

20 February

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

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



Triodion - Judgment Sunday - Meatfare Sunday

27 February

The foregoing two parables -- especially that of the Prodigal Son -- have presented to us God's extreme goodness and love for man. But lest certain persons, putting their confidence in this alone, live carelessly, squandering upon sin the time given them to work out their salvation and death suddenly snatch them away, the most divine Fathers have appointed this day's feast commemorating Christ's impartial Second Coming, through which we bring to mind that God is not only the Friend of man, but also the most righteous Judge, Who recompenses to each according to his deeds.












It is the aim of the holy Fathers, through bringing to mind that fearful day, to rouse us from the slumber of carelessness unto the work of virtue and to move us to love and compassion for our brethren. Besides this, even as on the coming Sunday of Cheese-fare we commemorate Adam's exile from the Paradise of delight -- which exile is the beginning of life as we know it now -- it is clear that today's is reckoned the last of all feasts, because on the last day of judgment, truly, everything of this world will come to an end.

All foods, except meat and meat products, are allowed during the week that follows this Sunday.



Orthodox Calendar

February 2022

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1	 2 Entrance of our Lord 9am Orthros 10am Divine Liturgy 7pm Union Station Philoptochos Outreach	3	 4	5
6 Sunday of the Canaanite Woman 8:45am Orthros 10am Divine Liturgy 11am Sunday School Indoor & Live-stream	7	8 7pm Parish Council Meeting	 9 7pm Philoptochos Board Meeting	10	 11	12
13 Sunday of Publican and Pharisee Triodion begins 8:45am Orthros 10am Divine Liturgy 11am Sunday School Indoor & Live-stream	14	15	16	17	18	19
20 Sunday of the Prodigal Son 8:45am Orthros 10am Divine Liturgy 11am Sunday School Indoor & Live-stream	21	22	 23 7pm Philoptochos General Meeting	24	 25	26 First Saturday of the Souls 9am Orthros 10am Divine Liturgy
27 Judgement Sunday Meatfare Sunday 8:45am Orthros 10am Divine Liturgy 11am Sunday School Indoor & Live-stream	 28					
		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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February 2022

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Watch your actions, for they become habits

Watch your habits, for they become character

Watch your character,
for it becomes your destiny