



*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 29, 2024**

**SUNDAY AFTER NATIVITY**

*14,000 infants (Holy Innocents)*

*Righteous Marcellus*

**ORTHROS ~ 8:45 A.M.**

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

**MEMORIAL SERVICE ~ 9:45 A.M.**

*Spiros Vagenas – 40 days*

*Georgia Aspiotes – 40 days*

**DIVINE LITURGY ~ 10:00 A.M.**

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



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### **APOLYTIKION OF THE FEAST. MODE 4.** (Before the entrance)

Your nativity, O Christ our God, has caused the light of knowledge to rise upon the world. For therein the worshippers of the stars were by a star instructed to worship You, the Sun of Righteousness, and to know You as Orient from on high. Glory to You, O Lord.

Ἡ Γέννησίς σου Χριστέ ὁ Θεὸς ἡμῶν, ἀπέτειλε τῷ κόσμῳ, τὸ φῶς τὸ τῆς γνώσεως· ἐν αὐτῇ γὰρ οἱ τοῖς ἄστροις λατρεύοντες, ὑπὸ ἀστέρος ἐδιδάσκοντο, σὲ προσκυνεῖν, τὸν Ἥλιον τῆς δικαιοσύνης, καὶ σὲ γινώσκειν ἐξ ὕψους ἀνατολήν. Κύριε δόξα σοι.

### **RESURRECTIONAL APOLYTIKION. MODE 2.** (After the entrance)

When You descended unto Death, O Lord, You who are immortal Life put Hades to death, by the lightning of Your divinity. And when You raised the dead from the netherworld, all the hosts of heaven sang aloud to You, “O Christ God, Giver of life, glory to You!”

Ὅτε κατήλθες πρὸς τὸν θάνατον, ἡ ζωὴ ἢ ἀθάνατος, τότε τὸν ἄδην ἐνέκρωσας, τῇ ἀστραπῇ τῆς θεότητος· ὅτε δὲ καὶ τοὺς τεθνεῶτας, ἐκ τῶν καταχθονίων ἀνέστησας, πᾶσαι αἱ δυνάμεις τῶν ἐπουρανίων ἐκραύγαζον· Ζωοδότα Χριστέ, ὁ Θεὸς ἡμῶν δόξα σοι.

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## **FOR THE ANCESTORS OF GOD. MODE 2.**

Annunciate the miracles to David the ancestor of God, O Joseph. You saw the Virgin pregnant. You glorified with the shepherds. You worshipped with the Magi. And you were warned by an Angel. Entreat Christ God to save our souls.

Εὐαγγελίζου Ἰωσήφ, τῷ Δαυΐδ τὰ θαύματα τῷ Θεοπάτορι· Παρθένον εἶδες κυοφορήσασαν, μετὰ Μάγων προσεκύνησας, μετὰ Ποιμένων ἐδοξολόγησας, δι' Ἀγγέλου χρηματισθείς. Ἰκέτευε Χριστὸν τὸν Θεόν, σωθῆναι τὰς ψυχὰς ἡμῶν.

## ***MEMORIAL HYMN. MODE PLAGAL 4.***

Remember, O Lord, as You are good, Your servants, and forgive every sin they have 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 τῶν δούλων σου, καὶ ὅσα ἐν βίῳ ἡμαρτον συγχώρησον· οὐδεὶς γὰρ ἀναμάρτητος, εἰ μὴ σὺ ὁ δυνάμενος, καὶ τοῖς μεταστᾶσι 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 Ἠλίαν 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 αἰῶνων Θεόν.

## ***EPISTLE READING***

**Prokeimenon. Mode 4**

**Psalm 67.35,26**

**God is wonderful among his saints.**

**Verse: Bless God in the congregations.**

### **St. Paul's Letter to the Galatians 1:11-19**

Brethren, I would have you know that the gospel which was preached by me is not man's gospel. For I did not receive it from man, nor was I taught it, but it came through a revelation of Jesus Christ. For you have heard of my former life in Judaism, how I persecuted the church of God violently and tried to destroy it; and I advanced in Judaism beyond many of my own age among my people, so extremely zealous was I for the traditions of my fathers. But when he who had set me apart before I was born, and had called me through his grace, was pleased to reveal his Son to me, in order that I might preach him among the Gentiles, I did not confer with flesh and blood, nor did I go up to Jerusalem to those who were apostles before me, but I went away into Arabia; and again I returned to Damascus. Then after three years I went up to Jerusalem to visit Cephas, and remained with him fifteen days. But I saw none of the other apostles except James the Lord's brother.



# *GOSPEL READING*

## **The Gospel According to Matthew 2:13-23**

When the wise men departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Rise, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there till I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him." And he rose and took the child and his mother by night, and departed to Egypt, and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet, "Out of Egypt have I called my son."

Then Herod, when he saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, was in a furious rage, and he sent and killed all the male children in Bethlehem and in all that region who were two years old or under, according to the time which he had ascertained from the wise men. Then was fulfilled what was spoken by the prophet Jeremiah: "A voice was heard in Ramah, wailing and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be consoled, because they were no more." But when Herod died, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, saying, "Rise, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who sought the child's life are dead." And he rose and took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. But when he heard that Archelaos reigned over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there, and being warned in a dream he withdrew to the district of Galilee. And he went and dwelt in a city called Nazareth, that what was spoken by the prophets might be fulfilled, "He shall be called a Nazarene."



## METROPOLIS ANNOUNCEMENTS

### **Young Adult Winter Retreat**

Registration is open for the 18<sup>th</sup> 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](http://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](http://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](http://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:**

*Pete Gallanis, Pete Katsafados, Tashia Vagenas*



**Today's coffee hour fellowship will be hosted by** Diana Vagenas and Family in memory of her husband Spiros Vagenas.

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

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

**DECEMBER 2024**

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..... 8:45 a.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.**

***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](mailto:office@saint-anthonys.org) to receive more information about our parish or the Orthodox Christian faith.

# **14,000 infants (Holy Innocents) slain by Herod in Bethlehem**

*December 29, 2024*

The infant-slaying Herod mentioned here is the same one that ruled at the time of Christ's Nativity. In those days, certain Magi, who were wise and noble men, perhaps even kings, set forth from the East, and came to Jerusalem, seeking the King of the Jews, Who had been born; and they said that in the East, where their homeland was, an unusual and strange star had appeared two years before, which, according to an ancient oracle (Num 24:17), was to signify the birth of some great king of the Jews. "For we have seen His star in the east," they said, "and have come to worship Him" (Matt. 2:2). Hearing these things, Herod was troubled, and the whole city together with him. Then, having inquired and been informed by the high priests and scribes of the people that, according to the prophecies, Christ was to be born in Bethlehem, he sent the Magi thither and ordered them that, when they would find the Child, to inform him, so that he also - as he affirmed - might go and worship Him. But the Magi, after they had worshipped, departed by another way to their own country by a divine command. Then Herod was wroth and sent men to slay all the infants of Bethlehem and the parts round about, from two years old and under, thinking that with them he would also certainly slay the King Who had been born. But this vain man who fought against God was mocked, since Jesus the Child, with Mary His Mother, under the protection of Joseph the Betrothed, fled into Egypt at the command of an Angel. As for those innocent infants, they became the first Martyrs slain in behalf of Christ. But their blood-thirsty executioner, the persecutor of Christ, came down with dropsy after a short time, with his members rotting and being eaten by worms, and he ended his life in a most wretched manner.

## **Our Righteous Father Marcellus, Abbot of the Monastery of the Unsleeping Ones**

*December 29, 2024*

Saint Marcellus, who was from the city of Apamea in Syria, was born of renowned parents. Adorned with virtue and learning, he succeeded Saint Alexander to the abbacy of the Monastery of the Unsleeping about the year 460. This monastery was so named because the monks there were divided into three ranks, and took turns in succession for the execution of the sacred services both day and night, and thus ceaselessly sent up praise to God, without any lapse. The author of this practice was the aforementioned Alexander. As the biographer of both these Saints writes: "Later, a venerable monastery was established near the mouth of Pontus - that is, the place where the Black Sea tracts into the Bosphorus - and he introduced a rule that, though new, was superior to any found elsewhere; that is, that henceforth they should never be any cessation in the hymnody offered to God, but that through an unbroken succession of those that served in turn, there should be achieved this continuous and unceasing glorification of our Master."

**The deadline for submitting information for the Sunday Bulletin is every Wednesday. please send it to [office@saint-anthonys.org](mailto:office@saint-anthonys.org)**

**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.**