

The Voice of Saint Anthony

November 2024

Saint Anthony Greek Orthodox Church

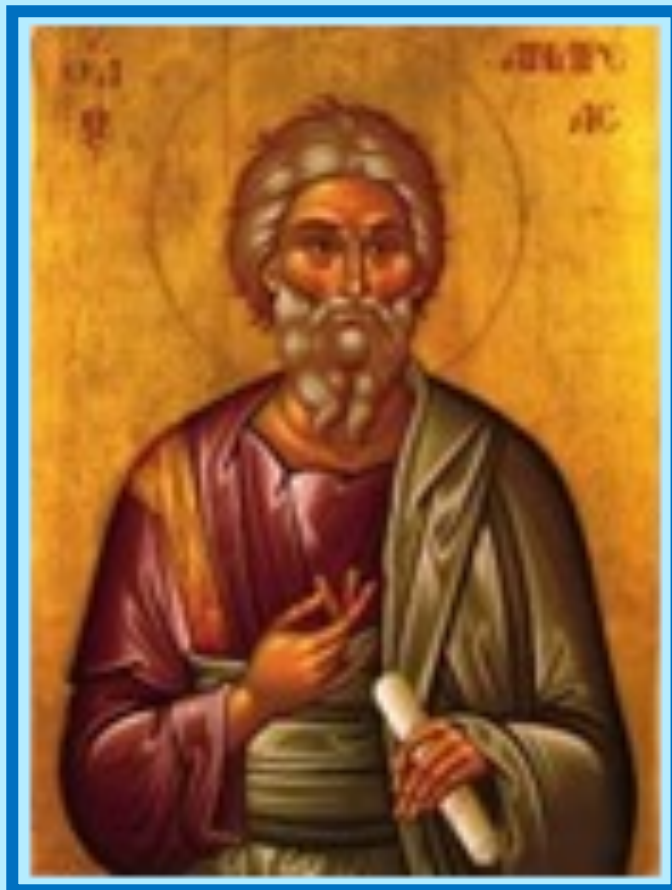
Reverend Father Peter Stratos

778 S. Rosemead Boulevard, Pasadena, CA 91107

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

Cosmas & Damianos	1 November
Archangel Michael	8 November
Saint Nektarios	9 November
Saint John Chrysostom	13 November
Saint Philip	14 November
Nativity Fast Begins	15 November
Saint Matthew	16 November
Saint Gregory	17 November
Entrance of the Theotokos	21 November
Saint Katherine	25 November
Saint Andrew	30 November

Priest's Message	2
Stewardship	3
Ministries	5
Parish Council Report	7
Sunday School	10
Youth/Young Adults	14
Philoptochos	19
VIPs	31
Community News, etc.	33
Monthly Lesson	38
Saints of the Month	43
Orthodox Calendar	49



Saint Andrew
the First-called Apostle
30 November

Deadline for December Newsletter is Monday, 25 November

Please send to: newsletter_church@aol.com

Message from Father Peter

The Christmas Fast begins November 15

Prayer: Let us rejoice! Let us celebrate with songs! The revelation of Christ is made manifest: the preachings of the prophets have received their fulfillment. For Christ of whom they spoke, foretelling His appearance in the flesh, is to be born in a holy cave and to be placed as a babe in a manger. With uprightness of mind, let us lift a joyful prayer, celebrating the coming of the Lord. O Christ, our God, glory to You! Vesper Hymn Fore Feast of the Birth of Christ

The Coming of the Lord

For forty days the Church seeks to prepare us for the true meaning of Christmas. Most of us need time to prepare for special events. It takes time to plan for a trip, a vacation, for entering college, for a baptism or wedding. We need time to anticipate, to prepare for the practical aspects, to think about their significance for us. With adequate preparation we enjoy these events much more.

During the liturgical year the Church has several periods of preparation prior to great feast days. The first such period begins on November 15, the Christmas Fast, which is not as strict as Great Lent prior to Pascha. **For forty days we anticipate and prepare for the coming (Advent) of Christ into the world and into our lives.**

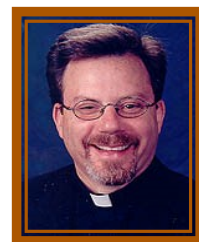
Some Practical Advice

As part of your preparation for Christmas resolve to give closer attention to the Word of God by reading, for example, one chapter a day from the Gospels for the forty days (November 15 thru December 24). You might read the Gospels of Mark and Luke which together have forty chapters. Getting to know more about the life of Christ will make you appreciate more deeply the significance of His coming which we celebrate on Christmas.

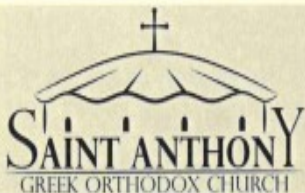
In your daily prayers include thanksgiving for the Lord's coming, invite Him to be at the center of your life and let your heart leap for joy as you meditate on God's gift of His Son to the world.



November 3, 2024



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 | <input type="checkbox"/> Summer Family Picnic |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pasadena Golf Classic | <input type="checkbox"/> Dinner | <input type="checkbox"/> Other |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pasadena Greek Fest | <input type="checkbox"/> Saint Anthony Feast Day | |

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

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

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

Pana Gelt

GOYA VolleyballAnthia 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 SchoolSophia Syrengelas
Mary Udria**VIPs**

Irene Albeck



Parish Council



SAINT ANTHONY GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

Rev. Protopresbyter Peter Stratos
Presiding Priest

CANDIDATE FORMS FOR PARISH COUNCIL- 2025

PARISH COUNCIL ELECTIONS

Information We All Need To Know

With the blessings of His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos, I am communicating with you regarding this year's election for 2025 Parish Council.

Each and every baptized Orthodox Christian must make some effort of active commitment to his or her Church. Some serve by participating in Church music; teaching Sunday school, joining the Ladies Philoptochos Society, and volunteering in other capacities, while others assist the Church by serving as members of the Parish Council.

Being a member of the Parish Council is a ministry of the Church and all those who serve are called to represent Christ and the Orthodox Faith. This is truly a responsible task that must be served by an individual committed to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. The role of a Parish Council member is a holy and spiritual one. In assisting in the administrative responsibilities of the Church, a Parish Council member acknowledges the importance of strengthening the earthly ministry of Christ through God's Church. Membership on Parish Council should not be for social reasons nor status in the Community; but rather as an act of humility and conviction to Christ our Lord.

In accordance with the 2019 Regulations of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America, all candidates seeking election to serve on the Parish Council must attend a **PARISH COUNCIL SEMINAR** organized by the local Parish Council and under the leadership of the Parish Priest. The purpose of the Seminar is to prepare candidates for the Parish Council, as well as making aware of the sacred responsibilities expected of a Council member.

Saint Anthony Church will hold a **PARISH COUNCIL SEMINAR** on Sunday, November 10, 2024, following Divine Liturgy in the boardroom. All potential Parish Council members, including those seeking re-election, must attend the Seminar. In order to be placed on the ballot, one must complete the Application for candidacy form and return it to the Parish Office by Monday, November 4, 2024, by 3:00 p.m. If an application has not been turned in by the designated date and time, the person will be ineligible.



SAINT ANTHONY GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

Rev. Protopresbyter Peter Stratos
Presiding Priest

APPLICATION FOR CANDIDACY FOR ELECTION TO THE PARISH COUNCIL

I, _____
First Name *Last Name*

Address *City* *State* *Zip*

(_____) _____ (_____) _____
Home Phone *Mobile Phone*

Desire to serve the SAINT ANTHONY CHURCH of Pasadena, CA for a term of 3 years beginning in January 2025 as a member of the Parish Council.

I certify that I am a parishioner in good standing as stated in Article 18 of the 2019 Regulations of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America and that my parish stewardship commitment is current for at least a year. Further I certify that I will attend the Parish Council Seminar which is scheduled prior to the elections and if elected, will take the affirmation of office as stated in Article 26 of the Regulations and finally, I certify that I am ecclesiastically in order and that:

- A. I have been Baptized in the name of the Holy Trinity.
- B. I have been Chrismated into the Orthodox Christian Tradition.
- C. I have had my Marriage blessed in the Orthodox Church.
- D. I participate in the Sacramental life of the Orthodox Church.
- E. I regularly attend Divine Services.

I further acknowledge that I will undergo a background check as required by the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America prior to attending the Parish Council Training Seminar.

Signature of Candidate

Date

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY:
Candidacy Application Received:

Date: _____ Time: _____ By: _____

Note: All of the above must be completed and returned to the Church Office by 3:00 p.m., on November 4, 2024.

Thank you for attending our first St. Anthony Speaker event—"Getting your Greek Citizenship". Our second speaker event will be equally fascinating and informative. Learn how young people can live and study in a remarkable program in Athens called **College Year in Athens (CYA)**. Alexia Lingaas, the Associate Director of CYA for North America is flying in from Cambridge, Massachusetts for this talk. If you are a young person, a parent of a young person or the grandparent of a young person, you will want to hear this talk. CYA promotes hands on learning with on-site classes and cultural exchanges in Greece for a summer, a semester or a year. Parishioners of St. Anthony have attended this program and rave about it. This is a one time opportunity to hear Ms. Lingaas speak in the Los Angeles area. The flyer below has more details. This event is free. Please notify the church office if you would like to attend.



St. Anthony Speaker Series

A new talk every other month



Academic Year | Semester | Summer | Winter

Offering courses across various disciplines, enriched by hands-on learning experiences and on-site classes to promote personal discovery, growth, and cross-cultural exchange in the vibrant environment of Greece.

Speaker:

Alexia Lingaas

Associate Director of North America for CYA



Thursday | November 14th, 2024 | 6:30pm

Light Refreshments will be Served & All Talks in this Series Are Free

St. Anthony Greek Orthodox Church Hall, | 778 S. Rosemead Blvd, Pasadena, CA

RSVP to Alma in the Church Office: alma@saint-anthonys.org



Next Talk:

"Great Wines of Greece"

Learn (and Taste) the Grapes and Regions

Thursday, January 23rd - 6:30pm

St. Anthony Church Hall



It has been heartwarming to see our students in our classrooms each week! What a joy and blessing it is to see so many children at St. Anthony. We got off to a great start this year and 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 at St. Anthony is thriving and is built on love, dedication, and faith, thanks to our wonderful teachers:

Little Lambs: Krystina Vagenas - welcome to our new teacher for this class!

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

Kindergarten/1st: Elena Tsianos and Theoni Vagenas
Elena is new and Theoni is returning and they have graciously volunteered to teach this year thus 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:

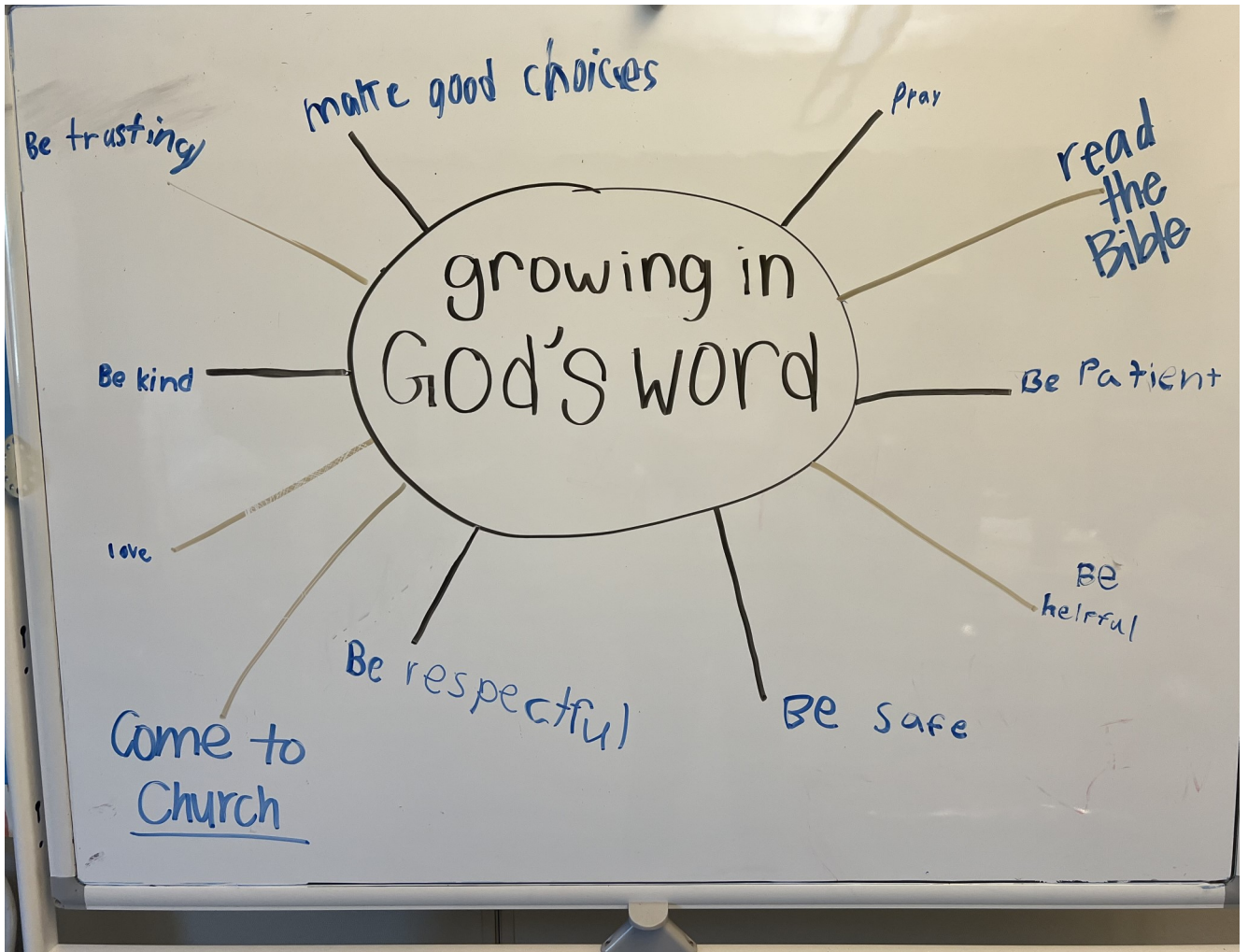
- * If you have not already done so, please be sure to register online by using our QR code
- * Father is allowing students to receive Holy Communion first in order to help them get to class sooner. Please be sure to follow his guidelines and cooperate with Parish Council so that this runs smoothly.
- * For safety reasons, children should not be upstairs until after Holy Communion, when class starts, as teachers are often busy prepping and getting lessons ready during that time. Additionally, children should not be upstairs unattended after class has been dismissed.

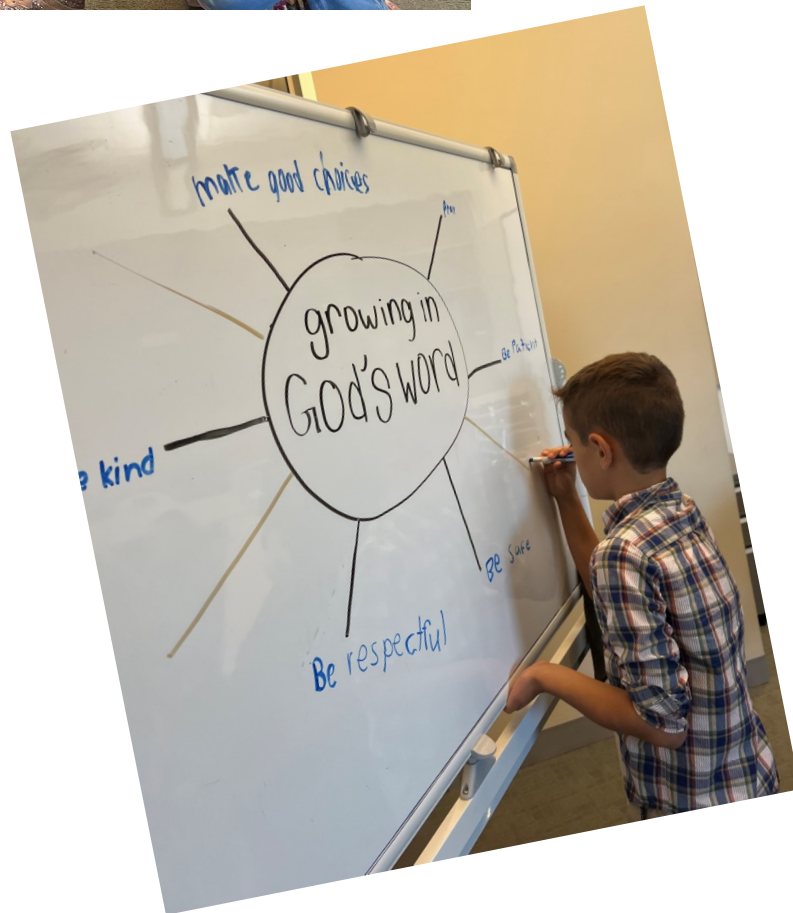
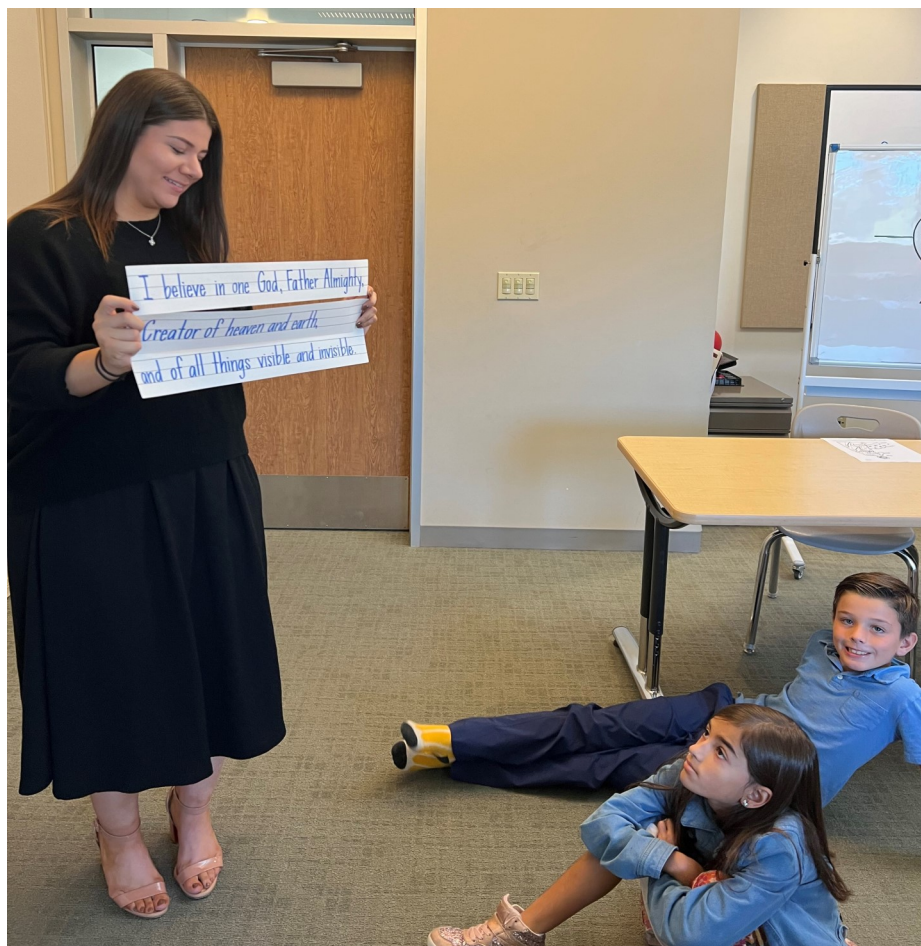
Some dates to remember as we enter the holiday season:

- * December 1st: Thanksgiving holiday (no class)
- * December 15th: Christmas program

Please do not hesitate to reach out with any questions.

Thank you,
Sophia Syrengelas





HOLY COMMUNION PROCEDURE

*For the benefit of our Sunday School students, their teachers and the TIMELY start of their Sunday School Classes, the children will be receiving Holy Communion first.

***The ushers will release the children by pew from Front to Back.**

*Only parents of the smallest, youngest Sunday School children, who need assistance, should receive Holy Communion with their children.

*If you are not seated when Holy Communion begins, please take a seat in the back rows, quietly. Your children will be released in turn.

*Please do not attempt to send your children down the side aisles to the front alone or down the center aisle.

*After all children have received, the ushers will release the adults, again from the front pews.

***Please cooperate with our ushers. Please do not ask to be allowed through ahead of others.**

***Please remember this new procedure is for the benefit of our children and their Sunday School experience.**

Youth & Young Adults



HOPE: Hellenic Orthodox Primary Explorers Archdiocese Youth Group Explorers of the Faith 4 ½ - 8 years old

Our Explorers completed a successful outreach Tricking for Treating (UNICEF) United Nation International Children Emergency Fund. Thank you everyone. We were able to collect \$210 which will be sent to help forty students to continue their education in school. A box of candy is great but an education will last longer.

The Explorers had great fun playing games and challenging each other. They participated in a pumpkin relay, balancing small pumpkins on their heads, candy corn race, candy corn balanced in a spoon, and finally with a minute to win it, they had to toss the most marshmallows into a cup.

We ended with a prayer and shared leftover candy.

Our next meeting will be after Sunday School, November 10. The theme will be “responsibility”. We will discuss ‘what, who, and when’ we are responsible. We will have a guest speaker.

Come join fellowship, faith, and challenging activities.



We've had two meetings this year and had lots of fun with icebreakers and playing Greek Jeopardy during our meeting! Special thanks to the Kades family for hosting lunch for our October meeting!



We had two events in October. Our first was attending the Maranatha High School football game and senior night on October 25th, where our President Yianni Kades and Luke McNulty were honored. We had a great turnout, not just GOYAnS, but plenty of folks from St. Anthony's and Greek dance to cheer on our seniors!



We also went to Knott's Scary Farm on October 26th, where there were GOYAnS from St. Sophia, Assumption and St. John's also in attendance! It was a spooky and fun time! Special thanks to our awesome chaperone Moms: Alexia Pouloupoulos, Elleni Ioannou and Jenny Koulos!



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

Next meeting, **November 10th**! Lunch will be provided. Bring your \$25 dues! Cash or check made out to St. Anthony GOYA.

Save the date for our **Friendsgiving Lock In** on Tuesday, **November 26th**!

GOYAnS will have a potluck Thanksgiving dinner, and then stay overnight in the church hall, playing games, hide and go seek, etc!

Check out our Instagram account at: @stanthonysgoya

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



GOYA Sign up

Philoptochos

Good Works

Union Station Homeless Service (USHS)

USHS is in need of sack lunch donations. The prepared 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



Good Works, continued

Friends In Deed

Philoptochos continues the delivery of non-perishable food items like cereal to the food pantry at Friends In Deed.

Support Friends In Deed with a Christmas Tree purchase

Get your tree and support Friends In Deed at the same time. We will be participating in the annual Christmas Tree Sale benefitting Friends In Deed, a non-profit organization committed to meeting the needs of Pasadena's most vulnerable residents.

Order your tree by: Monday, November 11, 2024 @ 4pm
Pick up your Tree: Saturday December 7, 2024 from 8 -11 am
For Delivery (\$25): Saturday December 7, 2024 from 8:30 am - 12 pm

Buy a tree for your home or for a local family in need.

Use this link to place an order: <https://saint-marks-christmas-trees.square.site>

See flyer next page...



Important Ordering Tip:

Most trees come with a 4-8" tip that is included in the tree's height measurement.

You will also cut 2-4" off the bottom to allow the tree to absorb water.

Please consider both of these measurements when selecting the overall size of your tree.

2024 Saint Mark's Episcopal Church Christmas Tree Sale
Order by 4 pm Monday November 11 for a December 7 pick up
www.SaintMarksChristmasTrees.org

All proceeds support Friends in Deed
 Meeting the needs of Pasadena's most vulnerable residents



Douglas Fir

Size	Price
5' - 6'	\$70.00
6' - 7'	\$75.00
7' - 8'	\$90.00
8' - 9'	\$105.00



Noble Fir

Size	Price
5' - 6'	\$85.00
6' - 7'	\$105.00
7' - 8'	\$135.00
8' - 9'	\$175.00
9' - 10'	\$225.00



Nordmann Fir

Size	Price
5' - 6'	\$85.00
6' - 7'	\$105.00
7' - 8'	\$135.00
8' - 9'	\$175.00
9' - 10'	\$225.00

Sales:

Order online by 4 PM Monday, November 11

Pick Up:

Saturday December 7
8 AM to 11 AM
 Saint Mark's Parking Lot
 1014 East Altadena Drive
 Altadena, CA 91001

For more information contact:

Tom Horner
 tom@catalinainlandcamps.com
 626-379-8533



Donate a Tree to a Local Family

Saint Mark's Episcopal Church and the Pasadena Police Activities League deliver 5' to 6' Douglas Fir trees to local families that cannot afford a tree this season.

\$70 per tree

Local Delivery Available to Altadena, Pasadena, Sierra Madre

Delivery will take place
 Saturday December 7 between 8:30am and 12pm

Donation \$25

Buy online at
www.SaintMarksChristmasTrees.org



LAST DAY TO ORDER 4 pm Monday November 11

Community Happenings with Philoptochos

Blessing of the Animals

This special prayer service took place for the third year outside the Trinity Ballroom on a sunny Saturday, October 19, 2024. Everyone enjoyed the fellowship and tasty treats, especially the dogs. We appreciate the support from all who attended.

Thank you for the donation of blankets, towels and cash which has been donated to the Pasadena Humane Society. Many thanks to Judith Din, Helen Skandale, and Liz Skandale who continued this ministry started by our Philoptochos Sister Stephanie Zanglis Soewers. We are appreciative that Stephanie's family was able to join us and continue her good work.



October General Meeting - Welcome Back High Tea

On Wednesday, October 23, Philoptochos members and guests gathered in the Trinity Ballroom to kick off the new Ecclesiastical Year. Guests enjoyed a High Tea service of delicious scones and tea sandwiches, and, of course, assortment of hot teas. Each table was uniquely designed and decorated by table hostesses who displayed their own beautiful dinnerware, some of which were cherished heirloom pieces. The evening's program included an update on the chapter's happenings and upcoming events by Judith Din, our Philoptochos President.

Several Philoptochos sisters were recognized by Judith for their dedication to Union Station Homeless Service in Pasadena: Christina Kades, Irene Albeck, Sophia Angelos, and Elizabeth Demopoulos regularly prepare the dinners which are funded by our generous donors and deliver them to Union Station Homeless Service.



Beautiful Tablescapes





Upcoming Philoptochos Events

Join Philoptochos and friends for the 55th Annual Christmas Benefit
Candy Cane Wishes
Saturday, December 7, 2024 at The Langham Huntington Hotel in Pasadena



Seating is limited so make your reservation early. Fully paid tables of ten are reserved on a first come, first served basis.

For **information**, contact the Reservation Chair, Nicole Schulman:

stanthonybenefit@gmail.com
or go to the event website at [https://
stanthonybenefit.square.site/](https://stanthonybenefit.square.site/)
to see how you can help support this event.

Proceeds will benefit a very worthy local organization, **GIVE-MENTOR-LOVE**, as well as other Philoptochos charities in our community, Metropolis and National.

GIVE-MENTOR-LOVE works diligently to improve the lives of LA County's most vulnerable youths and young adults in-crisis, at risk, homeless or in foster care, and victims of sex trafficking.

Please support our good works by making a reservation, becoming a Star Donor, purchasing a Grand Awards raffle ticket, shopping at our Christmas boutique, and purchasing tasty goodies from Santa's Kitchen.

Upcoming Scholarship Opportunities in 2025

Attention High School Seniors

Philoptochos of Saint Anthony Scholarship Applications will be available in Spring 2025. Applications will be open for graduating seniors who are active members of our parish.

Patzakis Scholarships for Nursing and Medical Studies. Applications will be available next year in March and due in May. Any student pursuing a degree in nursing, medicine, healthcare profession, or dentistry and is a member of our St. Anthony church community may apply.

Philoptochos wishes to support our young people in their academic advancement.

Look for more announcements in the future Voice newsletters.

Upcoming Philoptochos Meetings

2024 Christmas Benefit Planning Meeting – Monday, November 4, 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, November 13, 2024, at 7:00 PM

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.

See flyer next page.. Mark your calendar and plan to attend!

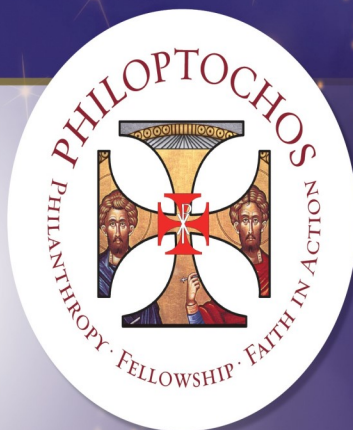
For more information, please [visit the Metropolis of SF Philoptochos website](#) .



FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA

Facebook: St. Anthony Philoptochos
Instagram: stanthonypiloptochos

*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

*Light
the Path*

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



Saint Anthony Philoptochos

VASILOPITA

PREPAID ORDER FORM

**All Prepaid Orders must be received by
Sunday, December 15**

**PREPAID ORDERS ARE AVAILABLE FOR PICKUP ONLY ON
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 22 from 12:00 PM TO 1:00 PM**


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

To place prepaid orders:

- CALL or Text: Lisa - (626) 222-4374 or Helen (818) 618 -4963
or
- ONLINE - <https://stanthonybenefit.square.site> (select Santa's Kitchen Tab)

Name: _____ Cell/Home Phone: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ E-mail: _____

ITEM	COST	QUANTITY	\$ TOTAL
 Vasilopita (1 Loaf) Traditional sweet Greek New Year's bread. <i>Pickup on Sunday, December 22 (12:00 pm-1:00 pm)</i>	\$20	_____	_____

ORDER TOTAL \$ _____



Santa's Kitchen

*We would appreciate donations of Christmas
baked goods such as:*

*Candies
Biscotti
Fudge
Cookies
Bark
English Toffee
Caramels*

Or any other special holiday item that you enjoy making.

*Items can be brought to church on
Wednesday, December 4th between 10 am and 4 pm or
Thursday, December 5th between 11 am and 1 pm.*

*Another way to support Santa's Kitchen is to donate a
monetary donation that will help cover our baking and
wrapping expenses. These donations can be sent to church.*

We thank you for your help and support.

Helen Skandale and Lisa Xanthos



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.

After a two month hiatus in August and September due to vacations and GreekFest preparations, the October VIP meeting was very well attended indeed. The session was called to order by president Irene Albeck at 11:04 am, followed by a prayer led by Claire Marotta who then proudly announced the recent birth of her grandson.

Irene then gave her report which provided information on a youth ministry which she oversees called Explorers of HOPE. This is an Orthodox youth group that meets the social needs of our youngest children aged 4-1/2 to 8 or 9 years of age. The theme for October is *Caring* and it was requested that our members donate any loose change they had handy to ultimately be donated to UNICEF to enable children to continue their education.

Irene then explained that when the Explorers of HOPE meet, a simple lunch is provided while the group discusses a theme, engages in a craft activity, and plays some games. This ministry meets for about an hour and a half and is a precursor to GOYA. BRAVO Irene for continuing to be involved with our parish youth while presiding over the VIPs of our Saint Anthony community.

We were all VERY happy to see Yiota Poulos at this VIP meeting who is now up and ambulatory from a fall she took a while ago.

We congratulate Zachary and Alma Vorgias on their new home in Glendora, California.

Maria and Jimmy Kypreos have returned from their trip to Spain and surrounding areas where they celebrated their 50th anniversary.

Marietta Bicos and family baptized her new grandson Sotireos in Greece. "*Na sas Zisei o Neofotistos*" and congratulations are extended to the Godparents Kristina and Dino Vagenas.

The VIP Thanksgiving Feast will be held on Tuesday, **November 12th** and members are encouraged to sign up to bring their favorite dishes for the occasion.

Our VIP December outing/meeting will be held at LeRoy's Restaurant in Monrovia on Tuesday, **December 17th** instead of the usual second Tuesday of the month.

Best wishes for a HAPPY BIRTHDAY were extended to the October celebrants: Elizabeth Demopulos, Chris Giannoulis, Evelyn Kefalas, Vivian Mavredakis, and Pat Pastis. As we did not have meetings in August and September, a delicious birthday cake, dedicated to the celebrants of all three months was enjoyed by all.

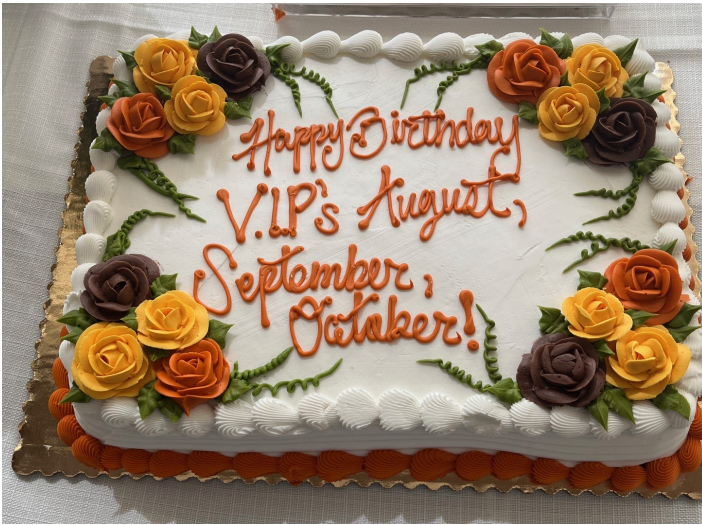
Finally, a breakfast outing at Twohey's Restaurant on October 14th was organized to see our dear friends Athena and Sam Dallas who were in town to attend a family wedding. The Dallas's look wonderful and are happily settled into their home in Reno, Nevada close to their son Greg and his family.

We look forward to seeing many of you at the VIP Thanksgiving Feast on Tuesday, **November 12th**.

Jim Hronas

VIP Communications





Community News & more...

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

Saint Anthony Bowling League News November 2024



The St. Anthony bowlers are entering into their 8th week of bowling as of Thursday, November 7. The final night of bowling will be Thursday, December 5, however it is going to come down to the final week as to which team will come out on top!

A shout out to our most improved bowlers:

High Average as of October 24, Vincent Lappas, Lee Anton, Syrus Mobayen, Andrea Lappas, Anthia Lucas, and Joyce Nichols.

Most Improved Average: Peter Bissias, Kosta Papavasiliou, Labrini Makredes, Joyce Nichols and Chrissa Mobayen.

High Games:

Men, Vincent Lappas 187

Women, Katherine Boukidis 191

The St. Anthony Bowling Ministry will resume the Winter season after the holidays, on Thursday, January 16, and end on Thursday, April 3, 2025. Anyone 18 years of age is welcome to join. Bowlers range in age from 20 somethings to 80 somethings, with bowling averages ranging from 56-144. All skill levels are welcome!

Finally, the St. Anthony Bowling League will be hosting the coffee hour after Liturgy on Sunday, February 9, 2025



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.

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

*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

A Lesson from Father Stauros..

For I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when He was betrayed took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it, and said, "This is My body which is for you. Do this in remembrance of Me." In the same way also the cup, after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me." For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until He comes. Whoever, therefore, eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of profaning the body and blood of the Lord. Let a man examine himself, and so eat of the bread and drink of the cup. For any one who eats and drinks without discerning the body eats and drinks judgment upon himself. That is why many of you are weak and ill, and some have died. But if we judged ourselves truly, we should not be judged. But when we are judged by the Lord, we are chastened so that we may not be condemned along with the world. 1 Corinthians 11:23-32

The Covid-19 pandemic brought up the question of **"Is Holy Communion Safe?"** This question has come up in other times of illness, like the AIDS crisis in the 1980s, SARS or other widespread diseases. People who are outside of our faith are sometimes critical of how we distribute Holy Communion and for those seeking to come into our faith, this can be a stumbling block as well. We will answer this question in two ways, both answers taken from **1 Corinthians 11:23-32**.

When Jesus instituted the Eucharist, He did so by consecrating bread and wine and revealing them as *"This is My Body,"* (v. 24) and *"This cup is the new covenant in My blood."* (v. 25) We believe, as Orthodox Christians, that in the Divine Liturgy, we present ordinary offerings of bread and wine, and through the descent of the Holy Spirit, these ordinary substances are consecrated, becoming the Body and Blood of Christ. We receive them in a way that we can handle them. Think of the sun outside. We receive the sun in a way we can handle it—its rays and its warmth. We cannot look at it, we would burn up if we got in a spaceship and flew to it, but we receive its energies in a way we can handle them. None of us can handle the essence of God, at least not in our fallen state in this fallen world. We can handle Christ revealed in the Eucharist. Verse 26 reminds us that *"as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until He comes."*

There is a benefit in partaking of the Eucharist, in that it strengthens faith, fills us with the real presence of Christ, and prepares us to participate in the fullness of Christ in the Kingdom of heaven. On a practical level, Holy Communion is received after careful preparation, and so the exercise of preparing to receive should bring us into a state of heightened vigilance and focus on Christ, on loving Him, and serving others. Preparing to receive Holy Communion requires commitment to the Christian faith (why we always recite the Creed before receiving as part of the Divine Liturgy), a relationship with Christ (prayer), obedience to the commandments (moral living, and when we fail at this, going to confession to talk about our failures and to repent), reconciliation with our fellow man (not being angry with others), worship at the Divine Liturgy (Holy Communion is received in the context of the Divine Liturgy) and fasting (getting control over our passion for food so that we in turn gain control over our other passions like greed, lust, ego, etc. that cause us to sin).

Back to the question of safety from a physical health perspective. There has never been a documented link between receiving Holy Communion and transmitting disease. Every priest in the world, after the completion of the Divine Liturgy, consumes the remainder of the Holy Gifts. That means, the priest eats and drinks all of whatever remains in the chalice at the end of the Divine Liturgy. He then rinses out the chalice with water which he also drinks. On a given Sunday in my parish, I commune hundreds of people. Some of those people undoubtedly are sick. I rarely get sick. After everyone has received, after I have put the spoon in the chalice hundreds of times, I put the spoon in my own mouth to consume the Gifts. If a person could get sick from Holy Communion, every priest in the world would be perpetually sick from consuming the Gifts, and we aren't. I've consumed the Gifts for over 27 years, and I'm just fine. So are the thousands of other priests who do this regularly.

What is NOT safe in regards to Holy Communion, is receiving it improperly from a spiritual perspective. St. Paul writes *“For anyone who eats and drinks without discerning the body eats and drinks judgment upon himself. This is why many of you are weak and ill, and some have died.”* I Corinthians 29-30 The far greater threat to our health comes from partaking of the Eucharist without proper preparation.

All of us are guilty of this to a certain extent, and some are very guilty—they receive Holy Communion in almost a flippant manner. This would be people who only come to church once a year and receive Holy Communion, completely out of context when compared to the rest of their Christian life. This would include people who come into the Divine Liturgy extremely late, i.e. during the Lord’s Prayer, who receive Holy Communion but not in the context of worshipping, they basically “drive through.” This would include people who are living in habitual sin, like cohabitating before marriage, or cohabitating with no intention to be married.

Receiving Holy Communion should be done with some self-examination, and I can’t say I do this each time I receive. As a priest, I am required to receive, and so I receive habitually but not necessarily with proper self-examination each time. And I would venture to say that many of us do it in this same way.

The Prayer of Consecration from the Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom offers six potential benefits from receiving Holy Communion:

—So that they may be for those who partake of them for vigilance of soul, remission of sins, communion of Your Holy Spirit, fullness of the Kingdom of Heaven, boldness before You, not for judgment or condemnation.”

And Jesus Himself, in speaking of the Eucharist, said in John 6:54,

“He who eats My flesh and drinks My blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day.”

There is great benefit from receiving the Eucharist, however, it must be received with proper preparation, or there is a danger.

How shall I, who am unworthy, enter into the splendor of Your saints?

If I should dare to enter into the bridal chamber, my vesture will condemn me, since it is not a wedding garment; and being bound up, I shall be cast out by the angels.

Cleanse, O Lord, the filth of my soul, and save me, as You are the one Who loves mankind.

In Your love, Lord, cleanse my soul, and save me.

Master Who loves mankind, Lord Jesus Christ, my God, let not these Holy Gifts be to my judgment because I am unworthy, but rather for the purification and sanctification of both soul and body and the pledge of the life and Kingdom to come.

It is good for me to cleave unto God and to place in Him the hope of my salvation.

(Prayers in Preparation for Holy Communion, from the Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom)

Holy Communion is safe from a physical perspective.

It is only dangerous from a spiritual perspective if it is received without proper reverence, manifested in how we prepare to receive, and how we are living outside the context of the Divine Liturgy.



Pastoral Reflection
Fr. Timothy Paulatos
St. Katherine, Chandler, Arizona

A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another” (John 13:34-35).

The above passage is the heart of the Gospel message and the fact that it is a commandment speaks volumes, for a commandment is only given when something is absent or greatly lacking. When we hear the word “commandments” our first thought is usually The Ten Commandments, also known as the Decalogue, which constitute the ethical code by which the human race on the one hand, will come to believe in the true God, and on the other hand, to sustain a godly society in the attainment and application of God's will on earth.

According to the tradition of our Orthodox faith, the first four commandments pertain to our relationship with God, while the rest pertain to our neighbor. This division is testified to by our Lord Jesus Christ Himself when He was asked by a lawyer, “Teacher, which is the great commandment in the law” (Matt. 22:36)? The Lord replied, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it, You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the law and the prophets” (Matt. 22:37-40; cf. Luke 10:25-28).

Since the Garden of Eden, man has rebelled against God. To help free humanity from the propensity to sin, which is to miss the mark of God, the Ten Commandments were given to guide mankind in living in such a way that would lead him back to how God always intended him to live. Ultimately, the Ten Commandments represent God's personal interest in bringing mankind back to Him so that all may live life to the fullest. To this end, all commandments are an expression of God's love so that we may have true life in and through Him. As our Lord said, “I came so that people may have life, and have it in abundance” (John 10:10). Therefore, the commandments of God, are not rules to follow but rather signposts that lead us into a right relationship with Him and with all the people with whom we share this present life, and the two are interrelated.

We show our love for God when we show our love for one another. A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.” Love for God and love for others are interrelated as we see in St. Paul's definition of love: Love suffers long and is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up; does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil; does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth; bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never fails. (I Corinthians 13:4-8).

When we read this we need to look at each part carefully, understand what it means, what it looks like in our everyday relationships and strive to live them in all our interactions with others, otherwise, we do not love.

Love: According to St. Paul, love is described by action words, not by lofty concepts. Paul is not writing about how love feels, he is writing about how it can be seen in action. True love is always demonstrated by action.

Love suffers long: Love will endure a long time. It is the heart shown in God when it is said of the Lord, The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance (2 Peter 3:9). If God's love is in us, we will show longsuffering to those who annoy us and hurt us. St. John Chrysostom said this is the word used of the man who is wronged, and who easily has the power to avenge himself, but will not do it out of mercy and patience.

Love is kind: When we have and show God's love, it will be seen in simple acts of kindness. Being kind is most often better than wanting to be right, to prove one's point.

Love does not envy: Envy is one of the least productive and most damaging of all sins. It accomplishes nothing, except hurt. Love keeps its distance from envy, and does not resent it when someone else is promoted or blessed. Love desires that others should be preferred before one's self. Fr. Zacharias says that when we give thanks to God for the gifts that others have, those gifts become ours.

Love does not parade itself: Love in action must work anonymously. It doesn't need to have the limelight or the attention to do a good job, or to be satisfied with the result. Love gives because it loves to give, not for the purpose of praise or recognition.

Love does not behave rudely: Where there is love, there will be kindness. Love puts others above oneself and does not wound the conscious of others, but rather is gentle in behavior and speech.

Love does not seek its own: Paul communicates the same idea in Romans 12:10: in honor giving preference to one another. Philippians 2:4 communicates the same: Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others. This is being like Christ in a most basic way, being an others-centered person instead of a self-centered person. Love is never satisfied but in the welfare, comfort, and salvation of all people.

Love does not provoke: It's not difficult to find ourselves being provoked or irritated with others. But it is a sin to be provoked, and it isn't love. In fact, Moses was kept from the Promised Land because he became provoked at the people of Israel (Numbers 20:2-11).

Love thinks no evil (keeps no account of wrongs): This means that love does not store up the memory of any wrongs it's received. Love will put away the hurts of the past instead of clinging to them and Love does not suppose that a good action may have a bad motive.

Love does not rejoice in iniquity (unrighteousness): Love always wants the best for others, and refuses to color things against others. Instead, love rejoices in the truth. Love can always stand with and on Truth, because both are found in the Person of Jesus Christ.

Love believes all things: We are never to believe a lie, but choose to believe the best of others. Love believes in her fellows. Some habitually believe that others always have an ulterior motive, and therefore they speak about them as such, but they are not the children of love. Imagine if chatterers would begin to speak of other people's virtues instead of gossiping about them.

Love hopes all things: Love has confidence in the future, not pessimism. When hurt, it does not say, "it will be this way forever, and even get worse." It hopes for the best, as it hopes in God who can work in a person who desires to change and live in the love of Christ.

Love endures all things: Many can bear all things, and believe all things, and hope all things, but only for a while. The greatness of agape love is it keeps on bearing, believing, and hoping. It doesn't give up since endurance is supported by hope and believes in the power of Christ and the work of the Holy Spirit on those who repent in order to live their life in Christ. If your brethren are angry without a cause, pity them and do not let them conquer you by driving you into despair. Stand fast in love; endure not some things, but all things for Christ's sake and you will prove yourself to be a follower of the Most High.

“Only humble love that forgives everyone, that “bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things,” can give one the courage to offer his gift on the altar of God, For it is this humble enduring love that makes your sacrifice possible”.

Love never fails: Paul addresses the over-emphasis the Corinthian Christians had on the gifts of the Holy Spirit. He shows that they should emphasize love more than the gifts, because the gifts are temporary “containers” of God’s work; love is the work itself. The gifts of the Holy Spirit were appropriate for a time, but were not meant to be permanent. They are imperfect gifts for an imperfect time. Now that the One Who is perfect has come, the gifts of the Spirit are no longer necessary. That which is perfect is fulfilled in the Person of Jesus Christ who abides in us and us in His love.

Since Jesus Christ is Love itself, perhaps the way to understand each of these is to see them in the life of Christ and replace the word love with Christ:

Jesus Christ is long-suffering and kind; Jesus Christ does not envy, does not parade Himself. He is not puffed up but humble. Jesus Christ does not behave rudely, does not seek His own way, but does the will of His Father. Jesus Christ never provokes or thinks evil of others. He does not rejoice in iniquity but rejoices in the truth. He bore all things, even to the point of death on the Cross. He believes, hopes, and endured all things for our sake and for our salvation.

His love never fails.

We can measure our own spiritual maturity by seeing how it sounds when we put our name in place of the word love. St. Athanasius said, “God became man so that man may become god.” That is to say, Jesus Christ was incarnate so that we can become as we are truly meant to be, that is, like Him. St. Paul placed this chapter in the midst of his discussion of spiritual gifts because he wants us to remember that giftedness is not the measure of our spiritual maturity, but love, to become love as Christ is love.

A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another”.



Saints & Feasts

Cosmas and Damianos

1 November

These Saints were from Asia Minor. After the death of their father, their Christ-loving mother Theodota reared them in piety and in all manner of virtue and had them instructed in every science, especially that of medicine. This became their vocation, and they went about healing every illness and malady, bestowing healing freely on both men and beasts alike. Because of this, they are called "Unmercenaries" and thus, having completed the course of their life, they reposed in peace.



Synaxis of Archangel Michael & other Bodiless Powers

8 November

All the Angels, according to the Apostle Paul, are ministering spirits, - sent forth to minister to them who shall be heirs of salvation - (Hebrews 1:14). God sent them as overseers of every nation and people and guides to that which is profitable (Deuteronomy 32:8); and while one Angel is appointed to oversee each nation as a whole, one is also appointed to protect each Christian individually. He commands them to guard those who hope on Him, that nothing should harm them, neither should any evil draw nigh to their dwelling (Psalms 90:10-12). In the Heavens they always behold the face of God, sending up to Him the thrice-holy hymn and interceding with Him on our behalf, seeing they rejoice over one sinner that repents (Matthew 18:10; Luke 15:7).

In a word, they have served God in so many ways for our benefit, that the pages of Holy Scripture are filled with the histories thereof. It is for these reasons that the Orthodox Church, wisely honoring these divine ministers, our protectors and guardians, celebrates today the present Synaxis that is, our coming together in assembly for their common feast to chant their praises, especially for the Archangels Michael and Gabriel, who are mentioned in the Scriptures by name.



The name Michael means "Who is like God?" and name Gabriel means "God is mighty." The number of Angels is not defined in the divine Scriptures, where Daniel says that thousands of thousands ministered before Him, and ten thousands of ten thousands attended upon Him (Daniel 7:10). But all of them are divided into nine orders which are called Thrones, Cherubim, Seraphim, Dominions, Powers, Authorities, Principalities, Archangels, and Angels.

Saint Nektarios

9 November

Saint Nektarios was born in Selyvria of Thrace on October 1, 1846. After putting himself through school in Constantinople he became a monk on Chios in 1876, receiving the monastic name of Lazarus. Because of his virtue, a year later he was ordained deacon, receiving the new name of Nektarios. Nektarios went to Athens to study in 1882. Completing his theological studies in 1885, he went to Alexandria, where he was ordained a priest in 1886 at the Cathedral of Saint Sabbas. In August of the same year, in the Church of Saint Nicholas in Cairo, he was ordained an Archimandrite. Archimandrite Nektarios showed much zeal both for preaching the word of God, and for the beauty of God's house. He greatly beautified the Church of Saint Nicholas in Cairo. Years later, when Nektarios was in Athens, Saint Nicholas appeared to him in a dream, embracing him and telling him he was going to exalt him very high.

In 1889, in the same Church of Saint Nicholas, Nektarios was consecrated Metropolitan of the Pentapolis in eastern Libya, which was under the jurisdiction of Alexandria. This office did not affect his modesty and childlike innocence, but it aroused the envy of lesser men, who slandered him. In 1890, Sophronius relieved Metropolitan Nektarios of his duties; in July of the same year, he commanded Nektarios to leave Egypt.

Without seeking to avenge or even to defend himself, the innocent Metropolitan left for Athens. Because his good name had been soiled, he was unable to find a position worthy of a bishop, and in February of 1891 accepted the position of provincial preacher in Euboea; then, in 1894, he was appointed Dean of the Rizarios Ecclesiastical School in Athens. Through his eloquent sermons, his generous alms deeds despite his own poverty, and the holiness, meekness and fatherly love that were manifest in him, he became a shining light and a spiritual guide to many.

At the request of certain pious women, in 1904 he began the building of his convent of the Holy Trinity on the island of Aegina while still Dean of the Rizarios School. Finding later that his presence there was needed, he took up his residence on Aegina in 1908, where he spent the last years of his life, devoting himself to the direction of his convent and to very intense prayer; he was sometimes seen lifted above the ground while rapt in prayer.

He became the protector of all Aegina, through his prayers, delivering the island from drought, healing the sick and casting out demons. Although he had already worked wonders in life, an innumerable multitude of miracles have been wrought after his repose in 1920 through his holy relics, which for many years remained incorrupt. There is hardly a malady that has not been cured through his prayers; but Saint Nektarios is especially renowned for his healings of cancer for sufferers in all parts of the world.



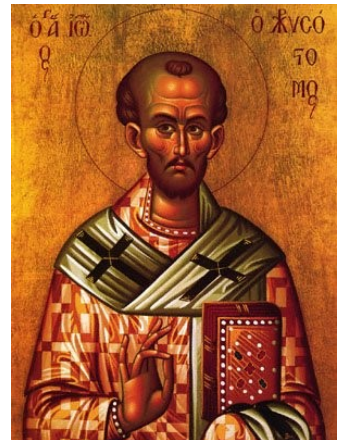
Saint John Chrysostom

13 November

This greatest and most beloved of all Christian orators was born in Antioch in the year 344; his pious parents were Secundus and Anthusa. After his mother was widowed at the age of twenty, she devoted herself to bringing up John and his elder sister in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. John received his literary training under Anthragathius the philosopher, and Libanius the sophist, who was the greatest Greek scholar and rhetorician of his day. Libanius was a pagan. With such a training, and with such gifts as he had by nature, John had before him a brilliant career as a rhetorician. But through the good example of his godly mother Anthusa and of the holy Bishop Meletius of Antioch, by whom he was ordained reader about the year 370, he chose instead to dedicate himself to God.

From the years 374 to 381 he lived the monastic life in the hermitages that were near Antioch. His extreme asceticism undermined his health, compelling him to return to Antioch, where Saint Meletius ordained him deacon about the year 381. Saint Meletius was called to Constantinople later that year to preside over the Second Ecumenical Council, during which he fell asleep in the Lord. In 386 Bishop Flavian ordained John presbyter of the Church of Antioch. Upon his elevation to the priesthood his career as a public preacher began, and his exceptional oratorical gifts were made manifest through his many sermons and commentaries. They are distinguished by their eloquence and the remarkable ease with which rich imagery and scriptural allusions are multiplied; by their depth of insight into the meaning of Scripture and the workings of God's providence; and not least of all, by their earnestness and moral force, which issue from the heart of a blameless and guileless man who lived first what he preached to others. Because of his fame, he was chosen to succeed Saint Nectarios as Patriarch of Constantinople. He was taken away by stealth, to avoid the opposition of the people, and consecrated Patriarch of Constantinople in 398, by Theophilus, Patriarch of Alexandria, who was to prove to be his mortal enemy.

At that time the Emperor of the East was Arcadius, who had had Saint Arsenius the Great as his tutor. Arcadius was a man of weak character, and much under the influence of his wife Eudoxia. The zealous and upright Chrysostom's unsparing censures of the lax morals in the imperial city stung the vain Eudoxia; through Theophilus' plottings and her collaboration, Saint John was banished to Pontus in 403. The people were in an uproar, and the following night an earthquake shook the city; this so frightened the Empress Eudoxia that she begged Arcadius to call Chrysostom back. While his return was triumphant, his reconciliation with the Empress did not last long. When she had a silver statue of herself erected in the forum before the Church of the Holy Wisdom (Saint Sophia) in 403, Saint John thundered against her, and she could not forgive him.



Saint John Chrysostom

Continued..

In June of 404 he was exiled to Cucusus, on the borders of Cilicia and Armenia. From here he exchanged letters with Pope Innocent of Rome, who sent bishops and priests to Constantinople requesting that a council be held. Saint John's enemies, dreading his return, prevailed upon the Emperor and had John taken to a more remote place of banishment called Pityus near the Caucasus. The journey was filled with bitter sufferings for the aged bishop, both because of the harshness of the elements and the cruelty of one of his 310 guards. He did not reach Pityus, but gave up his soul to the Lord near Comana in Pontus, at the chapel of the Martyr Basiliscus, who had appeared to him shortly before, foretelling the day of his death, which came to pass on September 14, 407. His last words were "Glory be to God for all things."

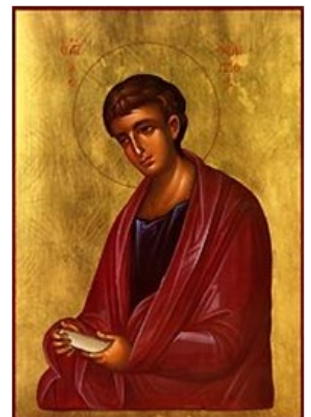
His holy relics were brought from Comana to Constantinople thirty-one years later by the Emperor Theodosius the Younger and Saint Pulcheria his sister, the children of Arcadius and Eudoxia, with fervent supplications that the sin of their parents against him be forgiven.

Saint John was surnamed Chrysostom ("Golden-mouth") because of his eloquence. He made exhaustive commentaries on the divine Scriptures and was the author of more works than any other Church Father, leaving us complete commentaries on the Book of Genesis, the Gospels of Saints Matthew and John, the Acts, and all the Epistles of Saint Paul. His extant works are 1,447 sermons and 240 epistles. Twenty-two teachers of the Church have written homilies of praise in his honor. Besides his feast day, he is celebrated as one of the Three Hierarchs on January 30, together with Saint Basil the Great and Saint Gregory the Theologian.

Saint Philip

14 November

Saint Philip one of the Twelve, was from Bethsaida of Galilee, and was a compatriot of Andrew and Peter. He was instructed in the teachings of the Law and devoted himself to the study of the prophetic books. Therefore, when the Lord Jesus called him to the dignity of apostleship, he immediately sought out and found Nathanael and said to him, "We have found Him of Whom Moses in the Law and the Prophets did write, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph" (John 1.45). Having preached Jesus the God-man throughout many parts of Asia Minor and having suffered many things for His Name's sake, he was finally crucified upside down in Hierapolis of Phrygia.



Advent Fast for the Feast of the Nativity

15 November - 24 December

In the Orthodox Church the Feast of Christmas is called “**The Nativity**”. As with Pascha, the Feast of the Nativity begins with a period of preparation known as **Advent or the Nativity Fast**. It is preceded by a fast corresponding to Lent and lasting for forty days. The fast begins on **November 15**, 40 days prior to the Birth of Christ.

The Nativity Fast is one of four main fast periods throughout the ecclesiastical year. Beginning on November 15 and concluding on December 24, the Nativity Fast gives individuals the opportunity to prepare for the Feast of the Nativity of Our Lord and Savior in the Flesh on December 25. By abstaining from certain food and drink, particularly from meat, fish, dairy products, olive oil, and wine, as well as focusing more deeply on prayer and almsgiving, we can find that the primary aim of fasting is to make us conscious of our dependence upon God.

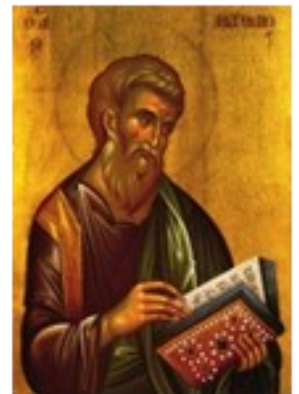
As we go thru the next 40 days, let us reflect on how we can make ourselves better Christians. Let us change our habits for the next 40 days and focus on the true meaning of Thanksgiving and Christmas. Beginning with Christmas Day, the Feast of the Nativity is celebrated for twelve days of fast-free (except on January 5), culminating in the Feast of Epiphany on January 6.



Saint Matthew

16 November

Saint Matthew who was also called Levi, was the son of Alphaeus and had Galilee as his homeland. A publican before being called by Christ, he became one of the Twelve Apostles, and an Evangelist. While still in Palestine, he wrote his Gospel first in Hebrew, being also the first of all to write the Gospel. When he is depicted in icons, there is portrayed next to him the likeness of a man, one of the symbolic living creatures mentioned by Ezekiel (1.10), which, as Saint Irenaeus writes, is a symbol of our Savior's Incarnation.



Gregory the Wonderworker

17 November

Saint Gregory was born in Neocaesarea of Pontus to parents who were not Christians. He studied in Athens, in Alexandria, in Beirut, and finally for five years in Caesarea of Palestine under Origen, by whom he was also instructed in the Faith of Christ. Then, in the year 240, he became bishop of his own city, wherein he found only seventeen Christians. By the time the Saint reposed about the year 265, there were only seventeen unbelievers left there. Virtually the whole duration of his episcopacy was a time of continual, marvellous wonders worked by him. Because of this, he received the surname "Wonderworker"; even the enemies of the truth called him a second Moses.



The Entrance of the Theotokos into the Temple

21 November

According to the tradition of the Church, the Theotokos was brought to the Temple at three years of age, where she was consecrated to God and spent her days until she was fourteen or fifteen years old; and then, as a mature maiden, by the common counsel of the priests (since her parents had reposed some three years before), she was betrothed to Joseph.



Saint Katherine

25 November

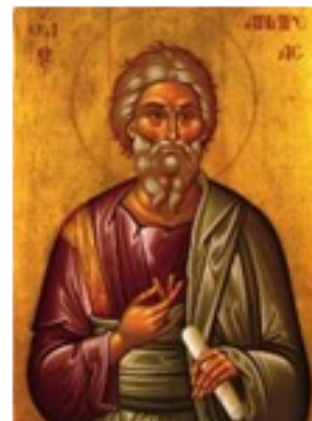
Saint Katherine who was from Alexandria, was the daughter of Constatas. She was an exceedingly beautiful maiden, most chaste and illustrious in wealth, lineage, and learning. By her steadfast understanding, she utterly vanquished the passionate and unbridled soul of Maximinus, the tyrant of Alexandria; and by her eloquence, she stopped the mouths of the so-called philosophers who had been gathered to dispute with her. She was crowned with the crown of martyrdom in the year 305. Her holy relics were taken by Angels to the holy mountain of Sinai, where they were discovered many years later; the famous monastery of Saint Katherine was originally dedicated to the Holy Transfiguration of the Lord and the Burning Bush, but later was dedicated to Saint Katherine. According to the ancient usage, Saints Katherine and Mercurius were celebrated on the 24th of this month, whereas the holy Hieromartyrs Clement of Rome and Peter of Alexandria were celebrated on the 25th. The dates of the feasts of these Saints were interchanged at the request of the Church and Monastery of Mount Sinai, so that the festival of Saint Katherine, their patron, might be celebrated more festively together with the Apodosis of the Feast of the Entry of the Theotokos.



Saint Andrew

30 November

Saint Andrew was from Bethsaida of Galilee; he was the son of Jonas and the brother of Peter, the chief of the Apostles. He had first been a disciple of John the Baptist; afterwards, on hearing the Baptist's witness concerning Jesus, when he pointed Him out with his finger and said, "*Behold the Lamb of God, Which taketh away the sin of the world.*" (Book of John 1:29,36), he straightway followed Christ, and became His first disciple; wherefore he is called the First-called of the Apostles. After the Ascension of the Saviour, he preached in various lands; and having suffered many things for His Name's sake, he died in Patras of Achaia, where he was crucified on a cross in the shape of an "X," the first letter of "Christ" in Greek; this cross is also the symbol of Saint Andrew.



Orthodox Calendar

November 2024

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1  <i>Cosmas & Damianos</i>	2
3 5th Sunday of Luke 8:45am Orthros 10am Divine Liturgy 12pm Dance Practice Indoor & Live-stream	4 5pm Dance Practice 7pm Benefit Mtg.	5 6:30pm Dance Practice	6  7pm Philopotochos Union Station	7 7pm Bowling	8  Synaxis of Archangels Michael & Gabriel	9 Saint Nektarios 9am Orthros 10am Divine Liturgy
10 8th Sunday of Luke 8:45am Orthros 10am Divine Liturgy 12pm Dance Practice 12pm GOYA Indoor & Live-stream	11 5pm Dance Practice	12 10:30am VIPs 6:30pm Dance Practice 7pm Par. Council	13  St. John Chrysostom 7pm Philopotochos Board Mtg	14 Philip the Apostle 7pm Bowling	15  Nativity Fast Begins	16  Mathew the Apostle
17  9th Sunday of Luke Gregory the Wonderworker 8:45am Orthros 10am Divine Liturgy General Assembly 12pm Dance Practice Indoor & Live-stream	18  5pm Dance Practice 6:30pm Dance Practice	19  6:30pm Dance Practice	20 	21  Entrance of the Theotokos into the Temple 9am Orthros 10am Divine Liturgy 7pm Bowling	22 	23 
24  13th Sunday of Luke 8:45am Orthros 10am Divine Liturgy 12pm Dance Practice Indoor & Live-stream	25  Saint Katherine 5pm Dance Practice 6:30pm Dance Practice	26  GOYA Friend - giving 6:30pm Dance Practice	27 	28  Thanksgiving	29 	30  Saint Andrew the first-called 9am Orthros 10am Divine Liturgy
		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



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

We're on the Web!

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.

A little girl wanted to know what the United States looked like. Her Dad tore a map of the USA from a magazine and then cut it in into small pieces. He told her to go to her room and see if she can put it together. After some minutes she returned and handed the map correctly fitted and taped together. The dad was surprised and asked how she had finished so quickly. She said on the other side was a picture of Jesus and when I put him back then our country just came together..