



*Rev. Protopresbyter Peter Stratos
Presiding Priest*

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Church office hours: Monday-Friday: 9:00am to 3:00pm (Closed Saturday & Sunday)
For pastoral emergencies only please call 626-855-3640

DECEMBER 22, 2024
SUNDAY BEFORE NATIVITY

*Anastasia the Great Martyr
Chrysogonos the Martyr*

ORTHROS ~ 8:45 A.M.

[\(ORTHROS SERVICE TEXT CLICK HERE\)](#)

MEMORIAL SERVICE ~ 9:45 A.M.

Pantele Xanthos – 9 years

DIVINE LITURGY ~ 10:00 A.M.

[\(LITURGY SERVICE TEXT CLICK HERE\)](#)



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WE WILL CONTINUE TO BROADCAST ALL SERVICES VIA LIVE-STREAM
(CLICK THE LINKS BELOW):

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RESURRECTIONAL APOLYTIKION. MODE 1. (Before the entrance)

The stone having been sealed by the Pharisees and chief priests, * and Your all-immaculate body being guarded by soldiers, * You rose on the third day, O Lord and Savior, granting life unto the world. * Then the powers of the heavens cried out to You, O Giver of Life, and shouted, * “Glory to Your resurrection, O Christ! * Glory to Your eternal rule! * Glory to Your plan for saving us, only benevolent God!”

Τοῦ λίθου σφραγισθέντος ὑπὸ τῶν Ἰουδαίων, καὶ στρατιωτῶν φυλασσόντων τὸ ἄχραντόν σου σῶμα, ἀνέστης τριήμερος Σωτήρ, δωρούμενος τῷ κόσμῳ τὴν ζωὴν. Διὰ τοῦτο αἱ Δυνάμεις τῶν οὐρανῶν ἐβόων σοι Ζωοδότα· Δόξα τῇ ἀναστάσει σου Χριστέ, δόξα τῇ βασιλείᾳ σου, δόξα τῇ οἰκονομίᾳ σου, μόνε Φιλάνθρωπε.

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FOR THE FOREFEAST. MODE 4.

O Bethlehem, prepare, Eden is opened unto all. * And be ready, Ephrata, for the Tree of life * has in the grotto blossomed forth from the Virgin. * Indeed her womb is shown to be spiritually * a Paradise, in which is found the God-planted Tree. * And if we eat from it we shall live, and shall not die, as did Adam of old. * Christ is born, so that He might raise up * the formerly fallen image.

Ἐτοιμάζου Βηθλεέμ, ἠνοικταὶ πᾶσιν ἡ Ἐδέμ. Εὐτρεπίζου Ἐφραθᾶ, ὅτι τὸ ξύλον τῆς ζωῆς, ἐν τῷ Σπηλαίῳ ἐξήνθησεν ἐκ τῆς Παρθένου. Παράδεισος καὶ γάρ, ἡ ἐκείνης γαστήρ, ἐδείχθη νοητός, ἐν ᾧ τὸ θεῖον φυτόν, ἐξ οὗ φαγόντες ζήσομεν, οὐχὶ δὲ ὡς ὁ Ἀδάμ τεθνηξόμεθα. Χριστὸς γεννᾶται, τὴν πρὶν πεσοῦσαν, ἀναστήσων εἰκόνα.

FOR THE FATHERS. MODE 2.

Magnificent are the accomplishments of faith! The holy Three Servants greatly rejoiced, as they stood in the fountain of fire, as if beside the still waters; and the Prophet Daniel appeared to be a shepherd of lions, as if they were sheep. At their entreaties, O Christ God, save our souls.

Μεγάλα τὰ τῆς πίστεως κατορθώματα! Ἐν τῇ πηγῇ τῆς φλογός, ὡς ἐπὶ ὕδατος ἀναπαύσεως, οἱ ἅγιοι Τρεῖς Παῖδες ἠγάλλοντο, καὶ ὁ προφήτης Δανιήλ, λεόντων ποιμὴν, ὡς προβάτων ἐδείκνυτο. Ταῖς αὐτῶν ἰκεσίας Χριστέ ὁ Θεός, σῶσον τὰς ψυχὰς ἡμῶν.

MEMORIAL HYMN. MODE PLAGAL 4.

Remember, O Lord, as You are good, Your servant, and forgive every sin he has committed in this life. For no one is sinless except You, Who have power to grant rest to those who have fallen asleep.

Μνήσθητι, Κύριε, ὡς ἀγαθὸς τοῦ δούλου σου, καὶ ὅσα ἐν βίῳ ἡμαρτεν συγχώρησον· οὐδεὶς γὰρ ἀναμάρτητος, εἰ μὴ σὺ ὁ δυνάμενος, καὶ τῷ μεταστάντι δοῦναι τὴν ἀνάπαυσιν.

APOLYTIKION OF ST. ANTHONY THE GREAT. MODE 4

Emulating the ways of Elias the Zealot, and following the straight paths of the Baptist, O Father Anthony, you made the wilderness a city, and by your prayers Supported the entire world. Therefore, intercede with Christ our God, that our souls be saved.

Τὸν ζηλωτὴν Ἡλίαν τοῖς τρόποις μιμούμενος, τῷ Βαπτιστῇ εὐθείαις ταῖς τρίβοις ἐπόμενος, Πάτερ Ἀντώνιε, τῆς ἐρήμου γέγονας οἰκιστής, καὶ τὴν οἰκουμένην ἐστήριξας εὐχαῖς σου· διὸ πρέσβευε Χριστῷ τῷ Θεῷ σωθῆναι τὰς ψυχὰς ἡμῶν.

KONTAKION. MODE 3.

On this day the Virgin Maid * goes to the grotto to give birth * to the pre-eternal Word * in an ineffable manner. * Dance for joy, all the inhabited earth, on hearing. * Glorify along with Angels and with the shepherds * Him who willed that He appear as * a newborn Child, * the preeternal God.

Ἡ Παρθένος σήμερον, τὸν προαιώνιον Λόγον, ἐν Σπηλαίῳ ἔρχεται, ἀποτεκεῖν ἀπορρήτως. Χόρευε ἢ οἰκουμένη ἀκουτισθεῖσα, δόξασον μετὰ Ἀγγέλων καὶ τῶν Ποιμένων, βουληθέντα ἐποφθῆναι, Παιδίον νέον, τὸν πρὸ αἰώνων Θεόν.

EPISTLE READING

Prokeimenon. Mode 4

Daniel 3.26,27

Blessed are you, O Lord, the God of our fathers.

Verse: For you are just in all you have done.

St. Paul's Letter to the Hebrews 11:9-10; 32-40

BRETHREN, by faith Abraham sojourned in the land of promise, as in a foreign land, living in tents with Isaac and Jacob, heirs with him of the same promise. For he looked forward to the city which has foundation, whose builder and maker is God.

And what more shall I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets - who through faith conquered kingdoms, enforced justice, received promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched raging fire, escaped the edge of the sword, won strength out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight. Women received their dead by resurrection. Some were tortured, refusing to accept release, that they might rise again to a better life. Others suffered mocking and scourging, and even chains and imprisonment. They were stoned, they were sawn in two, they were tempted, they were killed with the sword; they went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, afflicted, ill-treated - of whom the world was not worthy - wandering over deserts and mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth.

And all these, though well attested by their faith, did not receive what was promised, since God had foreseen something better for us, that apart from us they should not be made perfect.



GOSPEL READING

The Gospel According to Matthew 1:1-25

The book of the Genealogy of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham.

Abraham was the father of Isaac, and Isaac the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers, and Judah the father of Perez and Zerah by Tamar, and Perez the father of Hezron, and Hezron the father of Aram, and Aram the father of Amminadab, and Amminadab the father of Nahshon, and Nahshon the father of Salmon, and Salmon the father of Boaz by Rahab, and Boaz the father of Obed by Ruth, and Obed the father of Jesse, and Jesse the father of David the king.

And David was the father of Solomon by the wife of Uriah, and Solomon the father of Rehoboam, and Rehoboam the father of Abijah, and Abijah the father of Asa, and Asa the father of Jehoshaphat, and Jehoshaphat the father of Joram, and Joram the father of Uzziah, and Uzziah the father of Jotham, and Jotham the father of Ahaz, and Ahaz the father of Hezekiah, and Hezekiah the father of Manasseh, and Manasseh the father of Amon, and Amon the father of Josiah, and Josiah the father of Jechoniah and his brothers, at the time of the deportation to Babylon.

And after the deportation to Babylon: Jechoniah was the father of Salathiel, and Salathiel the father of Zerubbabel, and Zerubbabel the father of Abiud, and Abiud the father of Eliakim, and Eliakim the father of Azor, and Azor the father of Zadok, and Zadok the father of Achim, and Achim the father of Eliud, and Eliud the father of Eleazar, and Eleazar the father of Matthan, and Matthan the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom Jesus was born, who is called Christ.

So all the generations from Abraham to David were fourteen generations, and from David to the deportation to Babylon fourteen generations, and from the deportation to Babylon to the Christ fourteen generations.

Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child of the Holy Spirit; and her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. But as he considered this, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit; she will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: "Behold, a virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and his name shall be called Emmanuel" (which means, God with us). When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took his wife, but knew her not until she had borne a son; and he called his name Jesus.



METROPOLIS ANNOUNCEMENTS

Family Winter Camp

Families are invited to join us for our Metropolis Family Winter Camp at Saint Nicholas Ranch & Retreat Center in Dunlap, CA, from Friday, December 27 – Monday, December 30, 2024. Let's celebrate the family this Nativity season and gather for a wonderful four-day camp, packed with fun and adventure while growing closer to Christ and to each other! The Metropolis Winter Family Camp is open to the entire family! More information at www.gosfyouth.org/family

Young Adult Winter Retreat

Registration is open for the 18th Annual Metropolis Young Adult Winter Retreat in Lake Tahoe, from Friday, January 17 – Monday, January 20, 2025. The theme for this gathering is “Be Still and Know: Listening for God’s still small voice” and will be led by Rev. Father James Kumarelas, Proistamenos from Saint Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church in San Jose, CA. Join us for this beautiful retreat, located on a private retreat center on the shore of Lake Tahoe with spectacular views, incredible food, and awesome accommodations! Details and registration online at: www.gosfyouth.org/youngadults

Greek Village Staff Applications

Our Greek Village is returning in June 2025. We are seeking those who have a passion for Hellenic culture and Orthodox faith, a commitment to youth ministry, and a desire to make a lasting impact. Available positions include: Program Director, Greek Language Instructors, Counselors, Program Staff and Lifeguards. Information and applications online at: www.ourgreekvillage.com/careers

Summer Camp Staff Applications

Do you want to make a positive difference in the lives of youth while gaining valuable leadership and teamwork experience? Apply to be part of the Summer Camp Staff team at Saint Nicholas Ranch and Retreat Center. We're hiring for a variety of roles including: Cabin Counselors, Program Staff, Photographers, Lifeguards and Medical Staff. Visit www.gosfyouth.org for application and details.

PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

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.**

USHERS:

Louie Kades, Nikole Zoumberakis, Perry Vidalakis



Today's coffee hour fellowship will be hosted by Lisa and Jim Xanthos
in memory of their father Pantele Xanthos.

**Philoptochos will pass the second tray TODAY, December 22,
to benefit IOCC**

**Divine Services for the Months of December 2024
and January 2025**

(saint-anthonys.org/calendar):

DECEMBER 2024

Sunday, Dec. 22	SUNDAY BEFORE THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD Orthros8:45 a.m. Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom..... 10:00 a.m.
Tuesday, Dec. 24	THE FOREFEAST OF THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD Vespereal Liturgy of St. Basil..... 9:00 a.m.
Wednesday, Dec. 25	THE FEAST OF THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD Orthros..... 9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom..... 10:00 a.m.
Sunday, Dec. 29	SUNDAY BEFORE THEOPHANY Orthros.....8:45 a.m. Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom..... 10:00 a.m.

JANUARY 2025

Sunday, Jan. 5	THE FOREFEAST OF THE EPIPHANY (THEOPHANY) OF CHRIST AGHIASMOS (GREAT BLESSING OF THE WATERS) Orthros.....8:45a.m. Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom..... 10:00 a.m.
Monday, Jan. 6	THE FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY (THEOPHANY) OF CHRIST AGHIASMOS (GREAT BLESSING OF THE WATERS) Orthros..... 9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy of St. Basil 10:00 a.m.

Tuesday, Jan. 7	SYNAXIS OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST Orthros..... 9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.
Sunday, Jan. 12	Orthros..... 8:45 a.m. Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom..... 10:00 a.m. VASILOPITA after Services hosted by Philoptochos.
Thursday, Jan. 16	EVE OF THE FEAST OF ST. ANTHONY Great Vesper Service w/ Artoklasia 6:00 p.m. Dinner will follow, hosted by Philoptochos.
Friday, Jan. 17	FEAST OF ST. ANTHONY Orthros..... 9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.

Sunday School Fellowship Ministry

All children ages 4 (by 12/31) through high school seniors are welcome in our program. Children under the age of four can join the Little Lambs parent participation class. Sunday School begins after Holy Communion and ends by 12:00 pm.

No class on 12/29 and 1/5.

News From Our Greek Dance Program:

The Greek Dance School Would Like to Say a Huge Thank You to Everyone Who Supported Our First Frappe Fundraiser. It Was a Great Success!

Also, Thank You to Everyone Who Participated in This Year Greek Dance Diakonia (Service) Project. The Greek Dance School with The Help of The Community Collected 30 Gifts for Children and Young Adults for The Union Station Homeless Services Holiday Drive Here in Pasadena.

NOTE:

The Church office will be closed from December 23 to December 27, 2024, for Christmas week.



WELCOME!



We hope you enjoy your time with us today and that your worship experience is inspirational and uplifting.

Please note that *only baptized and/or Chrismated Orthodox Christians may partake of the Sacrament of Holy Communion*. At the end of the Divine Liturgy, you are welcome to come and receive the *Antidoron* (blessed bread) from the priest.

Contact our office at 626-449-6943 or office@saint-anthonys.org to receive more information about our parish or the Orthodox Christian faith.

The deadline for submitting information for the Sunday Bulletin is every Wednesday. please send it to office@saint-anthonys.org

Anastasia the Great Martyr

December 22, 2024

This Saint, who was from Rome, was a most comely, wealthy, and virtuous maiden, the daughter of Praepextatus and Fausta. It was her mother who instructed her in the Faith of Christ. The Saint was joined to a man named Publius Patricius, who was prodigal in life and impious in disposition, but she was widowed after a short time. Henceforth, she went about secretly to the dwellings of the poor and the prisons where the Martyrs of Christ were, and brought them whatever was needed for their daily subsistence. She washed their wounds and loosed them from their fetters, and consoled them in their anguish. Also, because the Saint, through her intercessions, has healed many from the ill effects of spells, potions, poisons, and other harmful substances, she has received the name "Deliverer from Potions." Since the fame of her deeds had spread about, she was arrested by Diocletian's minions, and after enduring many torments she was put to death by fire in the year 290.

Reminder:

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

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