

# The Voice of Saint Anthony

## August 2022



Reverend Father Peter Stratos  
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[www.saint-anthonys.org](http://www.saint-anthonys.org)

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Holy  
Transfiguration  
August 6



Dormition of the  
Theotokos  
August 15



Beheading of  
John the Baptist  
August 29

Deadline for September Newsletter is Thursday, 25 August  
Please send to: [newsletter\\_church@aol.com](mailto:newsletter_church@aol.com)

## Message from Father Peter

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

We have reached that beautiful time of year when we offer devotions in honor of the Blessed Virgin Mary, **August 1st – August 15th.**

Our Holy Orthodox Church has set four major Feast Days for the Mother of God. On **August 15th** we commemorate one of these holy days– the Dormition (falling asleep) of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

This great Feast Day of the Dormition is preceded by 15 days of devotions and prayers to the Blessed Mother of God. During this period we observe a strict period of fasting. We pray and attend Paraklesis (Supplication) Services to the Theotokos and we attend the Divine Liturgy on Monday August 15th. By following these disciplines of the Church, we will properly prepare ourselves for the sacrament of Holy Communion on that blessed day.

The Church prescribes the following fast to honor the life of the Theotokos and ever-virgin Mary: we abstain from all meat, poultry, dairy products, eggs, fish, wine, alcoholic beverages and oil. Shellfish may be eaten throughout the fast. Wine and oil are permitted on Saturdays and Sundays only. On the Feast of the Transfiguration of Christ, **August 6**, fish, wine and oil are permitted.

According to Holy Tradition, when the time came for the Mother of God to depart from this earth to join her Son in Heaven, she sent for all of the Apostles of Christ to be at her bedside. All the Apostles were present at the time of her burial, except for St. Thomas who returned too late for the funeral. He asked to visit her body, which had been buried for three days. When the tomb was opened, they were amazed to find that the body of Mary was gone. An Angel of the Lord appeared to the Apostles and announced that she had been taken into Heaven. This is the belief of all Orthodox Christians in accordance with Holy Tradition. This is why this period of time is so important to us!

The first 15 days of August are sacred for Orthodox Christians around the world, a special time that brings feelings of intensified reverence. Special prayers and services are held regularly during these 15 days. Please consult our calendar for dates and times to attend or watch via live stream. This is a special time half way between Pascha and Advent (Christmas), when we can refocus our minds and souls on our faith.

Please be sure to attend the beautiful Paraklesis/Supplication Services to the blessed Theotokos and ever-Virgin Mary during the August Fast this year. In this service we ask the Theotokos to pray for us, to intercede for us and our loved ones, our family and friends, those who are sick and suffering and in all kinds of need. Thus please bring a list of the names of your living loved ones to these services for the priest to commemorate.

This is a golden opportunity for us to be in church to pray, fast, and participate in our blessed services. Join us so that we can proclaim together, “Most Holy Theotokos Save Us” !

In Christ,

Fr. Peter



## 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  
Helen Mitropoulos  
James Pappas  
Patricia Paziouros  
Perry Vidalakis  
Vincent Zarian  
Nikole Zoumberakis

### OFFICE STAFF

Alma Vorgias – Office Administrator



### CUSTODIAL STAFF

Carlos Sosa



### CHANTERS

Michael Kontaxis  
Liam McCann

### 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

#### **1<sup>st</sup> Vice President**

Jeanne Karaionnoglou

#### **2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President**

Helen Skandale and Lisa Xanthos

#### **Corresponding Secretary**

Mary Udria and Irene Albeck

#### **Recording Secretary**

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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

Golf Classic

Golf Committee

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

Vacation Bible School Sophia Syrengelas

Mary Udria

VIPs

Helen Treantafelles





## Parish Council

### Next Parish Council Meeting

Tuesday, August 9

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.

**As a reminder, the Corona Virus has not "gone away" and is still very much with us.**

**If you are not feeling well, please stay home and away from others.**

**If you think that you may have been exposed or infected please consider wearing your mask when you go out or go to public indoor gatherings.**

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..





## Youth &amp; Young Adults



# *YAL is Back and Ready to COMMIT in San Diego*

Are you ready to COMMIT to your faith, your vocation, and your life? The Young Adult League (YAL) Conference over Labor Day Weekend 2022 in San Diego, California is where you want to be! This will be the fourth YAL Conference since 2019 hosted by the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of San Francisco, and promises to be bigger and better than ever!



## Youth & Young Adults continued



Conference attendees will enjoy a full weekend of events, workshops, worship, and relaxation from September 1 – 5, 2022 at the Wyndham Bayside Resort, in sunny San Diego, CA. Highlights of the weekend include engaging workshops, worship, dances, a Gala, and a special maritime event “Top Gun YAL” aboard the USS Midway aircraft carrier in the San Diego harbor. Diakonia is also an important part of the YAL ministry and will include a program to benefit the

Wounded Warrior Project, an organization that helps veterans and service members who incurred a physical or mental injury or illness while serving in the military.

### Online Registration is now *OPEN*

Registration includes all meals, events,  
workshops, transportation during the weekend,  
*and much more!*

Space is limited so don't wait to book your travel and ***secure your hotel.*** The 2019 and 2021 Conferences were sell-outs with participants from over 43 states across the Archdiocese, so be sure to COMMIT by ***registering today!***



For more information, please email [YALConferenceReg@gmail.com](mailto:YALConferenceReg@gmail.com)



## Philoptochos

### Good Works

#### *Union Station Homeless Service (USHS)*

Philoptochos is continuing the monthly commitment to USHS by preparing a hardy, nutritious dinner made possible through the generosity of our donors. USHS has requested packaged dessert (cookies), single serve beverages (10 oz.), and single serve bottles of milk. You may continue to volunteer by donating towards the purchase of individual packaged items.

The estimated costs are: rolls - \$16.50, cookies - \$27.50, beverage - \$48.60, and milk - \$10.80.

We invite you to consider helping us feed the needy by making a contribution towards this work. Thank you to all our donors for their support.

**Please make checks out to: *Philoptochos of Saint Anthony*. Please write USHS in memo box.**

Thank you for being a part of the solution to homelessness.

#### **For further information, please contact:**

Sophia Angelos	<a href="mailto:sangelos2000@gmail.com">sangelos2000@gmail.com</a>	626-795-0848 (home)
Stephanie Soewers	<a href="mailto:szanglis@gmail.com">szanglis@gmail.com</a>	818-209-5026 (cell)
Irene Albeck	<a href="mailto:mcmg2a@aol.com">mcmg2a@aol.com</a>	626-792-8122

**“You shall open wide your hand to your brother, to the needy and to the poor, in your land.”  
Deuteronomy 15:11**



### Community Happenings

#### *Coffee Hour*

The Weekly Parish Coffee Hour has returned. Philoptochos is looking for individuals, groups or families to host Sunday coffee hours after liturgy. Please, look for sign-up information in the church hall or foyer.

For further information, please contact:

Tanya Christodoulelis (626) 579-2304

Maria Kypreos (626) 272-2720

## Philoptochos continued

### Annual Christmas Benefit 2022

#### *Save the Date*

We are BACK at THE LANGHAM HUNTINGTON HOTEL in Pasadena. We are delighted that our Christmas Benefit will return to The Langham on **Saturday, December 3, 2022.**

#### *Benefit Committee*

We invite you to be part of this fun group of talented women who annually plan our largest fundraiser of the year. All are welcome to join the 2022 Benefit planning committee. If you are interested in helping, please contact us by emailing or calling a Philoptochos Executive Board Member: [panagiachapter@gmail.com](mailto:panagiachapter@gmail.com), or Judith Din at (626) 676-1240.

### Upcoming Meetings

We wish you a fun and restful summer. General meetings will resume in September.



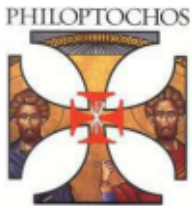
FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA

Facebook: St. Anthony Philoptochos

Instagram: [stanthonyphiloptochos](https://www.instagram.com/stanthonyphiloptochos)

### 2022 Philoptochos Membership

Philoptochos would also like to thank you for your 2022 membership donation. We are grateful to you for your steadfast support and excited by your enthusiasm for our ministry. After 2 unpredictable years, our membership has increased significantly. Your donation enables Philoptochos to serve the needy in our community and to support the charitable works of the Metropolis and the National Philoptochos throughout the year. Your time and talents are appreciated, and your fellowship is a big part of what we are all about. We can accomplish so much together.



**PHILOPTOCHOS SOCIETY OF  
SAINT ANTHONY GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH  
PANAGIA CHAPTER**

**PHILOPTOCHOS MEMBERSHIP FORM**

☐ 2022 Philoptochos Membership      ☐ 2022 Associate Membership (Men / Non-Voting)      Date \_\_\_\_\_

Last Name      First Name      Spouse Name      M.I.

Street Address

City      State      Zip

Home Phone      Cell Phone

Email

Notices will be sent via email. If you prefer your notices mailed, please, let us know by checking here ☐

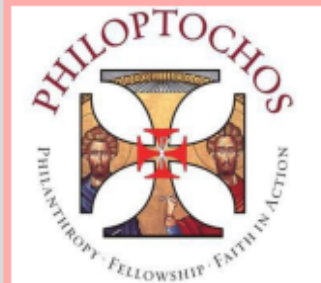
**St. Anthony's Philoptochos Stewardship (membership dues). Select amount below:**

☐ \$50      ☐ \$75      ☐ \$100      ☐ \$125      ☐ Other

Each \$50 stewardship supports National Philoptochos (\$15), San Francisco Metropolis (\$15) and St. Anthony Philoptochos obligations and projects (\$20).      \_\_\_ Check      \_\_\_ Credit Card      \_\_\_ Cash

I am interested in helping with the following:

<input type="checkbox"/> Feeding the Hungry	<input type="checkbox"/> Hosting Fellowship	<input type="checkbox"/> Marketing
<input type="checkbox"/> Delivering meals to Parishioners in times of need	<input type="checkbox"/> Baking & Cooking	<input type="checkbox"/> Graphic Arts
<input type="checkbox"/> Homebound visitations	<input type="checkbox"/> Fundraising	<input type="checkbox"/> Other Talents
		<input type="checkbox"/> Specify _____



**2022 PHILOPTOCHOS MEMBERSHIP DRIVE**

Your continued generosity allows Philoptochos to provide financial assistance and outreach to those in need. We invite you to renew your membership or become a new member as we endeavor to do our philanthropic work. Join us as we strive to fulfill the word of Christ.

*".. whatever you did for one of these, the least of my brethren, you did for me" - Matthew 25:30*

**PLEASE RENEW OR JOIN BY MAIL (Check payable to: Saint Anthony Philoptochos Society)**

**Mail your check along with this form to:**

**Saint Anthony Philoptochos Society, Attention: Membership  
778 South Rosemead Boulevard, Pasadena, CA 91107**

or pay online at <https://stanthonypiloptochos.square.site>

Scroll down to "Annual Membership Dues"

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



## VIPs

THE VIPs are taking the summer off !

Please join us at our next meeting on September 13th at 10:30 a.m. in the Church Hall.

Lunch will be served following the meeting.

Wishing you all a pleasant summer.



*Helen Treantafelles*  
VIP President  
[htreantafelles@yahoo.com](mailto:htreantafelles@yahoo.com)



## Monthly Lesson from Father Stavros Akrotirianakis...

### When Life Gets You Down, Read This Passage

*Brethren, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Through Him we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in our hope of sharing the glory of God. More than that, we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit which has been given to us. While we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. Why, one will hardly die for a righteous man—though perhaps for a good man one will dare even to die. But God shows His love for us in that while we were yet sinners Christ died for us. Since, therefore, we are now justified by His blood, much more shall we be saved by Him from the wrath of God. For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of His Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by His life.*

Romans 5: 1-10

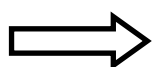
When I was a kid and I thought something unfair happened to me, as most kids do, I would complain about it. The going phrase then was that “suffering produces character.” There was even a time when people believed that the only way to build character was to suffer. So, suffering was seen by some as a virtue of some sort. I wish I had discovered St. Paul's Epistle to the Romans as a teenager. Because he uses suffering and character in the same sentence, but he throws in some additional words that take focus off suffering and point us to something that transcends everything.

Saint Paul says that “*suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit which has been given to us.*” (Romans 5: 3-5) In Saint Paul's thinking, if hope in Jesus Christ is the ultimate destination, and suffering can be a step on the road to that hope, then suffering isn't altogether a bad thing. In fact, Saint Paul goes so far as to tell us that he rejoices in his sufferings.

I don't believe that this means we are supposed to go looking to suffer, but that when suffering comes our way, and it does for each of us, that when we approach suffering properly, it leads us to endurance, character, hope and ultimately Christ.

I've seen many people who have been diagnosed with serious illness. In fact, I'm thinking about several of them as I write today's message. I've seen many people suffer with cancer. Some have won the battle with cancer. And some have lost the battle with cancer. I have seen people lost the battle but win the war however. And the war is over the human condition that seeks to tear at our faith. I've seen people fight valiantly through suffering, only to lose their struggle, but in the struggle they found hope, and in hope they found Christ, and in finding Christ, they found their salvation. So, the suffering was not for nothing. It got them the ultimate prize—heaven!

Every battle, whether it is a small annoyance, or a life threatening illness, gives us an opportunity to live out these verses that St. Paul wrote to the Romans. Our Christian character is actually shaped through suffering. If you never suffer at all, then your faith really is never tested. Because faith, by its definition, is trusting not knowing the outcome of what you are trusting in. If every outcome is known, then there is no opportunity to trust. I don't believe that God afflicts people so that they can build their character. But I do believe He allows suffering to happen. He doesn't stop all suffering. He doesn't control and take all negative outcomes away otherwise there would be no free will and no faith.



## Monthly Lesson from Father Stavros Akrotirianakis... continued

When you (or I) are having a bad time, these words of St. Paul are really powerful. They remind us that suffering isn't an end unto itself. And suffering, unlike what I was told as a teen, isn't to build character. Suffering is a step on the path to hope, and hope is what leads us to faith, and faith is what leads us to Christ and Christ is ultimately who leads us to heaven.

If you are reading this message and you are suffering serious illness, and several of you are, reflect carefully on St. Paul's message—try to put your focus away from suffering today. And meditate on character, and hope and Christ and heaven. We are ultimately all going to suffer death—we don't know the circumstance. We will ultimately all suffer setbacks—probably many of them. The difference between faith (salvation) and no faith (condemnation) is how we handle ourselves in times of suffering. Do we allow our character to become weakened, so that we lose hope? Or do we endure, grow in character, grow in hope, in faith and ultimately in Christ?

Certainly much easier said than done.

The point of today's message is that character is not the ultimate thing to take from suffering, whether you are a teenager or an adult. Suffering builds character, which produces hope, which leads us to Christ who leads us to salvation. Suffering then is not a character-building exercise, but a spiritual exercise. And the ultimate end of "suffering" as a spiritual experience is salvation, Christ, and the Kingdom of heaven.

Keep your eyes on the end goal—salvation—and may any suffering you do along the way not only help you grow in character, but in faith!





## What is New in the Community?

### Saint Anthony Bowling League News

Fall Season 2022



As we approach end of summer the St. Anthony Bowling League is making plans to restart their Fall 2022 season. The bowling league will begin the new season, on **Wednesday, August 31**, and continue for 12 weeks, ending the fall season on Wednesday, November 16, 2022.

Anyone interested in joining must be 18 years of age or older. No previous experience necessary. Our bowlers range from beginners to intermediate advanced.

Anyone interested in joining or for information please contact:

Anthia Drulias-Lucas

[ADLJSLO2@YAHOO.COM](mailto:ADLJSLO2@YAHOO.COM) - email



## What is New in the Community? continued



Connecting our Metropolis of San Francisco Graduates to a local Orthodox Church when they leave for College or University.

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

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

If so, please complete the form below. As the Metropolis of San Francisco Youth Director, I would like to make sure that an Orthodox Priest and community near your student's college connects with your loved one.

In addition, many college campuses across the country have an Orthodox Christian Fellowship (OCF) ministry. For more information please visit their website: <http://www.ocf.net/>

Our Metropolis Office of Youth & Young Adult Ministries also offers many opportunities throughout the year for Orthodox young adults & college students to gather, enjoy fellowship, and continue to learn about the faith! There are three Young Adult Retreats, a Young Adult Camping Trip, many Young Adult Pilgrimages, and a Young Adult Christmas Reception!

For more information, please visit our website for the Metropolis Office of Youth & Young Adult Ministries: <http://gosfyouth.org/youngadults/>



With Love in Christ,

Fr. Gary Kyriacou  
Greek Orthodox Metropolis of San Francisco  
Pastor of Youth & Young Adult Ministries  
Email: [FrGary@sanfran.goarch.org](mailto:FrGary@sanfran.goarch.org)

Johanna Duterte Carter  
Greek Orthodox Metropolis of San Francisco  
Director of Youth & Young Adult Ministries  
Email: [JDuterte@sanfran.goarch.org](mailto:JDuterte@sanfran.goarch.org)

## What is New in the Community? continued

### STUDENT'S CONTACT INFORMATION

Student's Name\*

Student's date of birth (Example: June 12, 2003)

Gender

Female

Male

Student's Patron Saint (Saint they were named after at their baptism)

Student's home parish, city, and state.

Student's College (Include the city and state)\*

Expected graduation date (Example: May 2025)

Major (area of study)

Student's email\*

Student's cell phone

Student's address while at school (Street Name, City, State, Zip)

Do you know which parish your student will attend while at school? If so, please list the parish name, city, and state.

Will the student have a car while at school?

Yes

Maybe

No

Other

### YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION

Your Name\*

Your relation to the student\*

Your home parish, city, and state

Your email\*

Your phone number

Your home address (Street Name, City, State, Zip)



## What is New in the Community? continued

### Upcoming Church Festivals - 2022



#### September

Long Beach	9/3 - 5
Covina	9/17-18
SanJuanCapo	9/24 - 25

#### October

Los Angeles	10/1 - 3
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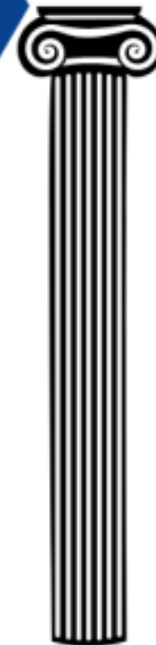


## GREEK STREET

September 2, 3 & 4, 2022

The 50th Annual  
Orange International  
Street Fair

Seeking Volunteers  
please call the church  
office



Orange County International Street Faire—City of Orange  
“Greek Street”  
sponsored and run by Saint John the Baptist parishioners

## What is New in the Community? continued



# PARTICIPATE IN THE THIRD CENTENNIAL PILGRIMAGE

Led by His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros of America  
in celebration of 100 years of the  
Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America

## AUGUST 8-19, 2022

Celebrate the Feast of the Dormition at  
the Historic Monastery of Panagia  
Soumela with His All-Holiness  
Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew.

ONE OF FOUR  
UNIQUE  
PILGRIMAGES IN AN  
ORIGINAL 4-PART  
CENTENNIAL SERIES

AUGUST 8 - AUGUST 19



SAMISU



TRABZON



CONSTANTINOPLE

Visit Tripoli with its castle, Kerasunda and the former Church of Agios Nikolaos (Museum of Giresun), Kotyora (Ordu) and the former Church of Ipapanti and St. George, Cape Jason and the Church-Museum of St. Nicholas. ②

Attend Divine Liturgy for the feast of the Dormition of the Theotokos at the Panagia Soumela Monastery with His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew. Visit the sites of great importance to the Pontian heritage. ②

Experience the Queen of Cities by visiting sites sacred to the Orthodox faith: The Sacred Center of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, Hagia Sophia, the Theological School of Halki, Panagia Vlacherna, and Baloukli Monastery. ②



**Double Occupancy**  
\$4,975

**Single Occupancy**  
\$5,995

**Flights departing from and returning to New York.  
Participants can also join directly from Greece!**

**For More Information and to Reserve Your Spot Today Contact Cloud Tours:**



(718) 721-3808

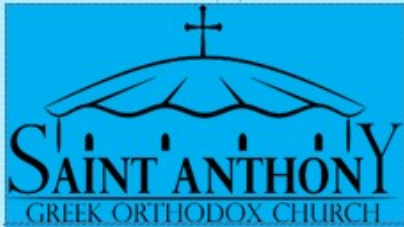


stephen@cloudtours.com


## What is New in the Community? continued

### The Voice of Saint Anthony

January 2022



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 Pasadena, CA 91107  
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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](mailto: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

### Dormition Fast

1 August–14 August

The commemoration of the Dormition of the Theotokos and the preparation for the Feast begin on August 1 with a period of fasting. A strict fast is followed on most of the days (no meat, dairy, oil, or wine), with the exceptions of fish on the Feast of the Transfiguration (August 6) and the day of the Dormition. Oil and Wine are allowed on Saturdays and Sundays.

On the weekdays before the Feast, Paraklesis services are held in most parishes. These consist of the Great Paraklesis and the Small Paraklesis, both services of supplication and prayer for the intercessions of the Theotokos.

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### Transfiguration of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ

6 August

Our Lord had spoken to His disciples many times not only concerning His Passion, Cross, and Death, but also concerning the coming persecutions and afflictions that they themselves would endure. Since all these evils were near at hand, but the enjoyment of good things which they hoped to receive in their stead was yet to come, our Savior desired to give them full assurance, evidently and openly, concerning that glory which is prepared for those who endure to the end. Therefore, fulfilling that which He had promised shortly before, that:

*"there be some standing here which shall not taste of death, till they see the Son of man coming in His Kingdom"* (Matthew 16:28),

He took His three foremost disciples and ascended Mount Tabor, where He was transfigured before them. His face shone like the sun, and His clothes became white as the light. Suddenly, together with this dread and marvelous effulgence of light, there appeared those pinnacles of the Prophets, Moses and Elias, who spoke with the Lord Jesus concerning His saving Passion which was about to take place. Standing before Him as reverent servants, they showed that He is the Lord of both the living and the dead, for Moses came forth from Hades, having died many centuries before, and Elias, as it were from heaven, whither he had been taken up while yet alive. After a little while a radiant cloud overshadowed them and out of the cloud they heard that same voice which had been heard at the Jordan at the Baptism of Christ, testifying to the Divinity of Jesus and saying:

*"This is My beloved Son, in Whom I am well-pleased; listen to Him"* (Matthew 17: 5).



## Feasts and Saints for this month continued

### Transfiguration of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ - continued

Such are the marvels, truly worthy of God, celebrated in this present feast, which is an image and prefiguring of the future state of the righteous, whose splendor the Lord spoke of, saying: "Then shall the righteous shine forth as the sun" (Matt. 13:43). According to tradition, the Lord's Transfiguration came to pass forty days before His Crucifixion; this is why the Transfiguration is celebrated forty days before the Exaltation of the Cross.

### The Dormition of our Most Holy Lady the Theotokos and Ever Virgin Mary

#### 15 August

Concerning the Dormition of the Theotokos, this is what the Church has received from ancient times from the tradition of the Fathers. When the time drew nigh that our Savior was well-pleased to take His Mother to Himself, He declared unto her through an Angel that three days hence, He would translate her from this temporal life to eternity and bliss. On hearing this, she went up with haste to the Mount of Olives, where she prayed continuously. Giving thanks to God, she returned to her house and prepared whatever was necessary for her burial. While these things were taking place, clouds caught up the Apostles from the ends of the earth, where each one happened to be preaching, and brought them at once to the house of the Mother of God, who informed them of the cause of their sudden gathering. As a mother, she consoled them in their affliction as was meet, and then raised her hands to Heaven and prayed for the peace of the world. She blessed the Apostles, and, reclining upon her bed with seemliness, gave up her all-holy spirit into the hands of her Son and God.

With reverence and many lights, and chanting burial hymns, the Apostles took up that God-receiving body and brought it to the sepulcher, while the Angels from Heaven chanted with them, and sent forth her who is higher than the Cherubim. But one Jew, moved by malice, audaciously stretched forth his hand upon the bed and immediately received from divine judgment the wages of his audacity. Those daring hands were severed by an invisible blow. But when he repented and asked forgiveness, his hands were restored. When they had reached the place called Gethsemane, they buried there with honor the all-immaculate body of the Theotokos, which was the source of Life. But on the third day after the burial, when they were eating together, and raised up the artos (bread) in Jesus' Name, as was their custom, the Theotokos appeared in the air, saying "Rejoice" to them. From this they learned concerning the bodily translation of the Theotokos into the Heavens.



## Feasts and Saints for this month continued

### Saint Phanourios

27 August

Little is known of the holy Martyr Phanourios, except that which is depicted concerning his martyrdom on his holy icon, which was discovered in the year 1500 among the ruins of an ancient church on Rhodes, when the Moslems ruled there. Thus he is called "the Newly Revealed." The faithful pray to Saint Phanourios especially to help them recover things that have been lost, and because he has answered their prayers so often, the custom has arisen of baking a Phaneropita ("Phanourios-Cake") as a thank you-offering.



### Beheading of John the Baptist

29 August

The divine Baptist, the Prophet born of a Prophet, the seal of all the Prophets and beginning of the Apostles, the mediator between the Old and New Covenants, the voice of one crying in the wilderness, the God-sent Messenger of the incarnate Messiah, the forerunner of Christ's coming into the world who by many miracles was both conceived and born; who was filled with the Holy Spirit while yet in his mother's womb; who came forth like another Elias the Zealot, whose life in the wilderness and divine zeal for God's Law he imitated: this divine Prophet, after he had preached the baptism of repentance according to God's command; had taught men of low rank and high how they must order their lives; had admonished those whom he baptized and had filled them with the fear of God, teaching them that no one is able to escape the wrath to come if he does not do works worthy of repentance; had, through such preaching, prepared their hearts to receive the evangelical teachings of the Savior; and finally, after he had pointed out to the people the very Savior, and said,

*"Behold the Lamb of God, Which taketh away the sin of the world"*

(Luke 3:2-18; John 1: 29-36)



After all this, John sealed with his own blood the truth of his words and was made a sacred victim for the divine Law at the hands of a transgressor.

This was Herod Antipas, the Tetrarch of Galilee, the son of Herod the Great. This man had a lawful wife, the daughter of Arethas (or Aretas), the King of Arabia (that is, Arabia Petraea, which had the famous Nabatean stone city of Petra as its capital. This is mentioned by Saint Paul in II Cor. 11:32).



## Feasts and Saints for this month continued

### Beheading of John the Baptist - continued

Without any cause, and against every commandment of the Law, he put her away and took to himself Herodias, the wife of his brother Philip, to whom Herodias had borne a daughter, Salome. He would not desist from this unlawful union even when John, the preacher of repentance, the bold and austere accuser of the lawless, censured him and told him:

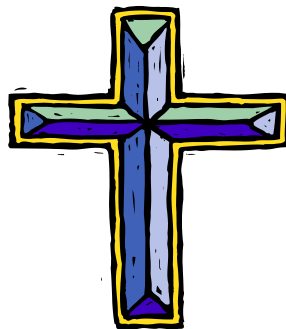
*"It is not lawful for thee to have thy brother's wife"* (Mark 6: 18).

Thus Herod, besides his other unholy acts, added yet this, that he apprehended John and shut him in prison; and perhaps he would have killed him straightway, had he not feared the people, who had extreme reverence for John. Certainly, in the beginning, he himself had great reverence for this just and holy man. But finally, being pierced with the sting of a mad lust for the woman Herodias, he laid his defiled hands on the teacher of purity on the very day he was celebrating his birthday.

When Salome, Herodias' daughter, had danced in order to please him and those who were supping with him, he promised her -- with an oath more foolish than any foolishness -- that he would give her anything she asked, even unto the half of his kingdom. And she, consulting with her mother, straightway asked for the head of John the Baptist in a charger. Hence this transgressor of the Law, preferring his lawless oath above the precepts of the Law, fulfilled this godless promise and filled his loathsome banquet with the blood of the Prophet. So it was that the all-venerable head, revered by the Angels, was given as a prize for an abominable dance, and became the plaything of the dissolute daughter of a debauched mother.

As for the body of the divine Baptist, it was taken up by his disciples and placed in a tomb.

























(Mark 6: 21 - 29)





# Orthodox Calendar

## August 2022

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	 1 <b>Dormition Fast</b> August Lent begins 6pm Small Paraklesis	 2	 3 6pm Small Paraklesis 7pm Union Station Philoptochos Outreach	 4	 5 6pm Great Vespers	 6 9am Transfiguration of our Lord
 7 <b>8th Sunday of Matthew</b> 8:45am Orthros 10am Divine Liturgy Indoor & Live-stream	 8 6pm Small Paraklesis	 9 7pm Parish Council Meeting	 10 6pm Small Paraklesis 7pm Philoptochos Board Meeting	 11	 12 6pm Small Paraklesis	 13
 14 <b>9th Sunday of Matthew</b> 8:45am Orthros 10am Divine Liturgy 7pm Great Vespers Assumption Church Long Beach Indoor & Live-stream	15 9am Dormition of the Virgin Mary	16	 17	18	 19	20
<b>10th Sunday of Matthew</b> 8:45am Orthros 10am Divine Liturgy Indoor & Live-stream	22	23	 24	25	 26	27 Saint Phanourios
<b>11th Sunday of Matthew</b> 8:45am Orthros 10am Divine Liturgy Indoor & Live-stream	 29 Beheading of John the Baptist	30	 31			
		<b>Strict Fast</b> Refrain from Meat, Fish, Wine, Oil, Dairy & Eggs 	Fish, Wine & Oil Allowed 	Wine and Oil Allowed 	Dairy, Eggs, & Fish Allowed: Refrain from Meat 	Fast Free

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August 2022

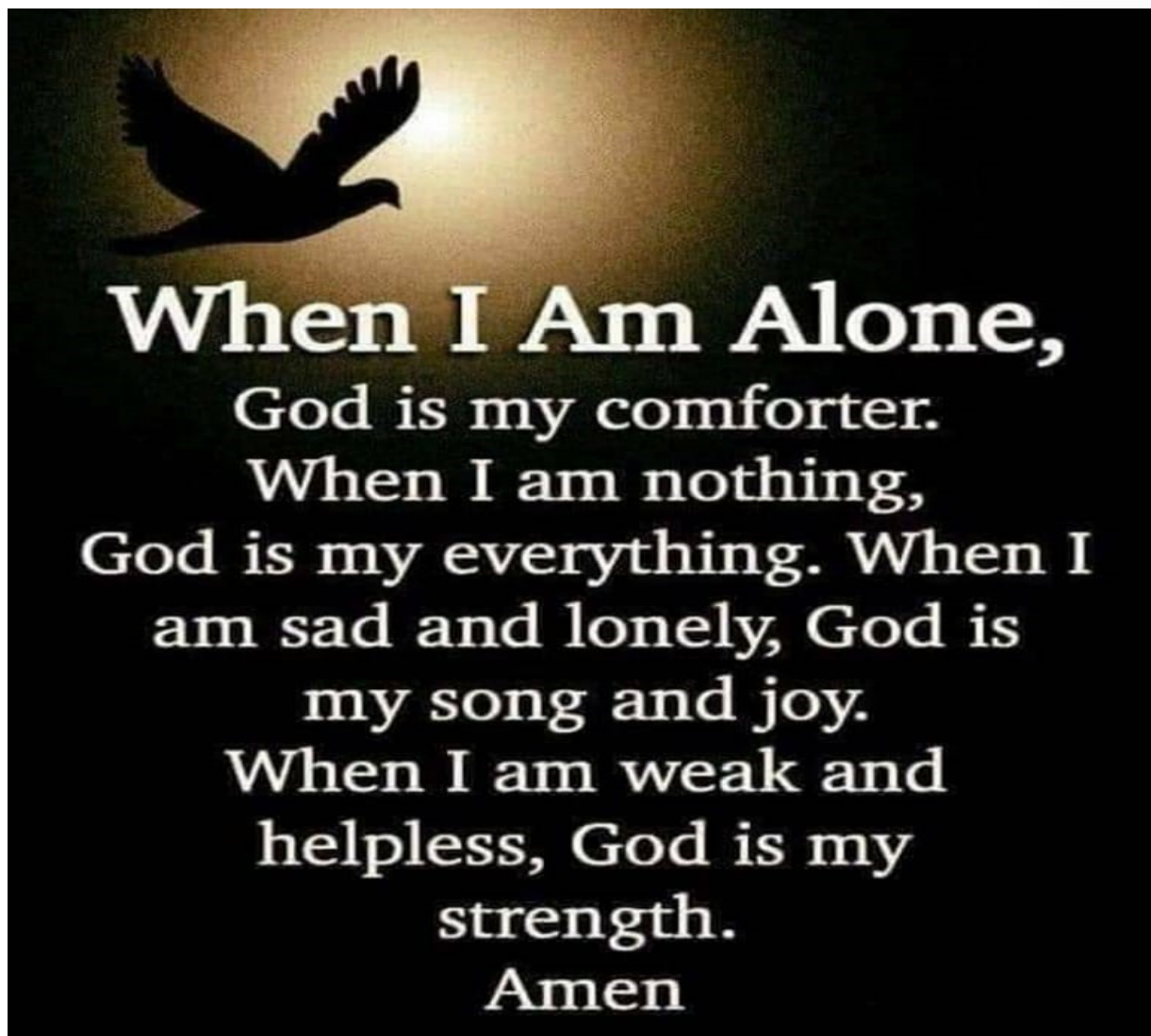
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*To generations of our descendants yet unknown to you, who some day in the dim and distant future will read this account of the dramatic history of the Hellenic community, we who have written this account not only on paper, but in the blood, sweat and tears of our daily lives make this statement:*

*We have built this community with its hopes and its fears, and its land and its buildings because we believe, as did our forefathers, in the soul's immortality, and its eventual union with God.*

*We believe that whether or not we have amassed a great deal of personal wealth or fame, it matters little, since we could not take that with us. What does matter is how we have discharged our obligation to pass on to you the faith and ideals that have sustained us through our lives... and we venture the hope that as you read these lines, you may breathe a prayer that what we have done here may have found favor in the eyes of God.*



**When I Am Alone,  
God is my comforter.  
When I am nothing,  
God is my everything. When I  
am sad and lonely, God is  
my song and joy.  
When I am weak and  
helpless, God is my  
strength.  
Amen**