

Rev. Father Peter Stratos, Pastor

778 S. Rosemead Blvd, Pasadena, CA 91107 • Tel. 626-449-6943 • Fax: 626-449-6974

Website: saint-anthonys.org • E-mail: office@saint-anthonys.org

Church office hours: Monday-Friday: 9:00am to 4:00pm (Closed Saturday & Sunday)

St. Anthony's calendar link: saint-anthonys.org/calendar

For pastoral emergencies only please call 626-855-3640

DECEMBER 17, 2023 – 11TH SUNDAY OF MATTHEW

Daniel and the Three Holy Youths

Dionysios of Zakynthos

ORTHROS ~ 8:45 A.M.

[\(ORTHROS SERVICE TEXT CLICK HERE\)](#)

DIVINE LITURGY ~ 10:00 A.M.

[\(LITURGY SERVICE TEXT CLICK HERE\)](#)

WE WILL CONTINUE TO BROADCAST ALL SERVICES VIA LIVE-STREAM
(CLICK THE LINKS BELOW):

SAINT-ANTHONY.S.ORG/LIVESTREAM

FACEBOOK.COM/STANTHONYSPASADENA

YOUTUBE.COM/CHANNEL/UCXSG4uJFWmElsOEIjx96pCA

NO PARKING IN EMERGENCY WHITE ZONE IN FRONT OF CHURCH

RESURRECTIONAL APOLYTIKION. MODE 3. (BEFORE ENTRANCE)

Let the heavens be glad. Let the earth rejoice exceedingly. For the Lord has shown strength with his arm. He trampled death by death. He became the first-born of the dead. Out of the belly of Hades, He has rescued us, and to the world He has granted the great mercy.

Εὐφραινέσθω τὰ οὐράνια, ἀγαλλιάσθω τὰ ἐπίγεια, ὅτι ἐποίησε κράτος ἐν βραχίονι αὐτοῦ, ὁ Κύριος· ἐπάτησε τῷ θανάτῳ τὸν θάνατον· πρωτότοκος τῶν νεκρῶν ἐγένετο· ἐκ κοιλίας ᾄδου ἐρρύσατο ἡμᾶς, καὶ παρέσχε τῷ κόσμῳ τὸ μέγα ἔλεος.

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FOR THE FOREFATHERS. MODE 2.

By faith You justified the Forefathers, having through them betrothed to yourself the Church that came out of the nations. The saints are boasting in glory; for the glorious fruit, the Virgin who without seed gave birth to You, is from their progeny. At their entreaties, O Christ our God, save our souls.

Ἐν πίστει τοὺς Προπάτορας ἐδικαίωσας, τὴν ἐξ Ἐθνῶν δι' αὐτῶν προμνηστευσάμενος Ἐκκλησίαν. Καυχῶνται ἐν δόξῃ οἱ Ἅγιοι, ὅτι ἐκ σπέρματος αὐτῶν, ὑπάρχει καρπὸς εὐκλεῆς, ἡ ἀσπόρος τεκοῦσά σε. Ταῖς αὐτῶν ἰκεσίαις, Χριστὲ ὁ Θεός, σῶσον τὰς ψυχὰς ἡμῶν.

APOLYTIKION OF ST. ANTHONY THE GREAT. MODE 4

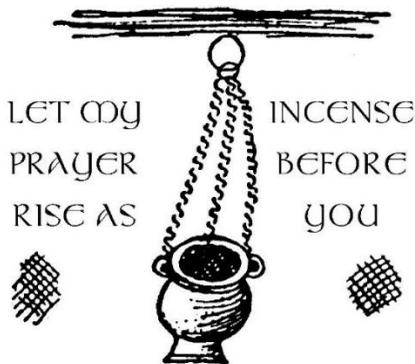
Emulating the ways of Elijah the zealot, and following the straight paths of the Baptist, O Father Anthony, you made the wilderness a city, and did support the world by your prayers. Wherefore intercede with Christ our God, that our souls be saved.

Τὸν ζηλωτὴν Ἡλίαν τοῖς τρόποις μιμούμενος, τῷ Βαπτιστῇ εὐθείαις ταῖς τρίβουσι
ἐπόμενος, Πάτερ Ἀντώνιε, τῆς ἐρήμου γέγονας οἰκιστῆς, καὶ τὴν οἰκουμένην
ἐστήριξας εὐχαῖς σου· διὸ πρέσβευε Χριστῷ τῷ Θεῷ σωθῆναι τὰς ψυχὰς ἡμῶν.

KONTAKION. MODE 3.

On this day the Virgin Maid * goes to the grotto to give birth * to the pre-eternal Word *
in an ineffable manner. * Dance for joy, all the inhabited earth, on hearing. * Glorify along
with Angels and with the shepherds * Him who willed that He appear as * a newborn Child,
* the pre-eternal God.

Ἡ Παρθένος σήμερον, τὸν προαιώνιον Λόγον, ἐν Σπηλαίῳ ἔρχεται, ἀποτεκεῖν
ἀπορρήτως. Χόρευε ἡ οἰκουμένη ἀκουτισθεῖσα, δόξασον μετὰ Ἀγγέλων καὶ τῶν
Ποιμένων, βουληθέντα ἐποφθῆναι, Παιδίον νέον, τὸν πρὸ αἰώνων Θεόν.



EPISTLE READING

St. Paul's Letter to The Colossians 3:4-11

Prokeimenon. Mode 4

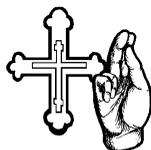
Daniel 3.26,27

Blessed are you, O Lord, the God of our fathers.

Verse: For you are just in all you have done.

The reading is from St. Paul's Letter to the Colossians 3:4-11

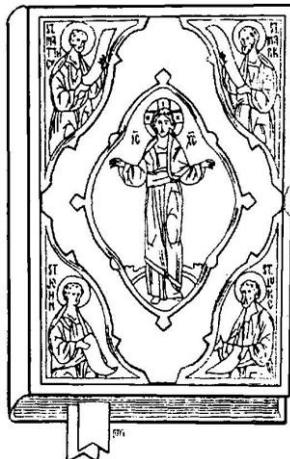
Brethren, when Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory. Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: fornication, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. On account of these the wrath of God is coming upon the sons of disobedience. In these you once walked, when you lived in them. But now put them all away: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and foul talk from your mouth. Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old nature with its practices and have put on the new nature, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator. Here there cannot be Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free man, but Christ is all, and in all.



GOSPEL READING

The Gospel According to Luke 14:16-24

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



PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

Divine Services for December 2023 and January 2024

(saint-anthonys.org/calendar):

DECEMBER 2023

Sunday, Dec. 24	SUNDAY BEFORE THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD Orthros 8:45 a.m. Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom..... 10:00 a.m.
Monday, Dec. 25	THE FEAST OF THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD Orthros..... 9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy of St. Basil 10:00 a.m.
Sunday, Dec. 31	SUNDAY BEFORE THEOPHANY Orthros..... 8:45 a.m. Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom..... 10:00 a.m.

JANUARY 2024

Friday, Jan. 5	THE FOREFEAST OF THE EPIPHANY (THEOPHANY) OF CHRIST AGHIASMOS (GREAT BLESSING OF THE WATERS) Vespers Divine Liturgy of St. Basil..... 9:00 a.m.
Saturday, Jan. 6	THE FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY (THEOPHANY) OF CHRIST AGHIASMOS (GREAT BLESSING OF THE WATERS) Orthros..... 9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy St. John Chrysostom..... 10:00 a.m.
Sunday, Jan. 7	SYNAXIS OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST Orthros..... 8:45 a.m. Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m. VASILOPITA after Services hosted by Philoptochos.
Tuesday, Jan. 16	EVE OF THE FEAST OF ST. ANTHONY Great Vesper Service w/ Artoklasia 6:00 p.m. Dinner will follow, hosted by Philoptochos.
Wednesday, Jan. 17	FEAST OF ST. ANTHONY Orthros..... 9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.

STUDIES IN THE FAITH (Gospel of St. Luke)

Fall Session 2023: October 2—December 18

Our Studies in the Faith/Bible Study Classes continue on Monday evenings from 6:30 – 7:30 PM.

These informative zoom classes will serve as an excellent introduction into the Gospel of Luke from an Orthodox perspective. For those interested in the class please email Fr. Peter. frpeter@saint-anthonys.org

Monday December 18

Chapter 8



Coffee Hour - Cookies by Sunday School Parents

Second annual Sunday School Christmas Sing Along! Each class will sing a special Christmas song and we will then sing a couple of songs together as a community. Our students are excited to share in this festive experience as we celebrate the season of the Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**Reminder: NO PARKING IN EMERGENCY WHITE ZONE
IN FRONT OF CHURCH**



COFFEE HOUR FELLOWSHIP



Host a Coffee Hour

Celebrate a Name Day, Milestone Birthday, Anniversary or Event for yourself or a loved one or as a Family Activity!

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.** *If you would like your name or event included in the weekly bulletin, notify the Church Office by the Wednesday prior to the date chosen at 626.449.6943 or by email at 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 at office@saint-anthonys.org

2. **Bring snacks for 75 adults and kids** – Suggestions include: Pastries, Bagels, Muffins, Cakes, Cookies, Mini Deli Sandwiches, Cheese & Crackers, Olives, Dolmades, Hummus, Tzatziki, Pita, Raw Vegetables, Fruit, Salads 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.

Daniel the Prophet & Ananias, Azarias, & Misail, the Three Holy Youths.

December 17, 2023

The Prophet Daniel and the Three Children were all descended from the royal tribe of Judah. In the year 599 before Christ, in the reign of Joachim, who was also called Jechonias (I Chron. 3:16, and II Chron. 36:8), while yet children, these righteous ones were led away as captives into Babylon together with the other Jews by Nabuchodonosor. He singled them out from among the other captives to serve him, and renamed them thus: Daniel was named Baltazar; Ananias, Sedrach: Misail, Misach; and Azarias, Abednago. They were reared in the royal court, and taught the wisdom of the Chaldeans; and after the passage of three years, they surpassed all the Chaldean sages (Dan. 1).

Thereafter, Daniel, being still a lad, interpreted that mysterious image seen by Nabuchodonosor in a dream, an image that was composed of different metals, but was shattered and ground to dust by a certain stone which had been hewn out of a mountain without the hand of man. This vision clearly portrayed through the mountain the height of the Virgin's holiness and the power of the Holy Spirit which overshadowed her. Through the image of the Stone, Christ was portrayed, Who was seedlessly born of her, and Who by His coming as the Godman would shatter and destroy all the kingdoms of the world, which were portrayed through the image; and He would raise them that believe in Him into His Heavenly Kingdom, which is eternal and everlasting (ibid. 2:31-45). Thereupon, he signified in prophecy the time of His appearance in the Jordan, the beginning of His preaching of the Gospel, the time of His saving Passion, and the cessation of the worship according to the Mosaic Law, (ibid. 9:14-27). He portrayed most excellently the majestic and dread image of His second coming, presenting by means of words, as with living colours, the fiery throne which shall be set, the Eternal Judge Who shall sit thereon, the river of fire that shall flow forth before

Him, the calling to account before the impartial judgment seat, the opened books of each ones deeds, the thousands upon thousands of them that minister to Him, and the ten thousands of them that stand in His presence (ibid. 7: 9-10). Daniel (whose name means "God is judge") was called "man of desires" by the Angels that appeared (ibid. 9:23), because he courageously disdained every desire of the body, even the very bread that is necessary for nourishment. Furthermore, he received this name because, in his longing for the freedom of those of his tribe, and his desire to know their future condition, he ceased not supplicating God, fasting and bending the knee three times a day. Because of this prayer he was cast into the den of lions, after he had been accused by his enemies as a transgressor of the decree issued through the proclamation of the king, that no one should worship or ask for anything from God or from men for thirty days, but only from the king. But having stopped the mouths of the lions by divine might, and appearing among them as though he were a shepherd of sheep, Daniel showed the impious the might of godliness (ibid. 6:1-23).

As for the Three Children, Ananias ("Yah is gracious"), Misail ("Who is what God is?"), and Azarias ("Yah is keeper"), since they refused to offer adoration to Nabuchodonosor's image, they were cast into the furnace of fire. They were preserved unharmed amidst the flames - even their hair was untouched - by the descent of the Angel of the Lord, that is, the Son of God. Walking about in the furnace, as though in the midst of dew, they sang the universal hymn of praise to God, which is found in the Seventh and Eighth Odes of the Holy Psalter. And coming forth therefrom, without even the smell of the fire on their clothes (Dan. 3), they prefigured in themselves the Virgin's incorrupt giving of birth; for she, on receiving the Fire of the Godhead within her womb, was not burned, but remained virgin, even as she was before giving birth.

Therefore the Church celebrates the Three Children and Daniel on this day, on the Sunday of the Forefathers, and on the Sunday before the Nativity of

Christ, since they prefigured and proclaimed His Incarnation. Furthermore, they were of the tribe of Judah, wherefrom, Christ sprang forth according to the flesh. The holy Three Children completed their lives full of days; as for the Prophet Daniel, he lived until the reign of Cyrus, King of Persia, whom he also petitioned that his nation be allowed to return to Jerusalem and that the Temple be raised up again, and his request was granted. He reposed in Peace, having lived about eighty-eight years. His prophetic book, which is divided into twelve chapters, is ranked fourth among the greater Prophets.

Dionysios of Zakynthos

December 17, 2023

The holy hierarch, Saint Dionysius, who was born and reared on Zakynthos, was the son of pious and wealthy parents, Mocius and Paulina by name. In his youth he entered the ancient monastery of the Strophada Islands, which lie south of Zakynthos, and there he donned the monastic habit. Later, he was appointed Archbishop of Aegina, and adorned its throne for a considerable time. Thereafter he returned to his homeland. One incident in his life especially reveals to what virtue he attained. A man came to him in desperation, witnessing that he had committed a murder, and was being pursued by the slain man's family. He asked Saint Dionysius to give him refuge. The Saint agreed to this, upon learning that it was his own brother whom the man had slain, he said nothing, but concealing the agony of his grief, hid him. When the Saint's kinsmen arrived at the monastery, he told them that the Murderer had gone by such and such a way. When they had departed, he admonished the man concerning the gravity of his sin, instructed him in repentance, and sent him off in peace having forgiven him his brother's murder. According to local tradition, this man later returned and became a monk at this same monastery. Saint Dionysius reposed in peace in 1621, leaving behind his sacred and incorrupt relics as a treasure for his fellow citizens.



WELCOME!



We hope you enjoy your time with us today and that your worship experience is inspirational and uplifting.

Please note that *only baptized and/or Chrismated Orthodox Christians may partake of the Sacrament of Holy Communion*. At the end of the Divine Liturgy, you are welcome to come and receive the *Antidoron* (blessed bread) from the priest.

Contact our office at 626-449-6943 or office@saint-anthonys.org to receive more information about our parish or the Orthodox Christian faith.

The deadline for submitting information for the Sunday Bulletin is every Wednesday.
please send it to office@saint-anthonys.org

MAKE SURE YOU ARE A REGULAR SUPPORTER OF OUR CHURCH!

The healthiest and most effective way of fulfilling and enhancing your stewardship is to do so on a recurring basis. This is made VERY EASY by setting up monthly or weekly recurring stewardship donations via our online giving platform. Just go to saint-anthonys.churchgiving.com, or click the icon below and you can set up a no-hassle stewardship account in just minutes!



Or you can call the church office to set up regular giving through credit cards, Checks or weekly envelopes.