



*Rev. Father Peter Stratos, Pastor*

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

St. Anthony's calendar link: [saint-anthonys.org/calendar](http://saint-anthonys.org/calendar)

*For pastoral emergencies only please call 626-855-3640*

**DECEMBER 31, 2023**  
**SUNDAY BEFORE EPIPHANY**

*Apodosis of the Nativity*  
*Melania Nun of Rome*

**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](http://SAINT-ANTHONY.S.ORG/LIVESTREAM)

[FACEBOOK.COM/STANTHONYSPASADENA](https://FACEBOOK.COM/STANTHONYSPASADENA)

[YOUTUBE.COM/CHANNEL/UCXSG4uJFWmElsOEIjx96pCA](https://YOUTUBE.COM/CHANNEL/UCXSG4uJFWmElsOEIjx96pCA)

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

***APOLYTIKION OF THE FEAST. MODE 4. (BEFORE ENTRANCE)***

Your nativity, O Christ our God, has caused the light of knowledge to rise upon the world. For therein the worshippers of the stars were by a star instructed to worship You, the Sun of Righteousness, and to know You as Orient from on high. Glory to You, O Lord.

Ἡ Γέννησίς σου Χριστέ ὁ Θεὸς ἡμῶν, ἀνέτειλε τῷ κόσμῳ τὸ φῶς τὸ τῆς γνώσεως· ἐν αὐτῇ γὰρ οἱ τοῖς ἄστροις λατρεύοντες, ὑπὸ ἀστέρος ἐδιδάσκοντο, σὲ προσκυνεῖν, τὸν Ἥλιον τῆς δικαιοσύνης, καὶ σὲ γινώσκειν ἐξ ὕψους ἀνατολήν. Κύριε δόξα σοι.

***RESURRECTIONAL APOLYTIKION. MODE PL 1. (AFTER ENTRANCE)***

As the Father and Spirit are unoriginate, \* so the Word, who was born from the Virgin for us. \* Let us praise Him, O believers, and let us worship Him. \* For our salvation He was pleased \* to be crucified in the flesh, \* and to undergo death, \* and to resurrect the dead, by His glorious resurrection.

Τὸν συνάναρχον Λόγον Πατρὶ καὶ Πνεύματι, τὸν ἐκ Παρθένου τεχθέντα εἰς σωτηρίαν ἡμῶν, ἀνυμνήσωμεν πιστοὶ καὶ προσκυνήσωμεν· ὅτι ἠὐδόκησε σαρκί, ἀνελθεῖν ἐν τῷ Σταυρῷ, καὶ θάνατον ὑπομεῖναι, καὶ ἐγεῖραι τοὺς τεθνεῶτας, ἐν τῇ ἐνδόξῳ ἀναστάσει αὐτοῦ.

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## ***FOR THE ANCESTORS OF GOD. MODE 2.***

Annunciate the miracles to David the ancestor of God, O Joseph. You saw the Virgin pregnant. You glorified with the shepherds. You worshipped with the Magi. And you were warned by an Angel. Entreat Christ God to save our souls.

Εὐαγγελίζου Ἰωσήφ, τῷ Δαυὶδ τὰ θαύματα τῷ Θεοπάτορι· Παρθένον εἶδες κυοφορήσασαν, μετὰ Μάγων προσεκύνησας, μετὰ Ποιμένων ἐδοξολόγησας, δι' Ἀγγέλου χρηματισθείς. Ἰκέτευε Χριστὸν τὸν Θεόν, σωθῆναι 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 Ἠλίαν τοῖς τρόποις μιμούμενος, τῷ Βαπτιστῇ εὐθείαις ταῖς τρίβοις ἐπόμενος, Πάτερ Ἀντώνιε, τῆς ἐρήμου γέγονας οἰκιστής, καὶ τὴν οἰκουμένην ἐστήριξας εὐχαῖς σου· διὸ πρέσβευε Χριστῷ τῷ Θεῷ σωθῆναι τὰς ψυχὰς ἡμῶν.

## ***KONTAKION. MODE 3.***

On this day the Virgin gives \* birth to the Super-essential. \* To the Unapproachable, \* earth is providing the grotto. \* Angels sing and with the shepherds offer up glory. \* Following a star the Magi are still proceeding. \* He was born for our salvation, a newborn Child, the pre-eternal God.

Ἡ Παρθένος σήμερον, τὸν ὑπερούσιον τίκτει, καὶ ἡ γῆ τὸ Σπήλαιον, τῷ ἀπροσίτῳ προσάγει. Ἄγγελοι μετὰ Ποιμένων δοξολογοῦσι. Μάγοι δὲ μετὰ ἀστέρος ὁδοιποροῦσι· δι' ἡμᾶς γὰρ ἐγεννήθη, Παιδίον νέον, ὁ πρὸ αἰώνων Θεός.



## ***EPISTLE READING***

**Sunday Before Epiphany**

**St. Paul's Second Letter to Timothy 4:5-8**

**Poioumenon. Mode Plagal 2**

**Psalm 27.9,1**

**O Lord, save your people and bless your inheritance.**

**Verse: To you, O Lord, I have cried, O my God.**

The reading is from St. Paul's Second Letter to Timothy 4:5-8

TIMOTHY, my son, always be steady, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, fulfil your ministry.

For I am already on the point of being sacrificed; the time of my departure has come. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that Day, and not only to me but also to all who have loved his appearing.

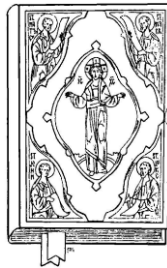
# ***GOSPEL READING***

## **Sunday Before Epiphany**

### **The Gospel According to Mark 1:1-8**

The beginning of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. As it is written in Isaiah the prophet, 'Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who shall prepare your way; the voice of one crying in the wilderness: prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.' John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And there went out to him all the country of Judea, and all the people of Jerusalem; and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, and had a leather girdle around his waist, and ate locusts and wild honey. And he preached, saying, "After me comes he who is mightier than I, the thong of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

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## **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](mailto:frpeter@saint-anthonys.org)

Next Class January 15, 2024

### **Divine Services for January 2024**

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

#### **JANUARY 2024**

Friday, Jan. 5	THE FOREFEAST OF THE EPIPHANY (THEOPHANY) OF CHRIST AGHIASMOS (GREAT BLESSING OF THE WATERS) Vesperal 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.



## Coffee Hour – Hosted by Philoptochos



### 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](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 at [office@saint-anthonys.org](mailto: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](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.**

# **Sunday after Nativity.**

***December 31, 2023***

On the Sunday that falls on or immediately after the twenty-sixth of this month, we make commemoration of Saints Joseph, the Betrothed of the Virgin; David, the Prophet and King; and James, the Brother of God. When there is no Sunday within this period, we celebrate this commemoration on the 26th.

Saint Joseph (whose name means "one who increases") was the son of Jacob, and the son-in-law - and hence, as it were, the son - of Eli (who was also called Eliakim or Joachim), who was the father of Mary the Virgin (Matt. 1:16; Luke 3:23). He was of the tribe of Judah, of the family of David, an inhabitant of Nazareth, a carpenter by Trade, and advanced in age when, by God's good will, he was betrothed to the Virgin, that he might minister to the great mystery of God's dispensation in the flesh by protecting her, providing for her, and being known as her husband so that she, being a virgin, would not suffer reproach when she was found to be with child. Joseph had been married before his betrothal to our Lady; they who are called Jesus' "brethren and sisters" (Matt. 13:55-56) are the children of Joseph by his first marriage. From Scripture, we know that Saint Joseph lived at least until the Twelfth year after the birth of Christ (Luke 2:41-52); according to the tradition of the Fathers, he reposed before the beginning of the public ministry of Christ.

The child of God and ancestor of God, David, the great Prophet after Moses, sprang from the tribe of Judah. He was the son of Jesse, and was born in Bethlehem (whence it is called the City of David), in the year 1085 before Christ. While yet a youth, at the command of God he was anointed secretly by the Prophet Samuel to be the second King of the Israelites, while Saul - who had already been deprived of divine grace - was yet living.



In the thirtieth year of his life, when Saul had been slain in battle, David was raised to the dignity of King, first, by his own tribe, and then by all the Israelite people, and he reigned for forty years. Having lived seventy years, he reposed in 1015 before Christ, having proclaimed beforehand that his son Solomon was to be the successor to the throne.

The sacred history has recorded not only the grace of the Spirit that dwelt in him from his youth, his heroic exploits in war, and his great piety towards God, but also his transgressions and failings as a man. Yet his repentance was greater than his transgressions, and his love for God fervent and exemplary; so highly did God honour this man, that when his son Solomon sinned, the Lord told him that He would not rend the kingdom in his lifetime "for David thy father's sake" (III Kings 12:12). Of The Kings of Israel, Jesus the Son of Sirach testifies, "All, except David and Hezekias and Josias, were defective" (Ecclus. 49:4). The name David means "beloved."

His melodious Psalter is the foundation of all the services of the Church; there is not one service that is not filled with Psalms and psalmic verses. It was the means whereby old Israel praised God, and was used by the Apostles and the Lord Himself. It is so imbued with the spirit of prayer that the monastic fathers of all ages have used it as their trainer and teacher for their inner life of converse with God. Besides eloquently portraying every state and emotion of the soul before her Maker, the Psalter is filled with prophecies of the coming of Christ. It foretells His Incarnation, "He bowed the heavens and came down" (Psalm 17:9), His Baptism in the Jordan, "The waters saw Thee, O God, The waters saw Thee and were afraid" (76:15), His Crucifixion in its details, "They have pierced My hands and My feet .... They have parted My garments amongst themselves, and for My vesture have they cast lots" (21:16, 18). "For My thirst they gave Me vinegar to drink" (68:26), His descent into Hades, "For Thou wilt not abandon My soul in Hades, nor wilt Thou suffer Thy Holy One to see corruption" (15:10) and

Resurrection, "Let God arise and let His enemies be scattered" (67:1). His Ascension, "God is gone up in jubilation" (46:5), and so forth.

As for James, the Brother of God, see October 23.

## **Melania the Younger, Nun of Rome.**

*December 31, 2023*

Saint Melania the Younger, who was born in 388, was the grand-daughter of Saint Melania the Elder (see June 8). Her father Publicola was an Eparch of Rome. She was joined in wedlock to a husband and became the mother of two children, both of which she lost shortly thereafter. Thus, having agreed with her husband to pass the rest of their lives in abstinence and chastity, and taking her mother Albina with her, she went off to Africa. They ransomed 8,000 captives; furthermore, they built two monasteries - one for men and one for women - in the city of Tagaste, which was in the district of Tunis. After seven years they moved to Jerusalem. Thereafter Melania shut herself up in a small and narrow hermitage by the Mount of Olives, and wearing away her body with fasting and vigil, she reposed in 434.



## 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](http://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.*

**Reminder:**

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

**A Handicap Placard or  
Handicap License Plate  
is required to park in the Blue  
handicap parking spaces.**