

# The Voice of Saint Anthony

April 2023

## Saint Anthony's Greek Orthodox Church

Reverend Father Peter Stratos

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[www.saint-anthonys.org](http://www.saint-anthonys.org)

Sunday of St. Mary of Egypt	2 April
Palm Sunday	9 April
Holy Week	10-15 April
Holy Friday	14 April
Holy Saturday	15 April
Holy Pascha	16 April
Sunday of Thomas	23 April
Sunday of Myrrh-Bearers	30 April

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Great and Holy Pascha  
16 April

Deadline for May Newsletter is Tuesday, 25 April  
Please send to: [newsletter\\_church@aol.com](mailto:newsletter_church@aol.com)

## Message from Father Peter

*Before Your voluntary Passion, Christ our God, You have given to all men an assurance of the General Resurrection; for at Bethany You have raised by Your almighty power, Lazarus who was four-days dead, and as Giver of Light, O Savior, You have made the blind to see. With Your disciples You have entered the Holy City, seated upon a colt, as though upon the cherubim, and so You have fulfilled the preaching of the prophets. The children of the Hebrews with palms and branches came to meet You. Therefore, we also bearing palms and olive branches cry aloud to You in thanksgiving: Hosanna in the Highest; blessed is He that comes in the Name of the Lord!*  
...From Saturday of Lazarus Matins Service

Dear Faithful,

*"Therefore, we also bearing palms and olive branches cry aloud to You in thanksgiving!"*

With these inspiring words, we approach another glorious Holy Week. This is the time of the year that we all need to come together as a Christian Family, to embrace these beautiful services of Holy Week, as they lead us, through participation and worship, to His Glorious Resurrection.

In an effort to prepare our faithful for a better understanding of the significance of each day of Holy Week, we are providing the Synaxarion Reading of each Great and Holy Day beginning with Palm Sunday. The daily Synaxarion, can be described as a collection of short descriptions of the lives of saints and martyrs, but also of accounts of important events that are commemorated that day. Here is a compilation of these important daily events:

### **Palm Sunday:**

*"The Savior has come today to the city of Jerusalem, to fulfill the Scriptures; and all have taken palms into their hands and spread their garments before Him, knowing that He is our God, to whom the cherubim sing without ceasing; Hosanna in the highest. Blessed are You who shows great compassion: have mercy upon us."*

### **Great and Holy Monday:**

*"On Monday in Holy Week commemoration is made of the blessed and noble Joseph, and of the fig tree which was cursed and withered by the Lord. The wise Joseph showed himself a just ruler. Praise to Thee O giver of grain. The synagogue of the Hebrews is thought by Christ a fig tree destitute of spiritual fruit, and He withers it with His curse. Let us flee from a similar fate."*

### **Great and Holy Tuesday:**

*"On this Holy and Great Tuesday we make remembrance of the Parable on the Ten Virgins written in the Holy Gospel. Wherefore, O Christ the Bridegroom number us with the wise virgins and have mercy upon us. Amen."*

### **Great and Holy Wednesday:**

*"On Wednesday in Holy Week it has been ordained by the Holy Fathers that commemoration should be made of the anointing of the Lord with myrrh by the woman who was a sinner, for this occurred shortly before the Passion of the Savior."*

### **Great and Holy Thursday:**

*"The Divine Father, having given good order to all things and in proper succession of readings from the Sacred Epistles and the Holy Gospels, gives us four events to commemorate on Holy and Great Thursday; the sacred act of the feet washing, the mystical supper (that is the tradition of our practice concerning the awesome mysteries) the most wonderful and extraordinary prayer, and the betrayal."*

## Message from Father Peter

### Great and Holy Friday:

*"On Great Friday is celebrated the Holy saving, and awful Passion of our Lord and God and Savior Jesus Christ. For us He willingly endured the spitting, the scourging, the buffeting, the scorn, the mocking, and the purple robe; the reed, the sponge, the vinegar, the nails, the spear, and above all, the Cross and Death. Also celebrated is the confession on the cross unto salvation of the penitent thief, who was crucified with Him."*

### Great and Holy Saturday:

*On the Great and Holy Saturday we celebrate the Burial of the Divine Body, and the descent of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ to Hades, through which He restored our kind, from corruption and transplanted it to eternal life. Wherefore, by Thine ineffable condescension, O Christ our God, have mercy upon us. Amen.*

### Great Sunday of Pascha:

*On the Holy and Great Sunday of Pascha, we celebrate the life giving Resurrection of our Lord, God and Savior Jesus Christ.*

With much anticipation and love, our Lord is welcoming us all back into His Holy Church. Come and see! Come and pray! Come and receive! Come and taste! Come and participate! Come and experience all the beauty of Holy Week and the joy of Christ's Holy Resurrection!

Καλή Ανάσταση

Fr. Peter



Clean Monday	→	Holy Week/Palm Sunday	40 days
Pascha	→	Ascension	40 days
		• Sing/say Christos Anesti	
		• Keep our "Fos" lit	
Ascension	→	Pentecost	10 days
Pascha	→	Pentecost	50 days
		• No kneeling during Liturgy	



## Message from Father Peter



### A Christian's guide for Great Lent



attend church services



set a daily prayer schedule, in the morning and the evening



read the Bible, the lives of the saints or other spiritual books



offer yourself time for reflection



observe the fasting rules during Lent



be patient and kind to those close to you and strangers



ask for forgiveness and forgive those who do you wrong



offer your time and talent to the community



be grateful for simple things



see the image of Christ in others



## Message from Father Peter

OUR JOURNEY TO PASCHA! 2023		
Created by Fr. Jonathan Bannon (ACROD)		
SUNDAYS	THEMES / GOSPEL READING	HOW TO PARTICIPATE:
Fast - Free Week <b>FEBRUARY 5th</b>	 <b>Publican and the Pharisee</b> Epistle: 2 Timothy 3:10-15 Gospel: Luke 18:10-14	Show compassion on the poor and distressed. Trust in God, not yourself and ask for His help before every task this week.
Normal Fast Week <b>FEBRUARY 12th</b>	 <b>The Prodigal Son Returns!</b> Epistle: 1 Corinthians 6:12-20 Gospel: Luke 15:11-32	Schedule a Confession. Every morning say, "Today I will be humble." Use up/freeze meats this week.
Meatfare <b>FEBRUARY 19th</b> FAREWELL TO MEAT TODAY	 <b>The Last Judgement</b> Epistle: 1 Corinthians 8:8-9:2 Gospel: Matthew 25:31-46	Pray facing East this week. Christ is returning from the East and we wait for Him! Use up/freeze dairy this week.
Cheesefare <b>FEBRUARY 26th</b> FAREWELL TO CHEESE TODAY	 <b>Adam and Eve are cast from Paradise!</b> FORGIVENESS SUNDAY Epistle: Romans 13:11-14:4 Gospel: Matthew 6:14-21	Ask each other for forgiveness each evening this week before bed.
1st Sunday of Lent <b>MARCH 5th</b>	 <b>SUNDAY of ORTHODOXY</b> Epistle: Hebrews 11:24-26, 32-12:2 Gospel: John 1:43-51	Bring an icon to church for a procession.
2nd Sunday of Lent <b>MARCH 12th</b>	 <b>ST GREGORY PALAMAS</b> Epistle: Hebrews 1:10-2:3 Gospel: Mark 2:1-12	Bring a prayer rope to be blessed today! Use it and pray the Jesus Prayer each day this week.
3rd Sunday of Lent <b>MARCH 19th</b>	 <b>VENERATION OF THE HOLY CROSS</b> HALF WAY TO PASCHAI Epistle: Hebrews 4:14-5:6 Gospel: Mark 8:34-9:1	Wear your cross to church and kiss the cross each morning with a bow!
4th Sunday of Lent <b>MARCH 26th</b>	 <b>ST JOHN of the LADDER</b> Epistle: Hebrews 6:13-20 Gospel: Mark 9:17-31	Every time you climb stairs this week ask St. John to help you reach Paradise with the sign of the cross!
5th Sunday of Lent <b>APRIL 2nd</b>	 <b>ST MARY of EGYPT</b> Epistle: Hebrews 9:11-14 Gospel: Mark 10:32-45	Ask the Theotokos to offer you and the world pure thoughts and ideas this week.
FLOWERY (PALM) SUNDAY! <b>APRIL 9th</b> GREAT WEEK BEGINS	 <b>GREAT AND HOLY WEEK</b> <b>ENTRY OF OUR LORD INTO JERUSALEM</b> Epistle: Philippians 4:4-9 Gospel: John 12:1-18	Place your palm branches and pussywillows behind an icon at home and in your car!
GREAT AND HOLY FRIDAY <b>APRIL 14th</b>	 <b>GREAT AND HOLY FRIDAY</b> JESUS DIES ON THE CROSS CHECK WITH YOUR PARISH FOR ROYAL HOURS AND VESPERS SCHEDULE	Refrain from TV, Internet & Phones to honor Christ's Death.
FEAST OF FEASTS! <b>APRIL 16th</b> NO FASTING!	 <b>BRIGHT WEEK</b> <b>HOLY PASCHA! (CHRIST IS RISEN!)</b> Epistle: Acts 1:1-8 Gospel: John 1:1-17	Greet everyone with "CHRIST IS RISEN!" & say it before good morning and goodnight!

# Stewardship



## 2023 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. 31, 2023

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

**In response to God's blessings, I/we pledge a 2023 offering of:**

**My Stewardship Commitment for 2023: \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

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

☐ Weekly at \$ \_\_\_\_\_/week

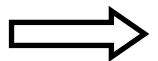
☐ Monthly at \$ \_\_\_\_\_/month

☐ Annually

Contact the Church office to set up easy recurring electronic payments

-OR- set up your own recurring giving at [saint-anthonys.churchgiving.com](http://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



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

## FAQs

### Frequently Asked Questions about Stewardship:

#### **Q: IS THERE A DIFFERENCE BETWEEN "DUES" & "STEWARDSHIP"?**

A: Yes! Three or four generations ago, it was commonplace for families throughout our Archdiocese to pay their annual "dues" or required membership fee to be a member of their local parish. Over time it was clear that this was not the healthiest way of committing to a local church as giving remained stagnant and the authentic Christian commitment of sacrificial giving became an afterthought. (note: the annual "dues" of \$300-350 *back then* would equate to roughly \$2,500-\$3,000 *today*) Stewardship, however, offers us the chance to recognize our unique blessings from God, and to give back based on what we have received. Stewardship is management of another's property, and all our blessings and gifts we have been given ultimately belong to God. We are but his caretakers, his priests, his *stewards* on this earth.

#### **Q: HOW MUCH SHOULD I GIVE?**

A: The foundations of Christian stewardship is both from Scripture and the teachings of our Lord. You may have heard the term *titling* (the word *tithe* literally means *tenth* in Hebrew), and this refers to the biblical giving goal of 10% of your household income to your local church (*Lev. 27:30; Num. 18:25-28; Deut. 14:22-24; 2 Chron. 31:5-6*). Yet, we also hear from our Lord Jesus Christ that true giving is when we offer sacrificially "all that we have" (*Luke 21:4*), "store up your treasures in heaven" (*Matt. 6:20*), "it is more blessed to give than to receive" (*Acts 20:35*), "for God loves a cheerful giver" (*2 Cor. 9:7*). With this in mind, you are invited to prayerfully reflect on your own household income, and make your sacrificial offering based on what you receive. Consider also what you offer to Christ's Church in comparison to your monthly utility/service payments. (*"Am I giving my phone more than my Church?"*) Use the chart to the right as a guide.

Annual Income	2.5%	5%	10%	15%
\$20,000	\$500	\$1,000	\$2,000	\$3,000
\$50,000	\$1,250	\$2,500	\$5,000	\$7,500
\$75,000	\$1,875	\$3,750	\$7,500	\$11,250
\$100,000	\$2,500	\$5,000	\$10,000	\$15,000
\$250,000	\$6,250	\$12,500	\$25,000	\$37,500

#### **Q: WHAT DOES MY STEWARDSHIP PAY FOR?**

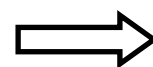
A: It costs approximately \$2,000/day to keep the church open. Most operating expenses are paid from stewardship. Some examples are mortgage, utilities, office staff and pastoral salaries, candles, permits, and facilities maintenance. Additional costs are directly related to church programs.

#### **Q: WHAT IS THE EASIEST WAY TO FULFILL MY PLEDGE?**

A: The easiest way is online! Pledging and paying online is fast and EASY and is the preferred method for many of our families. Simply go to our website [saint-anthonys.org](http://saint-anthonys.org) and click the DONATE button and this will take you to our online giving platform. Under "Regular" click the Make a Donation button, then click Create a Recurring Donation, enter your weekly/monthly/semi-annually amount and fill in the necessary information. You can always call the church office for assistance in setting up easy recurring giving payments. Paying your pledge can also be done by check, envelopes, or credit card payments, though these are not as convenient for you.

#### **Q: WHEN SHOULD I MAKE MY ANNUAL PLEDGE?**

A: We would ask you to turn in your pledge card by January 31<sup>st</sup>. Our church budget is based on our expected annual income and expenses. Forecasting stewardship in January helps meet our parish goals.





## Stewardship

**Q: I DON'T LIKE TO PAY MY PLEDGE UNTIL DECEMBER. SHOULD I STILL PLEDGE IN JANUARY?**

A: Yes. January pledging allows for effective fiscal budgeting. Pledge your annual amount, then pay weekly, monthly, semi-annually or annually.

**Q: WHY DO I HAVE TO UPDATE MY INFORMATION EVERY YEAR?**

A: We ask for updated information to provide you the opportunity to review your pledge for the upcoming year. As cost of living increases every year, so do our own parish expenses, and our giving to the church needs to adjust accordingly. We anticipate automatic online giving to become the standard in order to simplify the process.

**Q: DOESN'T THE GREEK FESTIVAL BRING IN MOST OF THE FUNDING FOR THE CHURCH?**

A: No. While the annual Pasadena Greek Fest is an important source of funding and support, it actually accounts for less than 15% of the total revenue brought in each year. Stewardship raises four times as much and is our primary source of funding for operating expenses. Ultimately, the goal is to have zero reliance on outside sources of funding, which would then make the Festival an outreach and community building opportunity, thus greatly alleviating the stress and dependency of this event.

**Q: I ALREADY PAY FOR GREEK DANCE, GREEK LANGUAGE SCHOOL, BASKETBALL, ETC. WHY DO I HAVE TO PAY STEWARDSHIP TOO?**

A: These programs operate independently from the church operating budget. The church provides the facility in addition to expenses enabling their operation and receives no money from these organizations. *It is also important to know that families participating in our children's ministries must be currently pledged stewards.*

**Q: IF I DONATE TO A MEMORIAL FUND, BUILDING FUND, FESTIVAL, OR EVENT, DOES THAT COUNT AS PART OF MY STEWARDSHIP?**

A: No. Your stewardship is represented entirely by your stated pledge.

**Q: IF I MAKE A NON-MONETARY DONATION TO THE CHURCH, CAN THIS REPRESENT MY STEWARDSHIP?**

A: No. Your stewardship pledge cannot be substituted for non-monetary donations. However, your various donations to the festival and the church are always greatly appreciated and are tax-deductible.

**Q: WHEN SHOULD MY CHILDREN BECOME STEWARDS?**

A: As the principles of stewardship is that of sacrificial giving from what we have received, everyone is encouraged to become a "cheerful giver" as soon as one begins to generate his/her own income.

**Q: WHAT IF I OR MY FAMILY EXPERIENCE A FINANCIAL HARDSHIP OR SEVERE CHANGE IN INCOME?**

A: Parishioners who are experiencing financial hardships and are unable to fulfill their stewardship obligation, but still want to be considered in "good standing", can always contact the church office, and you may always speak with one of our priests.

*Fact: With our congregation at roughly 300 families, to fully cover our operating expenses our goal is to have average stewardship be \$2,000 per family or above. Right now, 83% of our stewards are under that goal.*

## Stewardship



### Commitment of Time and Talents



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

#### Council of Ministries

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

#### Parish Events

_____ Palm Sunday Luncheon	_____ Resurrection Magiritsa	_____ Summer Family Picnic
_____ Pasadena Golf Classic	_____ Dinner	_____ Other
_____ Pasadena Greek Fest	_____ Saint Anthony Feast Day	

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

# Ministries at Saint Anthony



## 2023 PARISH COUNCIL

Joseph Akrotirianakis	President
Pete Gallanis	Co-Vice President
Perry Vidalakis	Co-Vice President
Tashia Vagenas	Secretary
Christian Balas	Treasurer

Tony Christopoulos  
Tom Grafos  
Louie Kades  
Pete Katsafados  
Liam McCann  
Eleni Mitropoulos  
Jim Pappas  
Dino Vagenas  
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, Larissa Maslen – Pre K/TK

Sophia Syrengelas – Kindergarten, 1st  
Adrianna Lareau – Kindergarten, 1st

Theoni Katsafados – 2nd, 3rd  
Vicki Kades, Jenni Nassos – 2nd, 3rd

Mary Udria, Athena Serban – 4th, 5th  
Kyriaki Tsigounis, Maria Kypreos – 4th, 5th

Polly Vagenas, Chris Syrengelas – 6th, 7th, 8th

Presvytera Aida Stratos – High School

Vicki Kades – Photographer



# 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**

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

#### Golf Classic

Jimmy Christos

Ted Attalla

#### GOYA

Fr. Peter Stratos

#### GOYA Basketball

Anthia Lucas

Pana Gelt

#### GOYA Volleyball

Anthia Lucas

Pana Gelt

#### Greek Dance Groups

Phophi Magaziotis

#### Greek Festival

Christian Balas

#### Greek Language

Anastasia McClain

#### JOY/HOPE

Irene Albeck

#### Myrrh Bearers

Irene Albeck

#### Oratorical Festival

TBD

#### Prayer Shawls

Maria Kypreos

#### Psalter Group

Fr. Peter Stratos

#### Vacation Bible School

Sophia Syrengelas

Mary Udria

#### VIPs

Irene Albeck



## Parish Council Happenings

Members of the Community:

### Your Church needs your stewardship.

At our most recent parish council meeting on March 14, one of the members asked the question as to whether stewardship pledges carry over from year to year. This is a good question – and one to which many may not know the answer. The answer is that they do not. If you have not yet become a steward this year or renewed your stewardship, please do so. Stewardship cards can be obtained from the church office or at the candle stands in the church narthex.

### Upcoming fellowship opportunities.

We look forward to a number of upcoming fellowship opportunities. Please join us:

#### *Saturday of Lazarus breakfast.*

Following liturgy on **Saturday, April 8**, a pancake and fruit breakfast will be held in the hall. The breakfast will be free of charge. Please come to celebrate the liturgy and enjoy this annual breakfast.

#### *Palm Sunday luncheon.*

Following liturgy on **Sunday, April 9**, your Parish Council will sponsor a fish luncheon. The lunch is free of charge but donations are of course welcomed!. Please join us to celebrate the liturgy and enjoy a traditional Palm Sunday lunch.

#### *Magiritsa*

Following the Resurrection service and Divine Liturgy on **Holy Saturday/Easter morning**, the Kefalas family has graciously offered to host the community magiritsa in the hall. Please join us to break the fast. Please thank the Kefalas family for their kind hosting.

#### *Saint Anthony Golf Tournament.*

The 21st Annual Pasadena Golf Classic will be held **May 5**, and it is fast approaching. Our golf tournament is one of two major fundraisers held during the year – the other being our Greek festival. There are many ways you can participate or contribute. All proceeds will benefit the community's building fund to support the senior apartment project. Please **register** to golf by April 20 online at <https://pasadenagolfclassic.com/>. Enter "EARLYPAY" for a discounted rate. Additional **sponsors** are needed. You or your business can sponsor a tee, a hole, or become a major sponsor. Please consider donating to the tournament's **auction** or **silent auction**.

Please direct any **questions** to the Golf Committee Chairman Jimmy Christodoulelis or Parish Council Members Vincent Zarian or Liam McCann.

### Upcoming General Assemblies.

Our Spring General Assembly will be held **Sunday, May 7**. A luncheon will be served, sponsored by your Parish Council.

### Continued wishes for Great Lent.

Your Parish Council wishes all a good and blessed Great Lent. May we all experience it in health and with an uplifting of the soul. Καλή Σαρακοστή! Καλή δύναμη!

Sincerely,

Joe Akrotirianakis  
Parish Council President



Our Sunday School teachers have been guiding their students through a special and meaningful Lenten season. Each week, students learn about the significance of the Sundays of Lent as well as ways that they can participate in practices that will enhance the joy and beauty of Pascha. It is our hope that through prayer, forgiveness, fasting and attending services (to name a few), our students will be all the more prepared to participate in Holy Week services and celebrate Christ's Resurrection.

We had two wonderful and heartwarming events in the month of March: Sunday of Orthodoxy and Godparent Sunday.

#### Sunday of Orthodoxy-

Students participated in the procession of icons on the first Sunday of Lent - Sunday of Orthodoxy - as they traditionally do every year. It is always special to see our church filled with students holding their icons in procession as they chant, "Lord have mercy" and "Kirie Eleison". This year, students carried icons that they painted during their iconography project that started in January and continued until Sunday of Orthodoxy. Seeing the beautiful icons that our children created made for the service and procession being all the more memorable. All students, whether they carried an icon they brought from home or the one they painted in class, brought smiles to the faces of the congregation during the procession.

#### Godparent Sunday -

This was celebrated on Sunday of the Cross and was a special day for our students and teachers. Godparents joined their godchild in church for Divine Liturgy and Holy Communion and then visited them in their classroom for a photo op and special activity. They completed a questionnaire together reflecting on the child's baptism and the love the godparent has for the child. Whether the Godparent(s) of our students were able to join or not, there was a special emphasis for all the kids on the joy of being baptized Greek Orthodox and having godparents.

We'd like to welcome our community to visit our classrooms and take one more look at the icons the children created before they take them home. Be sure to come upstairs for a quick hello on Palm Sunday after Sunday School dismissal (12:00 pm)!

Sending a heartfelt THANK YOU to our wonderful team of teachers who are the heart and soul of this program. They serve our program with tremendous faith, love, and dedication.

Sophia Syrengelas







*Sunday of Orthodoxy*





*Sunday of Orthodoxy*



*Godparent Sunday*

## Youth & Young Adults



### St. Anthony G.O.Y.A. Basketball

Sunday, April 2nd at St. Katherine will conclude our regular season.  
Stay tuned for standings and the playoff schedule.

**Sunday, April 2: @ St. Katherine**

722 Knob Hill Avenue, Redondo Beach

2:00 Jr. Girls; 3:00 Jr. Boys; 4:00 Sr. Girls; 5:00 Sr. Boys

**Saturday, April 22: @ St. Sophia**

Quarter Finals—Jr. Girls; Jr. Boys; Sr. Girls

Times TBA

**Sunday, April 23: @ St. Nicholas**

Quarter Finals—Sr. Boys

**Saturday, April 29: Semi Finals @ St. Sophia**

**Sunday, April 30: Finals @ St. Sophia**

Banquet and Awards to Follow St. Sophia

We look forward to seeing everyone come to support our youth at their games!





Youth & Young Adults





## Youth & Young Adults





Youth & Young Adults





## Youth & Young Adults continued

### St. Anthony GOYA News Knott's Berry Farm

On a beautiful Saturday, March 18, twenty-six St. Anthony GOYANs and approximately 10 parents and Young Adult chaperones enjoyed a fun filled day at Knott's Berry Farm.

They couldn't have asked for a more perfect day of rides, food and fun for all.

Special thank you to Maria Katsas for her organization and planning which made this day run smoothly.

Additionally, we would like to thank all parents and Young Adults who carpooled and helped transport our GOYANs to and from the park safely.

Special thanks to all of our St. Anthony middle and high schoolers who attended for their cooperation and exemplary behavior!

Parents can be very proud of these fine young people!





Youth & Young Adults continued





## Youth & Young Adults continued





Youth & Young Adults continued



Goya High Schoolers

## 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: Chicken - \$75, Rolls - \$15, Dessert - \$17, and Beverages - \$40.

We invite you to consider helping us feed the needy by making a contribution towards this work.

We are also in need of donations to help offset our costs of large aluminum pans with lids. 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 on the memo line.

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

#### **For further information, please 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

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





## Philoptochos continued

### Operation Classroom

Pasadena City College Lancer Pantry needs personal hygiene items. Philoptochos will be collecting these items throughout March and April. There will be plastic bins inside the entryway of the hall to place your donations. Travel and regular sizes accepted.

**ST. ANTHONY PHILOPTOCHOS  
OPERATION CLASSROOM**

Help us support PCC Lancer Pantry  
**We will be collecting hygiene items  
throughout March and April**

List of items students at PCC are commonly in need of:

- Shampoo & Conditioner
- Bar or Liquid Soap
- Face Cleansers
- Hand & Body Lotion
- Razors
- Shaving Cream
- Deodorant
- Feminine Products
- Toothbrushes & toothpaste

**Please drop off items at  
St. Anthony Church 778 S. Rosemead Blvd. Pasadena**

Questions or more information contact  
Operation Classroom Co-Charis: Nicolette Fuerst or Jennifer Webster  
Nicolette.fuerst@gmail.com or jenniferkwebster@me.com



## Philoptochos continued

### Community Happenings

#### ***Easter Eggs – March General Meeting***

On Tuesday evening, March 28, Philoptochos members and guests had fun decorating beautiful red paper-mache eggs for Pascha under the creative direction of Jeanne Karaioannoglou .

#### ***Attention High School Seniors***

Philoptochos of Saint Anthony scholarship applications are now available. Contact Presuytera Aida Stratos (presaida7@gmail.com) for information or an application.

#### ***Philoptochos Easter Bake Sale***

*Last Day to place Orders is April 2nd*

Philoptochos Easter Bake Sale Delectable Greek pastries and our special signature treats are now available to order. All proceeds will benefit Kids 'n' Cancer's – Camp Agape, a Philoptochos ministry dedicated to providing support to children afflicted with cancer and their families.

Orders will be available for pickup only on Saturday, April 8 and Sunday, April 9, after liturgy until 1:00 PM both days.

To place an order online go to the website: <https://stanthonyphiloptochos.square.site>

To place an order by mail, please complete the order form on the next page of this newsletter.

## *Pascha Baking Thank You*

We would like to thank everyone who helped us with the baking for the Pascha bake sale.

It will benefit the San Francisco Metropolis  
Philoptochos ministry, *Kids 'n' Cancer*.

Our heartfelt thanks to Irene Albeck and the VIP's who joined us on our baking days. In fact, the majority of the women who came to help were VIP members! We could not have accomplished what we did without this lovely group of women.

With appreciation,  
Helen Skandale and Lisa Xanthos

# Philoptochos continued

## Philoptochos Easter Bake Sale

*Proceeds to benefit Kids' n' Cancer-Camp Agape*

**Pre-Paid Orders Must Be Received by Sunday, April 2, 2023**

**ORDERS AVAILABLE FOR PICKUP ONLY:**

St. Anthony Greek Orthodox Church, 778 South Rosemead Blvd., Pasadena

**SATURDAY, APRIL 8 and SUNDAY, APRIL 9 (after Liturgy until 1:00 PM-both days)**

Place prepaid order by:

- **MAIL** – Fill out Order Form below (check payable to St. Anthony Philoptochos and mail to: St. Anthony Philoptochos, Kids 'n' Cancer Bake Sale, 778 S. Rosemead Blvd., Pasadena, CA 91107 or
- **ONLINE** – <https://stanthonypiloptochos.square.site>

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell/Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

ITEMS		COST	QUANTITY	\$ TOTAL
	<b>Tsoureki</b> (1 loaf) Traditional sweet Greek Easter Bread.	<b>\$20</b>	_____	\$ _____
	<b>Koulourakia</b> (bag of 12) Butter-based cookies with sweet delicate flavor topped with egg glaze and toasted sesame seeds.	<b>\$10</b>	_____	\$ _____
	<b>Koulourakia, Chocolate Dipped</b> (box of 6) Butter-based with sweet delicate flavor dipped in dark chocolate ( <b>Limited Quantity</b> ).	<b>\$8</b>	_____	\$ _____
	<b>Kourabiethes</b> (box of 12) Shortbread butter cookies without nuts covered in powdered sugar.	<b>\$20</b>	_____	\$ _____
	<b>Chick Oreos, Chocolate Dipped</b> (1 chick per pkg) 3 chocolate dipped Oreo cookies shaped into one colorful chick.	<b>\$6</b>	_____	\$ _____
	<b>Easter Oreos, Chocolate Dipped</b> (2 per pkg) Oreo cookies dipped in colorful chocolate and covered with candy sprinkles.	<b>\$4</b>	_____	\$ _____
	<b>Dyed Red Eggs</b> (1 dozen)	<b>\$10</b>	_____	\$ _____

**ORDER TOTAL** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

## Philoptochos continued

### Upcoming Meetings

April Christmas Benefit Planning Meeting – **Monday, April 3** at 7:00 PM in the church hall

We invite you to help us plan our largest fundraiser of the year. This year's event will be held on Saturday, **December 2, 2023**. All are welcome to join the 2023 Benefit planning committee.

April Board Meeting – **Wednesday, April 19** at 7:00 PM in church hall

April General Meeting – **GAME NIGHT – Wednesday, April 26** at 7:00 PM

### Upcoming Metropolis Events

#### **Kids 'N Cancer – Agape: A Celebration of Love**

A luncheon will be held on **Sunday May 7, 2023 at 2:00 PM** at the Newport Beach Country Club. This annual event helps raise awareness for the ministry of providing support for children afflicted with cancer and their families. This event is a beautiful, fun-filled afternoon giving those attending the opportunity to participate in fundraising, to meet Camp Agape families, and to enjoy fellowship.

Tickets will go on sale this spring. Seating is limited so don't miss out!

Event details forthcoming at: [www.sfphiloptochos.org](http://www.sfphiloptochos.org)

### 2023 Philoptochos Membership

Our 2023 Membership Drive has begun and we invite you to join us in our important work. We encourage all women, 18 years and older to join Philoptochos. Men and non-Orthodox women may also join as associate members. Your participation in this ministry can make a difference in so many lives.

To renew or join by mail send your check (payable to St. Anthony Philoptochos Society) to St. Anthony Philoptochos Society, 778 South Rosemead Boulevard, Pasadena, CA 91107 or pay online: <https://stanthonypiloptochos.square.site> Each \$50 stewardship supports the National Philoptochos, the San Francisco Metropolis and St. Anthony Philoptochos obligations and projects.

Thank you for your continued support and for helping make a difference in our community.

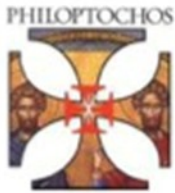


FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA

Facebook: St. Anthony Philoptochos  
Instagram: stanthonypiloptochos



# Philoptochos continued

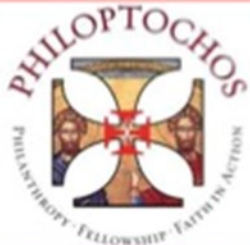


## PHILOPTOCHOS SOCIETY OF SAINT ANTHONY GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH PANAGIA CHAPTER

### PHILOPTOCHOS MEMBERSHIP FORM

☐ 2023 Philoptochos Membership ☐ 2023 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 <input type="checkbox"/>			
St. Anthony's Philoptochos Stewardship (membership dues). Select amount below:			
<input type="checkbox"/> \$50	<input type="checkbox"/> \$75	<input type="checkbox"/> \$100	<input type="checkbox"/> \$125 <input type="checkbox"/> Other
Each \$50 stewardship supports National Philoptochos (\$15), San Francisco Metropolis (\$15) and St. Anthony Philoptochos obligations and projects (\$20). <input type="checkbox"/> Check <input type="checkbox"/> Credit Card <input type="checkbox"/> 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	<input type="checkbox"/> Baking & Cooking	<input type="checkbox"/> Website Designer	
<input type="checkbox"/> Homebound Visitations	<input type="checkbox"/> Fundraising	<input type="checkbox"/> Other Talents	
<input type="checkbox"/> Telephone Tree	<input type="checkbox"/> Social Media	<input type="checkbox"/> Specify	



### 2023 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://stanthonyphiloptochos.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**

## Philoptochos continued



### COFFEE HOUR FELLOWSHIP



**Host a Coffee Hour and celebrate a Birthday, Anniversary, Name Day, Graduation, Loved One, as a Family Activity or for any reason!**

Every Sunday following the Divine Liturgy, coffee hour in the Parish Hall provides an opportunity to visit with fellow parishioners and to greet new Parish members. By offering to host a Coffee Hour Fellowship, you are assisting in providing a delicious snack while we spend time with our church family.

Hosting is as easy as 1-2-3:

1. **Sign-up on the poster located in the Parish Hall or Church Office.** To be included in the bulletin, notify the Church Office by the Wednesday prior to the date chosen at 626.449.6943 or by email [office@saint-anthonys.org](mailto:office@saint-anthonys.org)

For Memorials, you must notify the Church Office by the Wednesday prior to the date chosen at 626.449.6943 or by email [office@saint-anthonys.org](mailto:office@saint-anthonys.org)

2. **Bring snacks for 75 adults and kids** – Suggestions include: assorted Bagels, Muffins, Cakes, Cookies, Mini Deli Sandwiches, Cheese & Crackers, Olives, Dolmades, Hummus, Tzatziki, Pita, Raw Vegetables, Fruit, Salads, Oatmeal or anything you prefer
3. **Bring food items plated on serving trays/bowls and ready to serve by 10:30am on your chosen day.** (Serving tables and coffee/water station are set up by 10:00am)

That's it! Your fellow parishioners will be grateful for the snack and fellowship.

Philoptochos provides the coffee, sugar, creamer, paper plates, plastic utensils and napkins or you may choose to donate these items to help offset the cost.

For questions, please call or email Tanya Christodoulelis at 626.379.2304 or [tanyachristos@yahoo.com](mailto:tanyachristos@yahoo.com).

**All cash donations made during Coffee Hour go toward the Church Altar Fund to provide the items needed throughout the year for the altar.**



## VIPs

In spite of several atmospheric rivers dropping lots of rain on Southern California all month, the March 14<sup>th</sup> meeting of the VIPs was very well attended by an enthusiastic group of our membership. Though grateful for this amount of precipitation easing the drought that our state has endured, we look forward to some drier days so that we might once again begin scheduling the outings to locations of interest to our group, that were so popular in pre-pandemic days.

We were pleased to recognize our members who celebrated birthdays in March: Eleni Christodoulelis, Judie Christopoulos, Aliko Haralambos, and Stavrouta Kiotas.

With the proceeds of the Philoptochos Easter Bake Sale slated to benefit *Kids'n'Cancer-Camp Agape*, we want to acknowledge the efforts and thank our members who are actively involved in the pastry preparation for this worthy cause: Christina Becronis, Helen Damilatis, Christine Kades, Stavrouta Kiotas, Joanna Koulos, Ynggrid Molinari, Gena Pegadiotes, and Yiota Poulos.

As a reminder to our membership and the community at large, Saint Anthony Philoptochos, with its **OPERATION CLASSROOM**, will continue to collect hygiene items through the month of April in support of the PCC Lancer Pantry. These items should be dropped off at the church office for eventual delivery to Pasadena City College.

In an effort to introduce some low impact physical stamina training to our members, Nicole Schulman was invited to conduct a twenty-minute chair-aerobic exercise routine for our members. The positive response from the group shows that this physical activity may become a regular addition to our monthly meetings!

THANK YOU NICOLE FOR ELEVATING OUR HEART RATES IN A NICE WAY. WE VERY MUCH APPRECIATE YOUR CONTRIBUTION TO OUR WELLNESS!

After our exercise session, a delicious light Lenten luncheon rounded out a beautiful meeting; compliments of Eleni Christodoulelis, Helen Damilatis, Christine Kades, Stavrouta Kiotas, and Gena Pegadiotes.

Our next meeting will be held on **Tuesday, April 11<sup>th</sup>**!

The VIPs extend best wishes for a meaningful Lenten journey and *Kali Anastasi* to the entire Saint Anthony Family.

Jim Hronas

VIP Communications



## VIPs continued





## Monthly Lesson from Father Stavros Akrotirianakis...

Many times, people in our church wonder, sometimes rather loudly, why we do the same thing all the time when it comes to our liturgical services and calendar for the year. Saint Paul helps provide an answer in his Epistle to the Hebrews, when he writes: *"Therefore we must pay the closer attention to what we have heard, lest we drift away from it."* (Hebrews 2:1)

Marketing specialists say that it takes at least seven "touches" to get people to remember things they see advertised. That is why companies run the same commercials again and again, hoping the product they are advertising will stick in our heads, especially the next time we go shopping.

The Church is very wise in setting up the Lent and Holy Week journey in the way that it does - as it repeats each year. That's because throughout life, we experience this special time of year in a different way. When I was a child, we thought Holy Week was great because we got to stay up late. We begged our parents to let us go to the late services, not because we knew who Christ is, or because we had an appreciation for what we were seeing or hearing. We wanted to go just to stay up late. Even then, however, we understood that Holy Week was something special.

When I got older and served in the altar, Holy Week was special because in this great "play" that the priest was putting on, the altar boys got to be on center stage with him. Again, not the holiest of thoughts about Holy Week, but the week still had a special feeling for us. I remember one year on Holy Thursday; I saw our priest kneeling at the cross and he started crying. That moment has always stuck with me. That was a very private moment in the middle of a very public service. Now that I serve as a priest, I realize that, that might have been his only private moment of worship the entire Holy Week. His tears told me that what we were doing is pretty important, serious and moving.

As I have come to know who Christ is, Holy Week takes on a different meaning. I know why Christ came, I know what He did, and I've read it enough times in the Bible. Now, I listen to the hymns and Scripture passages of Holy Week and pick up new and different layers of meaning. On Holy Tuesday, for instance, we hear of a harlot who anointed Jesus' feet with her tears contrasted to Judas, a trusted disciple who betrayed Jesus for 30 pieces of silver. This reminds us that it's not how we start but how we finish that matters. It makes me examine where I am in relationship to God as I run my "race" through life. Am I more like the repentant woman, or the fallen disciple?

Let's leave Holy Week for a minute and speak of the Divine Liturgy that we celebrate so often in our church. Why the repetition? There are three reasons.

**First**, the Divine Liturgy affords us a way to BE with Christ that is unique to the Liturgy—the opportunity to receive Holy Communion. This is as close to "perfection" as we can get, as Holy Communion affords us the opportunity to touch God, and for God to touch us. As is often said, "You cannot improve on perfection." So, we come again and again to experience perfection.

**Second**, the Divine Liturgy is the most complete prayer—it touches everything we can think of in prayer — for peace in the world, for our country, our city, our president, for those who are sick, for deliverance from any kind of affliction and need — these are things we may forget to pray about daily. If we come to the Divine Liturgy each Sunday, not a week will go by that we don't remember all of these things in prayer.

## Monthly Lesson from Father Stavros Akrotirianakis...

**Third**, the Divine Liturgy recalls things of which I need constant reminding. For instance, when the priest prays for “*all that is good and beneficial to our souls and for peace in the world*,” it reminds me to make my decisions based on these two metrics:

Is it good for my soul?

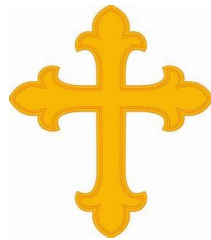
Does it promote peace in the world?

Not a week in my life has passed where I’ve made every decision on these two standards. I’m still looking for my first perfect week. The Divine Liturgy is a reminder of the things I’m supposed to do, the things that help me show love for God and for my neighbor.

Saint Paul’s Epistle reading is a reminder that we must “*pay the closer attention to what we have heard, lest we drift away from it.*” It is a reminder that if we do not pay close attention to what we hear, either because we are not in attendance or we are not trying to comprehend what we are hearing, we are going to drift away from what God is calling us to be.

Plan to go to church this Sunday, and every Sunday.

Plan to attend some additional services now during Lent and Holy Week as well!





## What is New in the Community?

CELEBRATING THE 110TH ANNIVERSARY  
OF THE FIRST FORMAL GREEK ORTHODOX EASTER PICNIC IN LOS ANGELES

# SAINT SOPHIA CATHEDRAL Easter Picnic

Sunday, April 16, 2023  
CELEBRATE THE RESURRECTION  
1:00 – 7:00PM  
at Brookside Park  
Pasadena



Free Parking and Picnic Tables

Credit cards accepted at  
the admission gate,  
and food booths

Admission:  
Adults (13 & older) \$15  
Children 12 & under FREE

**MORE INFO CONTACT :**  
**STEPHANIE CAIOPOULOS LUBIAN**  
**EASTERPICNIC@AOL.COM**

Please Note...  
Entrance gate to picnic  
will not open until 1pm.

For health and safety  
NO PETS allowed in the park..

FABULOUS FOODS AND DESSERTS WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE.

SOUVLAKI, GYROS, FETA FRIES, GREEK SALAD AND MORE.  
BAKLAVA, GALATBOUREKO, KARIDOPITA, KOURAMBIEDES, MELOMAKARONA,  
KOULOURAKIA AND TSOUREKIA

BEER, WINE, SOFT DRINKS, COFFEE, WATER

All Southern California Communities invited and encouraged to attend

## What is New in the Community? continued



### 21st Annual St Anthony's Golf Tournament

We will have our much anticipated event this year on **Friday May 5th**. Please join us for a festive day of golf dinner and fellowship.

All proceeds will benefit our building fund for the senior center. There are many ways for you to support this year's charitable event. If you aren't a golfer join us for our all day Taverna on the Green mezethes and Jimmy Kypreos famous souvla. At night sign up for dinner complete with silent auction and one of a kind live auction items. If you absolutely can't make it please make a tax deductible donation directly to the church office.

Our community volunteers are the key reason for our success. Attached you will find the registration form for golfers, the 2023 brochure to pass along, a donation request letter and a procurement form for the silent auction. For more information please go online to [Pasadenagolfclassic.com](http://Pasadenagolfclassic.com). Let's make this a memorable year.

Use this page to purchase a Golf Entry, Banquet Ticket, Fun Pass, and Sponsorship Opportunities

**\* Required**

**Email \***

Your email

**Customer Name \***

Your answer

**Phone \***



# What is New in the Community? continued

## ENTRY FORM

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email: \_\_\_\_\_  
 I/WSH TO BE A: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Diamond Sponsor \$10,000  
 Platinum Sponsor \$7,500  
 Gold Sponsor \$5,000  
 Silver Sponsor \$2,500  
 Hole Sponsor \$1,000  
 Tee Sponsor \$250


Golfer(s) @ \$225 per golfer (includes Banquet)  
 Foursome request on reverse side  
 Banquet Only - \$100 per person  
 # of Adults Attending Banquet \_\_\_\_\_

You may pay by credit card by calling the church office at 626.449.6943. Please register at: [www.pasadenagolfclassic.com](http://www.pasadenagolfclassic.com)  
 Enclosed is my check for \$ \_\_\_\_\_ made payable to SAINT ANTHONY'S BUILDING FUND  
 I am unable to play this year, but enclosed is my tax-deductible donation towards the Building Fund for \$ \_\_\_\_\_

TAX ID# 95-37-64229


## 21ST ANNUAL PASADENA GOLF CLASSIC

261811011  
 Saint Anthony Greek Orthodox Church  
 778 South Rosemead Blvd.  
 Pasadena, CA 91107  
 Church Office # 626.449.6943  
 PASADENA  
 GOLF CLASSIC



*Taverna on the Green*  
 Join us for the most  
 unique golf  
 experience

21ST ANNUAL  
**PASADENA**  
**GOLF**  
**CLASSIC**



Proceeds will fund our new Senior Center

**FRIDAY, MAY 5, 2023**  
 12:00 PM TEE OFF  
 REGISTRATION OPENS 9:00 AM  
 BROOKSIDE GOLF COURSE • PASADENA

## 21st Annual Pasadena Golf Classic Friday, May 5th 2023

### Sponsorships

#### St. Anthony Greek Orthodox Church

The community of Saint Anthony Greek Orthodox Church invites you to its 21st Annual Golf Tournament. All proceeds will fund our new senior center. We have planned an extraordinary day at the beautiful Brookside Golf Course, including Taverna on the Green, where you'll be treated to a selection of fine food, music and festivities, including our famous open spit roast and endless variety of mezethes and spirits. Join us for a memorable day for our worthy cause, fellowship and fun. Opal

#### Brookside Golf Course • Golf Classic

9:00 AM -- Registration & Check-In  
 10:00AM -- Pre-Game Putting Contest  
 11:55AM -- Marine Corps Color Guard  
 National Anthem  
 12:00PM -- Shotgun Start

#### \$225 Golf Entry Fee Includes:

Competition Packages for the Longest Drive and Straightest Drive • Hole in one and closest to the pin • Team Photo & Gift Bag Goodies • Team or top Gross & Net Scores • Lunch • Dinner • Beverages • and Much More Fun

#### \$100 Outdoor Banquet Dinner at Brookside Golf Course

5:00PM - Cocktail & Silent Auction  
 6:00PM - Appetizers, Dinner, Dessert,  
 Awards Ceremony

#### \$100 Fun Pass for Non - Golfers

If you are not a golfer, join us for all the festivities in our Taverna on the Green village with live Greek music, lamb chops, BBQ tri-tip, sliders, roast lamb and spirits.

#### Diamond Sponsor

**\$10,000**

Includes golf for 16 and 16 additional dinners.  
 A Tee sign with your name or company name.  
 Special recognition on official publications.

#### Platinum Sponsor

**\$7,500**

Includes golf for 12 and 12 additional dinners.  
 A Tee sign with your name or company name.  
 Special recognition on official publications.

#### Gold Sponsor

**\$5,000**

Includes golf for 8 and 8 additional dinners.  
 A Tee sign with your name or company name.  
 Special recognition on official publications.

#### Silver Sponsor

**\$2,500**

Includes golf for 4 and 4 additional dinners.  
 A Tee sign with your name or company name.  
 Special recognition on official publications.

#### Hole Sponsor

**\$1,000**

Includes golf for 2 plus 2 additional dinners.  
 A Tee sign with your name or company name.  
 Special recognition on official publications.

#### Tee Sign Sponsor

**\$250**

Includes a tee sign with your name or company name.  
 Special recognition on official publications.

#### For Further Information

Please call the Church office 626.449.6943  
 Online registration [www.pasadenagolfclassic.com](http://www.pasadenagolfclassic.com)

Save your spot!  
 RSVP by April 20th

### PICK THE FORMAT YOU WOULD LIKE TO PLAY

#### Scramble

1. Name \_\_\_\_\_ Tel \_\_\_\_\_  
 E-mail \_\_\_\_\_  
 2. Name \_\_\_\_\_ Tel \_\_\_\_\_  
 E-mail \_\_\_\_\_  
 3. Name \_\_\_\_\_ Tel \_\_\_\_\_  
 E-mail \_\_\_\_\_  
 4. Name \_\_\_\_\_ Tel \_\_\_\_\_  
 E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

#### Stroke

1. Name \_\_\_\_\_ Index \_\_\_\_\_  
 E-mail \_\_\_\_\_ Tel \_\_\_\_\_  
 2. Name \_\_\_\_\_ Index \_\_\_\_\_  
 E-mail \_\_\_\_\_ Tel \_\_\_\_\_  
 3. Name \_\_\_\_\_ Index \_\_\_\_\_  
 E-mail \_\_\_\_\_ Tel \_\_\_\_\_  
 4. Name \_\_\_\_\_ Index \_\_\_\_\_  
 E-mail \_\_\_\_\_ Tel \_\_\_\_\_

\* ESTABLISHED INDEX REQUIRED TO PARTICIPATE IN LOW NET FLIGHT

Register at [www.pasadenagolfclassic.com](http://www.pasadenagolfclassic.com)  
 by April 20th & enter "EARLYPAY"  
 for the discounted rate of \$200



# What is New in the Community? continued



## 21st Annual Pasadena Golf Classic

March 7, 2023

Saint Anthony  
Greek Orthodox Church  
Rev. Father Peter Stratos  
778 South Rosemead Boulevard  
Pasadena, CA 91107  
626/449-6943  
www.saint-anthonys.org

### Committee Members

Joe Akrotirianakis  
Ted Attalla  
John Bicos  
Nick Buzas  
Jimmy Christodoulelis  
Tony Christopoulos  
Pete Gallanis  
Tom Grafos  
Louie Kades  
Vicki Kades  
Liam McCann  
Mark Nastri  
Vince Zarian

Dear Friends,

I am pleased to announce the much anticipated 21st Annual Pasadena Golf Classic will be held on Friday May 5<sup>th</sup> 2023. Our last tournament raised with much love and support over \$100,000. This year's goal will be break our record and raise over \$110,000. Our tournament's theme, *Taverna-on-the-Green*, promises to be a very memorable day of golf, food, fun and fellowship – all for a great cause. The Pasadena Classic draws a wide range of participants from different industries- entertainment, finance, banking, restaurant, hospitality, manufacturing and advertising. We are anticipating 250 golfers and 300 dinner guests. **100% of all net proceeds go directly into our building fund.** This new facility will assist developing a beautiful senior center for the elderly.

We will need your help in succeeding. We are asking you to sponsor, donate an item for our raffle or a gift certificate for our silent auction. All donations whether large or small can make a difference. Please give with your hearts and make a difference that will last a lifetime. All gifts received are tax-deductible and will be given recognition in our golf publication and website.

On behalf of our tournament committee and the entire community, we wish to thank you in advance for your generous donation. If you should have any questions, please call the church office at 626-449-6943.

With best regards,

*Golf Committee*



# What is New in the Community? continued

## Pasadena Golf Classic Friday May 5<sup>th</sup>, 2023

### Procurement Form

Donor Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Name (and/or Company name) as you would like it to appear

Contact Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Fax \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

☐ **DONATION** – To be used for Silent Auction or Raffle Prize

Item \_\_\_\_\_ Item Value \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Description \_\_\_\_\_

Comments \_\_\_\_\_

Delivery of Item \_\_\_\_\_ to be delivered \_\_\_\_\_ to be picked up

☐ **PATRON** Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Payable to: *St. Anthony's Building Fund*

*Friend – Up to \$249*

*Silver Sponsor -- \$2500*

*Tee Sign Sponsor -- \$250*

*Gold Sponsor -- \$5000*

*Hole Sponsor -- \$1000*

*Platinum Sponsor -- \$7500*

*Diamond Sponsor -- \$10,000*

Procurer Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Donor Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Please return to Procurer or mail to:

St. Anthony's G. O. Church  
778 Rosemead Blvd.  
Pasadena, CA 91107

For questions or more information,  
please call (626) 449-6943

FEDERAL TAX ID# 95-3764229

## What is New in the Community? continued



The Prayer Shawl Ministry is up and running again!

The need is immediate.

If you are a knitter or a crocheter, please contact:  
Maria Kypreos (626) 272-2720 or [makypreos@gmail.com](mailto:makypreos@gmail.com)

We will provide you with the yarn and instructions.

Thank you in advance for your participation.

---

### Saint Anthony Bowling League News Winter / Spring Season 2023



The St. Anthony Bowling League will wind to a close  
on Wednesday, April 5!

Final stats will be published in the May bulletin.



## What is New in the Community? continued

### "How to Pray Properly"

Here is a of a number of points for the Christian to keep in mind concerning prayer:

When you pray you meet the holy God in person. In order to succeed in your life of prayer, try sincerely to make your conscience clear in relation to God, your neighbor and earthly possessions.

Nevertheless, do not hesitate to approach God in prayer, however bad you may feel yourself to be; all our sins are but a drop compared to the ocean of God's love.

Begin your prayers humbly every day as if you were doing it for the first time; prayer does not accumulate interest, the Fathers say.

Tune your mind to the sense of the presence of God and say the prayer unhurriedly, paying attention to every word; otherwise your prayer will be flung to the winds. When you notice that your thoughts have gone astray, simply bring them back to the words of the prayer without being disconcerted.

Repeat the Jesus Prayer in its longer or shorter form, whichever way feels better at the time:

*Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me, a sinner!*

*Lord Jesus Christ, our God, have mercy on us! or, Jesus, Son of God, have mercy on me*

When you are alone, sometimes recite the prayer aloud, and sometimes silently in your mind.

When you are praying do not form any mental image of God, heaven or anything else; imagination, according to the Fathers, is a coarse mental faculty which is not suited to prayer.

Pay no attention to impure or blasphemous thoughts or images that may appear while you are praying; they are not your own but come from the evil spirit and will disappear if you take no notice of them.

Do not try to find the place of your heart by any special methods; this is suitable only for those who live in the stillness of complete solitude; fix your attention on the words of the prayer, and your heart will come along in its own time.

We must force ourselves to pray throughout our lives; it is just this struggle to which Christ refers when He says that the kingdom of heaven has suffered violence, and men of violence take it by force. (Matthew 11:12)

The only feeling for which one should consciously strive in prayer is that of contrition and unworthiness; other feelings are gifts of God's grace which He grants to us according to the measure of our humility.

Beware of taking credit for the fruits of prayer, such as concentration, emotion, tears. Often God in His mercy permits us at first to taste the sweetness of prayer, but then leaves us on our own in order to test our faithfulness and to show us what we are, without the help of His grace.

You can also recite the Jesus Prayer in church during a service and then all that you hear and see is like oil for the flame of your inner prayer. During the Eucharist, however, it is better to concentrate on the words of common prayer. According to the Fathers, the most important communion with God is Holy Communion, and the Jesus Prayer comes next.

Every day read a chapter of the Bible and one from the writings of the Fathers concerning prayer. Such reading is important in a time when living models and guides are lacking.

Adopt a suitable rule of prayer and stick to it like a close friend; yet do not allow it to enslave you.

Lastly, the most important thing to remember: Keep your heart free from hatred, envy and condemning thoughts, so that God may hear your prayer. Forgive everyone so that God may forgive you, and be merciful to all, so that God may have mercy on you. It is with good reason that the Fathers say: Your neighbor is your salvation.

## What is New in the Community? continued

### **The Sign of the Cross**

The Sign of the Cross is one of Christianity's most ancient customs. It is a sign of blessing and commitment to the Crucified Lord. A simple custom, it is a statement of Christian faith which incorporates the entire body. Like many ancient customs, it has been done in a variety of ways over the centuries.

Current Orthodox Christian practice, used by all since the 17th century, involves combining the thumb, pointer and middle finger while placing the ring finger and the pinky against the palm. The unity of the three fingers represents the unity of the undivided Trinity: Father, Son and Holy Spirit, three persons but one God. The two fingers pressed against the palm represent the two natures of Christ: human and divine. It indicates our belief in Jesus, who is both fully God and fully human.

Our motion, of course, recalls the cross: forehead, stomach, right shoulder and left shoulder, but also the God who is Trinity: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

As one moves through the sign, one recites the following:

At the forehead, "In the name of the Father"

At the navel, "and of the Son"

And across the shoulders, "and of the Holy Spirit, Amen."

It is as if to say "I love you Lord with all of my mind (forehead), with all my soul (navel), with all my strength (right shoulder) and with all my heart (left shoulder)"

Done at various times as a sign of reverence, it is traditionally made:

- \* before kissing an icon or the Gospel book
- \* during the Liturgy
- \* whenever the Holy Trinity or the Virgin Mary is mentioned
- \* before and after the Gospel is read
- \* when lighting candles
- \* and during the Creed

In short, few actions are so simple and yet symbolize so much of our Christian life.





## What is New in the Community? continued

### **Saint Anthony Parish Center Capital Campaign Donor Plaque 2007-2012**

The Saint Anthony Community initiated a major Capital Campaign 15 years ago to raise the funds to build our beautiful Parish Center that was dedicated on June 2, 2012. Many generous faithful stepped forward to pledge in order to make this dream a reality. We promised that a commemorative plaque would one day be created to honor the generosity of these individuals. We are now finally endeavoring to fulfill this promise.

We intend to list everyone as we did in the Dedication Album. Please review this list on the next page. We will be sharing this page in monthly newsletters and several weekly bulletins up through Easter to be sure that if any corrections are needed, they can be addressed before the plaque is manufactured. We recognize that far too many of our loved ones have since passed away, but we will only be marking those in memoriam who left us before June 2012. The plaque will reflect that point in time of June 2, 2012.

If you feel any other changes are needed, please contact  
Steve Pappas [stevenpappas2@gmail.com](mailto:stevenpappas2@gmail.com)

## What is New in the Community? continued

### CAPITAL CAMPAIGN DONORS

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## What is New in the Community? continued

### The Voice of Saint Anthony

January 2023

#### Saint Anthony Greek Orthodox Church

Reverend Father Peter Stratos  
778 S. Rosemead Boulevard, Pasadena, CA 91107  
(626) 449-6943 Office (626) 449-6974 FAX  
[www.saint-anthonys.org](http://www.saint-anthonys.org)

St. Basil	
Circumcision of Christ	Jan 1
Holy Epiphany	Jan 6
Synaxis - John the Baptist	Jan 7
St. Anthony the Great	Jan 17
Athanasios & Cyril	Jan 18
Euthymios the Great	Jan 20
Gregory the Theologian	Jan 25
Synaxis of Three Hierarchs	Jan 30

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Deadline for February Newsletter is Wednesday, 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

### Sunday of Saint Mary of Egypt

2 April

The memory of this Saint is celebrated on April 1, where her life is recorded. This was a woman in all of human history who stood on air at the moment of her prayer.

Since this is during the holy Forty Days, it has been appointed for this day also, so that if we think it hard to practice a little abstinence for forty days, we might be roused by the heroism of her who fasted in the wilderness forty seven years; and also that the great loving-kindness of God, and His readiness to receive the repentant, might be demonstrated in every deed.

Her whole life is a living expression of the words said by Saint Paul:

*“All the more the blood of Christ, Who through the Eternal Spirit offered Himself without blemish to God, will purify your conscience from dead works to serve the living God.”*

(Hebrews 9:14)

St. Paul's words are Divinely inspired and verified by the Most Holy Mother of God Herself. She guided St. Mary of Egypt to repentance and Eternal Life.

As much as we know about St. Mary of Egypt, we can understand that it is, in reality, the stark truth that Christ is the True God and that all of the false gods of the world then and now are idols who do not save humanity, but can truly harm us.





## Feasts and Saints for this month

### Lazarus Saturday

#### 8 April

Lazarus and his sisters Martha and Mary, the friends of the Lord Jesus, had given Him hospitality and served Him many times (Luke 10:38-42; John 12:2-3). They were from Bethany, a village of Judea. This village is situated in the eastern parts by the foothills of the Mount of Olives, about two Roman miles from Jerusalem. When Lazarus, whose name is a Hellenized form of "Eleazar," which means "God has helped," became ill some days before the saving Passion, his sisters had this report taken to our Saviour, Who was then in Galilee. Nonetheless, He tarried yet two more days until Lazarus died; then He said to His disciples, *"Let us go into Judea that I might awake My friend who sleepeth."* By this, of course, He meant the deep sleep of death.

On arriving at Bethany, He consoled the sisters of Lazarus, who was already four days dead. Jesus groaned in spirit and was troubled at the death of His beloved friend. He asked, "Where have ye laid his body?" and He wept over him. When He drew nigh to the tomb, He commanded that they remove the stone, and He lifted up His eyes, and giving thanks to God the Father, He cried out with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come forth." And he that had been dead four days came forth immediately, bound hand and foot with the grave clothes, and Jesus said to those standing there, "Loose him, and let him go." This is the supernatural wonder wrought by the Saviour that we celebrate on this day.

According to an ancient tradition, it is said that Lazarus was thirty years old when the Lord raised him; then he lived another thirty years on Cyprus and there reposed in the Lord. It is furthermore related that after he was raised from the dead, he never laughed till the end of his life, but that once only, when he saw someone stealing a clay vessel, he smiled and said, "Clay stealing clay." His grave is situated in the city of Kition, having the inscription: *"Lazarus the four days dead and friend of Christ."*

In 890 his sacred relics were transferred to Constantinople by Emperor Leo the Wise, at which time the Emperor composed his stichera for Vespers, "Wishing to behold the tomb of Lazarus . . ."



## Feasts and Saints for this month continued

### Palm Sunday

#### 9 April

On Sunday, five days before the Passover of the Law, the Lord came from Bethany to Jerusalem. Sending two of His disciples to bring Him a foal of an ass, He sat thereon and entered into the city. When the multitude there heard that Jesus was coming, they straight-away took up the branches of palm trees in their hands, and went forth to meet Him. Others spread their garments on the ground, and yet others cut branches from the trees and strewed them in the way that Jesus was to pass; and all of them together, especially the children, went before and after Him, crying out: "Hosanna: Blessed is He that cometh in the Name of the Lord, the King of Israel" (John 12:13). This is the radiant and glorious festival of our Lord's entry into Jerusalem that we celebrate today.



The branches of the palm trees symbolize Christ's victory over the devil and death. The word Hosanna means "Save, I pray," or "Save, now." The foal of an ass, and Jesus' sitting thereon, and the fact that this animal was untamed and considered unclean according to the Law, signified the former uncleanness and wildness of the nations, and their subjection thereafter to the holy Law of the Gospel.

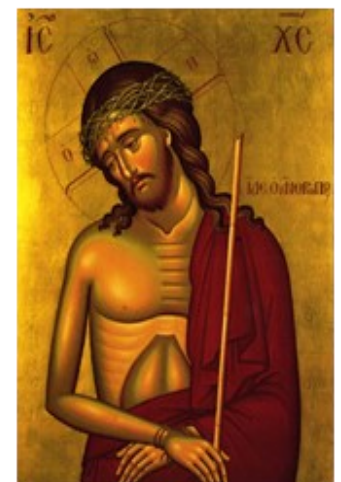
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### Holy Monday

#### 10 April

The Holy Passion of our Savior begins today, presenting Joseph the all-comely as a prefiguring of Christ. He was the eleventh son of Jacob, and his first son by Rachel; because he was so beloved of his father, his own brethren came to envy him and cast him into a pit. Later they sold him to foreigners for thirty pieces of silver, who later sold him again in Egypt. Because of his virtue, his master gave him much authority in governing his house; because he was fair of countenance, his master's wife sought to draw him into sin with her; because of his chastity, he refused her, and through her slanders was cast into prison. Finally, he was led forth again with great glory and was honored as a king. He became lord over all Egypt and a provider of wheat for all the people. Through all this, he typifies in himself the betrayal, Passion, death, and glorification of our Lord

To the commemoration of Patriarch Joseph is added also the narration concerning the fig tree, which on this day was cursed and subsequently dried up because of its unfruitfulness. It portrayed the Jewish synagogue, which had not produced the fruit demanded of it - obedience to God and faith in Him. It was stripped of all spiritual grace by means of the curse.





## Feasts and Saints for this month continued

### Holy Tuesday

#### 11 April

Today we bring to mind the parable of the ten virgins, which our Savior related as He was coming to His Passion. This parable teaches us that the accomplishment of the great work of virginity should not make us careless in other matters, especially in almsgiving, wherewith the lamp of virginity is made radiant.

Furthermore, it teaches us that we should not be remiss about the end of our life, but should be prepared for it at every moment, like the wise virgins, so that we may meet the Bridegroom, lest He come suddenly and the doors of the heavenly bride chamber be shut, and we also, like the foolish virgins, hear that dread sentence: "Amen, I say unto you, I know you not" (Matthew 25:1-13).



### Holy Wednesday

#### 12 April

Two women - the more discerning interpreters of the Gospel - anointed the Lord with myrrh; the one, a long time before His Passion; the other, a few days before. One was a harlot and sinner; the other, chaste and virtuous. The Church commemorates this reverent act today. While mentioning herein the person of the harlot, it also mentions Judas' betrayal; for, according to the account in Matthew, both of these deeds took place two days before the Passover, on Wednesday.

That woman, then, anointed Jesus' head and feet with very precious myrrh, and wiped them with the tresses of her hair. The disciples, especially the avaricious Judas, were scandalized, supposedly because of the waste of the myrrh, which could be sold for a great price and given to the poor. The Lord Jesus reproved them and told them not to trouble the woman.

Indignant, Judas went to the high priests, who were gathered in the court of Caiaphas and were already taking counsel against Jesus. On agreeing with them to betray his Teacher for thirty pieces of silver, Judas sought from that time opportunity to betray Him (Matt. 26:14-16). Because the betrayal took place on Wednesday, we have received the tradition from Apostolic times to fast on Wednesday throughout the year.



## Feasts and Saints for this month continued

### Holy Thursday

13 April

On the evening of this day, which was the eve of the feast of unleavened bread (that is, the Passover), our Redeemer supped with His twelve disciples in the city. He blessed the bread and the wine, and gave us the Mystery of the Divine Eucharist. He washed the feet of the disciples as an example of humility. He said openly that one of them was about to betray Him, and He pointed out the betrayer by revealing that it was he "*that dippeth his hand with Me in the dish.*" And after Judas had straight-away gone forth, Jesus gave the disciples His final and sublime instructions, which are contained in the first Gospel Reading of the Holy Passion (John 13:31-18:1 known as the Gospel of the Testament).

After this the God-man went forth to the Mount of Olives, and there He began to be sorrowful and in anguish. He went off alone, and on His knees He prayed fervently. From His great anguish, His sweat became as it were great drops of blood falling to the ground. As soon as He had completed that anguished prayer, Judas came with a multitude of soldiers and a great crowd; on greeting the Teacher guilefully with a kiss, he betrayed Him.

The Lord Jesus was then apprehended and taken prisoner to the high priests Annas and Caiaphas. The disciples were scattered, but Peter, who was more fervent than the others, followed Him even into the court of the high priest, but in the end denied three times that he was His disciple.

Then our divine Teacher was brought before the lawless Sanhedrin and was interrogated concerning His disciples and His teaching. The high priest adjured Him before God that He tell them whether He was truly the Christ. And having spoken the truth, He was judged guilty of death, supposedly as one who had blasphemed. Then they spat in His face, beat Him, smote Him with the palms of their hands, and mocked Him in every way, throughout the whole night until the morning.





## Feasts and Saints for this month continued

### Holy Friday

#### 14 April

When Friday dawned, Christ was sent bound from Caiaphas to Pontius Pilate, who was then Governor of Judea. Pilate interrogated Him in many ways, and once and again acknowledged that He was innocent, but to please the Jews, he later passed the sentence of death against Him. After scourging the Lord of all as though He were a runaway slave, he surrendered Him to be crucified.

Thus the Lord Jesus was handed over to the soldiers, was stripped of His garments, was clothed in a purple robe, was crowned with a wreath of thorns, had a reed placed in His hand as though it were a scepter, was bowed before in mockery, was spat upon, and was buffeted in the face and on the head. Then they again clothed Him in His own garments, and bearing the cross, He came to Golgotha, a place of condemnation.

There, about the third hour, He was crucified between two thieves. Although both blasphemed Him at the first, the thief at His right hand repented, and said: *"Remember me, O Lord, when Thou comest in Thy Kingdom,"* to which our Savior answered, *"Today shalt thou be with Me in Paradise."* As He hung upon the Cross, He was blasphemed by those who were passing by, was mocked by the high priests and by the soldiers was given vinegar to drink mixed with gall.

About the ninth hour, He cried out with a loud voice, saying, *"It is finished."* And the Lamb of God *"Which taketh away the sin of the world"* (John 1:29) expired on the day when the moon was full, and at the hour when, according to the Law, was slain the Passover lamb, to which He was referred in the time of Moses—the Lamb of God.

Even lifeless creation mourned the death of the Master, and it trembled and was altered out of fear. Yet, even though the Maker of creation was already dead, they pierced Him in His immaculate side, and forthwith there came out Blood and Water. Finally, at about the setting of the sun, Joseph of Arimathea came with Nicodemus (both secret disciples of Jesus), and they took down the all-holy Body of the Teacher from the Cross and anointed it with aromatic spices, and wrapped it in a clean linen cloth. When they had buried Him in a new tomb, they rolled a great stone over its entrance.

Such are the dread and saving sufferings of our Lord Jesus Christ commemorated today, and in remembrance of them, we have received the Apostolic commandment that a fast be observed every Friday.



## Feasts and Saints for this month continued

### Holy Saturday

15 April

On Saturday, the high priests and Pharisees gathered together before Pilate and asked him to have Jesus' tomb sealed until the third day; because, as those enemies of God said, "We suspect that His disciples will come and steal His buried body by night, and then proclaim to the people that His resurrection is true, as that deceiver Himself foretold while He was yet alive; and then the last deception shall be worse than the first." After they had said these things to Pilate and received his permission, they went and sealed the tomb, and assigned a watch for security, that is, guards from among the soldiers under the supervision of the high priests (Matt. 27:62-66).

While commemorating the entombment of the holy Body of our Lord today, we also celebrate His dread descent with His soul, whereby He destroyed the gates and bars of Hades, and made His light to shine where only darkness had reigned (Job 38:17 and 1 Peter 3:18-20). Death was put to death, Hades was stripped of all its captives, our first parents and all the righteous who died from the beginning of time ran to Him Whom they had awaited and the holy angelic orders glorified God for the restoration of our fallen race.



## Feasts and Saints for this month continued

### Great and Holy Pascha

#### 16 April

Mary Magdalene, and the other women who were present at the burial of our Savior on Friday evening, returned from Golgotha to the city and prepared fragrant spices and myrrh, so that they might anoint the body of Jesus. On the morrow, because of the law which forbids work on the day of the Sabbath, they rested for the whole day. But at early dawn on the Sunday that followed, almost thirty-six hours since the death of the Life-giving Redeemer, they came to the sepulcher with the spices to anoint His body. While they were considering the difficulty of rolling away the stone from the door of the sepulcher, there was a fearful earthquake; and an Angel, whose countenance shone like lightning and whose garment was white as snow, rolled away the stone and sat upon it. The guards that were there became as dead from fear and took to flight. The women, however, went into the sepulcher, but did not find the Lord's body. Instead, they saw two other Angels in the form of youths clothed in white, who told them that the Savior was risen, and they sent forth the women, who ran to proclaim to the disciples these gladsome tidings. Then Peter and John arrived, having learned from Mary Magdalene what had come to pass, and when they entered the tomb, they found only the winding sheets.

Therefore, they returned again to the city with joy, as heralds now of the supernatural Resurrection of Christ, Who in truth was seen alive by the disciples on this day on five occasions. Our Lord, then, was crucified, died, and was buried on Friday, before the setting of the sun, which was the first of His "three days" in the grave; observing the mystical Sabbath, that "seventh day" in which it is said that the Lord "rested from all His works" (Gen. 2:2-3), He passed all of Saturday in the grave; and He arose "while it was yet dark, very early in the morning" on Sunday, the third day, which, according to the Hebrew reckoning, began after sunset on Saturday.

As we celebrate today this joyous Resurrection, we greet and embrace one another in Christ, thereby demonstrating our Savior's victory over death and corruption, and the destruction of our ancient enmity with God, and His reconciliation toward us, and our inheritance of life everlasting. The feast itself is called Pascha, which is derived from the Hebrew word which means "Passover"; because Christ, Who suffered and arose, has made us to pass over from the curse of Adam and slavery to the devil and death unto our primal freedom and blessedness. In addition, this day of this particular week, which is the first of all the rest, is dedicated to the honor of the Lord; in honor and remembrance of the Resurrection, the Apostles transferred to this day the rest from labor that was formerly assigned to the Sabbath of the ancient Law.





## Feasts and Saints for this month continued

### Sunday of Thomas

23 April

Though the doors were shut at the dwelling where the disciples were gathered for fear of the Jews on the evening of the Sunday after the Passover, our Savior wondrously entered and stood in their midst, and greeted them with His customary words, "*Peace be unto you.*"

Then He showed unto them His hands and feet and side; furthermore, in their presence, He took some fish and a honeycomb and ate before them, and thus assured them of His bodily Resurrection. But Thomas, who was not then present with the others, did not believe their testimony concerning Christ's Resurrection, but said in a decisive manner:

*"Except I shall see in His hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into the print of the nails, and thrust my hand into His side, I will not believe."*

Wherefore after eight days, that is, on this day, when the disciples were again gathered together and Thomas was with them, the Lord Jesus came while the doors were shut, as He did formerly. Standing in their midst,

He said, "*Peace be unto you*"; then He said to Thomas, "*Bring hither thy finger, and behold my hands; and bring hither thy hand, and thrust it into My side: and be not unbelieving, but believing.*"

And Thomas, beholding and examining carefully the hands and side of the Master, cried out with faith, "*My Lord and my God.*" Thus he clearly proclaimed the two natures – human and divine – of the God-man (Luke 24:36-49; John 20:19-29).

This day is called Antipascha (meaning "in the stead of Pascha," not "in opposition to Pascha") because with this day, the first Sunday after Pascha, the Church consecrates every Sunday of the year to the commemoration of Pascha, that is, to the Resurrection.



## Feasts and Saints for this month continued

### Sunday of Myrrh Bearing Women

30 April






















About the beginning of His thirty-second year, when the Lord Jesus was going throughout Galilee, preaching and working miracles, many women who had received of His beneficence left their own homeland and from then on followed after Him. They ministered unto Him out of their own possessions, even until His crucifixion and entombment; and afterwards, neither losing faith in Him after His death, nor fearing the wrath of the Jewish rulers, they came to the sepulcher, bearing the myrrh-oils they had prepared to anoint His body. It is because of the myrrh-oils, that these God-loving women brought to the tomb of Jesus that they are called the Myrrh-bearers. Of those whose names are known are the following: first of all, the most holy Virgin Mary, who in Matthew 27:56 and Mark 15:40 is called "the mother of James and Joses" (these are the sons of Joseph by a previous marriage, and she was therefore their step-mother); Mary Magdalene (celebrated July 22); Mary, the wife of Clopas; Joanna, wife of Chouza, a steward of Herod Antipas; Salome, the mother of the sons of Zebedee, Mary and Martha, the sisters of Lazarus; and Susanna. As for the names of the rest of them, the evangelists have kept silent.



Together with them we also celebrate the secret disciples of the Savior, Joseph and Nicodemus. Of these, Nicodemus was probably a Jerusalemite, a prominent leader among the Jews and of the order of the Pharisees, learned in the Law and instructed in the Holy Scriptures. He had believed in Christ when, at the beginning of our Savior's preaching of salvation, he came to Him by night. Furthermore, he brought some one hundred pounds of myrrh-oils and an aromatic mixture of aloes and spices out of reverence and love for the divine Teacher (John 19:39). Joseph, who was from the city of Arimathea, was a wealthy and noble man, and one of the counselors who were in Jerusalem. He went boldly unto Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus, and together with Nicodemus he gave Him burial. Since time did not permit the preparation of another tomb, he placed the Lord's body in his own tomb which was hewn out of rock, as the Evangelist says (Matthew 27:60).

# Orthodox Calendar

## April 2023

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						 <b>5th Saturday of Lent</b>
 <b>Sunday of St. Mary of Egypt</b> 8:45am Orthros 10am Divine Liturgy Indoor & Live-stream  Basketball—Redondo	 4:30 Greek School 6:30pm Studies in the Faith	 7pm Philoptochos Board Meeting	 6pm Pre-Sanctified Lit 7pm Philoptochos Union Station Outreach	 4pm Greek School		 <b>Saturday of Lazarus</b> 9am Orthros 10am Divine Liturgy  Breakfast to follow
 <b>Palm Sunday</b> 8:45am Orthros 10am Divine Liturgy  Luncheon to follow Indoor & Live-stream  6pm Service of Bridegroom	 <b>Holy Monday</b> 6pm Service of Bridegroom	 <b>Holy Tuesday</b> 10:30am VIPs Mtg  6pm Service of Bridegroom  Hymn of Kassiani	 <b>Holy Wednesday</b> 3pm Sacrament of Holy Unction  6pm Service of Bridegroom	 <b>Holy Thursday</b> 9am Vespers Liturgy of St. Basil  6pm Service of the Holy Passion (the 12 Gospels)	 <b>Holy Friday</b> 3pm Descent from the Cross  6pm Graveside Lamentations	 <b>Holy Saturday</b> 9am Vespers Liturgy of St. Basil  11pm Vigil for the Holy Resurrection  11:45pm Resurrection and Divine Liturgy Magaritsa Dinner
<b>Pascha/ Easter Sunday</b> 12pm Agape Vespers  Indoor & Live-stream	<b>Bright Week</b> 4:30 Greek School	<b>Bright Week</b>	<b>Bright Week</b>	<b>Bright Week</b> 4pm Greek School	<b>Bright Week</b>	<b>Bright Week</b>
<b>Sunday of Thomas</b> 8:45am Orthros 10am Divine Liturgy  Indoor & Live-stream  District Oratorical Fest 1pm Greek Dance Pract.	<b>Elizabeth the Wonderworker</b> 4:30 Greek School  7pm Greek Dance		 7pm Philoptochos General Meeting	4pm Greek School		
<b>Sunday of Myrrh-Bearing Women</b> 8:45am Orthros 10am Divine Liturgy Indoor & Live-stream 12:15 Greek Dance Pract.		<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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TIME SENSITIVE

POSTAGE  
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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.*

CHRIST  
IS  
RISEN!

