The Voice of Saint Anthony October 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

| Saint Romanos | 1 October |
|------------------------------|------------|
| Saint Thomas | 6 October |
| Saint Phillip | 11 October |
| Saint Luke | 18 October |
| Saint James | 23 October |
| Saint Demetrios | 26 October |
| Holy Protection of Theotokos | 28 October |

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Saint Thomas the Apostle
6 October

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Message from Father Peter

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ.

We have reached the beautiful season of Fall! The month of October is upon us, and during this month we commemorate numerous Saints and Church Fathers. Let's take a look at some of the heroes of our Church.

Did you know that **St. Amos the Prophet** was a shepherd, **St. Luke** was a doctor, **St. Euphrosynos** was a cook, **St. Lydia** was a businesswoman, **St. John Chrysostom** was a brilliant young lawyer and **St. Helen** was a queen? Look at any date on the liturgical calendar and you will find one or more Saints commemorated from every walk of life.

Did you know that men and women who lived during Christ's lifetime on earth may be found among the Saints of the Orthodox Church? A look at the October calendar shows that at least thirteen persons mentioned in the Bible, especially the New Testament, have their feast days in this month alone! Some of these, such as **St. Philip the Deacon, St. Luke the Evangelist** and **St.James** the brother of the Lord, are among the thirteen commemorated this month.

Other inspiring examples are:

October 1- St. Ananias was sent by the Lord to help St. Paul after his Damascus vision (Acts 9:10-18).

October 3- St. Dionysius who along with Damaris and a few others became the first Christians in Athens when they heard the preaching of St. Paul (Acts 17:34).

October 16- St. Longinos the Martyr who according to tradition is identified with the Roman centurion in charge of Jesus' crucifixion—the one who confessed in front of the Cross: "This man was truly the Son of God (Mark 15:39)!"

October 30- St. Cleopas who along with an unnamed disciple (identified by tradition as St. Luke) saw the risen Christ as they walked from Jerusalem to Emmaus (Luke 24:13-35).

Why does the Orthodox Church hold up Saints and Church Fathers as examples to be remembered and honored, daily? The basic reason is that the people of God are a family of Saints in which the tradition of spiritual Fatherhood is powerful. Judaism revered the leaders whom God had appointed over its nation. Numerous references in the Old Testament to "our Fathers" and to "the promises which God made to the Fathers" confirm this. St. Paul writes that the unbelieving Jews will not ultimately be rejected by God "because of the Fathers" (Romans 11:28). Not only the patriarchs Abraham, Issac and Jacob, but also many other leaders, including the great rabbis were called the "Fathers" and were respected and honored by Jews as men of God.

This tradition of "Fatherhood continued into the New Testament. In fact, St. Paul called himself the "Father of the Corinthians (1 Corinthians 4:15). Thus spiritual Fatherhood continues in the Christian tradition. In the Orthodox Church great Church leaders of the past, saintly guides in the spiritual life, priests and monks are called "Fathers" — a sacred title which bears as much significance as it does responsibility.

So let us honor and revere our Saints this month and every month, each day and everyday. When praying invoke your patron saint. Commemorate the Saints being honored daily in your prayers. Pray to your Guardian Angel. Honor and remember our true heroes of the Church!

Most Holy Saints and Spiritual Fathers and Mothers, intercede for us!

In Christ.

Father 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 INC | E(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



Name

Commitment of Time and Talents



Phone

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

Council of Ministries

| Name | Email | Phone |
|-----------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| Pasadena Greek Fest | Saint Anthony Feast Day | |
| Pasadena Golf Classic | Dinner _ | Other |
| Palm Sunday Luncheon | Resurrection Magiritsa | Summer Family Picnic |
| | <u>Parish Events</u> | |
| JOY/HOPE | Oratorical Festival | Other |
| Greek Language School | St. John Chrysostom | Welcoming Committee |
| Greek Dance | Office Volunteers | Volleyball Tournamen |
| GOYA/Jr. GOYA | Fellowship) | VIPs |
| GOYA Basketball | OCF (Orthodox Christian | Vacation Bible School |
| Bookstore | Myrrh Bearers | Sunday School |
| Bible Studies | Little Lambs | Studies in the Faith |
| Acolytes | Kouvouklion | Stewardship Committe |

Christ is Risen! Truly He is Risen!

Email

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

> 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

1st Vice President

Jeanne Karaionnoglou

2nd Vice President

Helen Skandale and Lisa Xanthos

Corresponding Secretary

Mary Udria and Irene Albeck

Recording Secretary

Mary Dewar **Treasurer**

Connie Becker

Assistant Treasurer

Maria Grover

Advisor

Maria Kypreos

Spiritual **Advisor**

Father Peter Stratos

Board of Directors

Beautification

Maria Kokoris

Maria Hronas

Community Outreach

Fontaine Malisos

Liz Skandale

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





It was uplifting and heartwarming to see full classrooms on the first day of Sunday School! What a joy and blessing it is to see the amount of children we have at St. Anthony. We look forward to a fun year with our students as we grow in our Orthodox faith through our theme for the year: Walk in the Way of the Lord.

Sunday School is made possible because of the extraordinarily talented, creative, and caring individuals who volunteer their time and talents to be there for our kids. Their commitment to the program and their students and their ability to plan enriching and meaningful lessons is a true gift. Our program here at St. Anthony is thriving and is built on love, dedication, and faith- thanks to our wonderful teachers:

Little Lambs: Krystina Vagenas—we welcome our new teacher for this class!

Pre- K/TK: Irene Albeck, Larissa Maslen and Jenni Pulos Nassos

Kindergarten/1st: Elena Tsianos and Theoni Vagenas graciously volunteered to

teach allowing us to open a new class!

2nd/3rd: Sophia Syrengelas and Andrianna Lareau

4th/5th: Athena Serban and Mary Udria

Middle School: Polly Vagenas and Chris Syrengelas

High School: Presvytera Aida Stratos

I am incredibly blessed to be part of this team and am grateful that we have a teaching staff that makes my role as Sunday School Director easy and manageable. They truly are the heart and soul of our program!

A few announcements:

- Please be sure to register online by using our QR code if you have not done so.
- ♦ BIG thank you to the volunteers who helped at our registration table!!
- A schedule and information for Little Lambs will be out this week. The first day of class will be **Sunday**, **October 6th**.
- Father is requesting that students receive Holy Communion first to help them get to class sooner. Please be sure to follow his guidelines and cooperate with Parish Council so that this runs smoothly.
- Children should not be upstairs until class starts- after Holy Communion.

Please do not hesitate to reach out with any questions.

Thank you, Sophia Syrengelas



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Youth & Young Adults



H 8 B E

Hellenie Orthodox Primarx Explorers

4 ½ years old to 8 years old

An Archdiocese Program Introducing Young Children
to a Faith Based Ministry

October 20

This is not a Trick it is our ministry to treat children who are in need.

HOPE will be collecting coins to Treat UNICEF United Nation International Children Fund

Our Superheroes, Our children helping children

Be a role model help our children learn

what it means to be a steward.





Congratulations to our new 24-25 GOYA Board!

President-Yianni Kades
Vice President-Niko Lareau
Corresponding Secretary-Katerina N. and Jordan G.
Recording Secretary-Maria S.
Treasurers-Dimitra G. and John I.
Junior Treasurer-Andreas

GOYA Representatives-Thanos, John V., Kostadina I., and Nicoletta K.



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We had one meeting this year and had fun with our festival booth selling cotton candy and snow cones!

Special thanks to all the parents and GOYAns who worked tirelessly this year!



We are planning a trip to Knott's Scary Farm. Look for more information soon.

We will also be working with Mrs. Albeck on HOPE this year. On October 20th GOYA will help HOPE collect money after church for UNICEF. Please bring your donations to church that day.

Check out our Instagram account at: @stanthonysgoya

GOYA meetings are the 2nd Sunday of every month from 12:15pm-1pm in the high school classroom.

Next meeting, October 13th! Bring your \$25 dues! Cash or check made out to St. Anthony GOYA.

If your child has not been signed up for GOYA in the past, please hit this QR code below.

Any questions, please email us: goya@saint-anthonys.org



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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 to schedule delivery.

Philoptochos prepares a nutritious dinner, funded 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 welcome your donations to help offset our costs of large aluminum pans with lids. We invite you to consider helping us feed the needy by making a contribution towards this ministry. We are most grateful for your generous 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

Vangie Dupas vangiedupas@sbcglobal.net
Christina Kades 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



Upcoming Philoptochos Meetings

2024 Christmas Benefit Planning Meeting

Monday, October 7, 2024, at 7:00 PM in Trinity Hall.

The 55th Anniversary Christmas Benefit committee, a fun group of talented volunteers who annually plan our largest fundraiser of the year, is welcoming new members now. The proceeds from the Benefit help to 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, October 9, 2024, at 7:00 PM

General Meeting - "Welcome High Tea Back" - Wednesday, October 23, 2024 at 6:30pm in the Trinity Ballroom. This will be our first general meeting of the year! We welcome everyone to attend - current, past, and future members as well as spouses and friends of Philoptochos. It promises to be a lovely night of fellowship. Reservation details to come. For more event information, contact Jeanne at 626-437-6078

Upcoming Philoptochos Events

Blessing of the Animals

Saturday, October 19, 2024, in the morning. We welcome everyone and their companion animals to join us for a blessing given by Father Peter Stratos to all attendees.

Further details will be announced shortly.

For more event information, contact Jeanne Karaioannoglou at 626-437-6078

Looking for Volunteer Hours?

You can have a good time while helping with the Blessing of the Animals. We need two *high* school students to help on Saturday, October 19, in the morning for a couple hours. Easy and fun volunteer hours while helping with this pet friendly event.

Please contact any Philoptochos Board member or Judith Din at <u>jnda810@gmail.com</u> if you are interested in volunteering.

Upcoming Metropolis Events

Save the Date!

The Greek Orthodox Metropolis of San Francisco Philoptochos invites you to attend Light the Path, a Christmas Luncheon, on **Sunday, November 17, 2024** at 2:00 p.m. (Pacific) at Los Coyotes Country Club in Buena Park. Proceeds from this festive holiday event will benefit the Bishop Anthony Philoptochos Student Aid Endowment Fund.

More details coming soon. Mark your calendar and plan to attend!

For more information, please visit the Metropolis of SF Philoptochos website.



FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA

Facebook: St. Anthony Philoptochos Instagram: stanthonyphiloptochos



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

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

- 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.

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

2024 Philoptochos Membership



PHILOPTOCHOS SOCIETY OF SAINT ANTHONY GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH PANAGIA CHAPTER

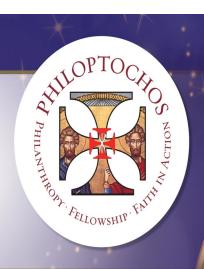
PHILOPTOCHOS MEMBERSHIP FORM

| 2024 Philoptoch os M | 1embership | 2024 Associate (Men / Non-V | | |
|--|---|--|---|---|
| Last Name | | First Name | Spouse Name | M.I. |
| Street Address | | | | |
| City | | State | | Zip |
| Home Phone | | Cell Phone | | |
| Email Notices will be sent via e | mail. If you prej | fer your notices maile | d, please, let us know by che | cking here |
| St. Anthony's Philoptocl | hos Stewardship | (membership dues). | Select amount below: | |
| \$50 Each \$50 stewardship st St. Anthony Philoptoch | | l Philoptochos (\$15), | \$125 San Francisco Metropolis CheckCredit Can | |
| I am interested in helping Feeding the Hungr Delivering Meals to Homebound Visita Telephone Tree | y o Parishioners | ng: Hosting Fe Baking & (Fundraisin Social Med | Cooking | Marketing Website Designer Other Talents Specify |
| PHILAMINAON, FELLOWSHIP, ENTHUR | Your cont assistance membersh philanthro | inued generosity allow and outreach to those tip or become a new m pic work. Join us as w whatever you did for | OS MEMBERSHIP I vs Philoptochos to provide fin in need. We invite you to ren nember as we endeavor to do we strive to fulfill the word of r one of these, the least of my Matthew 25:30 | nancial new your our Christ. |
| PLEASE RENEW (| OR JOIN BY N | • | ole to: Saint Anthony Phi | loptochos Society) |
| | | l your check along wi | · | - |
| | | | y, Attention: Membership rd, Pasadena, CA 91107 | |
| | - • | ne at <mark>https://stanthon</mark> l down to "Annual M | yphiloptochos.square.site embership Dues" | |

For more information or questions, please contact Lisa Xanthos (626) 222-4374 or Helen Skandale (818) 618-4963

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Not even distance can keep us in the darkness.



"The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it."

John 1:5

SAVE THE DATE

Sunday, November 17, 2024 2:00 p.m.

Los Coyotes Country Club 8888 Los Coyotes Drive Buena Park, California South the Path

In support of the Bishop Anthony Philoptochos Student Aid Endowment Fund. *Join us! More details coming soon!*

VIPs

The month of October sees our community well into a new ecclesiastical year, with the autumnal equinox behind us and a HUGELY successful GreekFest 2024 now in the rearriew mirror.

As many of our members contributed their time and talents to the production of pastries and our festival's delicious dinner items during the months of August and September, our meetings were canceled for those two months.

We will now resume our meetings with our next get-together set for **Tuesday, October** 8th in the Community Center.

We wish to congratulate the 2024 GreekFest management team for a job well done in the preparation for and conduct of this year's festival.

Additionally, we thank many of our VIP members who worked diligently in accounting, the kitchen, dinner line, pastry booth, souvlaki and lamb chop areas during the entire weekend.

Best wishes for a speedy recuperation are hereby sent to our good friend and VIP member Vivian Mavredakis who is convalescing from a fall at home recently. TAKE CARE VIVIAN AND WE HOPE TO SEE YOU BACK ON YOUR FEET SOON!

We will look forward to a well-attended VIP meeting on October 8th!

Jim Hronas
VIP Communications



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Community News & more...





Upcoming Church Festivals - 2024

October

Covina 10/5-6

Los Angeles 10/5-6



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

METROPOLIS YOUNG ADULT FALL RETREAT 2024

Join Orthodox Young Adults, ages 18-39, from across the West Coast for a beautiful **Fall Retreat at St. Nicholas Ranch** & Retreat Center in Dunlap, CA.

Young Adults from all Orthodox traditions are welcome to attend. We will spend time having discussions and fellowship at St. Nicholas Ranch, as well as visit and help the Sisters at the Monastery of the Life -Giving Spring with a work project and other engaging activities throughout the weekend.

There is an optional add-on hiking adventure to the Kings Canyon and Sequoia National Park on Friday, October 4. Participants can upgrade their registration and arrive on Thursday evening, October 3, to participate in the Friday morning excursion to the mountains for the day before the retreat begins.

DATE: October 4-6, 2024

LOCATION: St. Nicholas Ranch & Retreat Center, Dunlap, CA

AGES: Young Adults ages 18-39

SPEAKER: Fr. Nebojsa Pantic, the Assistant Priest from St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church in San Jose, CA

THEME: The Power of Forgiveness - "For surely your goodness and mercy O Lord will follow me all the days of my life."

WEBSITE & MORE INFO: https://gosfyouth.org/youngadults



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This Fall at The Orthodox Studies Institute:

HOLY WOMEN OF BYZANTIUM

by Dr. Anysia Metrakos

A live, online course exploring the lives and legacies of Byzantine holy women from the mid-fourth through fifteenth centuries.

Tuesdays
October 8, 15, 22, 29
8:00PM Eastern/5:00 PM Pacific



For more information and to get the discounted price of \$99 (from \$125) visit www.orthodoxstudies.org/goarch

Course Description

This course explores the lives and legacies of Byzantine holy women from the mid-fourth through fifteenth centuries. A rich variety of interdisciplinary sources including hagiography, iconography, portraiture, architecture, legal codices, letters, encomia, hymnography, and historiography (the writing of history) will inform our understanding of how female sanctity was constructed, communicated, and venerated in the Byzantine period, as well as the impact Byzantine female saints made on the physical and spiritual landscapes of city and society.

About the Instructor

Dr. Anysia Metrakos is a historian of the later Roman Empire (Late Antiquity) whose work centers on the impact of Christianity on Roman society, gender, and law. She received her doctorate from the Graduate Group in Ancient History and Mediterranean Archaeology from University of California, Berkeley, and has lectured in Classical Studies and History at Tufts University. Her current research and book project follow the socio-economic effects and legal implications of founding and financing elite female monastic communities in fifth and sixth century Constantinople. Dr. Metrakos lives in the San Francisco Bay Area with her husband (Fr. Nicholas) and their four children.

October 2024

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SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA CRETANS' ASSOCIATION

CRETAN GLENDI



Saturday, November 2, 2024

5:30 pm Appetizers

7:00 pm Traditional Cretan Dinner

Adults - \$90, Youth/Students under 25 - \$45, Children 5 & under - Free (Tables of 10 may only be reserved with full payment)

St. Anthony Greek Orthodox Church Trinity Ballroom 778 South Rosemead Blvd., Pasadena, CA

Featuring Music from Crete by: Mihalis Stavroulakis (Laouto), Christos Dounis (Lyra)
Manolis Drimis (Guitar), Stefanos Marakis (Bass)

For Reservations Call/Text: Helen Skandale (818) 618-4963,
Bobby Zoumberakis (562) 413-3968, Georgia Zoumberakis (562) 869-1413
or email: helen_skandale@yahoo.com

To purchase tickets online please visit: www.facebook.com/socalcretans

A percentage of the proceeds will benefit the Southern California Cretans' Association Scholarship Fund

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Pasadena Rose Bowl AHEPA #373 2024 Christmas Party

Honoring **Lisa Xanthos** on her exemplary service to the Pasadena Greek community with her leadership on the Metropolitan Committee for IOCC and in Philoptochos on the Chapter, Metropolis, and National level.



Friday, December 20, 2024 North Woods Inn

7247 Rosemead Blvd, San Gabriel, CA 91775 (at Huntington Drive & Rosemead Boulevard)
7:00 p.m. no host cocktails, 7:30 p.m. dinner — free parking

Choice of Filet Mignon Steak, New York Steak, Icelandic Filet of Cod, or Broiled Mahi Mahi
Two Salads, Cheese Bread, and Rice Pilaf
Baked Potato with Butter, Chives and Cheese, plus dessert!

\$70 each, limited to 50 persons, paid reservations required

Virginia Lappas will lead us in an optional \$15—\$20 Gift Exchange after dinner. Neutral gift suitable for either men or women, wrapped, with no names. Anyone who brings a gift will receive a gift. The community is invited.

Please make checks payable to: Pasadena AHEPA Send to: Dean Tripodes, Post Office Box 486, Sierra Madre, CA 91025-0486 Or pay by Zelle on your bank's app or website, enter ahepa373@gmail.com as the recipient.

Saint Anthony Bowling League News Fall Season 2024







The Saint Anthony Bowling League began on September 12, at Bowlero Lanes in Pasadena with many new and returning bowlers. We are very excited to have 11 teams this season.

This seasons bowlers include:

Katherine Boukidis, Georgia Tripodes, Adoni Dimopoulos, Cleo Kades, Elene Kalivas, Kosta Papavasiliou, Parviz Mobayen, Syrus Mobayen, Jim Horaites, Alice Jacquez, Anthia Drulias-Lucas, Vincent Lappas, Labrini Makredes, Chris Makredes, Peter Petropoulos, Kris McGregor, Rick McGregor, Chrissa Mobayen, Peter Bissias, Mary Dewer, Andrew Dewer, Jim Nichols, Virginia Lappas, Andrea Lappas, Lee Anton, Rick Nassif, Alexandra Conley, Joyce Mavredakis, Elleni Conley, Chris Conley, Maria Conley, Maggie Iskander and Ted Dupas.

We are happy to welcome bowlers from St. Paul, Irvine, and St. John, Anaheim.

Our Fall season will conclude on Thursday, December 5. Please consider joining our bowlers for fellowship on Thursday evenings at Bowlero Lanes in the Hastings Ranch Shopping Center in Pasadena!



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Dear Saint Anthony Parishioners

Festival 2024 is wrapping up, and the committee and I would like to acknowledge the amazing commitment that each of you showed to our beloved parish. It was so heartening to see so much of our youth involved and three generations of St. Anthony's families working together.

We had an amazing turnout this year, making this one the most successful festivals. The energy, teamwork, and community spirit were truly inspiring, and we look forward to improving our processes next year as we continue to grow and strengthen our vibrant parish.

The parish council will prepare lunch in appreciation of the spirit and commitment of our St. Anthony's community and in celebration of another successful festival.

With Love and Admiration,

Christian, Christo, and the Entire Festival Committee

















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 censing 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

Holy Theophany/

Epiphany

6 January

1 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

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

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Monthly Lesson from Father Stavros Akrotirianakis

O come, let us sing to the Lord let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation! Let us come into His presence with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to Him with sons of praise! Psalm 95:1-2

One very practical challenge to faith, for all of us, including me (a priest) is connecting with God in worship. Here are some of the challenges, along with some thoughts on how to overcome them:

Worship is repetitive

This might be the number one challenge/complaint I hear about Orthodox worship. The Divine Liturgy is virtually the same every time we do it. So, if we miss this Sunday, it's not like missing an episode of our favorite series and losing our place in the story. We can miss a Sunday, or three, and come back and it's the same thing. The counter for this is that the Divine Liturgy is a complete journey through history, life and salvation, which includes things we should be thinking about and praying for at least once a week, if not more often. While I pray every day (well, I confess, most days), I do not pray about the forgiveness of my sins every day, or meditate on my defense at the awesome judgment seat of Christ, or remember to pray for our President, and so many other things that are included in the Divine Liturgy. The Liturgy, among other things, encompasses everything we should be praying about and thinking about. The Divine Liturgy provides the unique opportunity to have a physical encounter with Jesus Christ in the Eucharist. We can't have this anywhere outside of the Liturgy. The Liturgy describes Holy Communion as a provision for eternal life. Think about taking a journey and packing provisions for the trip—food, water, a map, etc. In our trip through life, on our journey to eternal life, one of the most important provisions is the Eucharist. If eternal life will expose us eternally to the glory and majesty of God, we need to learn on our way by receiving His majesty and glory in small doses. Finally, for me anyway, the Divine Liturgy serves as a marker which affects the rest of my life. On the rare occasion I do not attend Liturgy on a Sunday, I feel like something is out of balance. My whole life, the Divine Liturgy has been the beginning of every week. And while I don't carry it's majesty and glory all week, it is something I think about throughout the week, ie. I need to watch my behavior on Saturdays as I am about to receive Christ, and on Sundays, when I have just received Him. I find that the more often I worship, the more focused I am on my practice of Christianity, specifically because there is a "date" with Jesus Christ that I want to be perpetually ready for.

Not interactive

The next biggest complaint/challenge, after "Liturgy is repetitive," is that "Liturgy is boring." And it's boring because it is not interactive. I celebrate the Divine Liturgy over one hundred times each year, and while some of them, especially when we celebrate several times in a week might be boring, that is definitely the exception and not the rule. I have a different experience than most of you because the Divine Liturgy is very interactive for me, I'm doing something, so it is not boring. On the rare occasion when I am not serving, but am sitting in the pews, I can understand how it could be boring because of the lack of interaction. This is solved by singing the responses, which is the intention in worship.

Worship is not supposed to be a show between the priest and choir/chanter, but a leading of the people in worship. All the people should offer the responses to the petitions. And each petition should evoke some thought, probably a different thought for each person, and perhaps a different thought for each of us each time we hear a petition.

There are dozens of thoughts that can be evoked by each petition, and part how to make Liturgy both interactive and not-repetitive, is to allow our minds to have different thoughts each time we attend the Divine Liturgy. For instance, on the petition "For our country, the President and all those in civil authority and public service," I could think of the President, police officers, firefighters, city administrators, military servicepeople, their families, etc., so many possibilities just on one petition.

Language

This is an opinion, not the wish to start a debate. I did not grow up speaking Greek, I speak Greek now and I can celebrate the Divine Liturgy entirely in Greek if needed and do it well. However, the overwhelming majority of Orthodox Christians in America do not understand Greek, or Russian, or Arabic or any of the other languages used in worship. There is actually no one in my parish at present who does not understand English (that wasn't the case ten years ago, or when I was growing up). So when we pray in a language people do not understand, it is hard to be interactive. In my parish, we do a little bit of Greek, both for history (this is where we come from and the language the Liturgy was written in) and nostalgia, but 90+ percent of the Divine Liturgy is now in English, and I believe that is the number reason that the church where I serve has doubled in size in the past twenty years. Let's say, however, that the church you attend does a lot of the service in Greek (or another language), or that the choir or chanter is not great, the aesthetics aren't there, we might have to make more effort but we will still get something out of worship, because just being in the presence of God does something, being present when the grace of the Holy Spirit comes down at the consecration does something even if the words are said in another language. I wrote several months ago about the example of someone going to a perfume store and not buying anything would still come out smelling good. And it's the same thing with worship. Even if we don't understand the language, or the meaning, just being there does something positive for us.

We don't understand what we are doing

Many of us haven't invested the time to study the Divine Liturgy, meaning, to read a book about it, ask a question about it, speak to a priest about it, or take a catechism class about it. The Divine Liturgy is so important, and yet, many of us haven't taken the time to learn much about it. Knowledge is power, I often write, and thus the Liturgy could have more power in our lives if we had more knowledge of it.

Time

Of course, people complain that they don't have time to worship, or that the Liturgy lasts too long. We make time for what is important in life. We make time to watch three hour sports games, we binge watch hours of our favorite series, we get to our children's sports games early, and we don't complain about any of these things. How we spend our time reflects what is important. We make time for the important things. It's up to each of us to decide how important worship is when dividing up our time.

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The rest of our life doesn't prepare us for worship

We have discussed how our lives should revolve around God, and not the other way around. It's the same with worship. Our lives should revolve around the celebration of the Divine Liturgy and that should be the crown jewel each week as far as activities. One challenge is that we are involved in many activities that are incongruent with worship, such as swearing at the TV while drinking too much on Saturdays as we watch college football. Nothing wrong with football or drinking but when one has taken these things to extremes on a Saturday, it is hard to feel like being quiet on a Sunday, or even worthy to enter the church, knowing what we just spent our Saturday doing. Some people stay away from worship because they know how they are living is wrong, but attractive so they still keep doing it and decide to pick up worship "later." Living a life that is congruent with Christianity, makes worship something that we can look forward to, feeling a sense of belonging in it, and also something we can use as a booster, to help us live the life that matches what we claim to believe.

Lord, thank You for the gift of worship, the opportunity to connect with You in the Eucharist, and the Spirit-inspired service written so many years ago which takes us on a tour of everything important in this life, preparing us for eternal life.

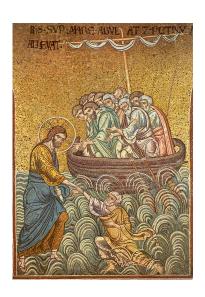
Help me to better comprehend what we are doing in worship, what it means, and what it can mean for me.

Help me to be focused and engaged, and to think on and internalize the petitions that are being offered so that I can participate in the responses, offering my prayers for the many things that are offered in the petitions.

Continue to kindle in my heart and soul, a desire to connect with You in worship, and thank You for offering Yourself to me, unworthy as I am, in the Holy Eucharist.

Amen.

If we aren't connecting in worship, it is probably due to one or more of these six things we just discussed. Fixing some of them, at least the ones we can control, will help us get more out of worship and look forward to worshipping.



Saints & Feasts

Saint Romanos the Melodist

October 01

Romanos was a Syrian Christian who lived in the beginning of the 6th century. A convert to Orthodoxy from Judaism, he was ordained a deacon and served in the Church of Beirut. His talent was great. Unlike others, he wrote his hymns in simple language and produced a pleasant meter in the verse by the way he accented words. The hymns he composed appealed to the hearts of the people and are still sung today.

Romanos has been called "Sweet Singer" (Ghlykophonos), "Melodist" (Melodhos), and "Righteous Chanter" (Psaltis Dhikeosinis). He wrote hundreds of hymns celebrating the mystery of the Incarnation, the Crucifixion, the Resurrection and the living of a Christian life. One of the most famous compositions is the hymn celebrating the Nativity of our Lord, "Today the Virgin gives birth to the One who is above all living things...." St. Romanos is said to have composed the Akathist Hymn, a kontakion that we still chant during the Friday evening Heretismoi services of Great Lent.

Romanos died on October 1st in 510 AD. He was a productive genius and artist, writing and accenting thousands of kontakia. He has been called the patron saint of all who sing for the Church. Others say he is the leader in the world of religious hymnology. Surely he has made a profound contribution to divine worship and deserves to be recognized by all who sing and by all who listen to the hymnology of our services.



Saint Thomas the Apostle

October 06

The Holy and Glorious Apostle Thomas was born in the Galilean city of Pansada. He was a fisherman. Hearing the good tidings of Jesus Christ, he left all and followed after Him. The Apostle Thomas is included in the number of the Twelve Apostles of the Savior.

According to Holy Scripture, the holy Apostle Thomas did not believe the reports of the other disciples about the Resurrection of Jesus Christ:

"Unless I see in His hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into the print of the nails, and thrust my hand into His side, I will not believe." John 20:25

On the eighth day after the Resurrection, the Lord appeared to the Apostle Thomas and showed him His wounds. "My Lord and my God," the Apostle cried out (John 20:28). "Thomas, being once weaker in faith than the other apostles," says St John Chrysostom, "toiled through the grace of God more bravely, more zealously and tirelessly than them all, so that he went preaching over nearly all the earth, not fearing to proclaim the Word of God to savage nations."



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Saint Thomas the Apostle - continued..

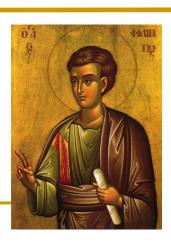
Some icons depicting this event are inscribed "The Doubting Thomas." This is incorrect. In Greek, the inscription reads, "The Touching of Thomas." In Slavonic, it says, "The Belief of Thomas." When St Thomas touched the Life-giving side of the Lord, he no longer had any doubts.

According to Church Tradition, the holy Apostle Thomas founded Christian churches in Palestine, Mesopotamia, Parthia, Ethiopia and India. Preaching the Gospel earned him a martyr's death. For having converted the wife and son of the prefect of the Indian city of Meliapur, the holy apostle was locked up in prison, suffered torture, and finally, pierced with five spears, he departed to the Lord. Part of the relics of the holy Apostle Thomas are in India, Hungary and on Mt. Athos.

Saint Philip the Apostle of the 70

October 11

Saint Philip, who had four daughters that prophesied, was from Caesarea of Palestine. He preached throughout Samaria; it was he also who met the eunuch of Candace, the Queen of the Ethiopians, as the eunuch was reading the Prophet Esaias, and he instructed and baptized him (Acts 8:26-39). He reposed in Tralles of Asia Minor while preaching the Gospel.



Saint Luke the Evangelist

October 18

Luke was a native of Syrian Antioch, a companion of the holy Apostle Paul (Phil.1:24, 2 Tim. 4:10-11), and a physician enlightened in the Greek medical arts. Hearing about Christ, Luke arrived in Palestine and fervently accepted the preaching of salvation from the Lord Himself. As one of the Seventy Apostles, St Luke was sent by the Lord with the others to preach the Kingdom of Heaven during the Savior's earthly life (Luke 10:1-3). After the Resurrection, the Lord Jesus Christ appeared to Saints Luke and Cleopas on the road to Emmaus.

Luke accompanied St Paul on his second missionary journey, and from that time they were inseparable. When Paul's co-workers had forsaken him, only Luke remained to assist him in his ministry (2 Tim. 4:10-11). After the martyric death of the First-Ranked Apostles Peter and Paul, St Luke left Rome to preach in Achaia, Libya, Egypt and the Thebaid. He ended his life by suffering martyrdom in the city of Thebes.

Tradition credits St Luke with painting the first icons of the Mother of God. "Let the grace of Him Who was born of Me and My mercy be with these Icons," said the All-Pure Virgin after seeing the icons. St Luke also painted icons of the First -Ranked Apostles Peter and Paul. St Luke's Gospel was written in the years 62-63 at Rome, under the guidance of the Apostle Paul. In the preliminary verses (Luke 1:1-3), St Luke precisely sets forth the purpose of his work. He proposes to record, in chronological order, everything known by Christians about Jesus Christ and His teachings. By doing this, he provided a firmer historical basis for Christian teaching (Luke 1:4).



Saint Luke the Evangelist - continued

He carefully investigated the facts, and made generous use of the oral tradition of the Church and of what the All-Pure Virgin Mary Herself had told him.

In St Luke's Gospel, the message of the salvation made possible by the Lord Jesus Christ, and the preaching of the Gospel, are of primary importance. St Luke also wrote the Acts of the Holy Apostles in Rome around 62-63 A.D. The Book of Acts, which is a continuation of the four Gospels, speaks about the works and the fruits of the holy Apostles after the Ascension of the Savior. At the center of the narrative is the Council of the Holy Apostles at Jerusalem in year 51, a Church event of great significance, which resulted in the separation of Christianity from Judaism and its independent dissemination into the world (Acts 15:6-29). The theological focus of the Book of Acts is the coming of the Holy Spirit, Who will guide the Church "into all truth" (John 16:13) until the Second Coming of Christ.

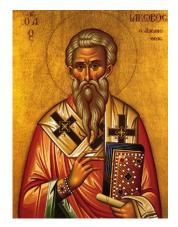
The holy relics of St Luke were taken from Constantinople and brought to Padua, Italy at some point in history. The Roman Catholic bishop of Padua, noting that Orthodox pilgrims came to Padua to venerate the relics, while many Catholics did not even know that the relics were there, appointed a committee to investigate the relics in Padua, and the skull of St Luke in the Catholic Cathedral of Prague. The skeleton was determined to be that of an elderly man of strong build. A rib from the relics of Saint Luke resides in St Luke's original tomb in the Orthodox cathedral at Thebes.

Saint James the Apostle

October 23

According to some, this Saint was a son of Joseph the Betrothed, born of the wife to whom Joseph was married, before he was betrothed to the Ever-Virgin. Hence he was the brother of the Lord, Who was also thought to be the son of Joseph (Matthew 13:55). But some say that he was a nephew of Joseph and the son of his brother Cleopas, who was also called Alphaeus and his wife, Mary, who was the first cousin of the Theotokos. But even according to this genealogy, he was still called, according to the idiom of the Scriptures, the Lord's brother, because of their kinship.

This lakovos is called the Less (Mark 15:40) by the Evangelists to distinguish him from lakovos, the son of Zebedee, who was called the Great. He became the first Bishop of Jerusalem, elevated to this Episcopal rank by the Apostles, according to Eusebius, and was called Obliah, that is, the Just, because of his great holiness and righteousness. Having ascended the crest of the Temple on the day of the Passover at the prompting of all, he bore testimony from there concerning his belief in Jesus and he proclaimed with a great voice that Jesus sits at the right hand of the great power of God and shall come again upon the clouds of heaven. On hearing this testimony, many of those present cried, "Hosanna to the Son of David." But the Scribes and Pharisees cried, "So, even the just one hath been led astray," and at the command of Ananias the high priest, the Apostle was cast down headlong and stoned. While he prayed for his slayers, his head was crushed by the wooden club by a certain scribe. The first of the Catholic (General) Epistles written to the Jews in the Diaspora who believed in Christ was written by this lakovos.



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Saint Demetrios the Myrrh-Streamer

October 26

Saint Demetrius was a Thessalonian, a most pious son of pious and noble parents, and a teacher of the Faith of Christ. When Maximian first came to Thessalonica in 290, he raised the Saint to the rank of Duke of Thessaly. But when it was discovered that the Saint was a Christian, he was arrested and kept bound in a bath-house. While the games were under way in the city, Maximian was a spectator there. A certain friend of his, a barbarian who was a notable wrestler, Lyaeus by name, waxing haughty because of the height and strength of his body, boasted in the stadium and challenged the citizens to a contest with him. All that fought with him were defeated. Seeing this, a certain youth named Nestor, acquaintance of Demetrius, came to the Saint in the bath -house and asked his blessing to fight Lyaeus single-handed. Receiving this blessing and sealing himself with the sign of the precious Cross, he presented himself in the stadium, and said, "O God of Demetrius, help me!" and straightway he engaged Lyaeus in combat and smote him with a mortal blow to the heart, leaving the former boaster lifeless upon the earth. Maximian was sorely grieved over this, and when he learned who was the cause of this defeat, he commanded that Demetrius be pierced with lances while he was yet in the bath-house, As for Nestor, Maximian commanded that he be slain with his own sword.



The Holy Protection of the Theotokos

October 28

The Feast of the Protection commemorates the appearance of the most holy Theotokos in the Church of Blachernae in Constantinople in the tenth century, as recorded in the life of Saint Andrew the Fool for Christ's sake. While the multitudes of the faithful were gathered in church, Epiphanius, the friend of Saint Andrew, through the Saint's prayers, beheld the Virgin Mary above the faithful and spreading out her veil over them, signifying her unceasing protection of all Christians.

Because of this we keep a yearly feast of gratitude, imploring our Lady never to cease sheltering us in her mighty prayers.







October 2024

| SUN | Mon | TUE | WED | THU | FRI | SAT |
|--|--|---|--|-------------------------|--|--|
| | mort | Romanos the Melodist 6:30pm Dance Practice | 7pm Philopotochos Union Station | 3 7pm Bowling | 4 | 5 |
| 3rd Sunday of Luke Saint Thomas 8:45am Orthros 10am Divine Liturgy 12pm Dance Practice Indoor & Live-stream | 7 5pm Dance Practice | 8 10:30am VIPs 6:30pm Dance Practice 7pm Par. Council | 7pm Philopotochos Board Mtg | 10 7pm Bowling | Saint Phillip the Apostle | 12 |
| Sunday of the 7th Ecumenical Council 8:45am Orthros 10am Divine Liturgy 12pm GOYA Indoor & Live-stream | 5pm Dance Practice | 6:30pm Dance Practice | 16 | 17 7pm Bowling | Saint Luke the Evangelist | 19 10am Blessing of the Animals |
| 6th Sunday of Luke 8:45am Orthros 10am Divine Liturgy 12pm Dance Practice Indoor & Live-stream | 21 5pm Dance Practice | 6:30pm Dance Practice | Saint James 7pm Philopotochos General Mtg | 24 7pm Bowling | 25 | 26 Saint Demetrios Myrrh Streamer 9am Orthros 10am Divine Liturgy |
| 7th Sunday of Luke 8:45am Orthros 10am Divine Liturgy 12pm Dance Practice Indoor & Live-stream | Holy Protection of the Theotokos 5pm Dance Practice | 29 6:30pm Dance Practice | 30 | 31 7pm Bowling | | |
| | | Strict Fast 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

ONI KA A

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

We're on the Web! www.saint-anthonys.org

TIMESENSITIVE

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.

