

# The Voice of Saint Anthony

## January 2024

### Saint Anthony Greek Orthodox Church

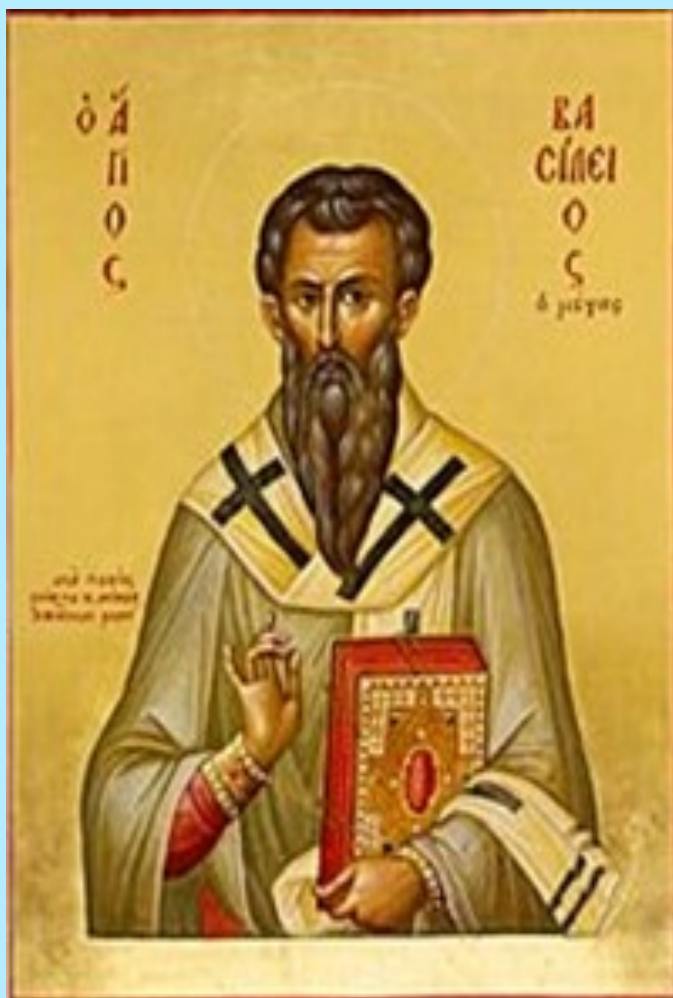
Reverend Father Peter Stratos

778 S. Rosemead Boulevard, Pasadena, CA 91107

(626) 449-6943 Office (626) 449-6974 FAX

Circumcision of Christ/ Saint Basil	1 January
Holy Theophany/ Epiphany	6 January
Saint John the Baptist	7 January
St. Anthony the Great	17 January
Gregory the Theologian	25 January
Three Hierarchs	30 January

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### Saint Basil the Great

### 1 January

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

## Message from Father Peter

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

On New Year's Day we celebrate the feast day of **St. Basil the Great**, who was a renowned Archbishop of Caesarea (Cappadocia) in the 4th Century. He was born into a pious, saintly family around the year 330 AD. His grandmother was St. Marina the Elder, his brother St. Gregory of Nyssa, and his sister was St. Marina the Younger. His other siblings are also considered saints of the Church. St. Basil was a brilliant student, studying in Constantinople and later in Athens with his friend Gregory of Nazianzus (who would also become Saint Gregory the Theologian. After Basil was baptized a Christian at 27 years of age, he devoted his entire remaining life to the Church. Basil wrote many articles and books explaining the Christian faith. His teachings are still relevant and used today.

St Basil was a powerful advocate and supporter of the poor, establishing soup kitchens, hospitals, and orphanages. He organized the first communal monasteries and wrote the rules for monks and nuns to live by and follow. He wrote many prayers for use in worship services and a text for the Divine Liturgy. The Orthodox Church continues to celebrate the Liturgy of St. Basil the Great on ten occasions each year. He fell asleep in the Lord on January 1, 379.

Vasilopita for the New Year:

One of the stories attributed to St. Basil gives Orthodox Christians the tradition of the Vasilopita, which is celebrated for the feast of St. Basil and at other times during the month of January. According to the story, the people of Caesarea gave St. Basil their treasures to safeguard. Once the danger had passed, there was doubt and disagreement about what exactly belonged to whom. St. Basil ordered that loaves of bread be baked and that the treasures be placed inside the bread. When the loaves were distributed to the residents of the city, a miracle occurred. Each person received exactly what he or she had given to St. Basil to protect. From that time forward, Orthodox Christians have baked a Vasilopita loaf with a coin inside. As the pita or bread is cut, the person who receives the piece with the coin is blessed and promised to experience a good and fortunate year.

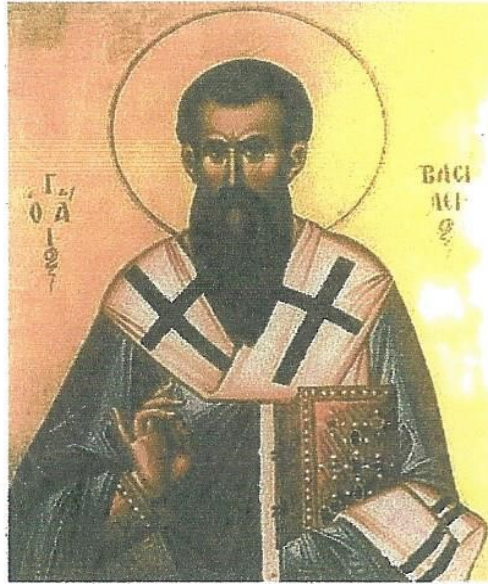
Following the Divine Liturgy on Sunday January 7, in honor of this beautiful tradition, our community will gather for the cutting of the Vasilopita. We will offer prayers and petitions for the New Year (2024). We will pray as a community for health and peace in the world. There will be a Vasilopita at each table along with cheese, olives and clementines provided and hosted by our Philoptochos ladies. There will be one large pita that will be cut and distributed to our ministry leaders.

It is an afternoon of great joy and happiness. I invite you all to this beautiful St. Anthony tradition.

Praying for a blessed New Year,

Fr. Peter





### Vasilopita Saint Basil's Bread

Orthodox Christians bake vasilopita for January 1<sup>st</sup>, New Year's Day. St. Basil hid gold coins in loaves of bread and gave them to the poor. Today, we make vasilopita to thank God for all of our blessings and to remember and emulate St. Basil's kindness. A coin is wrapped and placed in the bread before it is baked. The person who finds the coin in their slice of bread is considered to be especially blessed for the New Year.

### CUTTING THE VASILOPITA

Make the sign of the cross over the bread, saying:  
"In the name of the Father, the Son, and Holy Spirit, Amen."

This is the correct order:

- ♦ The first piece is for Christ
- ♦ The next piece is for the Virgin Mary
- ♦ The next piece is cut for St Basil
- ♦ The next piece is cut for the needy.
- ♦ Pieces of Vasilopita are now cut for members of the family, from eldest to youngest

**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.



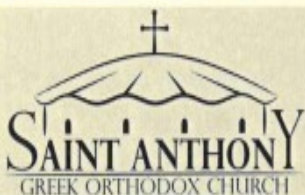
**CHURCH**  
**should be the reason**  
**you miss everything**  
**else. Not everything**  
**else the reason you**  
**miss CHURCH.**

**Note:** Please make every effort to arrive for services a little early. If you happen to arrive late, please observe the following moments in the Divine Liturgy when you **should not enter** the Nave but wait quietly in the Narthex. You may enter after these moments have completed:

- ♦ The Priest censing
- ♦ The Small Entrance
- ♦ The Great Entrance
  - ♦ Epistle Reading
  - ♦ Gospel Reading
  - ♦ The Homily
- ♦ Consecration of the Gifts
  - ♦ The Lord's Prayer



## Stewardship



## 2024 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)*

2024

LAST NAME

FIRST NAME(S), PLEASE INCLUDE CHILDREN UNDER 18.

STREET ADDRESS

CITY

STATE

ZIP

PREFERRED PHONE

OTHER/SECOND PHONE

E-MAIL

SIGNATURE

DATE

[For office use only]

**ST. ANTHONY GIVING LEVELS:****CONTRIBUTOR: \$499 & below**

\$9.60/week OR \$42/month &amp; below

**FRIEND: \$500 - \$999**

\$9.60-\$19/week OR \$42-\$83/month

**SUPPORTER: \$1,000 - \$1,999**

\$19-\$38/week OR \$83-\$167/month

**\* FAITHFUL: \$2,000 - \$3,999**

\$38-\$77/week OR \$167-\$333/month

**\* DISCIPLE: \$4,000 - \$6,999**

\$77-\$135/week OR \$333-\$583/month

**\* GUARDIAN: \$7,000 - \$9,999**

\$135-\$192/week OR \$583-\$833/month

**\* ANGEL: \$10,000 - \$14,999**

\$192-\$288/week OR \$833-\$1,249/month

**\* ARCHANGEL: \$15,000 and up**

\$288/week OR \$1,250/month &amp; up

*Review your stewardship commitment prayerfully, consider what you offer to Christ's Church  
in comparison to your monthly utility/ service payments.*

Please return your completed commitment card to church by January 31, 2024

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

**In response to God's blessings, I/we pledge a 2024 offering of:**

**My Total Commitment for 2024: \$\_\_\_\_\_**

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

☐ Weekly at \$\_\_\_\_\_/week

☐ Monthly at \$\_\_\_\_\_/month ☐ Annually

Contact the Church office to set up easy recurring electronic payments  
-OR- set up your own recurring giving at [saint-anthonys.churchgiving.com](http://saint-anthonys.churchgiving.com)

**\*To fully cover our operating expenses, our goal is to  
have our average stewardship be \$2,000 per family or above**



## Commitment of Time and Talents



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

### Council of Ministries

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

### Parish Events

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

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

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

Ministries



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

Sophia Syrengelas – Director

Little Lambs:  
Teresa Argueta

PK, TK, & Kindergarten:  
Irene Albeck & Larissa Maslen

Kindergarten, First & Second:  
Sophia Syrengelas & Andrianna Lareau

Third, Fourth, & Fifth:  
Mary Udria & Athena Serban

Middle School:  
Polly Vagenas & Chris Syrengelas

High School:  
Presuytera Aida Stratos

Teacher assistant and substitute:  
Jenni Nassos



**PHILOPTOCHOS SOCIETY****Executive Board****President**

Judith Din

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

Jeanne Karaionnoglou

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

Helen Skandale and Lisa Xanthos

**Corresponding Secretary**

Mary Udria and Irene Albeck

**Recording Secretary**

Mary Dewar

**Treasurer**

Connie Becker

**Assistant Treasurer**

Maria Grover

**Advisor**

Maria Kypreos

**Spiritual Advisor**

Father Peter Stratos

**Board of Directors****Beautification**

Maria Kokoris

Maria Hronas

**Community Outreach**

Fontaine Malisos

Liz Skandale

**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

**Union Station**

Irene Albeck

**Operation Classroom**

Nicolette Fuerst and Jennifer Webster

**ADDITIONAL MINISTRIES****Acolytes**

Pres Aida Stratos

**Bible Study**

Fr. Peter Stratos

**Bookstore**

Noah Johnson

**Golf Tournament**

Jimmy Christos

**GOYA**Anthia Drulias Lucas  
Maria Katsas Gittings  
Polly Vagenas**GOYA Basketball**

Pana Gelt

**GOYA Volleyball**Anthia Lucas  
Pana Gelt**Greek Dance Groups**

Nikole Zoumberakis

**Greek Festival**

Christian Balas

**Greek Language**

Anastasia McClain

**JOY/HOPE**

Irene Albeck

**Myrrh Bearers**

Irene Albeck

**Oratorical Festival**

Pres Aida Stratos

**Prayer Shawls**

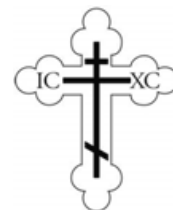
Maria Kypreos

**Psalter Group**

Fr. Peter Stratos

**Vacation Bible School**Sophia Syrengelas  
Mary Udria**VIPs**

Irene Albeck





"Let the  
little children  
come to me ...."

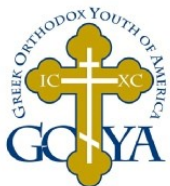
MATTHEW 19:14

## Youth & Young Adults



-IV on the Go (Ionian Village) was incredible! It was held on Dec. 8 and 9<sup>th</sup>, and included a lock-in where the GOYAns stayed overnight in the hall. They had an amazing time. The counselors from IV were absolutely tremendous in leading the kids in ice breakers and community building activities! There were six counselors who flew in from all over the country.

Thank you to Father Peter who held Vespers and Orthros in the church for our attendees. Thank you also to GOYA advisors, Polly Vagenas, Anthia Lucas and Maria Katsas who put together the event and kept the kids well fed. Thank you also to Bryan Gittings for sleeping over and helping chaperone for the young men downstairs while Maria and Polly were upstairs with the young ladies. Thank you to our junior advisors, Andrianna, Kos and Stavros who also helped make the event a great success!













-GOYAns decorated the Christmas trees in the church hall this month!





- Next GOYA meeting is **January 21<sup>st</sup>**. 12:15pm in the high school classroom.
- We'll be ordering our sweatshirts in January!
- Greek Orthodox Basketball League (GOBL) is celebrating its 50<sup>th</sup> year! Signups coming soon!
- Check out our new Instagram account: @stanthonysgoya
- Any questions, please email us: [goya@saint-anthonys.org](mailto:goya@saint-anthonys.org)

To sign up your child for GOYA, please click on this QR code:



GOYA Sign up



# 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 help 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:**

Irene Albeck [mcmg2a@aol.com](mailto:mcmg2a@aol.com)

Vangie Dupas [vangiedupas@sbcglobal.net](mailto:vangiedupas@sbcglobal.net)

Christina Kades [christinekades@gmail.com](mailto:christinekades@gmail.com)

*"You shall open wide your hand to your brother,  
to the needy and to the poor, in your land."*

Deuteronomy 15:11





***Christmas for the Kids In Conjunction with Friends-In-Deed***

Once again, Philoptochos and the St. Anthony community helped Friends In Deed to provide Christmas presents for some of Pasadena's most vulnerable children. In some cases these gifts were the only presents they received at Christmas.

Thank you to all our generous donors who participated in this event and provided gifts for these children.



*Liz ready to deliver the donated gifts*

In addition to the gifts for Friends-In-Deed, Philoptochos made end of year donations to Project Mexico, Wells Bring Hope, Hoving Home, Five Acres, and individuals in need, etc. We also supported our seminarian from Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology in Brookline, Massachusetts.

***Philoptochos and Sunshine Committee*** delivered Greek sweets and Christmas cheer to some seniors and home bound parishioners over the Christmas holidays. They were met by hugs and smiles! A big thank you to everyone who helped.



## Community Happenings

### ***Vasilopita Celebration*** – Sunday, January 7

Philoptochos will host the Vasilopita celebration in the church hall following Divine Liturgy.

### ***Great Vespers Dinner***

Tuesday, January 16. Philoptochos and Parish Council will host a dinner following the Great Vespers for the Feast Day of Saint Anthony.

### ***Annual Christmas Benefit 2023***

Thank you to everyone who made our 54th Annual Christmas Benefit, *Christmas in Toyland*, a tremendous success! This year's event included a delicious luncheon and fashion show by Robert Ellis Boutique. It was held at **The Langham Huntington Hotel** in Pasadena on Saturday, December 2.

Over 480 guests enjoyed entertainment by the Pasadena Civic Ballet. The Christmas Boutique, Santa's Kitchen, and gift vendors provided a delightful shopping experience for all. The charity receiving proceeds from this year's event was Forever Kids' Case for Character program as well as other Philoptochos charities. By partnering with Forever Kids, our Philoptochos is able to provide suitcases and support for children entering the foster care system.

### ***Philoptochos Christmas Party*** – December 13 – Trinity Ballroom

All attendees enjoyed a delicious dinner and desserts, good fellowship, and Christmas cheer. The festivities included a fun and entertaining ornament gift exchange game. Thank you to our First Vice President, Jeanne Karaioannoglou, for organizing this wonderful event and to Maria Hronas who assisted with the party.



***St. Anthony's Coffee Hour is coordinated by St. Anthony Philoptochos***

Host a Coffee Hour to celebrate a birthday, anniversary, name-day, graduation, Loved One, or for any reason. A sign-up on the poster in the foyer of the Parish Community Center or contact Tanya Christodoulelis at (626) 379-2304. Thank you for your support.

Please contact the Church office if you need to schedule a Memorial and if you wish to host the Social Hour on that Sunday.

*Please Note: The Money collected in the Coffee Hour Basket is used to purchase items for the church, such as the chanter stands and reliquary. Please remember to contribute to the basket at Coffee Hour.*



## COFFEE HOUR FELLOWSHIP



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

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

Hosting is as easy as 1-2-3:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



### Santa's Kitchen Thank you

The Santa's Kitchen Committee would like to thank everyone who helped with the baking and packaging of sweets for Santa's Kitchen which supported the 2023 St. Anthony Philoptochos Benefit Luncheon. During these past few months, many ladies in the church community helped us and we truly appreciate all their support. Our heartfelt thanks especially to Irene Albeck, Maria Hronas, Christine Kades, Stavroula Kiotas, Yngrid Molinari, Gena Pegadiotes and Yiota Poulos. All these lovely ladies are our superheroes.

With appreciation and love,  
Helen Skandale and Lisa Xanthos

*It's back!*

*Saint Anthony Philoptochos'  
5<sup>th</sup> soup cook-off*

**SOUPER  SUNDAY**

*To benefit our neighbors  
the Pasadena Bad Weather Shelter*

**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2024**  
*following Divine Liturgy*

For more information:

<https://tinyurl.com/SouperSunday2024>

[SouperSundayPasadena@gmail.com](mailto:SouperSundayPasadena@gmail.com)

For more information: <https://tinyurl.com/soupersunday2024>



### Celebrating 100 Years !!

In December, the St. Anthony community celebrated the 100th birthday of longtime parishioner **Helen Reese**.

Wearing her special gold 100th birthday crown, Helen was presented with hugs and flowers from the Church School children. The St. Anthony dance group even performed a special dance!

The entire congregation watched her blow out her candles and everyone sang a festive Happy Birthday. The parish council provided a lovely birthday cake which everyone enjoyed.

Father Peter presented Helen with a beautiful icon of Saints Constantine and Helen.

She was surprised and touched by the love the community showed her on her special day.

Helen is indeed a true entertainer. After the church birthday celebration, she was invited to play her accordion at the local Trader Joes. Helen was a celebrity for the day, as many people stopped to watch and take pictures of the centenarian while she played her accordion singing and wishing everyone a Merry Christmas!



## In Our Metropolis

### 2024 Saint Sophia Philoptochos 55<sup>th</sup> Debutante Presentation Ball

Sunday, January 14, 2024 at the Beverly Wilshire Hotel.

The Debutante Ball celebrates the young women of our Metropolis by recognizing their plentiful philanthropic, academic, and extracurricular accomplishments. It raises funds for Philoptochos charities through a donation and message in the Presentation Album.

Our debutantes from Saint Anthony's are:  
Talia Grafos and Katerina Gittings

For reservations (\$250 per person): Cynthia Spears (847) 220-3520.

For Presentation Album: Jeanne Boukidis (818) 389-7661 [jboukidis.StSophia@gmail.com](mailto:jboukidis.StSophia@gmail.com)

Online reservations and donations for Presentation Album signatures are available at [www.stsophiaphiloptochos.org/debutante-ball-2024](http://www.stsophiaphiloptochos.org/debutante-ball-2024).

We thank you for your support. Donations are deductible in accordance with the law.

## *The Debutantes of 2024*

*Anna Nicoletta Counelis*

ESCORTED BY  
NICHOLAS SPIRO VIDALAKIS

*Sophia Katherine Feles*

ESCORTED BY  
ROBERT S. NUCCION

*Loe Antoinette French*

ESCORTED BY  
EVAN WILLIAM FRENCH

*Vasiliki Maria Georgakopoulos*

ESCORTED BY  
NICHOLAS MICHAEL HANSON

*Maria Sophia Georgopoulos*

ESCORTED BY  
DEMETRIOS ALEXANDER VASILIOU

*Katerina Asimina Gittings*

ESCORTED BY  
MIGUEL SANTANA

*Talia Theana Grafos*

ESCORTED BY  
KYRIACOS SPIRO VIDALAKIS

*Grace Maria Moore*

ESCORTED BY  
THOMAS THANO FELES

*Stavroula Andrianna Pitsos*

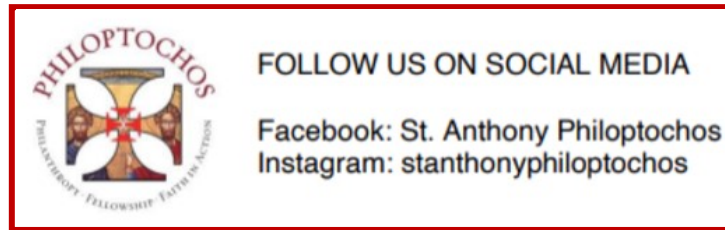
ESCORTED BY  
JIMMY T. SPEARS

## Upcoming Meetings

**January Board Meeting – Wednesday, January 10 at 7:00 PM**

**General Meeting – Wednesday, January 24 at 6:30 PM for a Winter Wine Tasting. More details forthcoming. Any questions, contact Jeanne Karaioannoglou (626) 437-6078 (cell)**

**Christmas Benefit 2023 Recap – Monday, February 7 at 7:00 PM**



## 2024 Philoptochos Membership

We encourage everyone 18 and over to join Philoptochos. A ministry that promotes charitable, benevolent, and philanthropic outreach. Please look for more details on the upcoming 2024 membership drive. We would love for you to be a part of this wonderful organization.

*The following charities are supported by St. Anthony Philoptochos:*

### *Chapter Charities*

CAST, Coalition to Abolish Slavery and Trafficking  
 City of Hope  
 Forever Kids  
 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

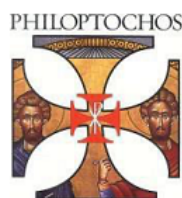
### *San Francisco Metropolis Philoptochos Programs & Charities*

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 SOCIETY OF  
SAINT ANTHONY GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH  
PANAGIA CHAPTER**

**PHILOPTOCHOS MEMBERSHIP FORM**

☐ 2024 Philoptochos Membership      ☐ 2024 Associate Membership      Date \_\_\_\_\_  
(Men / Non-Voting)

Last Name      First Name      Spouse Name      M.I.

Street Address

City      State      Zip

Home Phone      Cell Phone

Email

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

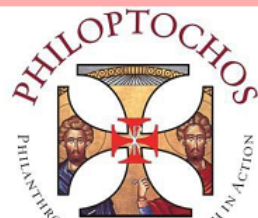
St. Anthony's Philoptochos Stewardship (membership dues). Select amount below:

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

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

I am interested in helping with the following:

<input type="checkbox"/> Feeding the Hungry	<input type="checkbox"/> Hosting Fellowship	<input type="checkbox"/> Marketing
<input type="checkbox"/> Delivering Meals to Parishioners	<input type="checkbox"/> Baking & Cooking	<input type="checkbox"/> Website Designer
<input type="checkbox"/> Homebound Visitations	<input type="checkbox"/> Fundraising	<input type="checkbox"/> Other Talents
<input type="checkbox"/> Telephone Tree	<input type="checkbox"/> Social Media	<input type="checkbox"/> Specify



**2024 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

**KALI XRONIA.....HAPPY NEW YEAR TO THE ENTIRE SAINT ANTHONY FAMILY!!**

2023 saw a resurgence of activity in our parish with the Covid-19 pandemic having become somewhat of an afterthought due to the availability of safe and effective vaccines and oral therapy. Here is a recap of the year's events:

1. We had a successful **Pasadena Golf Classic** in May.
2. A significant Sunday School enrollment resulted in a wonderful increase in church attendance on Sundays.
3. The Pasadena **GreekFest** was once again open to the community-at-large and though a September shower impacted the attendance on Saturday, everyone who came out for the event enjoyed a weekend of delicious food and pastries, thanks in a large part to the efforts of many VIP members.
4. The Saint Anthony Philoptochos, which includes many of our VIP ladies, held yet another financially successful **Christmas Benefit Luncheon** at the Langham Huntington Hotel, allowing the ladies to continue their charitable and philanthropic works in the community.

The VIPs enjoyed a resurgence in membership, meeting activities, and outings last year. Our VIP roster added more than a dozen new members...but sadly, two of our long time members, Dr. Rodanthi Kitridou and Mr. George Treantafelles, departed this life. May their memories be eternal.

While most all of our members celebrated birthdays in 2023, three of our members celebrated really SIGNIFICANT birthdays. Congratulations and best wishes for continued good health and happiness to Kathy Lucas, 90 years young, Vivian Mauredakis 97 years young, and Helen Reece, 100 years young! KEEP ON TRUCKIN' LADIES!

VIP meeting activities were expanded to include a BINGO tournament, a post business meeting luncheon and a few low impact chair aerobic exercise sessions led by Nicole Schulman, .

A number of our members traveled to Saint George Church in Downey on a few occasions to attend meetings of the Organization of Respected Adults, (ORA), a Metropolis level VIP style group. And a delegation of seniors from Saint George then joined us at our November Festive Feast to enjoy camaraderie and a fabulous holiday turkey luncheon with all the trimmings.

Of course, the VIP Community outreach efforts continued with contributions to Operation Classroom for the benefit of Pasadena City College Students and the Foothill Unity Center for the purchase of holiday turkeys for needy families.

On December 10th, with Christmas and the New Year right around the corner, the VIPs attended a simply marvelous Holiday Spectacular by the Citrus College Visual and Performing Arts Division entitled "*Christmas Is.*"

This production included performances by the renowned Citrus Singers, Citrus Dancers, The Tenor Bass Ensemble, The Citrus Percussion Ensemble, and a cast of over two and a half dozen actors/singers who performed a magnificent holiday play. The quality of the vocalization performed by these junior college students was truly amazing and very much appreciated by all of our attendees!

Finally, our last meeting of the year was an outdoor gathering at LeRoy's Restaurant on a brisk December 12th morning in Monrovia. With 44 members and guests in attendance, a wonderful time was had by all. We enthusiastically exchanged Christmas greetings over delicious breakfast options provided by Carolina Kokoris and her attentive staff....truly a wonderful way to end 2023....as we all look forward to our **January 9th meeting**, and wish our entire Saint Anthony Family:

**A SAFE, HEALTHY, AND HAPPY NEW YEAR!**

Jim Hronas

VIP Communications



Nicole Schulman leads us in chair aerobics.



Our delegation attends ORA Meeting at St. George.



Ladies from St. George join us for our Holiday Feast.





Our November Holiday Feast



VIPs at Citrus College for Holiday Spectacular.



Our breakfast meeting at LeRoy's Restaurant.





Community News & more...



THE BAPTISM OF OUR LORD AND SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST  
ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST

**All Southern California Communities  
invited and encouraged to attend**

*Southern California*  
**THEOPHANY**  
**SATURDAY**  
**JANUARY 6, 2023**  
**1:00 PM**

**DIVERS NEEDED**  
ALL YOUTH AGES 12-18

**Habit burger truck &  
snow cones**

# Dive for the Cross and Blessing of the waters

Blessing of the Waters and Dive for the Cross  
to take place at Mother's Beach

5839 E Appian Way Long Beach, CA 90802



GREEK ORTHODOX ARCHDIOCESE OF AMERICA  
METROPOLIS OF SAN FRANCISCO



Hosted by

**ASSUMPTION**  
OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

Saint Anthony  
Bowling League News  
Winter/Spring Season 2024



**Happy New Year from the St. Anthony Bowling League**

The St. Anthony Bowling League will begin its Winter/Spring Season on **Thursday, January 18 at 7:00 P.M.** This session of our league will run approximately 12 weeks ending on **Thursday, April 4, 2024.**

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

Weekly fees are \$20.00, and includes shoes as well as end of season cash prize award for every bowler. Bowlers are responsible for weekly fees even when absent.

Anyone interested in joining or for more information please contact:

Anthia Drulias-Lucas

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

(626) 274-6133 (call/text)



# METROPOLIS YOUNG ADULT WINTER RETREAT



METROPOLIS OF  
SAN FRANCISCO

LAKE TAHOE  
MLK WEEKEND

JANUARY 12-15, 2024

[WWW.GOSFYOUTH.ORG](http://WWW.GOSFYOUTH.ORG)

# The Voice of Saint Anthony

## January 2024

### Saint Anthony Greek Orthodox Church

Reverend Father Peter Stratos  
778 S. Rosemead Boulevard, Pasadena, CA 91107  
(626) 449-6943 Office (626) 449-6974 FAX

Circumcision of Christ/ Saint Basil	1 January
Holy Theophany/ Epiphany	6 January
Saint John the Baptist	7 January
St. Anthony the Great	17 January
Gregory the Theologian	25 January
Three Hierarchs	30 January

Priest's Message  
Stewardship  
Ministries  
Parish Council  
Sunday School  
Youth/Young Adults  
Philoptochos  
VIPs  
Community News, etc.  
Monthly Lesson  
Saints of the Month  
Orthodox Calendar



**Saint Anthony the Great**  
**17 January**

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

*If you would like the monthly newsletter mailed to your home  
each month, please contact the Church office.*

**626.449.6943**



## Monthly Lesson from Father Stavros Akrotirianakis

*Seek the Lord, all you humble of the land,  
who do His commands;  
seek righteousness, seek humility.  
Zephaniah 2:3*

The Bible begins with the story of creation, which begins with the words, *“In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.”* (Genesis 1:1) The Ten Commandments begin with the words *“I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage. You shall have no other gods before Me”* (Exodus 20:2-3) And in one of the last verses of the Bible, in Revelation 22:13, Jesus speaks to John and says *“I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end.”* Throughout the Bible, the relationship between God and humanity is established. He is God. We are His servants. He is the source and center of everything. We are supposed to fit our lives around Him, not Him around us. He is our purpose, our destination, and our present focus. In order to keep our positions in proper alignment, the first thing we need is humility. Humility recognizes that we are not the source and center of everything, He is.

It is easier to serve the Lord with obedience than with humility. Because if we focus on obedience, we focus on following orders. And while obedience and submission are important, there is a danger in only approaching God with obedience and not with humility added to it. Because what do we do with those who are not obedient? Speak down to them. Feel that we are superior to them? What happens when we are not obedient? Should we be beset with guilt and feelings of unworthiness and inadequacy?

Humility helps with both our shortcomings and the shortcomings of others. Let's look at ourselves first. If God is the Lord, if He is the source and center of everything, then when we fall short, we can come back to Him with humility and place Him back at the center through our personal repentance, confident in His ability to forgive and restore. Going to confession requires humility—it requires us to come to God and to take ownership for not placing Him at the source and center of something. Some people have a hard time with this personal humility. Probably most people have a difficult time with this. It is hard to bow our head in humility and admit to God that we have shifted Him off the center and put ourselves and our needs there instead.

Let's look at the shortcomings of others. It is very easy and very tempting to judge others, either for their wrongs, or for their beliefs (their “rights”). With respect to their wrongs, Jesus tells us that we should take the log out of our own eye before we judge the speck in the eye of our brother. (Matthew 7:3-5; Luke 6:41-42) With respect to their “rights,” there is also the temptation to criticize people who believe different than us. With so many Christian denominations, there is the temptation to assert that one is better than the other, or rather, one is valid and the others are not. Obviously, I feel very strongly about what the Orthodox believe and how we practice what we believe or I would not be Orthodox. I am very convicted that our theology most closely mirrors the early church, the writings of the early fathers and most especially, the words of Jesus Christ. Our practice of that theology, however, often leaves something to be desired, including my personal practice. This is why there is no need to criticize anyone. We can encourage, just as we need to be encouraged, others in their faith journeys. But we should do so with humility, not self-aggrandizement. God, revealed as the Alpha and the Omega, will sort out things. On a practical level, I am worried about the logs in my own heart and soul, more than the specks that might be in the souls of others.

We need to keep God at the center of our lives, of our focus, of our priorities.

**Personal Reflection Point:**

How can we seek righteousness and humility?



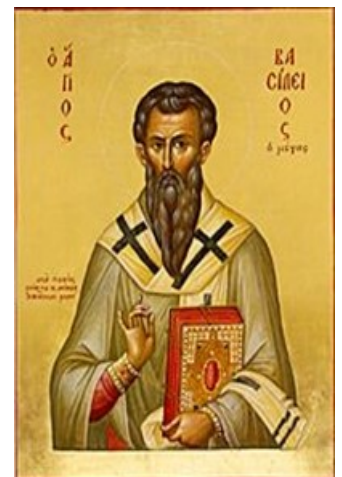
## Saints & Feasts

### Saint Basil the Great & the Circumcision of Christ

1 January

**Saint Basil the Great** was born about the end of the year 329 in Caesarea of Cappadocia, to a family renowned for their learning and holiness. His parents' names were Basil and Emily. His mother Emily and his grandmother Macrina are Saints of the Church, together with all his brothers and sisters. Basil studied in Constantinople under the sophist Libanius, then in Athens, where also he formed a friendship with the young Gregory, a fellow Cappadocian, later called "the Theologian." Through the good influence of his sister Macrina, he chose to embrace the ascetical life, abandoning his worldly career. He visited the monks in Egypt, in Palestine, in Syria, and in Mesopotamia, and upon returning to Caesarea, he departed to a hermitage on the Iris River in Pontus, not far from Annesi, where his mother and his sister Macrina were already treading the path of the ascetical life; here he also wrote his ascetical homilies.

About the year 370, when the bishop of his country reposed, he was elected to succeed to his throne and was entrusted with the Church of Christ, which he tended for eight years, living in voluntary poverty and strict asceticism, having no other care than to defend holy Orthodoxy as a worthy successor of the Apostles. The Emperor Valens, and Modestus, the Eparch of the East, who were of one mind with the Arians, tried with threats of exile and of torments to bend the Saint to their own confession, because he was the bastion of Orthodoxy in all Cappadocia, and preserved it from heresy when Arianism was at its strongest. But he set all their malice useless, and in his willingness to give himself up to every suffering for the sake of the Faith, showed himself to be a martyr by volition. Modestus, amazed at Basil's fearlessness in his presence, said that no one had ever so spoken to him. "Perhaps," answered the Saint, "you have never met a bishop before." The Emperor Valens himself was almost won over by Basil's dignity and wisdom. When Valens' son fell gravely sick, he asked Saint Basil to pray for him. The Saint promised that his son would be restored if Valens agreed to have him baptized by the Orthodox; Valens agreed, Basil prayed, and the son was restored. But afterwards the Emperor had him baptized by Arians, and the child died soon after. Later, Valens, persuaded by his counsellors, decided to send the Saint into exile because he would not accept the Arians into communion; but his pen broke when he was signing the edict of banishment.



## Saint Basil - continued

He tried a second time and a third, but the same thing happened, so that the Emperor was filled with dread, and tore up the document, and Basil was not banished. The truly great Basil, spent with extreme ascetical practices and continual labors, at the helm of the church, departed to the Lord on the 1st of January, in 379. at the age of forty-nine.

His writings are replete with wisdom and erudition, and rich are these gifts he set forth the doctrines concerning the mysteries both of the creation and of the Holy Trinity. Because of the majesty and keenness of his eloquence, he is honored as "the revealer of heavenly things" and "the Great."

**The Circumcision of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ** is celebrated on the first day of the New Year, eight days after the celebration of our Lord's Birth. The Church also remembers our Lord's circumcision and His receiving the name Jesus, which means Savior. So on the eighth day after His Nativity, our Lord Jesus Christ was circumcised in accordance with the Old Testament Law. All male infants underwent circumcision as a sign of God's Covenant with the holy Forefather Abraham and his descendants (Genesis 17:10-14, Leviticus 12:3)

After this ritual the Divine Infant was given the name Jesus, as the Archangel Gabriel declared on the day of the Annunciation to the Most Holy Theotokos (Luke 1:31-33, 2:21). The Fathers of the Church explain that the Lord, the Creator of the Law, underwent circumcision in order to give people an example of how faithfully the divine ordinances ought to be fulfilled.

The Lord was circumcised so that later no one would doubt that He had truly assumed human flesh, and that His Incarnation was not merely an illusion, as certain heretics taught.

In the New Testament, the ritual of circumcision gave way to the Mystery of Baptism, which it prefigured (Colossians 2:11-12). Accounts of the Feast of the Circumcision of the Lord continue in the Eastern Church right up through the fourth century. The Canon of the Feast was written by Saint Stephen of the Saint Sava Monastery.

In addition to circumcision, which the Lord accepted as a sign of God's Covenant with mankind, He also received the Name Jesus (Savior) on the eighth day after His Nativity as an indication of His service, the work of the salvation of the world (Matthew 1:21; Mark 9:38-39, Mark 16:17; Luke 10:17; Acts 3:6, 16; Phil 2:9-10). These two events, the Lord's Circumcision and Naming, remind Christians that they have entered into a New Covenant with God and "*are circumcised with a circumcision made without hands, in putting off the body of the sins of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ*" (Colossians 2:11). The very name "Christian" is a sign of mankind's entrance into a New Covenant with God.

## Holy Theophany/Epiphany

### 6 January

About the beginning of our Lord's thirtieth year, John the Forerunner, who was some six months older than Our Savior according to the flesh, and had lived in the wilderness since his childhood, received a command from God and came into the parts of the Jordan, preaching the baptism of repentance unto the remission of sins. Then our Savior also came from Galilee to the Jordan, and sought and received baptism though He was the Master and John was but a servant. Whereupon, there came to pass those marvelous deeds, great and beyond nature: the Heavens were opened, the Spirit descended in the form of a dove upon Him that was being baptized and the voice was heard from the Heavens hearing witness that this was the beloved Son of God, now baptized as a man (Matt. 3:13-17; Mark 1:9-11; Luke 3:1-22).



From these events the Divinity of the Lord Jesus Christ and the great mystery of the Trinity were demonstrated. It is also from this that the present feast is called "Theophany," that is, the divine manifestation, God's appearance among men. On this venerable day the sacred mystery of Christian baptism was inaugurated; henceforth also began the saving preaching of the Kingdom of the Heavens.

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## Synaxis of John the Baptist

### 7 January

Today, the day after Epiphany, we celebrate the Synaxis in honor of the most sacred Forerunner, since he ministered at the Mystery of the Divine Baptism of our Lord Jesus Christ, on January 6th.





## Saint Anthony

17 January

The Father of monks, was born in Egypt in 251 of pious parents who departed this life while he was yet young. On hearing the words of the Gospel: "If thou wilt be perfect, go and sell what thou hast, and give to the poor" (Matt. 19:21), he immediately put it into action. Distributing to the poor all he had, and fleeing from all the turmoil of the world, he departed to the desert. The manifold temptations he endured continually for the span of twenty years are incredible. His ascetic struggles by day and by night, whereby he mortified the uprisings of the passions and attained to the height of dispassion, surpass the bounds of nature; and the report of his deeds of virtue drew such a multitude to follow him that the desert was transformed into a city, while he became, so to speak, the governor, lawgiver, and master-trainer of all the citizens of this newly-formed city.

The cities of the world also enjoyed the fruit of his virtue. When the Christians were being persecuted and put to death under Maximinus in 312, he hastened to their aid and consolation. When the Church was troubled by the Arians, he went with zeal to Alexandria in 335 and struggled against them in behalf of Orthodoxy. During this time, by the grace of his words, he also turned many unbelievers to Christ.

Saint Anthony began his ascetic life outside his village of Coma in Upper Egypt, studying the ways of the ascetics and holy men there, and perfecting himself in the virtues of each until he surpassed them all. Desiring to increase his labors, he departed into the desert, and finding an abandoned fortress in the mountain, he made his dwelling in it, training himself in extreme fasting, unceasing prayer, and fierce conflicts with the demons. Here he remained for about twenty years. Saint Athanasius the Great, who knew him personally and wrote his life, says that he came forth from that fortress "initiated in the mysteries and filled with the Spirit of God."

Afterwards, because of the press of the faithful, who deprived him of his solitude, he was enlightened by God to journey with certain Bedouins, until he came to a mountain in the desert near the Red Sea, where he passed the remaining part of his life.

Saint Athanasius says of him that "his countenance had a great and wonderful grace. This gift also he had from the Savior. For if he were present in a great company of monks, and any one who did not know him previously wished to see him, immediately coming forward he passed by the rest, and hurried to Anthony, as though attracted by his appearance. Yet neither in height nor breadth was he conspicuous above others, but in the serenity of his manner and the purity of his soul."

So becoming an example of virtue and a rule for monastics, he reposed on January 17 in the year 356, having lived altogether some 105 years.



## **Saint Gregory the Theologian**

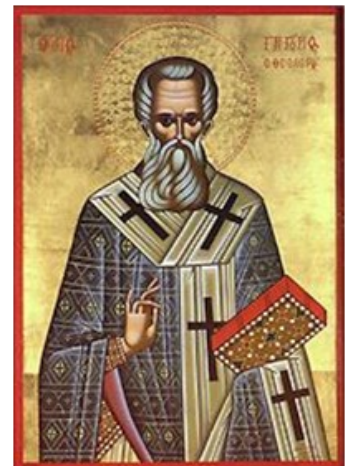
**25 January**

This great Father and Teacher of the Church was born in 329 in Arianzus, a village of the second district of Cappadocia, not far from Nazianzus. His father, who later became Bishop of Nazianzus, was named Gregory and his mother was named Nonna ; both are among the Saints, and so are his brother Caesarius and his sister Gorgona . At first he studied in Caesarea of Palestine, then in Alexandria, and finally in Athens. As he was sailing from Alexandria to Athens, a violent sea storm put in peril not only his life but also his salvation, since he had not yet been baptized. With tears and fervor he besought God to spare him, vowing to dedicate his whole self to Him, and the tempest gave way to calm.

At Athens Saint Gregory was later joined by Saint Basil the Great, whom he already knew; but now their acquaintanceship grew into a lifelong brotherly love. Another fellow student of theirs in Athens was the young Prince Julian, who later as Emperor was called the Apostate because he denied Christ and did all in his power to restore paganism. Even in Athens, before Julian had thrown off the mask of piety; Saint Gregory saw what an unsettled mind he had, and said, "What an evil the Roman State is nourishing"

After their studies at Athens, Gregory became Basil's fellow ascetic, living the monastic life together with him for a time in the hermitages of Pontus. His father ordained him presbyter of the Church of Nazianzus, and Saint Basil consecrated him Bishop of Sasima, which was in the archdiocese of Caesarea. This consecration was a source of great sorrow to Gregory, and a cause of misunderstanding between him and Basil; but his love for Basil remained unchanged, as can be plainly seen from his Funeral Oration on Saint Basil .

About the Year 379, Saint Gregory came to the assistance of the Church of Constantinople, which had already been troubled for forty years by the Arians; by his supremely wise words and many labors he freed it from the corruption of heresy, and was elected Archbishop of that city by the Second Ecumenical Council, which assembled there in 381, and condemned Macedonius, Archbishop of Constantinople, the enemy of the Holy Spirit.



## Saint Gregory the Theologian – continued

When Saint Gregory came to Constantinople, the Arians had taken all the churches and he was forced to serve in a house chapel dedicated to Saint Anastasia the Martyr. From there he began to preach his famous five sermons on the Trinity, called the Triadica. When he left Constantinople two years later, the Arians did not have one church left to them in the city. Saint Meletius of Antioch, who was presiding over the Second Ecumenical Council, died in the course of it, and Saint Gregory was chosen in his stead; there he distinguished himself in his expositions of dogmatic theology.

Having governed the Church until 382, he delivered his farewell speech – the Syntacterion, in which he demonstrated the Divinity of the Son – before 150 bishops and the Emperor Theodosius the Great; in this speech he requested, and received from all, permission to retire from the see of Constantinople. He returned to Nazianzus, where he lived to the end of his life, and reposed in the Lord in 391, having lived some sixty-two years.

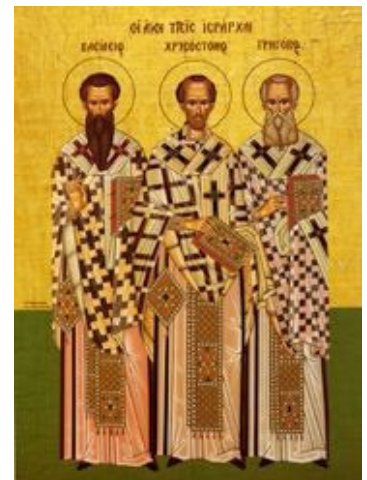
His extant writings, both prose and poems in every type of metre, demonstrate his lofty eloquence and his wondrous breadth of learning. In the beauty of his writings, he is considered to have surpassed the Greek writers of antiquity, and because of his God-inspired theological thought, he received the surname "Theologian." Although he is sometimes called Gregory of Nazianzus, this title belongs properly to his father; he himself is known by the Church only as Gregory the Theologian. He is especially called "Trinitarian Theologian," since in virtually every homily he refers to the Trinity and the one essence and nature of the Godhead.

---

## Synaxis of the Three Hierarchs

### 30 January













This common feast of these three teachers was instituted a little before the year 1100, during the reign of the Emperor Alexis I Comnenus, because of a dispute and strife that arose among the notable and virtuous men of that time. Some of them preferred **Basil**, while others preferred **Gregory**, and yet others preferred **John Chrysostom**, quarreling among themselves over which of the three was the greatest. Furthermore, each party, in order to distinguish itself from the others, assumed the name of its preferred Saint; hence, they called themselves Basilians, Gregorians, or Johannites. Desiring to bring an end to the contention, the three Saints appeared together to the saintly John Mauropous, a monk who had been ordained Bishop of Euchaita, a city of Asia Minor. They revealed to him that the glory they have at the throne of God is equal, and told him to compose a common service for the three of them, which he did with great skill and beauty.





# Orthodox Calendar

## January 2024

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	<b>Circumcision of Christ</b>  <b>Saint Basil the Great</b>	<b>7pm Dance Prac.</b>	<b>7pm Philoptochos Union Station</b>	<b>4:30 Greek School</b>	 <b>Agiasmos</b> <b>9am Vespertal liturgy of St. Basil</b>  <b>5pm Dance Prac.</b>	<b>Holy Theophany Epiphany Agiasmos</b> <b>9am Orthros 10am Divine Lit</b>
<b>Synaxis of John the Baptist</b> <b>8:45am Orthros 10am Divine Liturgy</b>  <b>Vasilopita</b> <b>12:15 Greek Dance Prac Indoor &amp; Live-stream</b>	<b>4:30 Greek School 5:30 Dance Prac.</b>	<b>10:30 VIP Meeting 7pm Dance Prac. 7pm Parish Coun'l</b>	 <b>7pm Philopotochos Board Mtg</b>	<b>4:30 Greek School</b>		
<b>Leavetaking of the Theophany</b> <b>8:45am Orthros 10am Divine Liturgy</b>  <b>12:15 Greek Dance Prac 12:15 GOYA Meeting Indoor &amp; Live-stream</b>	<b>4:30 Greek School 5:30 Dance Prac.</b>	<b>Eve of the Feast of Saint Anthony</b> <b>7pm Vespertal liturgy Artoklasia Dinner</b>	 <b>Saint Anthony the Great</b> <b>9am Orthros 10am Divine Lit.</b>	<b>4:30 Greek School</b>		
<b>12th Sunday of Luke</b>  <b>8:45am Orthros 10am Divine Liturgy</b>  <b>12:15 Greek Dance Indoor &amp; Live-stream</b>	<b>4:30 Greek School 5:30 Dance Prac.</b>	<b>7pm Dance Prac.</b>	 <b>7pm Philopotochos General Mtg</b>	<b>Gregory the Theologian</b>  <b>4:30 Greek School</b>		
<b>15th Sunday of Luke</b>  <b>8:45am Orthros 10am Divine Liturgy</b>  <b>12:15 Greek Dance Prac Indoor &amp; Live-stream</b>	<b>4:30 Greek School 5:30 Dance Prac.</b>	<b>Three Hierarchs</b> <b>9am Orthros 10am Divine Lit</b>  <b>7pm Dance Prac.</b>				
		<b>Strict Fast</b> <b>Refrain from Meat, Fish, Wine, Oil, Dairy &amp; Eggs</b>  	<b>Fish, Wine &amp; Oil Allowed</b>  	<b>Wine and Oil Allowed</b>  	<b>Dairy, Eggs, &amp; Fish Allowed; Refrain from Meat</b>  	<b>Fast Free</b>

Saint Anthony  
Greek Orthodox Community  
778 South Rosemead Blvd  
Pasadena, California 91107



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alma@saint-anthonys.org

We're on the Web!  
[www.saint-anthonys.org](http://www.saint-anthonys.org)

January 2024

POSTAGE  
STAMP

TIME SENSITIVE

*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.*

O Lord, grant me to greet this new year in peace. Help me in all things to rely upon Your holy will. In every moment of this year reveal Your will to me. Bless my dealings with all who surround me. Teach me to treat all that comes to me throughout the year with peace of soul, and with the firm conviction that Your will governs all. In all my deeds and words guide my thoughts and feelings. In unforeseen events let me not forget that everything is sent by You. Teach me to act firmly and wisely, without embittering or embarrassing others. Give me strength to bear the fatigue of this coming year with all that it will bring. Direct my will, teach me to pray, pray You Yourself in me. Amen.