

# The Voice of Saint Anthony

## August 2024

### Saint Anthony Greek Orthodox Church

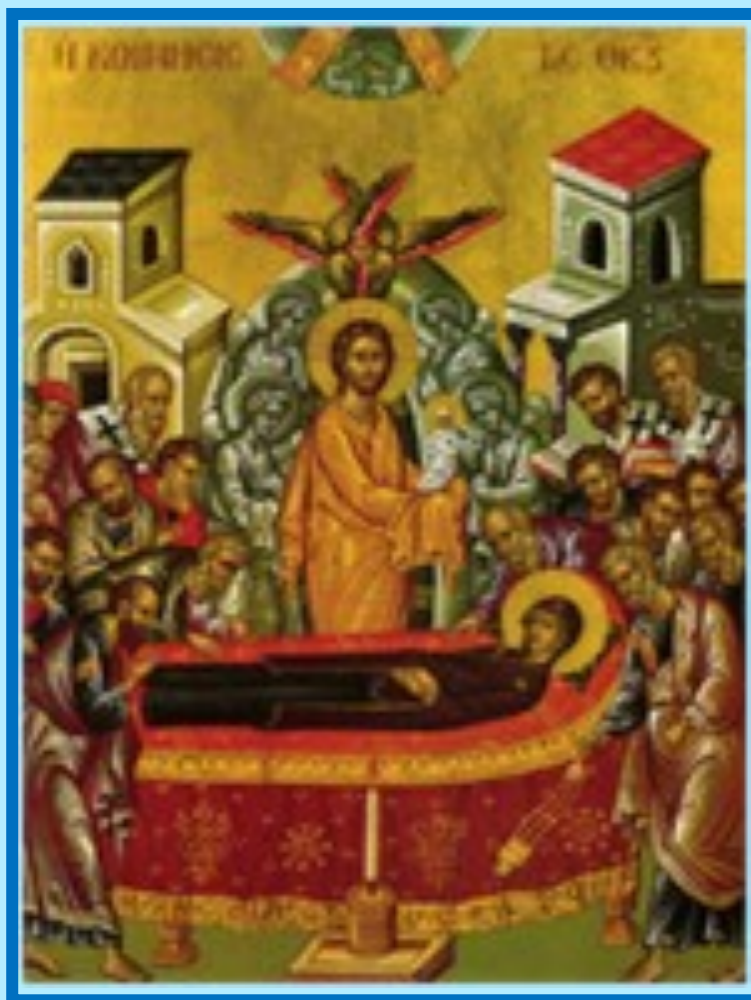
Reverend Father Peter Stratos

778 S. Rosemead Boulevard, Pasadena, CA 91107

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

Dormition Fast	1-14 August
Holy Transfiguration	06 August
Dormition of Theotokos	15 August
Saint Phanourios	27 August
Beheading John the Baptist	29 August

Priest's Message	2
Stewardship	3
Ministries	5
Parish Council Report	7
Sunday School	7
Youth/Young Adults	7
Philoptochos	8
VIPs	15
Community News, etc.	16
Monthly Lesson	25
Saints of the Month	27
Orthodox Calendar	32



**DORMITION OF THE  
HOLY THEOTOKOS &  
EVER VIRGIN MARY  
15 AUGUST**

*Deadline for September Newsletter is Sunday, 25 August.  
Please send to: [newsletter\\_church@aol.com](mailto:newsletter_church@aol.com)*

## Message from Father Peter

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

We have reached that beautiful time of year when we offer devotions in honor of the Blessed Virgin Mary, August 1st–August 15th.

Our Holy Orthodox Church has set four major Feast Days for the Mother of God. On August 15th we commemorate one of these holy days, **The Dormition (falling asleep) of the Blessed Virgin Mary.**

This great Feast Day of the Dormition is preceded by 15 days of devotions and prayers to the Blessed Mother of God. During this period we observe a strict period of fasting. We pray and attend Paraklesis (Supplication) Services to the Theotokos and we attend the Divine Liturgy on Thursday August 15th. By following these disciplines of the Church, we will properly prepare ourselves for the sacrament of Holy Communion on that blessed day.

According to Holy Tradition, when the time came for the Mother of God to depart from this earth to join her Son in Heaven, she sent for all of the Apostles of Christ to be at her bedside. All the Apostles were present at the time of her burial, except for St. Thomas who returned too late for the funeral. He asked to visit her body, which had been buried for three days. When the tomb was opened, they were amazed to find that the body of Mary was gone.

An Angel of the Lord appeared to the Apostles and announced that she had been taken into Heaven. This is the belief of all Orthodox Christians in accordance with Holy Tradition. This is why this period of time is so important to us!

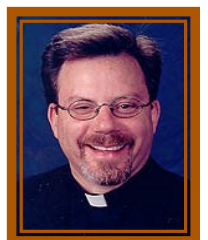
The first 15 days of August are sacred for Orthodox Christians around the world, a special time that brings feelings of intensified reverence. Special prayers and services are held regularly during these 15 days.

Please consult our calendar for dates and times to attend or watch via live stream. This is a special time half way between Pascha and Advent (Christmas), when we can all refocus our minds and souls on our faith. This is a golden opportunity for us to be in church to pray, fast, and participate in our blessed services. Join us so that we can proclaim together:

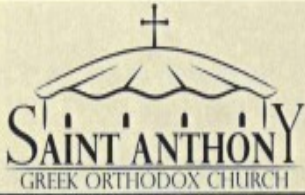
**Most Holy Theotokos Save Us!**

In Christ,

Fr. Peter



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 & 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 & 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

\*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

- |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|
| <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 Fellowship) | <input type="checkbox"/> Vacation Bible School |
| <input type="checkbox"/> GOYA/Jr. GOYA         | <input type="checkbox"/> Office Volunteers                   | <input type="checkbox"/> VIPs                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Greek Dance           | <input type="checkbox"/> St. John Chrysostom                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Volleyball Tournament |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Greek Language School | <input type="checkbox"/> Oratorical Festival                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Welcoming Committee   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> JOY/HOPE              |  | <input type="checkbox"/> Other                 |

## Parish Events

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

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

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

***Christ is Risen!  
Truly He is Risen!***

**Seek Christ TODAY!**  
**Open your heart to Him TODAY!**  
**And use your words carefully today,**  
**because there is power in words**  
**and just one word**  
**can make or break someone.**

# Ministries



## 2024 PARISH COUNCIL

Perry Vidalakis	President
Pete Gallanis	1st Vice President
Joe Akrotirianakis	2nd Vice President
Tashia Vagenas	Secretary
Christian Balas	Treasurer
Tony Christopoulos	Assistant Treasurer

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, Jenni Nassos

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

**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



# Parish Council Report



## Youth & Young Adults



# Philoptochos

## Good Works

### *Union Station Homeless Service (USHS)*

USHS is in need of sack lunch donations. The lunches can be dropped off at the Adult Center (412 S. Raymond Ave., Pasadena) from 8:00 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.

Please, email [volunteer@unionstationhs.org](mailto:volunteer@unionstationhs.org) to schedule delivery.

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, Beverages - \$40.

We also need 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







**2024-2025 Back-to-School Backpack & School Supply Drive**

In July, Philoptochos donated school supplies including paper, pens, pencils, notebooks, and crayons, to the Back-to-School Backpack & School Supply Drive at Friends In Deed in Pasadena. We thank all our generous donors for their help and support to make sure that these young students in the Food Pantry community have a great start to the upcoming school year.



## Metropolis & National Events

### *2024 Biennial National Philoptochos Convention*

Shoutouts to the following who represented our St. Anthony Philoptochos at the 2024 Philoptochos National Convention in San Diego, California:

- \* Our National and Metropolis Philoptochos Member **Lisa Xanthos** and our Metropolis Members **Judie Christopoulos** and **Maria Kypreos** for the fabulous job they did to make the Philoptochos Conference a huge success
- \* Our Philoptochos member **Vas Priebe** who did a phenomenal presentation on Mind, Body and Soul
- \* Our Philoptochos Delegates who represented our Panagia Chapter with aptitude and grace **Mary Dewar** and **Helen Skandale** and Observer **Liz Skandale**
- \* Our incredible Prayer Shawl presentation representatives **Maria Hronas** and **Jim Hronas** who we could not have done it without you and **Maria Kypreos** who coordinated the presentation that garnered tremendous interest.

This convention is held concurrently with the National Clergy Laity Congress. **Presbytera Aida** and **Father Peter Stratos** were in attendance at the 2024 Clergy Laity Congress. Additionally, our Philoptochos members and Parish Delegates **Julie Balas** and **Christine Pappas** attended the Clergy Laity Congress.



*At the Philoptochos Business Meeting, Vas Priebe, ESO founder and Health & Wellness Coach, was a featured guest speaker. Vas presented "Mind, Body and Soul" to the National Philoptochos attendees*





*Prayer Shawl presentation table with Maria Hronas and Maria Kypreos*



*Metropolis of San Francisco*



## COFFEE HOUR FELLOWSHIP



### *Host a Coffee Hour*

**Celebrate a Name Day, Birthday, Anniversary, 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, please 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 would enjoy!
3. **Bring food items plated on serving trays/bowls and ready to serve by 10:00am 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.**



Upcoming Philoptochos Meetings

**2024 Christmas Benefit Planning Meeting** – Monday, August 19 at 7:00 PM in Trinity Hall.

Please consider being a part of the 55<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Christmas Benefit committee. This fun group of talented volunteers annually plan our largest fundraiser of the year. The proceeds from the Benefit fund the charity work Philoptochos does throughout the year. This year's event will be held on **Saturday, December 7, 2024** at The Langham Huntington Hotel in Pasadena.

**Board Meeting** – Wednesday, September 11, 2024 at 7:00 PM

**General Meeting – “Welcome Back”** – Wednesday, October 23, 2024. Due to the Church Festival being held in September we will postpone our Annual Welcome Back Kickoff meeting until **September 11, 2024**. Exciting details to come.

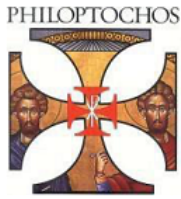


FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA

Facebook: St. Anthony Philoptochos  
Instagram: stanthonlyphiloptochos

***We wish you a fun and restful summer!***

**2024 Philoptochos Membership**



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

**PHILOPTOCHOS MEMBERSHIP FORM**

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

<b>Last Name</b>	<b>First Name</b>	<b>Spouse Name</b>	<b>M.I.</b>
<b>Street Address</b>			
<b>City</b>	<b>State</b>	<b>Zip</b>	
<b>Home Phone</b>		<b>Cell Phone</b>	

**Email**

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

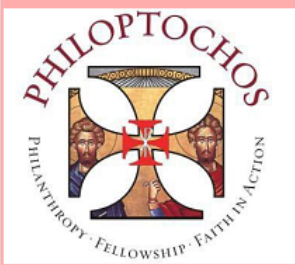
**St. Anthony's Philoptochos Stewardship (membership dues). Select amount below:**

\$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"/> <i>Specify</i>



**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

With the July Fourth holiday in the rear view mirror and Dog Day Summer temperatures hovering near the century mark, the VIPs opted to have their July 9th meeting in the comfort of the Community Center instead of at Arcadia County Park. And in lieu of conducting any business, the members opted to enjoy a day of conversation and friendly competition with games.

**July Birthday greetings to:**

- Nick Kokoris July 2
- Georgia Aspiotes July 9
- Herman Smith July 9
- Dottie Malina July 10
- Maria Giannoulis July 10
- Domna Del Rio July 18
- Christina Becronis July 31

An important topic was brought up by **Maria Hronas** who reported on her involvement with the Saint Anthony Philoptochos booth at the Clergy/Laity Conference held in San Diego from Sunday, June 30th through Friday, July 5th.

The Saint Anthony Panagia Chapter sponsored this booth to provide information to the nation's parishes on how to initiate a **Prayer Shawl Ministry** in their own parishes. This ministry was started in our community by VIP and Philoptochos member **Aliki Haralambos**, and is now headed by **Maria Kypreos**. A sign-up sheet was also available for requests that a prayer shawl be sent to anyone suffering with an illness or deemed to be in need of spiritual comfort.

With interest in the booth being overwhelming, Maria Hronas announced that anyone who could join the group of volunteers already participating in the production of these prayer shawls would be WELCOME.

Since many members may be anticipating vacation travels during the months of August and September, VIP meetings WILL NOT BE HELD DURING THESE TWO MONTHS! However members are encouraged to review the weekly church bulletins sent out online every week and distributed every Sunday in church to keep up to date on food and pastry preparation schedules for **GreekFest 2024**. As may be evident, the overlap of membership in the VIPs and our Philoptochos Chapter is impressive and it is anticipated that many of our members will want to participate in these activities!

In closing, we wish to extend our condolences to **Mr. Gus Pappas** on the falling asleep of his dear wife and VIP member Hope Pappas who departed this life on July 8th. **MAY HER MEMORY BE ETERNAL!**

Jim Hronas  
VIP Communications



Community News & more...

SAINT ANTHONY GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

P A S A D E N A  
**GREEK FEST**

**20, 21, 22 SEPTEMBER 2024**

Friday 5pm - 10pm \* Saturday noon - 10pm \* Sunday noon - 10pm

**778 S ROSEMEAD BLVD. PASADENA, CA**

*LIVE MUSIC - GREEK FOOD - DANCING*



*FREE PARKING  
WITH SHUTTLE FROM*

**SANTA ANITA PARK  
285 W HUNTINGTON DR.  
ARCADIA, CA**



[PASADENAGREEKFEST.COM](http://PASADENAGREEKFEST.COM)





## Join Us at the Annual Pasadena Greek Fest!

The Pasadena Greek Fest is back, and we're gearing up for another unforgettable celebration of Greek culture, food, and community spirit! Our dedicated committee members have been hard at work to ensure this year's event is the best one yet. From delicious traditional dishes to lively music and dance performances, there's something for everyone to enjoy.

We are immensely grateful to all the volunteers who have generously offered their time and energy to make this event possible. However, we still have two important positions waiting to be filled:

**Volunteer Coordinator:** Are you passionate about organizing and supporting volunteers? Join us in coordinating our enthusiastic team of helpers to ensure everything runs smoothly during the festival. Your role will be crucial in making sure our volunteers feel valued and equipped to contribute effectively.

**Raffle and Information Booth Captain:** Do you have a knack for managing details and engaging with the community? Take charge of our Raffle and Information Booth to help raise funds and provide attendees with essential event details. Your efforts will play a vital role in enhancing the overall festival experience.

If you're interested in either of these rewarding positions, we encourage you to reach out to Vicki Kades through the Pasadena Greek Fest website at [www.pasadenagreekfest.com/contact-us](http://www.pasadenagreekfest.com/contact-us). Vicki and the rest of the committee would love to hear from you!

For those eager to get more involved, our committee meets every Tuesday evening. Join us and become an integral part of bringing this cultural extravaganza to life. Your enthusiasm and commitment will help ensure the success of the Pasadena Greek Fest for years to come.

Thank you to our wonderful community for your continued support. Let's make this year's Pasadena Greek Fest a celebration to remember!



# Save the Dates



## Upcoming Church Festivals - 2024

### September

Long Beach 9/6-8

Pasadena 9/20-22

SanJuanCapo 9/21-22

### October

Covina 10/5-6

Los Angeles 10/5-6

**LA GREEK fest**  
OCT. 5-6, 2024  
SAINT SOPHIA CATHEDRAL

**SAVE THE DATE!**

LA's premier Greek Food Fest is back for two days with your favorite food, craft beer, famous Taverna "Sports" Bar, kids zone, church tours and more!

Admission is FREE before 3PM! \$5 daily  
Follow us @lagreekfest

To sponsor the event or donate, email us  
lagreekfest@gmail.com

# Learn about how American Citizens of Greek descent can become a Greek Citizen

Saint Anthony's Greek Orthodox  
Church Hall



778 South Rosemead Blvd.

Pasadena, CA 91107



RSVP

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

Presenter:

Vasiliki Anyfanti, Attorney at Law  
of Abroad Law will be speaking

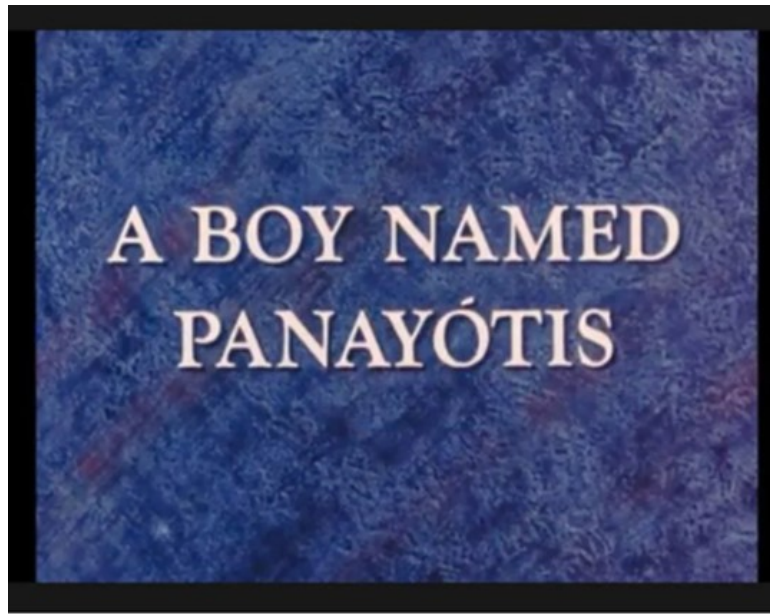
<https://abroadlaw.com/>

Thursday, September 26, 2024, 6:30 PM

Light Refreshments will be served

This event is free of charge.





Thought to have been lost, a powerful film has resurfaced that brought awareness to the American public of the plight of the Cypriot refugees following the 1974 invasion of their home. The film's reemergence is credited to the relentless determination of Professor Fevronia Soumakis and Bishop Spyridon of Amastris (née Fr. Spencer Kezios).

While working on a publication that chronicles the educational efforts of the Greek Orthodox Church in America as part of a greater Greek-American movement for Cyprus in the mid-seventies, Professor Soumakis, who is an adjunct assistant professor at Queens College-CUNY, found a reference to the film while carrying out research in the Archdiocesan Archives in New York City. "I wanted to know more about it, but there was not a copy in the Archives." Later, Professor Soumakis' research took her to Cyprus where she found several documents in the National Archives of Cyprus that made references to the film. Once again, however, the film was not part of the Cypriot Archival collection. The Archives did provide Soumakis with one helpful clue: that production of the film was spearheaded by Fr. Spencer Kezios. When she could not locate him in the Archdiocesan Directory, Soumakis reached out to the Director of the Archdiocesan Archives, Aristomenis Papadimitriou, for more information. Little did she know, Fr. Spencer was now known as "Bishop Spyridon of Amastris."

"When the Archives reached Bishop Spyridon, His Grace was enthusiastic to share his experience of its production and reception—and delighted to share that he retained a personal copy. "I have the original on 8mm film—but I also have it on my computer." On July 19, 2024, the Archdiocesan Archives received a digital copy, and made the film available to the public on the following day, July 20, which marked the somber fiftieth anniversary of the invasion. It can be found on the GOARCH Archives YouTube Channel.

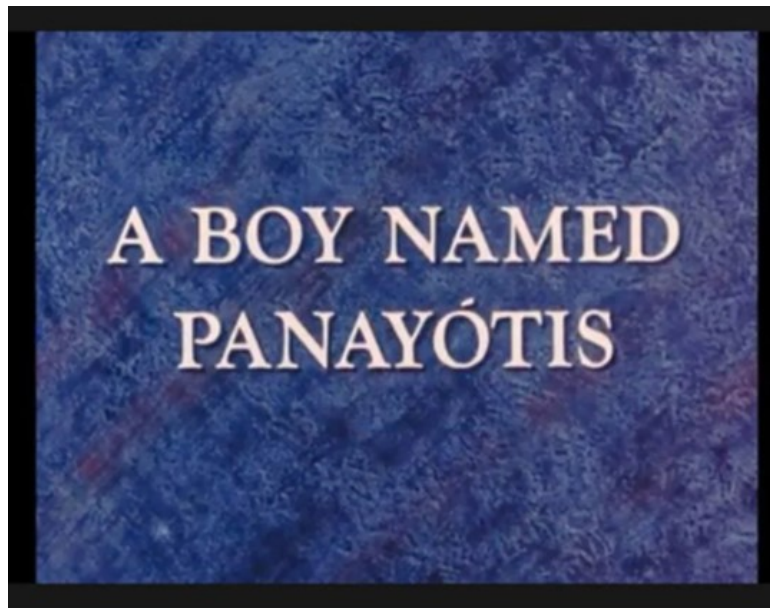
"Archbishop Iakovos sent me on a mission to Cyprus, instructing me to produce a film and a folkloric performance to tour the US and bring the American public awareness of Cyprus, not just of the invasion, but about the country's history and its culture." Professor Soumakis' current research, which will be presented at the University of Chicago this fall, focuses on this important educational initiative of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America. "The educational curriculums produced by the Archdiocese and its Greek Schools were drawn into the Greek-American effort at the national level—an effort spearheaded by the Archdiocese, to educate both Greeks and Americans alike on the rich historical and cultural significance of Cyprus, in addition to making the public aware of the violent invasion and its international ramifications."

Directed and produced by Tony Frangakis, "A Boy Named Panayótis" documents the true story of a young boy who was one of 250,000 victims of the invasion and illegal occupation of Cyprus that began on July 20, 1974 and continues to this day. Set against the backdrop of post-invasion Cyprus, this compelling film rawly portrays those displaced from their homes in the occupied North. No actors or sets were used in its making. Every scene features real encampments and Cypriot refugees. It captures the haunting reality of individuals violently uprooted by Turkish military forces and forbidden from returning to their homes. The story was conveyed by an actual refugee boy, who detailed his experience of the invasion and its aftermath. His immediate family members were numbered among the several thousand missing. The real Panayotis, however, did not appear in the film.



Bishop Spyridon explained that the film was not produced and presented as a stand-alone piece. It was a piece in a larger show that included a folkloric performance by the Cypriot national dance troupe, The Sousta Dancers. “It was important to place the film within the context of Cypriot history, music, and culture. We brought the best dancers from Cyprus to perform in thirty cities in the US. The best dancer was actually conscripted at the time, and Archbishop Makarios, Cyprus’ president, granted him leave to perform in the US.” The performance portrayed key aspects of Cypriot life, including the important place of Orthodox Christianity on the island, showing a Cypriot wedding, interrupted by the violence of the invasion. It achieved its objective, raising awareness and a substantial amount of money to assist with the refugee crisis.

These efforts also had significant political impact. As Professor Alexander Kitroeff has written, “the widespread mobilization by the Greek American community following the Turkish invasion and occupation...was successful in persuading Congress to impose an embargo on arms sales to Turkey. This happened over Henry Kissinger’s strenuous objections. The embargo lasted until 1978 but it remains a rare instance of Congress shaping U.S. foreign policy due to pressure from an American ethnic group.” Kitroeff laments that awareness of Cyprus has fallen off the radar screen of U.S. foreign policy. “There is no public voice to remind them of Cyprus’ relevance as a longstanding violation of the norms of international relations,” he said, adding, “there are a number of Greek-American organizations lobbying either directly or indirectly in Washington, D.C. about Cyprus and other Hellenic issues. But they are focused on policymakers, not on opinion makers or public opinion.” Kitroeff hopes that as Greek-Americans commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of the invasion this summer, they will come up with creative ways to make America remember Cyprus.



Saint Anthony  
Bowling League News  
Fall Season 2024



The St. Anthony Bowling League will begin their Fall 2024 season on **Wednesday, September 4**, 7:00pm, at Bowlero Lanes in Pasadena. The fall season will continue for 12 weeks, and conclude on Wednesday, November 20, 2024.

Teams consist of 3 players ranging from beginning bowlers to more advanced bowlers. Participants must be 18 years of age to participate.

If you are interested in participating, please contact:

Anthia Drulias-Lucas

[ADLJSL02@YAHOO.COM](mailto:ADLJSL02@YAHOO.COM)

(626)274-6133 call or text

# *Saint Sophia Camp Annual Golf Tournament*

**SAVE THE DATE**

**Friday, 13 September 2024**  
**California Country Club, Whittier**

**Golfer Registration includes:**

**Golf, Brunch, Gift Bag, Barbecue, Beverages and Dinner**

*Add-on package includes:*

*2 mulligans, 2 raffle tickets, 10<sup>th</sup> hole tee shot, putting contest*

**Non-Golfer Dinner Registration includes:**

**Dinner, Games and Fellowship**

*All guests can enjoy:*

*Silent Auction, Putting Contest, 50-50 Game, Raffle and No-host Bar*

**Online Registration**

**Opens 4<sup>th</sup> August**

**[SaintSophiaCamp.org/events](http://SaintSophiaCamp.org/events)**

**Honoree**  
**Ellen Papadakis**

**Honoree**  
**Tina Callas**

## Church Etiquette

When are we NOT to enter the Nave of the Church?

As we are entering God's Home, we must always keep in mind that during the following times, we should NOT enter the Nave of the Church nor come to the front of the Church to light a votive candle:

During the Small Entrance (when the procession with the Gospel takes place)

During the Epistle Reading

During the Gospel Reading

When the priest is censuring and is facing the Congregation

During the Great Entrance (when the procession of the Holy Gifts takes place)

When the priest is blessing the Congregation

During the recitation of the Nicene Creed ("I believe...")

During the Consecration of the Holy Gifts

During the recitation of the Lord's Prayer ("Our Father...")

During the Priest's sermon

Also, during these times, we should avoid leaving the Nave unless it is for family needs, medical or some other necessary reason. If you are unsure when to enter or leave the church, ask a Parish Council member in the Narthex.

While in the Church, remember to...

Wear appropriate attire to enter God's House

Silence your mobile devices

Refrain from chewing gum, mints, or candy

Remove lipstick when receiving Holy Communion & when venerating & kissing the icons

Follow the direction of the Priest for standing & sitting

Maintain quiet in the Sanctuary

Enter God's House with reverence and respect





# 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



**Saint Anthony the Great**  
**17 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

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

*Finally, brethren, whatever things are true,  
 Whatever things are noble,  
 Whatever things are just,  
 Whatever things are pure,  
 Whatever things are lovely,  
 Whatever things are of good report,  
 If there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy...  
 Meditate on these things.*  
 Philippians 4:8

I could write an entire week on this verse alone! It makes mention of virtues that are fast disappearing in our world today. As we reflect on this verse today, think of the meaning of these words, what St. Paul is referring to and how the world has turned these words around.

**Truth**—Jesus tells us in the Bible *“The truth shall set you free.”* (John 8:32) We live in a world where dishonesty is almost expected, and sadly, in some professions, required. The truth is the highest authority—without truth, none of the virtues that follow are possible. There is no nobility, or justice, or purity, nothing can be lovely, or of good report if it is based on a lie. The ultimate source of truth is the Lord.

**Nobility**—we are obsessed with control. Yet, there is no nobility in doing something when you know exactly what the outcome will be. That’s why it’s a noble thing for a firefighter to rush into a burning building to save someone, or a patient to wage a battle with cancer, or a person to listen to someone who needs comfort, because in any of these situations, a person does not know the outcome, but takes a chance anyway.

**Just**—Just is what is fair, not in the eyes of society, but in the eyes of God. Just means doing the right thing, even if it is not popular.

**Purity**—A pure white sheet is a piece of cloth without any stain, wrinkle or blemish. We were each wrapped in one of these after our baptisms. Purity is under constant attack—it is hard to keep a body pure, to not engage in overindulging in food or alcohol, or for those yet to be married, to stay pure in body and wait for marriage. It is hard to stay pure in mind when we receive messages of violence in movies and distrust of contemporary leaders. It is hard to stay pure in spirit when the faith is constantly under attack. Yet, to fight the battle for purity is not only noble, but it is rewarding.

**Loveliness**—there is beauty in each person because each person is created in God’s image and likeness. It is so sad when I hear someone call another person “ugly,” because it is so untrue. There are no ugly people. There are people who do ugly things, but every person is innately beautiful because God made them that way.

**Good report**—It’s hard to watch the news most days because the reports are anything but good. In fact, a good friend of mine says to me, during the occasional “woe is me” conversation that all of us have with our friends, “tell me something good.” Today in your friendships, and in your marriages (for those who are married) focus on saying something good to your friends, or your spouse. Even if you can’t muster anything good to say about them in particular, say something good to them. We need more good reports in the world.

**Truth, nobility, justice, purity, loveliness, and good reports** are virtuous things upon which we should meditate.

One last thing today—another mantra I use to live my life is: “  
*If it's not good, it's not from God.*”

Only good things come from God, so if it is not a good thing, it isn't from Him.

**Truth, nobility, justice, purity, loveliness, good reports** are good things that come from God. Dishonesty, distrust, injustice, ugly behavior, bad news are not things of God.

So meditate on the things of God today, and make an effort to work at ONE of these virtues: truth, nobility, justice, purity, loveliness or a good report. Then pick a different one tomorrow until you've had one day with each of them. Then try two on a day, and so on, until all six become part of your daily life.

*Heavenly Father, thank You for all the blessings in my life, for those things I can see,  
and even the blessings I cannot see.*

*Help me to be a person of virtue today and always.*

*Help me to be truthful, and surround me with people who will encourage truth.*

*Give me strength to do what is noble, and to trust in You, even when I don't know  
the outcome.*

*Help me to be pure in mind, body and spirit today, to control my thoughts and my actions.*

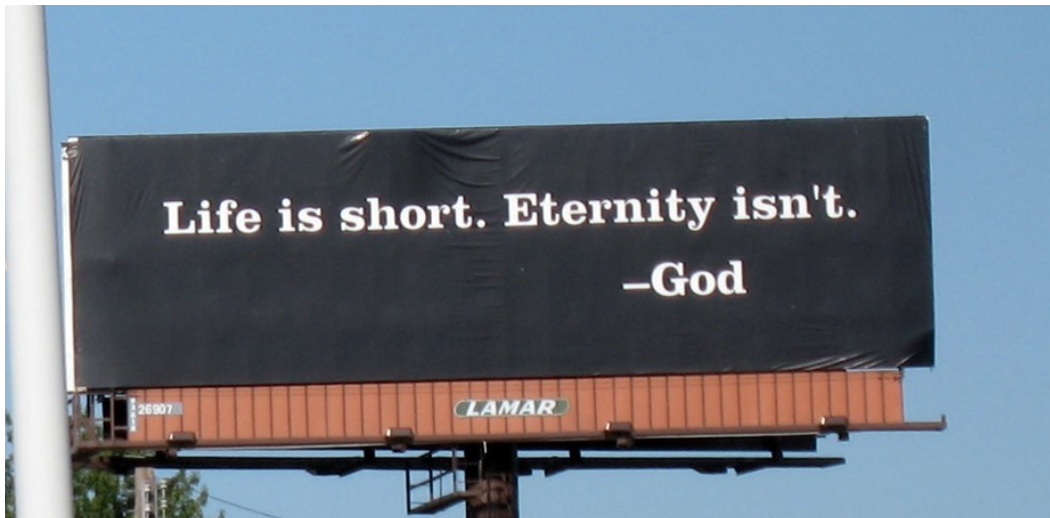
*Help me to seek justice by doing what is fair and by helping out the person who has been  
treated unfairly.*

*Help me to see the beauty in all people.*

*And help me be someone who shares good news today, one who is grateful for the good  
and perfect gifts that are coming from You.*

*Amen.*

Have a great day today!



## Saints & Feasts

### *Dormition Fast*

*1 August–14 August*

The commemoration of the **Dormition of the Theotokos** and the preparation for the Feast begin on August 1 with a period of fasting. A strict fast is followed on most of the days (no meat, dairy, oil, or wine), with the exceptions of fish on the Feast of the Transfiguration (August 6) and the day of the Dormition. Oil and Wine are allowed on Saturdays and Sundays.

On the weekdays before the Feast, Paraklesis services are held in most parishes. These consist of the Great Paraklesis and the Small Paraklesis, both services of supplication and prayer for the intercessions of the Theotokos.

### *Transfiguration of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ*

*6 August*

Our Lord had spoken to His disciples many times not only concerning His Passion, Cross, and Death, but also concerning the coming persecutions and afflictions that they themselves would endure. Since all these evils were near at hand, but the enjoyment of good things which they hoped to receive in their stead was yet to come, our Savior desired to give them full assurance, evidently and openly, concerning that glory which is prepared for those who endure to the end. Therefore, fulfilling that which He had promised shortly before, that:

*"there be some standing here which shall not taste of death, till they see the Son of man coming in His Kingdom"*

(Matthew 16:28)

He took His three foremost disciples and ascended Mount Tabor, where He was transfigured before them. His face shone like the sun, and His clothes became white as the light. Suddenly, together with this dread and marvelous effulgence of light, there appeared those pinnacles of the Prophets, Moses and Elias, who spoke with the Lord Jesus concerning His saving Passion which was about to take place. Standing before Him as reverent servants, they showed that He is the Lord of both the living and the dead, for Moses came forth from Hades, having died many centuries before, and Elias, as it were from heaven, whither he had been taken up while yet alive. After a little while a radiant cloud overshadowed them and out of the cloud they heard that same voice which had been heard at the Jordan at the Baptism of Christ, testifying to the Divinity of Jesus saying:

*"This is My beloved Son, in Whom I am well-pleased;*

*Listen to Him"*

(Matthew 17: 5)





### *Transfiguration of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ - continued*

Such are the marvels, truly worthy of God, celebrated in this present feast, which is an image and prefiguring of the future state of the righteous, whose splendor the Lord spoke of, saying: "Then shall the righteous shine forth as the sun" (Matt. 13:43). According to tradition, the Lord's Transfiguration came to pass forty days before His Crucifixion; this is why the Transfiguration is celebrated forty days before the Exaltation of the Cross.

### *The Dormition of our Most Holy Lady the Theotokos and Ever Virgin Mary*

**15 August**

Concerning the Dormition of the Theotokos, this is what the Church has received from ancient times from the tradition of the Fathers. When the time drew nigh that our Savior was well-pleased to take His Mother to Himself, He declared unto her through an Angel that three days hence, He would translate her from this temporal life to eternity and bliss. On hearing this, she went up with haste to the Mount of Olives, where she prayed continuously. Giving thanks to God, she returned to her house and prepared whatever was necessary for her burial. While these things were taking place, clouds caught up the Apostles from the ends of the earth, where each one happened to be preaching, and brought them at once to the house of the Mother of God, who informed them of the cause of their sudden gathering. As a mother, she consoled them in their affliction and then raised her hands to Heaven and prayed for the peace of the world. She blessed the Apostles, and, reclining upon her bed with seemliness, gave up her all-holy spirit into the hands of her Son and God.

With reverence and many lights, and chanting burial hymns, the Apostles took up that God-receiving body and brought it to the sepulcher, while the Angels from Heaven chanted with them, and sent forth her who is higher than the Cherubim. But one Jew, moved by malice, audaciously stretched forth his hand upon the bed and immediately received from divine judgment the wages of his audacity. Those daring hands were severed by an invisible blow. But when he repented and asked forgiveness, his hands were restored. When they had reached the place called Gethsemane, they buried there with honor the all-immaculate body of the Theotokos, which was the source of Life. But on the third day after the burial, when they were eating together, and raised up the artos (bread) in Jesus' Name, as was their custom, the Theotokos appeared in the air, saying "Rejoice" to them. From this they learned concerning the bodily translation of the Theotokos into the Heavens.



**Saint Phanourios****27 August**

Little is known of the holy Martyr Phanourios, except that which is depicted concerning his martyrdom on his holy icon, which was discovered in the year 1500 among the ruins of an ancient church on Rhodes, when the Moslems ruled there. Thus he is called "the Newly Revealed." The faithful pray to Saint Phanourios especially to help them recover things that have been lost, and because he has answered their prayers so often, the custom has arisen of baking a Phaneropita ("Phanourios-Cake") as a thank you-offering.

**Beheading of John the Baptist****29 August**

The divine Baptist, the Prophet born of a Prophet, the seal of all the Prophets and beginning of the Apostles, the mediator between the Old and New Covenants, the voice of one crying in the wilderness, the God-sent Messenger of the incarnate Messiah, the forerunner of Christ's coming into the world who by many miracles was both conceived and born; who was filled with the Holy Spirit while yet in his mother's womb; who came forth like another Elias the Zealot, whose life in the wilderness and divine zeal for God's Law he imitated: this divine Prophet, after he had preached the baptism of repentance according to God's command; had taught men of low rank and high how they must order their lives; had admonished those whom he baptized and had filled them with the fear of God, teaching them that no one is able to escape the wrath to come if he does not do works worthy of repentance; had, through such preaching, prepared their hearts to receive the evangelical teachings of the Savior; finally, after he had pointed out to the people the very Savior, and said,

*"Behold the Lamb of God, Which taketh away the sin of the world"*

(Luke 3:2-18; John 1: 29-36)



After all this, John sealed with his own blood the truth of his words and was made a sacred victim for the divine Law at the hands of a transgressor. This was Herod Antipas, the Tetrarch of Galilee, the son of Herod the Great. This man had a lawful wife, the daughter of Arethas (or Aretas), the King of Arabia (that is, Arabia Petraea, which had the famous Nabatean stone city of Petra as its capital. This is mentioned by Saint Paul in 2 Corinthians 11:32).

***Beheading of John the Baptist - continued***

Without any cause, and against every commandment of the Law, he put her away and took to himself Herodias, the wife of his brother Philip, to whom Herodias had borne a daughter, Salome. He would not desist from this unlawful union even when John, the preacher of repentance, the bold and austere accuser of the lawless, censured him and told him:

*"It is not lawful for thee to have thy brother's wife"*

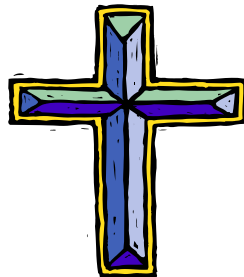
(Mark 6: 18)

Thus Herod, besides his other unholy acts, added yet this, that he apprehended John and shut him in prison; and perhaps he would have killed him immediately, had he not feared the people, who had extreme reverence for John. Certainly, in the beginning, he himself had great reverence for this just and holy man. But finally, being pierced with the sting of a mad lust for the woman Herodias, he laid his defiled hands on the teacher of purity on the very day he was celebrating his birthday.

When Salome, Herodias' daughter, had danced in order to please him and those who were supping with him, he promised her -- with an oath more foolish than any foolishness -- that he would give her anything she asked, even unto the half of his kingdom. And she, consulting with her mother, immediately asked for the head of John the Baptist on a plate. Hence this transgressor of the Law, preferring his lawless oath above the precepts of the Law, fulfilled this godless promise and filled his loathsome banquet with the blood of the Prophet. So it was that the all-venerable head, revered by the Angels, was given as a prize for an abominable dance, and became the plaything of the dissolute daughter of a debauched mother.

As for the body of the divine Baptist, it was taken up by his disciples and placed in a tomb.

(Mark 6: 21 - 29)



# Orthodox Calendar

## August 2024

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1	2	3
				Dormition Fast		
4 <b>6th Sunday of Matthew</b> 8:45am Orthros 10am Divine Liturgy  Dormition Fast Indoor & Live-stream	5 <b>Holy Transfiguration</b> 6pm Vespers	6 <b>Holy Transfiguration</b> 9am Orthros 10am Divine Lit.	7 7pm Philopotochos Union Station	8	9	10
Dormition Fast						
11 <b>7th Sunday of Matthew</b> 8:45am Orthros 10am Divine Liturgy 12:15 Hope/Joy Meeting 12:15 GOYA Meeting  Indoor & Live-stream	12	13 10:30 VIPs 7pm Parish Concl	14 7pm Philopotochos Board Mtg  <b>Holy Dormition</b> 6pm Vespers Assumption of the Virgin Mary, Long Beach Dormition Fast	15 <b>Dormition of the Holy Virgin Mary</b> 9am Orthros 10am Divine Lit.	16	17
Dormition Fast						
18 <b>8th Sunday of Matthew</b> 8:45am Orthros 10am Divine Liturgy  Indoor & Live-stream	19	20	21	22	23	24
25 <b>9th Sunday of Matthew</b> 8:45am Orthros 10am Divine Liturgy  Indoor & Live-stream	26	27 <b>Saint Phanourios</b>	28 7pm Philopotochos General Mtg	29 <b>Beheading of Saint John the Baptist</b>	30	31
		<b>Strict Fast</b> Refrain from Meat, Fish, Wine, Oil, Dairy & Eggs  	Fish, Wine & Oil Allowed  	Wine and Oil Allowed  	Dairy, Eggs, & Fish Allowed; Refrain from Meat  	Fast Free



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



Phone  
626.449.6943  
Fax  
626.449.6974  
E-mail  
alma@saint-anthonys.org

We're on the Web!

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

TIME SENSITIVE

POSTAGE  
STAMP

*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.*

Jesus tells us to forgive...  
Do we choose to hold grudges instead?

Jesus tells us to trust...  
Do we doubt instead?

Jesus tells us to give generously...  
Do we give begrudgingly instead?

Jesus tells us to serve one another...  
Do we put ourselves first instead?

Jesus tells us to remember the Sabbath...  
Do we put other things ahead of worship instead?

Jesus tells us to build up one another...  
Do we tear down one another instead?

Jesus tells us to pursue holiness...  
Do we pursue fame and fortune instead?

Jesus tells us we are of infinite value...  
Do we fight for equality instead?