

The Voice of Saint Anthony

June 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

Website: saint-anthonys.org

Pentecost	4 June
Monday of the Holy Spirit	5 June
Nativity of John the Baptist	24 June
Peter and Paul	29 June
Synaxis of the Holy Apostles	30 June

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Holy Pentecost 4 June

Deadline for July Newsletter is Sunday, 25 June
Please send to: newsletter_church@aol.com

Message from Father Peter

Dear Faithful,

On Sunday June 11 we will celebrate **The Feast of All Saints** in our Holy Orthodox Church. The Feast of All Saints marks the beginning of a new season in the ecclesiastical calendar of our Church. The season from Easter to Pentecost occurs in the springtime, while the Feast of All Saints ushers us into the beautiful season of summer.

Summertime! Students and teachers have completed another school year and people are thinking about their vacations. Many have already begun to enjoy outdoor activities, sports, cookouts, and trips to the beach.

To be sure, responsibilities do not end. Some painting may have to be done and landscaping continues. There is always something to be done. Nevertheless, summertime is a time of sun, enjoyment, and a more relaxed pace.

In our culture the change of seasons creates a paradox for the new liturgical cycle. From Easter to Pentecost the local parish is usually vibrant with activities. But after Pentecost and the Feast of All Saints, with the beginning of summer, the pace usually slows down. Church Schools end. Meetings are less frequent. Bible classes and other study groups take a break. Even worship is drastically affected. As I often say in Church: "God does not take the summer off!"

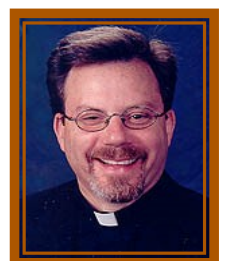
Is this what the Lord truly desires for His people during the summer? How can we in our personal, family, and parish lives harmonize the summer change of pace with the orthodox spiritual values of the Church? How can we truly enjoy a rightful measure of fun and relaxation and still be mindful of our prayer life and worship to God?

An understanding of the word "Saint" would help us to relate our Christian faith to our summer activities. It is not an exaggeration to say that, if we truly understand the full meaning of sainthood, we would have the key to the most enjoyable summer of them all: A Christian summer! It may be that by God's providence, the timing of the Feast of All Saints is exactly what we need, after all! What greater spiritual challenge is there for us at the beginning of the summer than to think about the Saints and to emulate their lives of growing closer to God. I challenge us all to keep God in our mind, in our heart, and in our soul during this beautiful time of year. If you are traveling find an Orthodox Church to visit. If you are staying home continue to come to church on the Sundays of summer.

Make God the priority in your life this summer!
Have a blessed summer with our Lord!

In Christ,

Fr. Peter



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

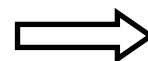
☐ Monthly at \$ _____/month

☐ Annually

Contact the Church office to set up easy recurring electronic payments

-OR- set up your own recurring giving at saint-anthonys.churchgiving.com

***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?

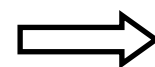
A: It costs approximately \$2,000/day to keep the church open. Most operating expenses are paid from stewardship. Some examples are mortgage, utilities, office staff and pastoral salaries, candles, permits, and facilities maintenance. Additional costs are directly related to church programs.

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 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 31st. 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

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

Parish Events

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

Name _____ Email _____ Phone _____

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

1st Vice President

Jeanne Karaionnoglou

2nd Vice President

Helen Skandale and Lisa Xanthos

Corresponding Secretary

Mary Udria and Irene Albeck

Recording Secretary

Mary Dewar

Treasurer

Connie Becker

Assistant Treasurer

Maria Grover

Advisor

Maria Kypreos

Spiritual Advisor

Father Peter Stratos

Board of Directors

Beautification

Maria Kokoris

Maria Hronas

Community Outreach

Fontaine Malisos, Liz Skandale

Stephanie Soewers

Fellowship

Tanya Christodoulelis

Maria Kypreos

Publicity

Christine Pappas

Scholarship

Presbytera Aida Statros and Irene Albeck

Social Media/Webmaster

Sophia Syrengelas

Sunshine and Visitation

Fontaine Malisos, Liz Skandale

Stephanie Soewers

Union Station

Irene Albeck and Stephanie Soewers

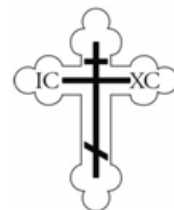
Operation Classroom

Nicolette Fuerst and Jennifer Webster



ADDITIONAL MINISTRIES

Acolytes	Fr. Peter Stratos
Bible Study	Fr. Peter Stratos
Bookstore	Noah Johnson
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



SAINT ANTHONY GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

Rev. Peter Stratos, Pastor

ST. ANTHONY SPECIAL PARISH ASSEMBLY Sunday, JUNE 11, 2023 at 12:00pm noon


Rev. Peter Stratos and the St. Anthony Parish Council have called a Special Parish Assembly Meeting, for Sunday June 11, 2023 at 12:00pm noon, to discuss and vote on the development of Church property.

This special meeting will be held in accordance with the Uniform Parish Regulations of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America, the St. Anthony Parish Bylaws and Robert's Rules of Order.

The following AGENDA will be presented to the St. Anthony Parish Community:

1. Opening prayer
2. Discussion and Vote on the development of Church property.
3. Closing prayer

Please make every effort to attend this Special Assembly.


Rev. Peter Stratos
Pastor


Joe Akrotirianakis
President


Tashia Vagenas
Secretary



Dear Saint Anthony Sunday School Fellowship Students,

It was an absolute joy having the privilege of seeing your faces in our classrooms each Sunday. I know that I speak for all of the teachers when I say that it is an honor to be part of your journey as you grow in your Orthodox faith. While learning about our faith is a life-long process, I hope and pray that this school year helped you gain a stronger understanding of what it means to be an Orthodox Christian and an appreciation for the teachings and traditions that make our faith so beautiful.

You were blessed to be under the guidance of your caring, creative, and dedicated teachers. They showed up for you and our program each Sunday, prepared to teach with love in their hearts. They shared their love of our faith, their knowledge, and their time with all of you and I hope that the time you got to spend with them will be memories that will last a lifetime.

Thank you for being part of our community and for taking the time to come to class on Sundays. You are the heart and soul of St. Anthony and you fill so many hearts with joy when you attend church and Sunday School.

Have a fun, safe, and blessed summer! We hope to see you in Liturgy over the summer while class is on break!

Love,
Mrs. Sophia



MATTHEW 19:14

Sunday School - continued



PK/TK

Mrs. Irene & Mrs. Larissa



Kindergarten & First Grade
Mrs. Sophia & Miss Andrianna

Sunday School - continued



2nd & 3rd Grade

Mrs. Theoni & Mrs. Jenni



4th & 5th Grade

Mrs. Mary & Mrs. Noula

Sunday School - continued



Middle School
Mrs. Polly & Mr. Chris



High School Class / High School grads
Presvytera Aida

Youth & Young Adults

St. Anthony GOYA began the 2022-2023 year with its most active season in many years.

As the school year comes to an end all GOYAns are invited to a family swim party to celebrate the year and the conclusion of the Greek Orthodox Basketball League season.

Please see the flyer on the next page for party information!



Youth & Young Adults continued

A poster for a family basketball party. The background is a gradient from purple at the top to blue at the bottom, with silhouettes of palm trees and a grid pattern at the bottom. The text is in large, bold, white and pink letters.

GOYA FAMILY BASH

BASKETBALL PARTY

Sunday, June 11th

4:00pm
\$15 per person
Parents are invited
(Bring cash only)

**McNulty Home 2660 S.
Oak Knoll Ave. San Marino
CA 91108**

**Please RSVP to (626) 616-
4395 by Monday June 5th**

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 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 - Foster Care Project

A BIG thank you to all members of our community who supported our Operation Classroom collaboration with the Pasadena Unified School District in support of youth in Foster Care. With your donations five graduating seniors received their graduation package which included:

Senior Portrait Package
Yearbook
Cap and Gown
Grad Night celebration at Disneyland
Prom

We had an amazing response from our community!
Thank you!



Community Happenings

Upcoming Meetings

Board Meeting -

Wednesday, June 14 at 7:00 PM in the church hall

June General Meeting -

End-of-the-Year Dinner - tentatively scheduled for **Wednesday, June 21** in Pasadena.

Metropolis Events

Kids 'N Cancer - Agape: A Celebration of Love

A luncheon was held on Sunday, May 7, 2023 at the Newport Beach Country Club.

This annual event helped raise awareness for the ministry of providing support for children afflicted with cancer and their families.

It was a beautiful, fun-filled afternoon giving those attending the opportunity to participate in fundraising, to meet Camp Agape families, and to enjoy fellowship.

Maria Kypreos, a San Francisco Metropolis Philoptochos board member, served as co-chair with Cindy Kezos. Several St. Anthony Philoptochos members attended this worthy event.

Please see photos—next page..

Philoptochos continued



Mary Kypreos, Judie Christopoulos and Lisa Xanthos, with His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos of the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of San Francisco and other board members of the Metropolis of San Francisco Philoptochos and National Philoptochos.



Konstantina Paziouros
and Patricia Paziouros
Anagnostakos

Philoptochos continued



Helen Skandale, Liz Skandale and Judie Christopoulos



Michelle Reagan Attalla, with her daughter, Nicole, and Maria Kypreos

Philoptochos continued



St. Anthony Philoptochos President, Judith Din presents Panagia Chapter donation



Maria Kokoris, Maria Hronas, Connie Becker, and Mary Dewar

Philoptochos continued

Hellenic College Holy Cross Graduation

Maria Kypreos, our Panagia Chapter member and current board member of the Metropolis of San Francisco Philoptochos, attended the Hellenic College Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology commencement exercises in Brookline, MA in May.



Aaron Rice,
Maria Kypreos
and Marcello Souza

Marcello Souza is a 2023 Holy Cross graduate, and currently the Pastoral Assistant at Saint Sophia Cathedral, Los Angeles.

Aaron Rice is currently a seminarian expected to graduate later this year.

St. Anthony Philoptochos sponsors these seminarians.

Philoptochos continued

JOIN PHILOPTOCHOS and BECOME A SUPERHERO

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 to so many lives. Please see letter next page:

- Membership Letter
- Charities
- Membership Form



FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA

Facebook: St. Anthony Philoptochos
Instagram: stanthonypiloptochos

Philoptochos continued



PHILOPTOCHOS SOCIETY OF SAINT ANTHONY GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

778 South Rosemead Boulevard • Pasadena, California 91107

April 22, 2023

Χριστός Ανέστη

"Lord, When Did We See You Hungry and Feed You, Or Thirsty and Give You Drink? When Did We See You a Stranger and Take You In, Or Naked and Clothe You? When Did We See You Sick or In Prison and Come to You?... Inasmuch As You Did It to One of The Least Of These My Brethren, You Did It to Me." Matthew 25 37:40

Dear St. Anthony Greek Orthodox Ladies,

Did you know that Philoptochos was established **90 years** ago by Archbishop Athenagoras as the philanthropic arm of the Greek Orthodox Church of America? In those 90 years, our mothers, grandmothers, and great-grandmothers have been instrumental in making the Greek Orthodox Ladies Philoptochos Society one of the largest women's philanthropic religious organizations in the United States.

Our Chapter is currently holding a membership drive. We invite you to renew and encourage every woman in our parish, 18 years of age or older, to become a member of Philoptochos and fulfill our philanthropic mission to help the poor, the destitute, the hungry, the aged, the sick, the unemployed, the orphaned, the imprisoned, the widowed, those with disabilities and victims of disasters. Men are also welcome to join as an Associate member. When we combine our strengths and skills, great things can happen!

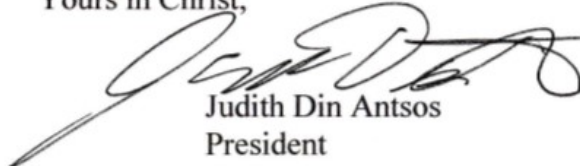
As we embark on a new year, we want to share with you our charitable efforts. Please see the reverse side to see the many charities we support locally, Nationally and through our San Francisco Metropolis. Our 2022 Christmas Benefit Luncheon chose IOCC as our featured charity with funds specifically earmarked for the Ukraine Relief Fund.

In 2021, National Philoptochos disbursed close to \$1,800,000 to those in need. Last year, our Panagia Chapter donated more than \$28,000 to our local charities.

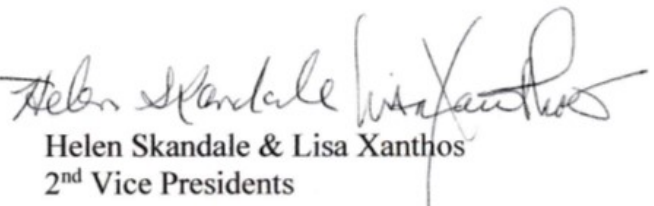
Please, renew or join by mail: enclose your registration form and check payable to St. Anthony Philoptochos, St. Anthony Philoptochos, 778 S. Rosemead Blvd., Pasadena, CA 91107. To process online: (go to <https://stanthonypiloptochos.square.site> and scroll down to Annual Membership Dues).

For those of you who have been members, we thank you for your many years of support and devotion and, to all prospective new members, we hope you will join us in our mission of philanthropic endeavors.

Yours in Christ,



Judith Din Antsos
President



Helen Skandale & Lisa Xanthos
2nd Vice Presidents

Philoptochos continued

The following charities are supported by St. Anthony Philoptochos:

Chapter Charities

CAST, Coalition to Abolish Slavery and Trafficking
 City of Hope
 Friends in Deed
 Foothill Unity Center
 Hellenic College/Holy Cross School of Theology Seminarians
 Kids 'n' Cancer/Camp Agape
 Operation Classroom
 Pasadena City College Lancer Pantry
 Pasadena Unified School District/Foster Care Children
 Project Mexico Orphanage
 Social Services/Emergency assistance to individuals within our community
 Scholarships for College Bound Students
 Ukraine Relief Fund of the International Orthodox Christian Charities
 Union Station Homeless Services

San Francisco Metropolis Philoptochos Programs & Charities

Bishop Anthony Student Aid Endowment Fund [BAPSAEF]
 Emergency Relief Fund/Social Welfare
 Kids n' Cancer/Camp Agape
 Saint Nicholas Ranch
 Support a Seminarian
 Women's Health & Wellness

National Philoptochos Programs & Charities

Academy of Saint Basil
 Autism Assistance Fund
 Cancer Fund
 Children Medical Fund
 Ecumenical Patriarchate
 Emergency Fund
 General Medical Fund
 Hellenic College/Holy Cross School of Theology
 International Orthodox Christian Charities [IOCC]
 National Sisterhood of Presbyteres Benevolent Fund
 Operation Classroom
 Orthodox Christian Fellowship
 Orthodox Christian Mission Center & Support a Mission Priest
 Retired Clergy & Widowed Presbyteres Benevolent Fund
 Saint Photios Shrine
 Saint Nicholas Shrine
 Seventy-Fifth Anniversary Founders Fund
 Social Services
 United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund [UNICEF]

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). ___ Check ___ Credit Card ___ Cash			
I am interested in helping with the following:			
___ Feeding the Hungry	___ Hosting Fellowship	___ Marketing	
___ Delivering Meals to Parishioners	___ Baking & Cooking	___ Website Designer	
___ Homebound Visitations	___ Fundraising	___ Other Talents	
___ Telephone Tree	___ Social Media	___ 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://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

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

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

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.

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

At our May meeting we celebrated Cinco de Mayo and the feast day of Saint Irene. Thank you to the VIPs for the beautiful orchid. It has found the right spot to flourish and continue to bloom.

May birthday greetings to Claire Marotta, Penni Reilly, and Ellie Tarazi.

Metropolis ORA (Older Respected Adults)

Yngrid Molinari, Yiota Poulos, Christine Kades and Irene Albeck attended the meeting at Saint George in Downey. ORA is a new ministry bringing older adults together to connect with other Orthodox groups in southern California. The goal is to share ideas, outings and increase cohesiveness among the groups. For further information contact the office of Saint George Greek Orthodox Church in Downey.

Sierra Madre Playhouse

A group has signed up to attend **Love Dolly**, the #1 Dolly Parton tribute act on the west coast. Currently the playhouse has a number of different performances scheduled. This one will be playing in June.

Next Meeting

Our next meeting will be **Tuesday, June 13** at 10:30 AM. Our last meeting will be July 11./ We will not meet in August but will resume Tuesday, September 12. New members are welcomed to join us at any time.

VIP committee members will continue to explore different activities that will meet the interests of the membership. At our June meeting we will present suggested activities/excursions. Generally, these events will be scheduled for Thursdays.

Miscellaneous

Currently Maria and Jim Hronas are on a tour of Italy. Several members will be leaving soon for Greece to visit relatives, attend baptisms, weddings and enjoy the beauty of our beloved Greece.

Saint Anthony encourages our older adults to join VIP to share in faith, fellowship and talents. Benefits of participation in group activities are healthy, according to the Healthline website. Studies have shown there to be less loneliness and social isolation, reduced stress, emotional support, a sense of belonging, personal development, and support through challenges.

Hope to see you all at the June meeting.

Irene, VIP President

Monthly Lesson from Father Stavros Akrotirianakis...

Now in these days when the disciples were increasing in number, the Hellenists murmured against the Hebrews because their widows were neglected in the daily distribution. And the twelve summoned the body of the disciples and said, "It is not right that we should give up preaching the word of God to serve tables. Therefore, brethren, pick out from among you seven men of good repute, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we may appoint to this duty. But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word." And what they said pleased the whole multitude, and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, and Philip, and Prochorus, and Nicanor, and Timon, and Parmenas, and Nicolaus, a proselyte of Antioch. These they set before the apostles, and they prayed and laid their hands upon them. And the word of God increased; and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests were obedient to the faith. Acts 6:1-7

The Bible is not only a source of spiritual inspiration but in many cases gives us a good view into our history. Such is the case with chapter 6 in the book of Acts. From this short passage, we glean the two very important and essential works of the church – preaching the Word of God and giving food to the poor. The “daily distribution” was the giving of food to the widows. As the church began to grow, the Apostles could not keep up with preaching the word of God and also the daily distribution. People who were used to receiving food began to murmur against the Apostles because they felt neglected. The Apostles threw their hands up and said there wasn’t enough time to pray, spread the Word of Christ and feed the hungry and they needed help to do so.

So, they found seven men whom they “ordained” deacons, to assist in distributing food to the poor. From this brief passage, we see the rudimentary structure of our modern ordination service – it involves the laying on of hands and is done in the presence and with the consent of the people. In the Orthodox service of ordination, whether it be a deacon, priest or bishop, the ordaining bishop (in the case of an episcopal ordination, at least three bishops) lays his hands over the candidate being ordained and offers the prayer of ordination over him. The people present agree by saying “Axios,” “Worthy.” If the people say “Anaxios” or “unworthy” then the ordination cannot be completed.

Going back to the purpose of the church, it seems like it is very simple – preach the Word of God and distribute food to the poor. These are the earliest stated works of the church. I’ve spent over twenty years of my life working for the church as a priest, and I know first-hand that we don’t do either of these things as well as we should, and that we have other things on which we focus. The majority of effort in most churches goes toward fundraising to keep the churches open. The idea of giving money to the poor is looked down upon in many places. “Charity begins at home” is a motto many really believe. Our church at present gives 7% of its income to charity. We are hopefully working our way up to 10%. That will be a challenge. It should be automatic.

Same thing with serving the poor. Our parish helps to staff a soup kitchen on the third Saturday of each month. Some of our members go regularly to help, but most have not gone even once. If we were doing this right, we should be able to staff it every Saturday, perhaps even have our own soup kitchen.

When we make our churches about Greek dancing and sports for our children, it is any wonder that they grow up not knowing the Word of God or have any desire to serve the poor because we have not taught them the two basic things. Greek festivals are a great opportunity to sell food to pay our bills, but the early church wasn’t selling food to festival patrons, it was giving food to the poor.

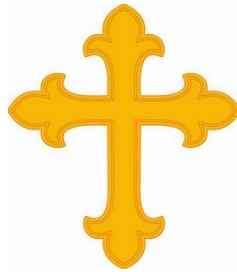
Monthly Lesson from Father Stavros Akrotirianakis...

Please don't read today's message as a rant. I hope it serves as motivation for each of us to think and to reflect on how we individually and as a whole can do a better job doing the two things outlined in the book of Acts – spread the Word of God and feed the hungry.

The Bible can't be any more specific about what we are doing. Festivals, fundraiser and fancy buildings were not on the agenda for the Apostles and while these things are part of the modern parish life, they should not be the things that define it.

The church is always looking for people to step forward to help in its ministries, and the church is looking for everyone to contribute more in terms of financial stewardship, so that we can meet the needs of the parish and still have a good amount left over to help the poor. Ideally, we each set aside the first fruits of our income for the church and the church sets aside its first fruits to distribute to the poor.

Individually and collectively, we need to make a greater effort to spread the Word of God and feed the hungry!



"The person who truly wishes to be healed is he who does not refuse treatment. This treatment consists of the pain and distress brought on by various misfortunes. He who refuses them does not realize what they accomplish in this world or what he will gain from them when he departs this life."

St. Maximus the Confessor

As we navigate our lives and challenges befall us, as they do everyone, St Maximus reminds us to look at these challenges in a different and unique way. Not as punishments from God, He loves us and allows everything for us out of love (remember we have free will), but as an opportunity to improve spiritually. St Maximus points out that misfortunes can lead to beautiful outcomes and accomplishments both in this world and the next. Unfortunately in the process of complaining about what has happened to us, or worrying about it, we take no action and lose or squander the opportunity. When we are beset with misfortune, let us with prayer, meet it head-on, recognizing it as an opportunity to grow. Many of these challenges, in retrospect, become central to our growth and development as an individual and are looked at as the "best thing that ever happened to me".

Deacon Euthym Kontaxis

What is New in the Community?



Congratulations to our Graduates

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES

JUSTUS MICHAEL ALFARO	California School of the Arts
CHRISTIAN CHRISTODOULOU	Maranatha High School
LEAH COKIAS	California High School
NIKO VIDALAKIS	Polytechnic High School
JUSTIN WEBSTER	Loyola High School

COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY GRADUATES

JOHN PAUL CAIRE	Chapman University BA in Communications
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POST-GRADUATES

KRISTEN BECKER	UC Davis Masters International Agricultural Development
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What is New in the Community? continued

Upcoming Church Festivals - 2023

June

Downey 6/3-4
 San Diego 6/10-11
 Irvine 6/16-18
 Camarillo 6/23-25

July

Redondo 7/14-16



September

Long Beach 9/2-4
 Covina 9/23-24
 Pasadena 9/29-10/1
 SanJuanCapo TBD

November

Los Angeles 11/4-5

SAVE THE DATE
 GERONTISSA MARKELLA & HER SISTERHOOD
 INVITE YOU FOR
A BENEFIT DINNER
SATURDAY, JUNE 10 2023

HOSTED BY: ST. NECTARIOS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH AND SHRINE

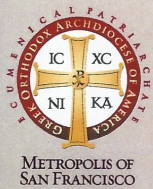
Suggested Donation:
 Adults: \$75
 Children 10 and Over: \$60
 Children Under 10: Free

To RSVP:
 Please contact the church office at
 Tel. (626) 967-5524
 Email: office@st-nectarios.org

Schedule of Events
 Vespers: 5:00PM
 Hor d'oeuvres: 5:30PM
 Dinner and Auction: 6:30PM

20340 E. COVINA BOULEVARD
 COVINA, CA 91274
PLEASE BRING CASH OR CHECK

What is New in the Community? continued



Missions & Evangelism Conference 2023

Let your light shine for you shall be My witnesses

"But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth." Acts 1:8

Presented by the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of San Francisco Missions and Evangelism Ministry

Tuesday, June 6 - Thursday, June 8, 2023

Saint Nicholas Ranch and Retreat Center - Dunlap, CA

- Conference begins at Noon on Tuesday
- Enjoy two days of engaging presentations, workshops, resource sharing and more!
- Daily worship
- Each participant receives an advance copy of the book "Spread the Word: Reclaiming the Apostolic Tradition of Evangelism" by Rev. Father Michael Keiser.
- Conference concludes at noon on Thursday. Sack lunches to be provided upon departure.

Guest Speaker

Rev. Father Luke Veronis will be the conference guest speaker. He has been involved with the Orthodox church's missionary movement since 1987 and brings a valuable perspective on missions and evangelism as an effort to grow our faith.

**Register today at
www.groworthodoxy.org.**

Registration Deadline: Friday, May 26, 2023.



- \$200 for accommodations, meals, and your personal copy of the "Spread the Word" book.
- \$150 for meals and a copy of the "Spread the Word" book, but no accommodations at Saint Nicholas Ranch.



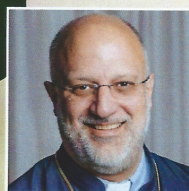
Join with others who are passionate about spreading the Orthodox faith, share resources and ideas, and collaborate on ways that we, as individuals and parishes, can Spread the Word and inspire and engage our parishioners to look beyond the walls of our communities, and to reach out and bring in people who are searching to know the love, peace and grace from Jesus Christ.

For more information on this conference or the Metropolis of San Francisco Missions and Evangelism Ministry, please contact Kenny Scott at kscott@groworthodoxy.org.

Guest Speaker

Fr. Luke Veronis

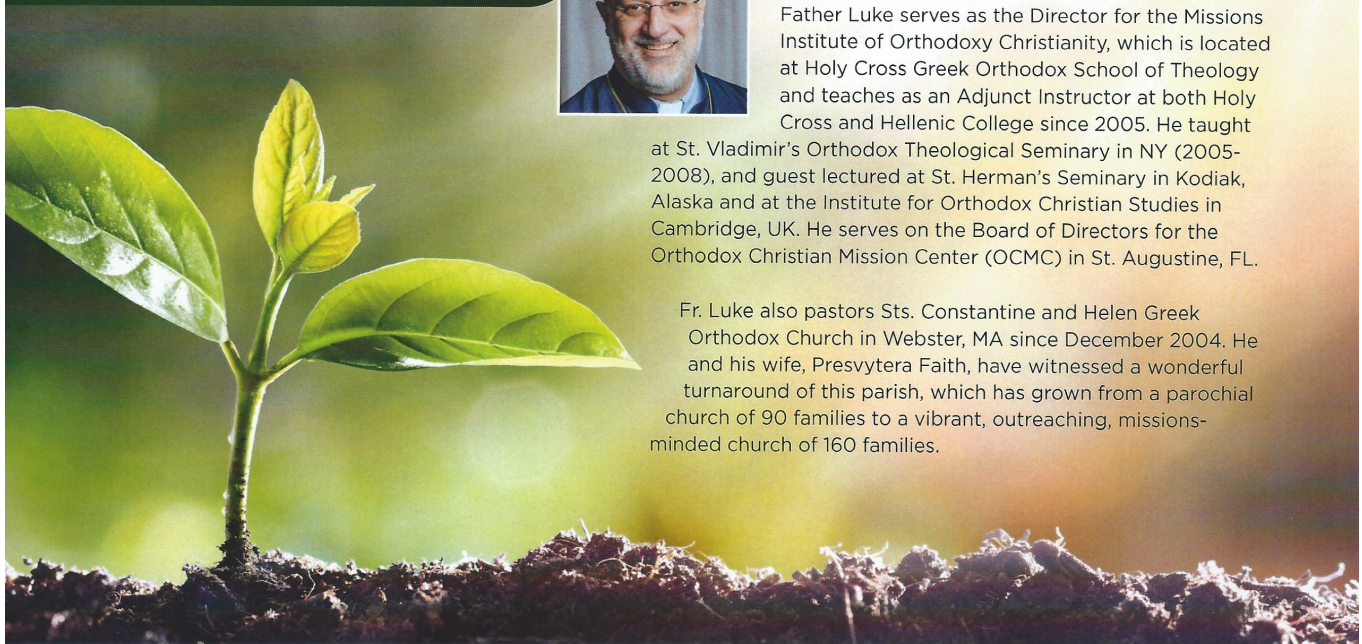
Director for the Missions Institute of Orthodoxy Christianity



Father Luke serves as the Director for the Missions Institute of Orthodoxy Christianity, which is located at Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology and teaches as an Adjunct Instructor at both Holy Cross and Hellenic College since 2005. He taught

at St. Vladimir's Orthodox Theological Seminary in NY (2005-2008), and guest lectured at St. Herman's Seminary in Kodiak, Alaska and at the Institute for Orthodox Christian Studies in Cambridge, UK. He serves on the Board of Directors for the Orthodox Christian Mission Center (OCMC) in St. Augustine, FL.

Fr. Luke also pastors Sts. Constantine and Helen Greek Orthodox Church in Webster, MA since December 2004. He and his wife, Presvytera Faith, have witnessed a wonderful turnaround of this parish, which has grown from a parochial church of 90 families to a vibrant, outreaching, missions-minded church of 160 families.



What is New in the Community? continued



YOUTH EQUIPPED TO SERVE. YES creates formative opportunities that equip participants to serve each person as the image of Christ. The 3 core opportunities we offer are YES Trips, Series, and Internships.

YES Day Trips: YES Trips are experiences of service designed by YES and facilitated by YES leaders for local students and young adults. Participants are taken through a four-step service-learning process known as **E4: EXPOSE, ENGAGE, EQUIP, ENTRUST.**



We first **EXPOSE** them to the reality of poverty in the world through interactive curriculum. Students are presented with questions: What is the church's true mission, and what does it mean for us as members of the body of Christ? What are the stereotypes within us that prevent us from putting others' needs before our own? Is poverty a complex or simple problem, and what is our place in the solution?

We then **ENGAGE** the students with the people of their city through interactive service opportunities. Each opportunity is chosen and designed based on the unique needs of the city and the participants. By creating formative experiences that bring the participants together with people in need, walls are broken down and bridges are built. Meaningful

connections are made with local organizations and the people they serve.

Our Leadership Trainings **EQUIP** students with tools to guide others in service. Selected Trip and Series participants are invited to go through our Leadership Training, which equips them to facilitate our Trips, lead small groups in our Series, and bring the YES mission to their own communities.

Lastly, they are **ENTRUSTED** with various leadership roles on trips, and most importantly, with continuing the mission of YES in their communities, to inspire, lead, and educate others.



YES Series: The YES Series provides an intentional community for youth and young adults across the country to engage with relevant, meaningful topics. The online gatherings provide a space for people to come as they are and work towards their true identities in Christ. Led by Steve Christoferou and Katrina Bitar, participants receive practical guidance on living life in Christ and reflect in small groups led by YES Leaders.

YES Internship: Over 3 months, interns work to bring the YES mission to their communities through an individualized project designed to meet a local need. Interns are empowered to identify their values, strengthen their voice, and explore their vocation. They conclude their experience with

self-reflection and looking ahead to being servants of Christ in all aspects of their lives.

The YES Program aims to present to young people, the one true Way of life- living for the sake of the other. Our prayer for the students that come through our program is that they embrace life in Christ themselves and are empowered to live it!

For more information on these programs and to give to YES, scan this code:



What is New in the Community? continued



Sophia, Spring
2022 Intern

Eva, Summer
2022 Intern

Marina, Fall
2022 Intern

YES INTERNSHIP EXPERIENCE



The YES Internship Experience offers interns the opportunity to identify their values, strengthen their voice, and explore their vocation. Interns will bring the YES mission to their communities through an individualized project designed to meet a local need.

"The internship helped me identify my own strengths as a person and leader. I explored not only what I could do for my community, but how I best could serve them."

- Cecelia, Fall Intern 2022

- Stipend: \$500
- Weekly Commitment: 3-5 hours
- Ages: Ages 18-23 attending or not attending college, and/or all ages and years of College

Application Deadlines:

Summer 2023 - April 1st, 2023

Fall 2023 - August 1, 2023

For more details and
to apply:



Follow for updates
@walkwithyes



What is New in the Community? continued



**SAINT SOPHIA
CAMP 2023**

**REGISTER
NOW**

Week 1: July 23rd- July 29th

Week 2: July 29th-August 5th

Both weeks will be at **Camp Seely** in Crestline, CA

Registration opens on April 1st at 9:00 am PST
Sign up at www.saintsophiacamp.org

Cost: \$600 per week (pay by check)
\$615 per week (pay online)

For more information please contact:
saintsophiacamp@gmail.com

**Now Hiring
COUNSELORS**

APPLY AT
WWW.SAINTSOPHIACAMP.ORG

What is New in the Community? continued


The Voice of Saint Anthony

January 2023

Saint AnthonyY 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

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

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

Pentecost

4 June

After the Savior's Ascension into the Heavens, the eleven Apostles and the rest of His disciples, the God-loving women who followed after Him from the beginning, His Mother, the most holy Virgin Mary, and His brethren. All together about 120 souls returned from the Mount of Olives to Jerusalem. Entering into the house where they gathered, they went into the upper room, and there they persevered in prayer and supplication, awaiting the coming of the Holy Spirit, as their Divine Teacher had promised them. In the meanwhile, they chose Matthias, who was elected to take the place of Judas among the Apostles.

Thus, on this day, the seventh Sunday of Pascha, the tenth day after the Ascension and the fiftieth day after Pascha, at the third hour of the day from the rising of the sun, there suddenly came a sound from Heaven, as when a mighty wind blows, and it filled the whole house where the Apostles and the rest with them were gathered. Immediately after the sound, there appeared tongues of fire that divided and rested upon the head of each one. Filled with the Spirit, all those present began speaking not in their native tongue, but in other tongues and dialects, as the Holy Spirit instructed them.

The multitudes that had come together from various places for the feast, most of whom were Jews by race and religion, were called Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and so forth, according to the places where they dwelt. Though they spoke many different tongues, they were present in Jerusalem by divine dispensation. When they heard that sound that came down from Heaven to the place where the disciples of Christ were gathered, all ran together to learn what had taken place. But they were confounded when they came and heard the Apostles speaking in their own tongues. Marveling at this, they said one to another, *"Behold, are not all these which speak Galileans? And how hear we every man in our own tongue, wherein we were born?"* But others, because of their foolishness and excess of evil, mocked the wonder and said that the Apostles were drunken.

Then Peter stood up with the eleven, and raising his voice, spoke to all the people, proving that that which had taken place was not drunkenness, but the fulfillment of God's promise that had been spoken by the Prophet Joel: *"And it shall come to pass in the last days, that I shall pour out of My Spirit upon all flesh, and your sons and daughters shall prophesy"* (Joel 2:28), and he preached Jesus of Nazareth unto them, proving in many ways that He is Christ the Lord, Whom the Jews crucified but God raised from the dead.



Feasts and Saints for this month continued

Pentecost - continued

On hearing Peter's teaching, many were smitten with compunction and received the word. Thus, they were baptized, and on that day about three thousand souls were added to the Faith of Christ.

Such, therefore, are the reasons for today's feast: the coming of the All-holy Spirit into the world, the completion of the Lord Jesus Christ's promise, and the fulfillment of the hope of the sacred disciples, which we celebrate today. On this last, and great, and saving day of Pentecost, the Apostles of the Savior, who were unlearned fishermen, made wise now of a sudden by the Holy Spirit, clearly and with divine authority spoke the heavenly doctrines. They became heralds of the truth and teachers of the whole world. They were ordained and began their apostleship, of which the salvation of those 3000 souls in one day was the comely and marvelous first fruit.

Some erroneously hold that Pentecost is the "birthday of the Church." But this is not true, for the teaching of the holy Fathers is that the Church existed before all other things. Saint Gregory the Theologian speaks of "the Church of Christ ... both before Christ and after Christ". Saint Epiphanius of Cyprus writes, "The Catholic Church, which exists from the ages, is revealed most clearly in the incarnate advent of Christ" . Saint John Damascene observes, "The Holy Catholic Church of God, therefore, is the assembly of the holy Fathers, Patriarchs, Prophets, Apostles, Evangelists, and Martyrs who have been from the very beginning, to whom were added all the nations who believed with one accord" . According to Saint Gregory the Theologian, "The Prophets established the Church, the Apostles conjoined it, and the Evangelists set it in order". The Church existed from the creation of the Angels, for the Angels came into existence before the creation of the world, and they have always been members of the Church. Saint Clement, Bishop of Rome, says in his second epistle to the Corinthians, the Church *"was created before the sun and moon"*; and a little further on, *"The Church existeth not now for the first time, but hath been from the beginning"* (II Cor. 14).

That which came to pass at Pentecost, then, was the ordination of the Apostles, the commencement of the apostolic preaching to the nations, and the inauguration of the priesthood of the new Israel. Saint Cyril of Alexandria says that "Our Lord Jesus Christ herein ordained the instructors and teachers of the world and the stewards of His divine Mysteries ... showing together with the dignity of Apostleship, the incomparable glory of the authority given them ... Revealing them to be splendid with the great dignity of the Apostleship and showing them forth as both stewards and priests of the divine altars . . . they became fit to initiate others through the enlightening guidance of the Holy Spirit". Therefore, together with the baptism of the Holy Spirit which came upon them who were present in the upper chamber, which the Lord had foretold as recorded in the Acts, "ye shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days hence" (Acts 1:5), the Apostles were also appointed and raised to the high priestly rank, according to Saint John Chrysostom . On this day commenced the celebration of the Holy Eucharist by which we become "partakers of the Divine Nature" (II Peter 1:4). For before Pentecost, it is said of the Apostles and disciples only that they abode in "prayer and supplication" (Acts 1:14); it is only after the coming of the Holy Spirit that they persevered in the "breaking of bread, "that is, the communion of the Holy Mysteries-"and in prayer" (Acts 2:42).

The feast of Holy Pentecost, therefore, determined the beginning of the priesthood of grace, not the beginning of the Church. All foods are allowed during the week following Pentecost.

Feasts and Saints for this month continued

Day of the Holy Spirit

5 June

As it is the custom of the Church, on the day after every great Feast, to honor those through whom it came to pass – our Lady on the day after the Lord's Nativity, Joachim and Anna after our Lady's Nativity, the holy Baptist the day after Theophany, and so forth. So on this day after Pentecost we honor our God the All-Holy Spirit, the Comforter promised by our Savior to His disciples (John 14:16), Who descended upon them at holy Pentecost and guided them "into all truth" and through them, us.

On this day we rest from labor.



Nativity of Saint John the Baptist

Elizabeth, mother of the Forerunner

24 June

He that was greater than all who are born of women, the Prophet who received God's testimony that he surpassed all the Prophets, was born of the aged and barren Elizabeth (Luke 1: 7) and filled all his kinsmen, and those that lived round about, with gladness and wonder. But even more wondrous was that which followed on the eighth day when he was circumcised, that is, the day on which a male child receives his name. Those present called him Zacharias, the name of his father. But the mother said, "Not so, but he shall be called John." Since the child's father was unable to speak, he was asked, by means of a sign, to indicate the child's name. He then asked for a tablet and wrote, "His name is John." And immediately Zacharias' mouth was opened, his tongue was loosed from its silence of nine months, and filled with the Holy Spirit, he blessed the God of Israel, Who had fulfilled the promises made to their fathers, and had visited them that were sitting in darkness and the shadow of death, and had sent to them the light of salvation. Zacharias prophesied concerning the child also, saying that he would be a Prophet of the Most High and Forerunner of Jesus Christ. And the child John, who was filled with grace, grew and waxed strong in the Spirit; and he was in the wilderness until the day of his showing to Israel (Luke 1:57-80).



Feasts and Saints for this month continued

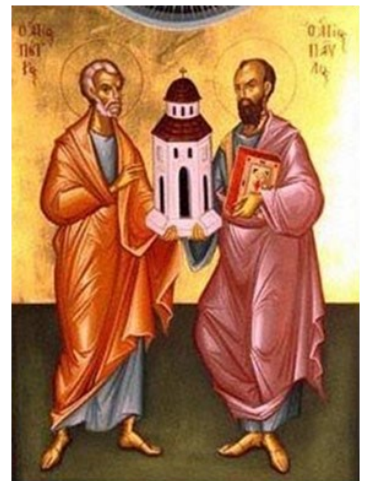
Peter & Paul, Holy Apostles

29 June

The divinely-blessed **Peter** was from Bethsaida of Galilee. He was the son of Jonas and the brother of Andrew the First-called. He was a fisherman by trade, unlearned and poor, and was called Simon; later he was renamed Peter by the Lord Jesus Christ Himself, Who looked at him and said, *"Thou art Simon the son of Jonas; thou shalt be called Cephas (which is Peter)"* (John 1:42). On being raised by the Lord to the dignity of an Apostle and becoming inseparable from Him as His zealous disciple, he followed Him from the beginning of His preaching of salvation up until the very Passion, when, in the court of Caiaphas the high priest, he denied Him thrice because of his fear of the Jews and of the danger at hand. But again, after many bitter tears, he received complete forgiveness of his transgression. After the Resurrection of Christ and the descent of the Holy Spirit, he preached in Judea, Antioch, and certain parts of Asia, and finally came to Rome, where he was crucified upside down by Nero, and thus he ascended to the eternal habitations about the year 66 or 68, leaving two Catholic (General) Epistles to the Church of Christ.

Paul, the chosen vessel of Christ, the glory of the Church, the Apostle of the Nations and teacher of the whole world, was a Jew by race, of the tribe of Benjamin, having Tarsus as his homeland. He was a Roman citizen, fluent in the Greek language, an expert in knowledge of the Law, a Pharisee, born of a Pharisee, and a disciple of Gamaliel, a Pharisee and notable teacher of the Law in Jerusalem. For this cause, from the beginning, Paul was a most fervent zealot for the traditions of the Jews and a great persecutor of the Church of Christ; at that time, his name was Saul (Acts 22:3-4). In his great passion of rage and fury against the disciples of the Lord, he went to Damascus bearing letters of introduction from the high priest. His intention was to bring the disciples of Christ back to Jerusalem in bonds. As he was approaching Damascus, about midday there suddenly shone upon him a light from Heaven. Falling on the earth, he heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou Me?" And he asked, "Who art Thou, Lord?" And the Lord said, *"I am Jesus Whom thou persecutest; it is hard for thee to kick against the pricks."*

And that heavenly voice and brilliance made him tremble, and he was blinded for a time. He was led by the hand into the city, and on account of a divine revelation to the Apostle Ananias, he was baptized by him, and both his bodily and spiritual eyes were opened to the knowledge of the Sun of Righteousness.



Feasts and Saints for this month continued

Peter & Paul – continued

And thru transformation beyond all expectation, he spoke with boldness in the synagogues, proclaiming that *"Christ is the Son of God"* (Acts 9:1-21). As for his zeal in preaching the Gospel after these things had come to pass, as for his un-abating labors and afflictions of diverse kinds, the wounds, the prisons, the bonds, the beatings, the stoning, the shipwrecks, the journeys, the perils on land, on sea, in cities, in wildernesses, the continual vigils, the daily fasting, the hunger, the thirst, the nakedness, and all those other things that he endured for the Name of Christ, and which he underwent before nations and kings and the Israelites, and above all, his care for all the churches, his fiery longing for the salvation of all, whereby he became all things to all men, that he might save them all if possible, and because of which, with his heart aflame, he continuously traveled throughout all parts, visiting them all, and like a bird of heaven flying from Asia and Europe, the West and East, neither staying nor abiding in any one place – all these things are related incident by incident in the Book of the Acts, and as he himself tells them in his Epistles.

His Epistles, being fourteen in number, are explained in 250 homilies by the divine Chrysostom and make manifest the loftiness of his thoughts, the abundance of the revelations made to him, the wisdom given to him from God, wherewith he brings together in a wondrous manner the Old with the New Testaments, and expounds the mysteries thereof which had been concealed under types; he confirms the doctrines of the Faith, expounds the ethical teaching of the Gospel, and demonstrates with exactness the duties incumbent upon every rank, age, and order of man. In all these things his teaching proved to be a spiritual trumpet, and his speech was seen to be more radiant than the sun, and by these means he clearly sounded forth the word of truth and illumined the ends of the world.

Having completed the work of his ministry, he likewise ended his life in martyrdom when he was beheaded in Rome during the reign of Nero, at the same time, when Peter was crucified.

Synaxis of 12 Apostles

30 June

The names of the Twelve Apostles are these: Simon, who was called Peter, and his brother Andrew, the First-called; James the son of Zebedee, and his brother John, who was also the Evangelist and Theologian; Philip, and Bartholomew; Thomas, and Matthew the publican, who was also called Levi and was an Evangelist; James the son of Alphaeus, and Jude (also called Lebbaeus, and surnamed Thaddaeus), the brother of James, the Brother of God; Simon the Cananite ("the Zealot"), and Matthias, who was elected to fill the place of Judas the traitor.



Orthodox Calendar

June 2023

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1	2 	3 <i>Saturday of the Souls</i>
4 <i>Holy Pentecost</i> 8:45am Orthros 10am Divine Liturgy Indoor & Live-stream	5	6	7 7pm Philoptochos Union Station Outreach	8	9	10
11 <i>Sunday of all Saints</i> 8:45am Orthros 10am Divine Liturgy Parish Gen'l Assembly Indoor & Live-stream	12 	13  10:30am VIPs Mtg 7pm Parish Council	14  7pm Philoptochos Board Meeting	15 	16 	17 
<i>Apostles Fast</i>						
18  <i>2nd Sunday of Mathew</i> 8:45am Orthros 10am Divine Liturgy Indoor & Live-stream	19 	20 	21 	22 	23 	24 
<i>Apostles Fast</i>						
25  <i>3rd Sunday of Mathew</i> 8:45am Orthros 10am Divine Liturgy Indoor & Live-stream 4pm Dance Practice	26 	27 	28  7pm Philoptochos General Meeting	29 <i>Apostles Peter Paul</i> 9am Orthros 10am Divine Liturgy	30 	
<i>Apostles Fast</i>						
		<i>Strict Fast</i> Refrain from Meat, Fish, Wine, Oil, Dairy & Eggs 	<i>Fish, Wine & Oil Allowed</i> 	<i>Wine and Oil Allowed</i> 	<i>Dairy, Eggs, & Fish Allowed; Refrain from Meat</i> 	<i>Fast Free</i>

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TIME SENSITIVE

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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.



*Bless the Lord,
O my soul and do
not forget all the gifts
that come from
Him.*

Psalm 103:2