

# The Voice of Saint Anthony

## January 2025

### 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**

**Christ is Born !**  
**Glorify Him !**

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**Deadline for February Newsletter is Saturday, 25 January**

**Please send to: [newsletter\\_church@aol.com](mailto:newsletter_church@aol.com)**

## Message from Father Peter

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

On New Year's Day we celebrate the **feast day of St. Basil the Great**, who was a renowned Archbishop of Caesarea (Cappadocia) in the 4th Century. He was born into a pious, saintly family around the year 330 AD. His grandmother was St. Marina the Elder, his brother St. Gregory of Nyssa, and his sister was St. Marina the Younger. His other siblings are also considered saints of the Church. St. Basil was a brilliant student, studying in Constantinople and later in Athens with his friend Gregory of Nazianzus (who would also become a saint: Gregory the Theologian). After Basil was baptized a Christian when he was approximately 27 years old, he devoted his entire remaining life to the Church. Basil wrote many articles and books explaining the Christian faith. His teachings are still relevant and used today.

St Basil was a powerful advocate and supporter of the poor, establishing soup kitchens, hospitals, and orphanages. He organized the first communal monasteries and wrote the rules for monks and nuns to live by and follow. He wrote many prayers for use in worship services and a text for the Divine Liturgy. The Orthodox Church continues to celebrate the Liturgy of St. Basil the Great on ten occasions each year. He fell asleep in the Lord on January 1, 379.

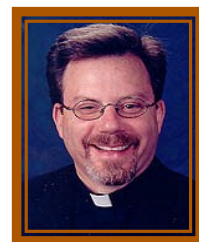
Vasilopita for the New Year:

One of the stories attributed to St. Basil gives Orthodox Christians the tradition of the Vasilopita, which is celebrated for the feast of St. Basil and at other times during the month of January. According to the story, the people of Caesarea gave St. Basil their treasures to safeguard. Once the danger had passed, there was doubt and disagreement about what exactly belonged to whom. St. Basil ordered that loaves of bread be baked and that the treasures be placed inside the bread. When the loaves were distributed to the residents of the city, a miracle occurred. Each person received exactly what he or she had given to St. Basil to protect. From that time forward, Orthodox Christians have baked a Vasilopita loaf with a coin inside. As the pita or bread is cut, the person who receives the piece with the coin is blessed and promised to experience a good and fortunate year.

In honor of this beautiful tradition our community will gather directly following the Divine Liturgy on Sunday January 12 for the cutting of the Vasilopita. We will offer prayers and petitions for the New Year (2025). We will pray as a community for health and peace in the world. There will be a Vasilopita at each table along with cheese, olives and clementines provided and hosted by our Philoptochos ladies. There will be one large pita that will be cut and distributed to our ministry leaders. It is an afternoon of great joy and happiness. I invite you all to this beautiful St. Anthony tradition.

Praying for a blessed New Year,

Fr. Peter



**JANUARY 2025**

Sunday, Jan. 5	THE FOREFEAST OF THE EPIPHANY (THEOPHANY) OF CHRIST AGHIASMOS (GREAT BLESSING OF THE WATERS) Orthros.....8:45a  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.

**PRAY FOR  
PEACE**





2025 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)

2025

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, 2025

Your card must be on file for you to be considered in ‘Good Standing’

In response to God’s blessings, I/we pledge a 2025 offering of:

My Total Commitment for 2025: \$\_\_\_\_\_

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](http://saint-anthonys.churchgiving.com)

\*To fully cover our operating expenses, our goal is to have our average stewardship be \$2,000 per family or above



# Commitment of Time and Talents



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

## Council of Ministries

- |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Acolytes              | <input type="checkbox"/> Kouvouklion                         | <input type="checkbox"/> Stewardship Committee |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bible Studies         | <input type="checkbox"/> Little Lambs                        | <input type="checkbox"/> Studies in the Faith  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bookstore             | <input type="checkbox"/> Myrrh Bearers                       | <input type="checkbox"/> Sunday School         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> GOYA Basketball       | <input type="checkbox"/> OCF (Orthodox Christian Fellowship) | <input type="checkbox"/> Vacation Bible School |
| <input type="checkbox"/> GOYA/Jr. GOYA         | <input type="checkbox"/> Office Volunteers                   | <input type="checkbox"/> VIPs                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Greek Dance           | <input type="checkbox"/> St. John Chrysostom                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Volleyball Tournament |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Greek Language School | <input type="checkbox"/> Oratorical Festival                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Welcoming Committee   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> JOY/HOPE              |  | <input type="checkbox"/> Other                 |

## Parish Events

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

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

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

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

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

# Ministries



## 2025 PARISH COUNCIL

Perry Vidalakis  
Pete Gallanis  
Joe Akrotirianakis  
Tashia Vagenas  
Christian Balas  
Tony Christopoulos

Tom Grafos  
Louie Kades  
Pete Katsafados  
Jonathan Nassos  
Jim Pappas  
Kosta Papavasiliou  
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:  
Krystina Vagenas

PK, TK, :  
Irene Albeck, Larissa Maslen, Jenni Nassos

Kindergarten, First:  
Elena Tsianos, Theoni Vagenas

Second, Third:  
Sophia Syrengelas, Andrianna Lareau

Fourth, & Fifth:  
Mary Udria & Athena Serban

Middle School:  
Polly Vagenas & Chris Syrengelas

High School:  
Presvytera Aida Stratos

**PHILOPTOCHOS SOCIETY**



**Executive Board**

**President**

Judith Din

**1<sup>st</sup> Vice President**

Jeanne Karaionnoglou

**2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President**

Helen Skandale and Lisa Xanthos

**Corresponding Secretary**

Mary Udria and Irene Albeck

**Recording Secretary**

Mary Dewar

**Treasurer**

Connie Becker

**Assistant Treasurer**

Maria Grover

**Advisor**

Maria Kypreos

**Spiritual Advisor**

Father Peter Stratos

**Board of Directors**

**Beautification**

Maria Kokoris

Maria Hronas

**Community Outreach**

Fontaine Malisos

Liz Skandale

**Fellowship**

Tanya Christodoulelis

Maria Kypreos

**Publicity**

Christine Pappas

**Scholarship**

Presbytera Aida Statros and Irene Albeck

**Social Media/Webmaster**

Sophia Syrengelas

**Sunshine and Visitation**

Fontaine Malisos

Liz Skandale

**Union Station**

Irene Albeck

**Operation Classroom**

Nicolette Fuerst and Jennifer Webster

**ADDITIONAL MINISTRIES**

Acolytes

Pres Aida Stratos

Bible Study

Fr. Peter Stratos

Bookstore

Christiana Kontaxis  
Michael Kontaxis

Golf Tournament

Jimmy Christos

GOYA

Anthia Drulias Lucas  
Maria Katsas Gittings  
Polly Vagenas

GOYA Basketball

Pana Gelt

GOYA Volleyball

Anthia Lucas  
Pana Gelt

Greek Dance Groups

Nikole Zoumberakis

Greek Festival

Christian Balas

Greek Language

Anastasia McClain

JOY/HOPE

Irene Albeck

Myrrh Bearers

Irene Albeck

Oratorical Festival

Pres Aida Stratos

Prayer Shawls

Maria Kypreos

Psalter Group

Fr. Peter Stratos

Vacation Bible School

Sophia Syrengelas  
Mary Udria

VIPs

Irene Albeck



## Parish Council

### 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.







"Let the  
little children  
come to me ...."

MATTHEW 19:14

No Sunday School classes – Sunday, January 5th

## Youth & Young Adults



Happy New Year!

We hope everyone had a blessed Christmas!

Some GOYA members helped volunteer at the Annual Philoptochos Fashion Show! Thank you to our volunteers and congratulations on a fantastic event!





The GOYAnS have designed their sweatshirts and pants. Look for ordering opportunities soon. Colors will be navy blue with white lettering and our theme is Neolea.

GOYA Basketball starts in January! Please come to church to sign up and pick up your uniform on January 12<sup>th</sup>, right after church in the hall. GOYA meeting will be after basketball sign ups at 12:30pm. Lunch will be provided. Bring your \$25 dues! Cash or check made out to St. Anthony GOYA.

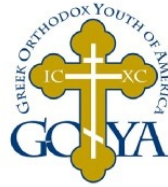
Check out our Instagram account at: @stanthonysgoya

If your child has not been signed up for GOYA in the past, please hit this QR code to do so:



GOYA Sign up

Any questions, please email us at: [goya@saint-anthonys.org](mailto:goya@saint-anthonys.org)



### St. Anthony G.O.Y.A. Basketball

The Greek Orthodox Basketball League will begin its 51<sup>st</sup> season **Sunday, February 23, 2025.**

St. Anthony is looking to sign up boys and girls in the following age divisions:

Junior Girls 12-15 Years of age

Junior Boys 12-15 Years of age

Senior Girls 16-21 Years of age

Senior Boys 16-19 Years of age

We are especially looking for Junior Boys. Anyone interested in participating please contact either Pana Gelt or Anthia Lucas. Practices will begin in January and will be held at Mayfield Senior School in Pasadena.

Pana Gelt: [pgelt3@gmail.com](mailto:pgelt3@gmail.com)

Anthia Lucas: [adljsl02@yahoo.com](mailto:adljsl02@yahoo.com)

### 2025 GOYA Basketball Schedule

2/23/25	St. Anthony @ St. Nick
3/2/25	St. John @ St. Anthony
3/9/25	St. Anthony @ St. Basil
3/16/25	St. Sophia @ St. Anthony
3/23/25	St Katherine @ St. Anthony
3/29/25	Women's Alumni Games
3/30/25	St. Anthony @ St. George
4/5/25	Men's Alumni Games
4/6/25	Assumption @ St. Anthony
4/26/25	GOBL Quarter-Finals
4/27/25	GOBL Semi Finals
5/3/25	Alumni Finals and Skills Challenge
5/4/25	GOBL Finals
5/10/25	Volleyball Tournament

# 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](mailto: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](mailto:mcmg2a@aol.com)

Vangie Dupas [vangiedupas@sbcglobal.net](mailto:vangiedupas@sbcglobal.net)

Christina Kades [christinekades@gmail.com](mailto:christinekades@gmail.com)

*“You shall open wide your hand to your brother,  
to the needy and to the poor, in your land.”*

Deuteronomy 15:11



## Good Works, continued

### ***CHRISTMAS FOR THE KIDS - In Conjunction with Friends In Deed***

Once again, Philoptochos and the St. Anthony community helped Friends In Deed to provide Christmas presents for some of Pasadena's most vulnerable children. In some cases these gifts were the only presents they received this Christmas.

We are grateful for your support! Thank you to all our generous donors who participated in this event and provided gifts for these children.

### ***HILLSIDES - Youth Moving On (YMO) Program***

Philoptochos also donated gift-filled holiday stockings to the 19 young adults in YMO transitional housing program in Pasadena.

*Hillsides has helped children, youth and families heal through trauma-informed care, behavioral health treatment, and foster care and adoption services. Hillsides supports young adults with life-changing services through the Youth Moving On (YMO) program.*

*YMO transitional housing program provides youth ages 18 - 24 with up to two years of affordable, quality housing. The safe and comfortable apartment complex offers one-bedroom units complete with new bedding, food, and essentials.*

*As part of the program, participants receive the tools necessary for independent living and benefit from daily support provided by a multidisciplinary on-site team. Additionally, program participants have access to educational and career support, on-site tutoring, substance abuse counseling, mentors, financial literacy training, and therapeutic services.*



## Community Happenings

### *Annual Christmas Benefit 2024*

Thank you to everyone who made our 55th Annual Christmas Benefit, *Candy Cane Wishes*, a tremendous success! This year's event consisted of a delicious luncheon and fashion show by Robert Ellis Boutique held at The Langham Huntington Hotel in Pasadena on Saturday, December 7. Over 520 guests enjoyed entertainment by the Pasadena Civic Ballet. The Christmas Boutique, Santa's Kitchen, and gift vendors provided a delightful shopping experience for all.

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.



### *Philoptochos Christmas Party* - December 18 - Trinity Ballroom

All attendees enjoyed a delicious dinner and desserts, good fellowship, and Christmas cheer. The festivities also included a fun and entertaining ornament gift exchange game.

## Upcoming Community Happenings

***Vasilopita Celebration*** - Sunday, January 12, Philoptochos will host the Vasilopita celebration in the church hall following Divine Liturgy.

***Great Vespers Dinner*** - Thursday, January 16. Philoptochos along with the Parish Council will host a dinner following the Great Vespers for the Feast Day of Saint Anthony.

***Parish-wide Service Project for GIVE-MENTOR-LOVE*** - Sunday, January 19. More details forthcoming.

***Souper Sunday*** - Sunday, February 2, 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Cookoff in support of Friends In Deed's Bad Weather Supplies Program. More details forthcoming.

## 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 in our St. Anthony church community may apply.

Philoptochos wishes to support our young people in their academic advancement. Look out for more announcements in the future Voice monthly newsletters.

## Upcoming Philoptochos Meetings

**Board Meeting** – Tuesday, January 8 at 7:00 PM.  
**General Meeting** – Wednesday, January 22 at 6:30 PM.  
 More details forthcoming.

**Christmas Benefit 2024 Recap** – Monday, January 27 at 7:00 PM

## Santa's Kitchen 2024

All it took were “*several*” bags of flour and sugar, chocolate, phyllo, nuts, honey, vanilla and a few dozen other ingredients to create a truly spectacular Santa's Kitchen.

Over the course of several months, we were blessed to have the help of many hands. We especially want to thank the following women who were there on a **very** regular basis to don their aprons, roll up their sleeves and assist us in the kitchen: Irene Albeck, Christine Kades, Gena Pegadiotes, Stavroula Kiotas, Yiota Poulos and Evelyn Kefalas. We worked as a well-oiled machine sharing growing friendships with laughter and the ever-present cup of coffee.

We also want to thank those who contributed to Santa's Kitchen by bringing homemade baked goods, wrapping many packages, helping to underwrite our expenses, working with us to set up the hotel venue and helping us sell during the day of the event.

We truly appreciate each and every one of you for giving of your time, talent and treasures to make this year's Santa's Kitchen a complete success!

Helen Skandale and Lisa Xanthos



FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA

Facebook: St. Anthony Philoptochos  
 Instagram: stanthonlyphiloptochos





## 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 Coffee Hour, you are assisting in providing a delicious snack while we spend time with our church family. Your fellow parishioners will be grateful for the snack and fellowship.

#### **Hosting is easy:**

1. **Sign-up on the poster located in the Parish Hall or Church Office.** *If you would like your name or event included in the weekly bulletin, notify the Church Office by the Wednesday prior to the date chosen at 626.449.6943 or by email at [office@saint-anthonys.org](mailto:office@saint-anthonys.org)*

*For Memorials, please notify the Church Office by the Wednesday prior to the date chosen at 626.449.6943 or by email at [office@saint-anthonys.org](mailto:office@saint-anthonys.org)*

2. **Bring snack for 70 adults & 30 kids** – See reverse side for suggestions and quantities
3. **Bring snack items plated on serving trays/bowls ready to serve by 10:00AM on your chosen day.** *(Serving tables and coffee/water station are set up by 10:00AM)*
4. **Clean up snack tables and remove all personal items** – *Our dedicated Parish caretaker, Carlos, will assist on the day of the event, as needed, but he is not responsible for the set up or clean up of the snack tables. Please remove any leftover food*

Coffee, sugar, creamer, paper plates, plastic utensils, paper cups and napkins used for coffee hour are underwritten by Parish Council & Philoptochos. Please consider donating these items to help offset the cost.

***All donations made during Coffee Hour go toward the Church Altar Fund to provide the liturgical needs for our St. Anthony Parish***

# Coffee Hour

## Food Suggestions & Quantities

Any combination of the items below to feed 100 people

Costco, Smart & Final or Super King are recommended for most items. Specialty items can be found at any Greek or Armenian market

Please have all items ready to serve on platters/bowls, preferably disposable. If not disposable, please remember to take them home

All items are to be brought by 10AM to the Parish Hall

Tables, Tablecloths, Coffee, Cream, Sugar and Water Station will be set up by Carlos

Any questions, please call Tanya @ 626-379-2304

QTY	ITEM	NOTES
50-100	Mini Bagels or Bagels	100 Mini or 50 Regular, cut in Half
2-4 Jars	Peanut Butter	2 Jumbo size or 4 Regular size
2-4 Jars	Jelly	2 Jumbo size or 4 Regular size
	<b>OR</b>	
100	Mini Deli Sandwiches	Assorted Meats, Tuna, Veggie
	<b>OR</b>	
5lbs	Greek Cheese	Feta or Kefalotyri, sliced
4lbs	Greek Olives	1-4lb Tub or equivalent
	Hummus or Tzatziki	Homemade or 3-34oz tubs Costco Hummus
5	Pita Bread Bags / Baguettes	Pita - cut into quarters / Baguettes - sliced
	<b>OR</b>	
	Assorted Salads	Potato Salad, Greek Salad, Tabouli
	Assorted Vegetable Trays	
	<b>AND (Choose 1 or 2)</b>	
100	Cookies	Biscotti, Oreos, Assorted
4-5	Cakes	Cut into thin slices
50-100	Muffins / Pastries / Donuts	50 Large, cut in half or 100 Small
	<b>AND (Choose 1 or 2)</b>	
	Seedless Grapes	Cleaned and cut into small bunches
	Tangerines	
	Assorted Fruit Trays	

*Kalli Xronia!!* Happy New Year to our entire Saint Anthony Community.

With fervent hopes for a HAPPY AND HEALTHY NEW YEAR 2025, the VIPs have many fond memories of our December 2024 activities. The month saw our group cordially invited to the home of Julie and Dino Ballas for an afternoon of hospitality and *Christmas Cheer* on Wednesday, December 11th.

With the beautiful Ballas residence boasting a magnificent view of the San Gabriel Valley from the foothills of Glendora, our members enjoyed fabulous food, drink, and camaraderie for a most enjoyable afternoon and fitting start to the Christmas season.

With last year's Christmastime outing to Citrus College having been such a remarkable experience, our group once again opted to attend this year's performance by the Citrus College Visual and Performing Arts Division entitled "*Christmas is...*".

The first half of the production featured *The Citrus Singers* performing a variety of yuletide carols and songs, many of which included accompaniment with bells. Other musical numbers featured a percussion ensemble, a tenor bass ensemble, dancers, and *The Christmas is... Orchestra*.

The second half of the production was a play taking place in various locations including Santa's Workshop at the North Pole, Bavaria, Germany, the Hawaiian Islands, and Paris, France. Each of these scenes featured choral and orchestral music and dance the quality of which rivaling a professional opera company.

All of our members were thoroughly impressed with the quality of this production and it goes without saying that this holiday outing may well become an annual event for the VIPs. We thank Judie Christopoulos for organizing this outing and procuring the tickets for our members.

On December 17th, our final meeting of the year was held at LeRoy's Restaurant in Monrovia. As president Irene Albeck presided over the important duty of recognizing our December birthday celebrants, the attentive LeRoy staff, under the direction of Carolina Kokoris, served our members four different breakfast choices along with beverages and coffee cake for dessert. The wish of MANY HAPPY RETURNS was bestowed upon **Vasiliki Giakas, Helen Koudanis, Joanna Koulas, Gena Pegadiotes, and Helen Reese.**

The one major order of business conducted at this breakfast meeting was for the adoption of a change in the term of VIP officers.

President Irene Albeck proposed that elections for VIP officers take place in May with the new officers assuming their positions in June. As VIP meetings are rarely held in August and September, this would give the new administration time to set goals, research activities, and receive feedback from the membership prior to the start of meetings in October.

After a short discussion and with the current officers willing to remain in their positions until May 2025, the proposal was made into a motion and was seconded. With no dissents being voiced, the proposal was approved.

While finishing our coffee cake dessert, the members participated in the singing of a few Christmas carols before our gathering began to break up.

On a final note, we acknowledge the loss of two members in the year 2024, **Hope Pappas and Georgia Aspiotes.** We trust that God will give rest to their souls and may their memories be eternal.

ONCE AGAIN.....**HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL!**

Jim Hronas  
VIP Communications





## Community News & more...

### Saint Anthony Bowling League

The St. Anthony Bowling League concluded its Fall 2024 eleven-week season Thursday, December 12. All participants enjoyed a night of fun competition and awards for all. The final standings are as follows:

First Place:	Team 11	Ted Dupas, Maria Conley, Maggie Iskandar
Second Place:	Team 10	Joyce Mavredakis, Chris and Elleni Conley
Third Place:	Team 7	Peter Bissias, Mary and Andrew Dewer
Fourth Place:	Team 6	Chrissa Mobayen, Kristen and Rick McGregor
Fifth Place:	Team 9	Lee Anton, Alexandra Conley, Rick Nassif
Sixth Place:	Team 1	Katherine Boukidis, Georgia Tripodes, Adoni Dimopoulos
Seventh Place:	Team 7	Anthia Drulias-Lucas, Vincent Lappas, Alice Jacquez
Eighth Place:	Team 3	Jim Horaites, Syrus and Parviz Mobayen
Ninth Place:	Team 2	Cleo Kades, Elene Kalivas, Kosta Papavasiliou
Tenth Place:	Team 8	Andrea and Virginia Lappas, Jim Nichols
Eleventh Place:	Team 5	Labrini and Chris Makredes, Peter Petropoulos

### WINTER/SPRING SEASON

The 2025 Winter/Spring Season will begin on **Thursday, January 16, 7:00 P.M.** at Bowlero Lanes in the Hastings Ranch Shopping Center at Rosemead and Foothill Boulevards in Pasadena. The season will be a 12 week season and conclude on **Thursday, April 3, 2025**. Weekly fees are \$20.00 and include 3 games, and shoes and a prize fund in lieu of trophies. All regular bowlers are responsible to pay weekly fees even if they are absent.

Those interested in participating please email or text Anthia Drulias-Lucas.

[Adljsl02@yahoo.com](mailto:Adljsl02@yahoo.com) 626-274-6133

**SAVE the DATE:** The Bowling League will host coffee hour on **Sunday, February 9**



## **St. Anthony Speaker Series**

A new talk every other month

**Next Talk:**

**"Great Wines of Greece"**

**Learn (and Taste) the Grapes and Regions**

**Thursday, January 23rd - 6:30pm**

**St. Anthony Church Hall**

## ***Did You Know?***

The "12 Days of Christmas" is the period from Christmas (Dec. 25) to Epiphany (Jan. 6) – not, as some mistakenly believe, the 12 days *before* Christmas. In traditional Christianity, this season is one great celebration of the appearance of our Lord, God, and Savior Jesus Christ in the flesh.

## Church Etiquette

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

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

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

During the Epistle Reading

During the Gospel Reading

When the priest is censuring and is facing the Congregation

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

When the priest is blessing the Congregation

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

During the Consecration of the Holy Gifts

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

During the Priest's sermon

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

While in the Church, remember to...

Wear appropriate attire to enter God's House

Silence your mobile devices

Refrain from chewing gum, mints, or candy

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

Follow the direction of the Priest for standing & sitting

Maintain quiet in the Sanctuary

Enter God's House with reverence and respect





# The Voice of Saint Anthony

## January 2024

### Saint Anthony Greek Orthodox Church

Reverend Father Peter Stratos  
778 S. Rosemead Boulevard, Pasadena, CA 91107  
(626) 449-6943 Office (626) 449-6974 FAX

Circumcision of Christ/ Saint Basil	1 January
Holy Theophany/ Epiphany	6 January
Saint John the Baptist	7 January
St. Anthony the Great	17 January
Gregory the Theologian	25 January
Three Hierarchs	30 January



**Saint Anthony the Great**  
**17 January**

- Priest's Message
- Stewardship
- Ministries
- Parish Council
- Sunday School
- Youth/Young Adults
- Philoptochos
- VIPs
- Community News, etc.
- Monthly Lesson
- Saints of the Month
- Orthodox Calendar

Deadline for February Newsletter is Thursday, 25 January  
Please send to: [newsletter\\_church@aol.com](mailto:newsletter_church@aol.com)

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

626.449.6943

## Monthly Lesson from Father Stavros Akrotirianakis

*Till I come, attend to the public reading of Scripture, to preaching, to teaching.* | Timothy 4:13

For many Christians, both Orthodox and non-Orthodox, **reading the Scriptures** poses a challenge to faith. There are many challenges to reading the Scriptures, including understanding why we read them, how to read them, and understanding what we've read.

There are many Christians, particularly some in non-Orthodox churches, who are very devoted to reading the Bible. They know what Scripture says. They can defend their faith and argue for things based on their vast understanding of Scripture. It can actually be kind of intimidating for those who do not read the Scripture to talk about the faith with them, because we actually feel inadequate in doing so. There is also a temptation in Orthodoxy to say "we have the Liturgy, we have Tradition" and cast aside the importance of reading Scripture. Ironically, all of our Traditions are based in Scripture and just about every line of the Divine Liturgy comes directly from Scripture, so we are more Scripture-based than most of us know. Others will argue that the New Testament wasn't codified until the late fourth century, thus for the formative years of Christianity, there was no Scripture. Yes, that is true. However, with the Scriptures codified and now widely available to be read (up until a few hundred years ago, before the invention of the printing press, most people could not own a Bible, let alone read one), the Bible is an important tool in building a relationship with the Lord and is a foundational part of our Christian journey.

We build relationships with people by spending time with them. It is the same thing with our relationship with the Lord. We will build this relationship by spending time with Him. So, as to the question, why do we read the Bible, the simple answer is, in order to build a relationship with God. In prayer we speak to the Lord. In Scripture is where He speaks to us. God's voice is revealed in Scripture. In Genesis, He is revealed as our Creator. In the Gospels, He is revealed as our Savior.

If you've never read the Bible, or haven't read much of it, start with **the Gospels - Matthew, Mark Luke and John**. Meet Jesus. Learn what He taught. Understand what He did. In the Gospels, we discover the heart of Jesus—if we want to have a heart like Jesus, this is where we will learn things like compassion, humility, sacrifice, love, joy, mercy, forgiveness, and many other things.

Jesus talked in Parables. Parables are stories using everyday life to teach spiritual truths about God, about His Kingdom, and about our lives. The word "parable" refers to a short narrative that has spiritual value, even if it is not necessarily literally true. There may be several connections between a specific parable and the reality it portrays. Parables are the teaching method Jesus chose most often to explain eternal life, and to show the love of God and the expectations He has for us. Parable can teach us about our choices and the dispositions of our hearts. We may sometimes find ourselves not keeping the Word of God, and not bearing fruit, that is, not having our hearts open to Christ. Nevertheless, God calls us to recognize the hardness of our hearts, and to turn to Him so that we may be filled with the Holy Spirit and bear fruit. Behind every parable, there is a deeper meaning of our faith.

The Lord says *He who has ears to hear, let him hear*. Jesus often uses this phrase to teach us to keep our spiritual senses awake so faith can take root in our souls. We have human senses such as sight, hearing, smell, taste, and touch. We also have spiritual senses that we obtain in baptism and from the Holy Spirit. We hear God's Word, and we open the eyes of our hearts by participating in the work of the Holy Spirit. We taste and see that the Lord is good, as we receive His Body and Blood in Holy Communion. We smell the prayers through the incense, and we touch the physical creations God has sanctified, such as icons, water, and oil. As we develop our spiritual senses, we naturally begin to spread the Gospel and invite everyone on earth to experience the love of our God and Creator.

The positive impact of the parables depends on the hearers' willingness to hear. Jesus often calls upon His hearers to listen carefully. We, as human beings, are created by God through the Word, Who is Christ, in the Holy Spirit. As such, we have the potential to respond to God's Word if we do not choose to close our ears to Him. Jesus speaks not only the words of life, but He is the Word and the Light, Who is life-giving power. God calls us to receive that Light and life by opening our ears and opening our hearts.

The Lord asks us to open our hearts to Him, to become hearers of the Word. We have the free will to make our hearts and souls fertile ground for the grace of God.

When we pray and read the Scriptures daily, we become fertile ground for the Word of God. When we prepare our hearts to hear and participate in the words of the Divine Liturgy, which contains the Word of God, Jesus Christ, we become soil that bears much fruit. When we partake of His Body and Blood, we eat of the Tree of Life and inherit Paradise. By opening our ears and hearts to Christ the Logos, we are transformed, and with patience, we bear much fruit for our salvation and the whole world's salvation.

Saint John the Evangelist, near the conclusion of his Gospel, summarizes the purpose of the Gospel when he says:

*Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name. (John 20:30-31)*

After you've read through the Gospels several times, then go to the **book of Acts**. This book is the detailed story of how the early Church began and how it functioned. The Epistles (inside the book of Acts) are letters to the early church, with lessons and teachings that apply to all churches for all time. The problems and challenges of the early Christians and in the early church continue to this day, which is why there is still so much value in reading the Epistles.

**The Psalms** are a collection of songs that reveal God's comfort for every need.

**Proverbs** is a book of wisdom that contains God's advice for a good life.

**The Old Testament** is a compilation of books that include the history of God's people before Christ. This includes the account of Creation, the Fall, the history of the Jewish people (God's chosen people), the giving of the Law and prophecies about the Messiah.

**The New Testament** is prefigured in the Old Testament. The Old Testament is fulfilled in the New Testament.

There are several resources that can help us be in Scripture daily. There are several “Bible in a Year” resources, some audio, and there is even a Bible that is divided into 365 parts so you can get through it in a year. The Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America has daily readings that mirror the passages that are read in the Divine Services of the church each day. Bible Gateway is a great site in terms of looking up certain words that are in the Bible. And of course, the Prayer Team messages always include Scripture verses

As for how to understand what we are reading, there are several things that can assist us. First, if you have an annotated Bible, like the *Orthodox Study Bible*, there are helpful footnotes on each page to help us understand what we are reading. Create a daily habit of reading the Bible. Choose a time when you are not rushed or stressed. Choose a place where you are relaxed and won't be disturbed. Begin by praying and ask God to speak to you through your reading. (A good prayer for this is included below). Keep a journal of what you read and how it affects you. It's not how much we read that matters. You can read a short amount and then ponder it, reflect, read the notes, jot down some thoughts. Reading the same message multiple times helps you remember, and also reinforces what you've learned.

In his second letter to Timothy, St. Paul writes: *All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.* (II Timothy 3: 16-17) In these verses, he provides a great summary of the benefits of reading Scriptures, which are as applicable today as they were when he wrote them nearly two thousand years ago. It is so amazing that Scripture is timeless, just like God Who has inspired all Scripture.

*Shine in our hearts, loving Master, the pure light of Your divine knowledge, and open the eyes of my mind that I may comprehend the message of Your Gospels.*

*Instill in me also a reverence for Your holy commandments, so that having conquered sinful desires, I may lead a more spiritual life, thinking and doing only those things that are pleasing to You.*

*For You, Christ our God, are the light of our souls and bodies, and to You we send up glory, with Your Father who is from everlasting, and Your all holy, good, and life-giving Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages.*

*Amen.*

Make reading the Bible a central part of your Christian journey each day!



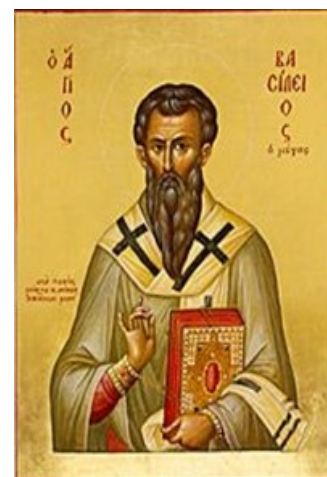
## Saints & Feasts

### Saint Basil the Great & the Circumcision of Christ

1 January

**Saint Basil the Great** was born about the end of the year 329 in Caesarea of Cappadocia, to a family renowned for their learning and holiness. His parents' names were Basil and Emily. His mother Emily and his grandmother Macrina are Saints of the Church, together with all his brothers and sisters. Basil studied in Constantinople under the sophist Libanius, then in Athens, where also he formed a friendship with the young Gregory, a fellow Cappadocian, later called "the Theologian." Through the good influence of his sister Macrina, he chose to embrace the ascetical life, abandoning his worldly career. He visited the monks in Egypt, in Palestine, in Syria, and in Mesopotamia, and upon returning to Caesarea, he departed to a hermitage on the Iris River in Pontus, not far from Annesi, where his mother and his sister Macrina were already treading the path of the ascetical life; here he also wrote his ascetical homilies.

About the year 370, when the bishop of his country reposed, he was elected to succeed to his throne and was entrusted with the Church of Christ, which he tended for eight years, living in voluntary poverty and strict asceticism, having no other care than to defend holy Orthodoxy as a worthy successor of the Apostles. The Emperor Valens, and Modestus, the Eparch of the East, who were of one mind with the Arians, tried with threats of exile and of torments to bend the Saint to their own confession, because he was the bastion of Orthodoxy in all Cappadocia, and preserved it from heresy when Arianism was at its strongest. But he set all their malice useless, and in his willingness to give himself up to every suffering for the sake of the Faith, showed himself to be a martyr by volition. Modestus, amazed at Basil's fearlessness in his presence, said that no one had ever so spoken to him. "Perhaps," answered the Saint, "you have never met a bishop before." The Emperor Valens himself was almost won over by Basil's dignity and wisdom. When Valens' son fell gravely sick, he asked Saint Basil to pray for him. The Saint promised that his son would be restated if Valens agreed to have him baptized by the Orthodox; Valens agreed, Basil prayed, and the son was restored. But afterwards the Emperor had him baptized by Arians, and the child died soon after. Later, Valens, persuaded by his counsellors, decided to send the Saint into exile because he would not accept the Arians into communion; but his pen broke when he was signing the edict of banishment.



## Saint Basil - continued

He tried a second time and a third, but the same thing happened, so that the Emperor was filled with dread, and tore up the document, and Basil was not banished. The truly great Basil, spent with extreme ascetical practices and continual labors, at the helm of the church, departed to the Lord on the 1st of January, in 379. at the age of forty-nine.

His writings are replete with wisdom and erudition, and rich are these gifts he set forth the doctrines concerning the mysteries both of the creation and of the Holy Trinity. Because of the majesty and keenness of his eloquence, he is honored as "the revealer of heavenly things" and "the Great."

**The Circumcision of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ** is celebrated on the first day of the New Year, eight days after the celebration of our Lord's Birth. The Church also remembers our Lord's circumcision and His receiving the name Jesus, which means Savior. So on the eighth day after His Nativity, our Lord Jesus Christ was circumcised in accordance with the Old Testament Law. All male infants underwent circumcision as a sign of God's Covenant with the holy Forefather Abraham and his descendants (Genesis 17:10-14, Leviticus 12:3)

After this ritual the Divine Infant was given the name Jesus, as the Archangel Gabriel declared on the day of the Annunciation to the Most Holy Theotokos (Luke 1:31-33, 2:21). The Fathers of the Church explain that the Lord, the Creator of the Law, underwent circumcision in order to give people an example of how faithfully the divine ordinances ought to be fulfilled.

The Lord was circumcised so that later no one would doubt that He had truly assumed human flesh, and that His Incarnation was not merely an illusion, as certain heretics taught.

In the New Testament, the ritual of circumcision gave way to the Mystery of Baptism, which it prefigured (Colossians 2:11-12). Accounts of the Feast of the Circumcision of the Lord continue in the Eastern Church right up through the fourth century. The Canon of the Feast was written by Saint Stephen of the Saint Sava Monastery.

In addition to circumcision, which the Lord accepted as a sign of God's Covenant with mankind, He also received the Name Jesus (Savior) on the eighth day after His Nativity as an indication of His service, the work of the salvation of the world (Matthew 1:21; Mark 9:38-39, Mark 16:17; Luke 10:17; Acts 3:6, 16; Phil 2:9-10). These two events, the Lord's Circumcision and Naming, remind Christians that they have entered into a New Covenant with God and "*are circumcised with a circumcision made without hands, in putting off the body of the sins of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ*" (Colossians 2:11). The very name "Christian" is a sign of mankind's entrance into a New Covenant with God.

## Holy Theophany/Epiphany

### 6 January

About the beginning of our Lord's thirtieth year, John the Forerunner, who was some six months older than Our Savior according to the flesh, and had lived in the wilderness since his childhood, received a command from God and came into the parts of the Jordan, preaching the baptism of repentance unto the remission of sins. Then our Savior also came from Galilee to the Jordan, and sought and received baptism though He was the Master and John was but a servant. Whereupon, there came to pass those marvelous deeds, great and beyond nature: the Heavens were opened, the Spirit descended in the form of a dove upon Him that was being baptized and the voice was heard from the Heavens hearing witness that this was the beloved Son of God, now baptized as a man (Matt. 3:13-17; Mark 1:9-11; Luke 3:1-22).

From these events the Divinity of the Lord Jesus Christ and the great mystery of the Trinity were demonstrated. It is also from this that the present feast is called "Theophany," that is, the divine manifestation, God's appearance among men. On this venerable day the sacred mystery of Christian baptism was inaugurated; henceforth also began the saving preaching of the Kingdom of the Heavens.



## Synaxis of John the Baptist

### 7 January

Today, the day after Epiphany, we celebrate the Synaxis in honor of the most sacred Forerunner, since he ministered at the Mystery of the Divine Baptism of our Lord Jesus Christ, yesterday, January 6th.



## Saint Anthony

### 17 January

The Father of monks, was born in Egypt in 251 of pious parents who departed this life while he was yet young. On hearing the words of the Gospel: "If thou wilt be perfect, go and sell what thou hast, and give to the poor" (Matt. 19:21), he immediately put it into action. Distributing to the poor all he had, and fleeing from all the turmoil of the world, he departed to the desert. The manifold temptations he endured continually for the span of twenty years are incredible. His ascetic struggles by day and by night, whereby he mortified the uprisings of the passions and attained to the height of dispassion, surpass the bounds of nature; and the report of his deeds of virtue drew such a multitude to follow him that the desert was transformed into a city, while he became, so to speak, the governor, lawgiver, and master-trainer of all the citizens of this newly-formed city.

The cities of the world also enjoyed the fruit of his virtue. When the Christians were being persecuted and put to death under Maximinus in 312, he hastened to their aid and consolation. When the Church was troubled by the Arians, he went with zeal to Alexandria in 335 and struggled against them in behalf of Orthodoxy. During this time, by the grace of his words, he also turned many unbelievers to Christ.

Saint Anthony began his ascetic life outside his village of Coma in Upper Egypt, studying the ways of the ascetics and holy men there, and perfecting himself in the virtues of each until he surpassed them all. Desiring to increase his labors, he departed into the desert, and finding an abandoned fortress in the mountain, he made his dwelling in it, training himself in extreme fasting, unceasing prayer, and fierce conflicts with the demons. Here he remained for about twenty years. Saint Athanasius the Great, who knew him personally and wrote his life, says that he came forth from that fortress "initiated in the mysteries and filled with the Spirit of God."

Afterwards, because of the press of the faithful, who deprived him of his solitude, he was enlightened by God to journey with certain Bedouins, until he came to a mountain in the desert near the Red Sea, where he passed the remaining part of his life.

Saint Athanasius says of him that "his countenance had a great and wonderful grace. This gift also he had from the Savior. For if he were present in a great company of monks, and any one who did not know him previously wished to see him, immediately coming forward he passed by the rest, and hurried to Anthony, as though attracted by his appearance. Yet neither in height nor breadth was he conspicuous above others, but in the serenity of his manner and the purity of his soul."

So becoming an example of virtue and a rule for monastics, he reposed on January 17 in the year 356, having lived altogether some 105 years.





## Saint Gregory the Theologian

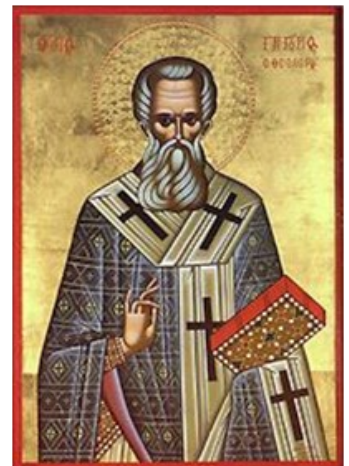
### 25 January

This great Father and Teacher of the Church was born in 329 in Arianzus, a village of the second district of Cappadocia, not far from Nazianzus. His father, who later became Bishop of Nazianzus, was named Gregory and his mother was named Nonna ; both are among the Saints, and so are his brother Caesarius and his sister Gorgona . At first he studied in Caesarea of Palestine, then in Alexandria, and finally in Athens. As he was sailing from Alexandria to Athens, a violent sea storm put in peril not only his life but also his salvation, since he had not yet been baptized. With tears and fervor he besought God to spare him, vowing to dedicate his whole self to Him, and the tempest gave way to calm.

At Athens Saint Gregory was later joined by Saint Basil the Great, whom he already knew; but now their acquaintanceship grew into a lifelong brotherly love. Another fellow student of theirs in Athens was the young Prince Julian, who later as Emperor was called the Apostate because he denied Christ and did all in his power to restore paganism. Even in Athens, before Julian had thrown off the mask of piety; Saint Gregory saw what an unsettled mind he had, and said, "What an evil the Roman State is nourishing"

After their studies at Athens, Gregory became Basil's fellow ascetic, living the monastic life together with him for a time in the hermitages of Pontus. His father ordained him presbyter of the Church of Nazianzus, and Saint Basil consecrated him Bishop of Sasima, which was in the archdiocese of Caesarea. This consecration was a source of great sorrow to Gregory, and a cause of misunderstanding between him and Basil; but his love for Basil remained unchanged, as can be plainly seen from his Funeral Oration on Saint Basil .

About the Year 379, Saint Gregory came to the assistance of the Church of Constantinople, which had already been troubled for forty years by the Arians; by his supremely wise words and many labors he freed it from the corruption of heresy, and was elected Archbishop of that city by the Second Ecumenical Council, which assembled there in 381, and condemned Macedonius, Archbishop of Constantinople, the enemy of the Holy Spirit.



## Saint Gregory the Theologian – continued

When Saint Gregory came to Constantinople, the Arians had taken all the churches and he was forced to serve in a house chapel dedicated to Saint Anastasia the Martyr. From there he began to preach his famous five sermons on the Trinity, called the Triadica. When he left Constantinople two years later, the Arians did not have one church left to them in the city. Saint Meletius of Antioch, who was presiding over the Second Ecumenical Council, died in the course of it, and Saint Gregory was chosen in his stead; there he distinguished himself in his expositions of dogmatic theology.

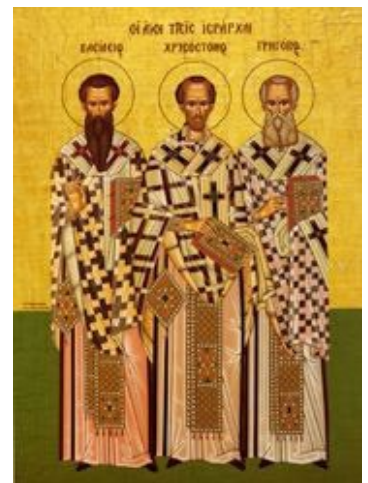
Having governed the Church until 382, he delivered his farewell speech – the Syntacterion, in which he demonstrated the Divinity of the Son – before 150 bishops and the Emperor Theodosius the Great; in this speech he requested, and received from all, permission to retire from the see of Constantinople. He returned to Nazianzus, where he lived to the end of his life, and reposed in the Lord in 391, having lived some sixty-two years.

His extant writings, both prose and poems in every type of metre, demonstrate his lofty eloquence and his wondrous breadth of learning. In the beauty of his writings, he is considered to have surpassed the Greek writers of antiquity, and because of his God-inspired theological thought, he received the surname "Theologian." Although he is sometimes called Gregory of Nazianzus, this title belongs properly to his father; he himself is known by the Church only as Gregory the Theologian. He is especially called "Trinitarian Theologian," since in virtually every homily he refers to the Trinity and the one essence and nature of the Godhead.

## Synaxis of the Three Hierarchs

### 30 January

This common feast of these three teachers was instituted a little before the year 1100, during the reign of the Emperor Alexis I Comnenus, because of a dispute and strife that arose among the notable and virtuous men of that time. Some of them preferred **Basil**, while others preferred **Gregory**, and yet others preferred **John Chrysostom**, quarreling among themselves over which of the three was the greatest. Furthermore, each party, in order to distinguish itself from the others, assumed the name of its preferred Saint; hence, they called themselves Basilians, Gregorians, or Johannites. Desiring to bring an end to the contention, the three Saints appeared together to the saintly John Mauropous, a monk who had been ordained Bishop of Euchaita, a city of Asia Minor. They revealed to him that the glory they have at the throne of God is equal, and told him to compose a common service for the three of them, which he did with great skill and beauty.



# Orthodox Calendar

## January 2025

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			<b>1</b> <b>New Years Day</b> <b>Circumcision of Christ</b> <b>Saint Basil</b> 7pm Union Staton Philoptochos	<b>2</b> Dance Practice	<b>3</b> 7pm Dance Practice	<b>4</b>
Fast Free						
<b>5</b>  <b>Sunday pre -Theophany</b> 8:45am Orthros 9am Agiasmos 10am Divine Liturgy  No Sunday School 12pm Dance Practice Indoor & Live-stream	<b>6</b> <b>Holy Theophany</b> 9am Orthros 10am Divine Lit.  5pm Dance Prac 6:30pm Dance Practice	<b>7</b> <b>Synaxis of John the Baptist</b> 8:45am Orthros 10am Divine Lit	<b>8</b>  7pm Philoptochos Board Mtg.	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> 	<b>11</b>
<b>12</b> <b>Sunday post Theophany</b> <b>Vasilopita Sunday</b>  8:45am Orthros 10am Divine Liturgy  12pm Dance Practice 12:15pm GOYA Meeting Indoor & Live-stream	<b>13</b> 5pm Dance Practice  6:30pm Dance Practice	<b>14</b> 10:30am VIP Meeting  7pm Par. Council	<b>15</b> 	<b>16</b> <b>The Feast of Saint Anthony EVE</b>  6pm Vespers, Artoklasia and Dinner	<b>17</b>  <b>The Feast of Saint Anthony</b>  9am Orthros 10am Divine Liturgy  7pm Dance Practice	<b>18</b> Philoptochos Membership Event
<b>19</b> <b>12th Sunday of Luke</b>  8:45am Orthros 10am Divine Liturgy  12pm Dance Practice Indoor & Live-stream	<b>20</b> 5pm Dance Practice  6:30pm Dance Practice	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>  7pm Philoptochos General Mtg.	<b>23</b> 6:30pm Speaker Series Great Wines of Greece	<b>24</b>  7pm Dance Practice	<b>25</b> <b>Gregory -Theologian</b>  5pm Greek Dance Preview
<b>26</b> <b>15th Sunday of Luke</b>  8:45am Orthros 10am Divine Liturgy  12pm Dance Practice Indoor & Live-stream	<b>27</b> 5pm Dance Practice 6:30 pm Dance Practice	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> 	<b>30</b> <b>Three Hierarchs</b>  9am Orthros 10am Divine Liturgy	<b>31</b> 	
		<b>Strict Fast</b> Refrain from Meat, Fish, Wine, Oil, Dairy & Eggs  	Fish, Wine & Oil Allowed  	Wine and Oil Allowed  	Dairy, Eggs, & Fish Allowed; Refrain from Meat  	Fast Free

Saint Anthony  
Greek Orthodox Community  
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Pasadena, California 91107



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alma@saint-anthonys.org

We're on the Web!  
[www.saint-anthonys.org](http://www.saint-anthonys.org)

TIME SENSITIVE

POSTAGE  
STAMP

*To generations of our descendants yet unknown to you, who some day in the dim and distant future will read this account of the dramatic history of the Hellenic community, we who have written this account not only on paper, but in the blood, sweat and tears of our daily lives make this statement:*

*We have built this community with its hopes and its fears, and its land and its buildings because we believe, as did our forefathers, in the soul's immortality, and its eventual union with God.*

*We believe that whether or not we have amassed a great deal of personal wealth or fame, it matters little, since we could not take that with us. What does matter is how we have discharged our obligation to pass on to you the faith and ideals that have sustained us through our lives... and we venture the hope that as you read these lines, you may breathe a prayer that what we have done here may have found favor in the eyes of God.*

**An umbrella cannot  
stop the rain but it  
allows us to stand  
in the rain.**

**Faith in God may not  
remove our trials but  
it gives us strength  
to overcome them**