

The Voice of Saint Anthony

June 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

Holy Pentecost	8 June
Monday of the Holy Spirit	9 June
Nativity of John the Baptist	24 June
Saints Peter & Paul	29 June
Synaxis of the Holy Apostles	30 June

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Holy Pentecost
Sunday, 8 June

DEADLINE for JULY Newsletter is WEDNESDAY, 25 JUNE

Please send to: newsletter_church@aol.com

Message from Father Peter

Dear Faithful,

On Sunday June 15th we will celebrate the **Feast of All Saints** in our Holy Orthodox Church. The Feast of All Saints marks the beginning of a new season in the ecclesiastical calendar of our Church. The season from Easter to Pentecost occurs in the springtime, while the Feast of All Saints ushers us into the beautiful season of summer.

Summertime - when students and teachers have completed another school year and people are planning their vacations. Many have already begun to enjoy outdoor activities - sports, cookouts, and trips to the beach. But to be sure, responsibilities do not end. Some painting may have to be done and landscaping continues. There is always something to be done. Nevertheless, summertime is a time of sun, enjoyment, and a more relaxed pace.

In our culture the change of seasons creates a paradox for the new liturgical cycle. From Easter to Pentecost the local parish is usually vibrant with activities. But after Pentecost and the Feast of All Saints, with the beginning of summer, the pace usually slows down. Church Schools end. Meetings are less frequent. Bible classes and other study groups take a break. Even worship is drastically affected. As I often say in Church: "God does not take the summer off!"

Is this what the Lord truly desires for His people during the summer? How can we in our personal, family, and parish lives harmonize the summer change of pace with the orthodox spiritual values of the Church? How can we truly enjoy a rightful measure of fun and relaxation and still be mindful of our prayer life and worship to God?

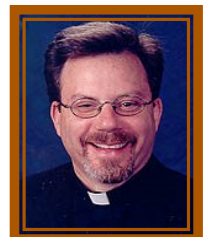
An understanding of the word "saint" could help us relate our Christian faith to our summer activities. It is not an exaggeration to say that, if we truly understand the full meaning of sainthood, we would have the key to the most enjoyable summer of them all: A Christian summer!

It may be that, by God's providence, the timing of the Feast of All Saints is exactly what we need, after all! What greater spiritual challenge is there for us at the beginning of the summer than to think about the Saints and to emulate their lives of growing closer to God. I challenge us all to keep God in our mind, in our heart, and in our soul during this beautiful time of year. If you are traveling, find an Orthodox Church to visit. If you are staying home, continue to come to church on the Sundays of summer.

Make God the priority in your life this summer!
Have a blessed summer with our Lord!

In Christ,

Fr Peter



Holy Week - April 2025







Stewardship

**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

\$19-\$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

****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

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

Parish Events

_____ Palm Sunday Luncheon	_____ Resurrection Magiritsa	_____ Summer Family Picnic
_____ Pasadena Golf Classic	_____ Dinner	_____ Other
_____ Pasadena Greek Fest	_____ 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



2025 PARISH COUNCIL

Perry Vidalakis	President
Pete Gallanis	1st Vice President
Joe Akrotirianakis	2nd Vice President
Kosta Papavasiliou	Secretary
Tashia Vagenas	Treasurer
Tony Christopoulos	Assist. Treasurer

Christian Balas
Tom Grafos
Louie Kades
Pete Katsafados
Jonathan Nassos
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:
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

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

Christiana Kontaxis
Michael Kontaxis

Bowling

Anthia Drulias Lucas

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

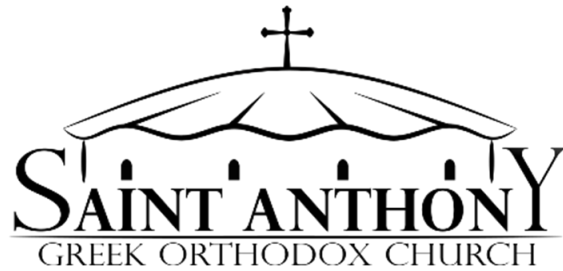
Sophia Syrengelas
Mary Udria

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 please all the children to receive Holy Communion first.

- ♦ Please remain standing while following the directions of the ushers.
- ♦ 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 in a pew when Holy Communion begins, please quietly find a spot in the back rows. 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 to proceed ahead of others or enter the center aisle ahead of the pews in front of you.
- ♦ When receiving Holy Communion, make the Sign of the Cross, state your name (baptismal name) and naturally receive as if being fed.
- ♦ Non-Orthodox Christians may not receive Holy Communion, but they may receive the Holy Bread at the end of the service.
- ♦ All Orthodox Christians must be spiritually prepared to receive the Sacrament of Holy Communion. Please see your priest if you have any questions.





As we wrap up the end of the year and break for summer, I'd like to thank our teachers for sharing their time and talent with our students each Sunday. Their dedication to the Sunday School ministry is a blessing. They show up for this ministry with caring hearts, creative and fun methods, and an eagerness to bring Orthodoxy to life for our kids. I am ever so grateful to each one of them and feel fortunate for the opportunity to grow this ministry alongside them.

Our theme this year was **"Walk in the Way of the Lord"** with our focus of study on the Holy Gospel. We discussed the Gospel readings with our students each Sunday, which opened opportunities for discussions on how we can be living examples of our Orthodox faith through the teachings of Christ. One important theme that came up repeatedly over the course of the year was that of being a servant of God and how we are called to help one another. This was one of the most tangible and profound lessons that we could teach our students to take with them, into the world .

When thinking about what it means to be a servant of God, one person comes to mind in particular- our very own **Irene Albeck**. Over the course of 50 years, Mrs. Albeck displayed an unwavering love and dedication to the Sunday School ministry. Her passion for sharing the beauty of the Orthodox faith can be felt by each and every one of the children who were fortunate enough to experience the magic of her classroom. In Mrs. Irene's classroom the kids danced and sang, crafted and created, laughed and played, all while being instilled with the fundamentals of Orthodoxy in a way that is meaningful and impactful. Mrs. Albeck, who has been a constant source of inclusivity, care, love, and faith at St. Anthony, retired from teaching this year. It is bittersweet for those of us who have grown up never not seeing her in the Sunday School classrooms, but also fills our hearts to know that she, who served faithfully and tirelessly for decades, will be coming to church on Sundays enjoying an entire Liturgy and attending coffee hour. I, personally, find comfort in her friendship, support, strength and inspiration that she instills in me through every conversation, written note, and simply by being her. I look forward to seeing her in a different capacity on Sundays. **Thank you, Mrs. Albeck,** for everything. You are loved beyond words!!



We have made changes to the youth ministry calendar this year due to traditional school starting in August. Sunday School will begin on **August 17th** this year, which gives us more time together. Be on the lookout for information regarding registration and a Youth Ministry Kick-Off! Wishing everyone a fun, relaxing, and safe summer!

Thank you for a wonderful Sunday School year!

Sophia Syrengelas

Sunday School Graduation—Sunday 18 May 2025



Sunday School Graduation—Sunday 18 May 2025

Special Thanks To ...

Sophia Syrengelas and Irene Albech



Youth & Young Adults

CONGRATULATIONS AND BEST WISHES TO OUR GRADUATES!

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES:

CHRISTOPHER BOWERS – Maranatha High School

MARTINOS CHRISTODOULIDES – Armenian Mesrobian High School

TALIA GRAFOS – La Canada High School

YIANNI KADES – Maranatha High School



COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY GRADUATES:

MIA PATZAKIS

University of California Berkeley - Bachelor of Arts in Public Health and Data Science

KOSTANTINOS TSIGKOUNIS

California State University Fullerton - College of the Arts/Graphic Design

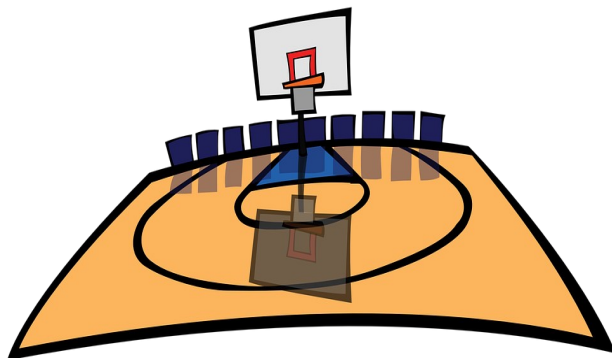
POSTGRADUATE:

CHRISTINA VAGENAS

Western University of Health Sciences - Doctor of Veterinary Medicine



GOBL—St. Anthony GOYA Basketball



Season 51 of the **Greek Orthodox Basketball League** came to a close on Sunday, May 4, at a celebration banquet following the final championship game. Thank you Saint Sophia Cathedral for a lovely dinner for all to enjoy.

The **St. Anthony Senior Girls** were the only St. Anthony team to play in the championship game. Once again they were up against the formidable St. Nicholas Senior Girls. Despite the challenges our girls faced they gave it their all and never gave up! Unfortunately, they were defeated by St. Nicholas. St. Anthony Senior girls were awarded **2nd Place** for the tournament.

Senior Girls' Players: Evangeline, Mariella and Valentina Bicos, Katerina Gittings, Talia Grafos, Madison and Sophia McNulty and Maria Syrengelis.

Senior Girl MVP's: Valentina Bicos and Madison McNulty

The **St. Anthony Junior Girls** finished in **3rd Place** for the 2025 season.

Junior Girls Players: Gia Balntas, Dimitra Gittings, Kostadina Ioannou, Eleni Katsafados, Nicoletta Kazaltzes, Faye and Gianna Koulos, Christina Martin, Alexis Syrengelis, Ava Vagenas

Junior Girl MVP's: Kostadina Ioannou and Alexis Syrengelis

The **St. Anthony Senior Boys** finished in **4th Place** for the 2025 season.

Senior Boys Players: Jacob Antoon, Christopher Bowers, Alex and Athan Darlas, Brody Jones, Yianni Kades, Niko Lareau, Alex Mavridis, Dylan Udria, Alexi Vagenas, Kyri Vidalakis.

Senior Boy MVP's: Alex Darlas and Brody Jones

The GOBL instituted a **4 CIRCLES OF ORTHODOXY AWARD** many years ago. Basketball participants who exemplify the best display of: Worship, Fellowship, Service and Witness in their community are chosen. This year's recipient from St. Anthony was **NIKO LAREAU**.

Basketball Coaching Staff: Without the dedication and voluntary contributions of our coaches, our teams could not compete in this league. St. Anthony is fortunate to have: **Chris Syrengelis, Jenny Koulos, and Chris Ioannou** as our girls' team coaches and **Tony Christopoulos and Tom Grafos** as our Senior Boys coaches.

Special thank you to **Pana Gelt** for her time as St. Anthony's representative to the (GOBL) Greek Orthodox Basketball League. This is a 9-month commitment of attending meetings and working with the eight-parish board to insure that our league continues to put out a program of which we can be proud !





*****ATTENTION ST. ANTHONY
BASKETBALL PLAYERS*****

PLEASE TURN IN YOUR UNIFORMS AS
SOON AS POSSIBLE

MAKE SURE THEY ARE IN A BAG WITH
THE PLAYERS NAME INSIDE

PLEASE HELP ANTHIA
COLLECT ALL THE UNIFORMS
BEFORE THE NEXT SEASON!



St. Anthony GOYA

Volleyball Tournament 2025

It has been over six decades since St. Anthony GOYA has provided a day of volleyball competition, and lunch, followed by a dinner and sometimes a dance at St. Anthony. This year, St. Anthony GOYA once again hosted the Annual Volleyball Tournament on Saturday, May 10, at Victory Park in Pasadena. The participating communities included: Assumption Long Beach, St. Basil San Juan Capistrano, St. George Downey, St. John Anaheim, St. Katherine Redondo Beach, St. Sophia Cathedral and 3 participants from St. Nicholas Northridge.

Ninety GOYAns competed this year in over 100-degree heat from 10AM- 4 PM. The Middle School Division had 5 teams competing in a double round robin tournament. Winners placed as follows:

1st Place: St. George

3rd Place: St. Basil

2nd Place: St. John

4th Place: St. Sophia

Unfortunately, our St. Anthony middle schoolers were unsuccessful in securing a trophy this year. Our team included: **Evie Klessis, Gia Balntas, Alexis Syrengelis, Eleni Katsafados, Alexi Vagenas, Kosta Koulos, Andrew Pouloupoulos.**

The High School Division consisted of all seven communities including 2 teams from St. Anthony. The trophies were awarded as follows:

1st Place: St. Katherine

3rd Place: St. Anthony Team A

2nd Place: St. Anthony Team B

4th Place: Assumption

St. Anthony Team A players: **Nicoletta Kazaltzes, Faye and Gianna Koulos, Kostadina and John Ioannou, Niko Lareau**

St. Anthony Team B players: **Dimitra Gittings, Valentina, Evangeline and Mariela Bicos, Alex Darlas, Brody Jones.**

Following the tournament was dinner in the Trinity Ballroom at St. Anthony. Everyone enjoyed the burgers and extras from Lucky Boys food truck. Thank you **Christina Karagias.**

Special Thank you...

Thank you to our Young Adult Junior Advisors/Coaches, **Adrianna Lareau, Stavro Psihalopoulos and Kostantinos Tsigkounis**, for your continued support and dedication. Your giving back to our GOYA is truly something special!

Thank you to all our volunteers, referees, scorekeepers, set-up and tear down crew: **Parise Livanos, Joyce Mavredakis-Nichols, Kyriaki Tsigkounis, Panayioti Vergados, Tim Vleisides, Katerina Gittings, Perry Vidalakis, Marika Tripodes, Labrini and Chris Makredes, Mark Nastri, Nick Klessis, Bryan Gittings, Chris and Eleni Ioannou, Gina Kazaltzes, Alexandra Katsas, Jenny Koulos, Alexia Pouloupoulos, Maria Anton-Conley, Elleni Conley, Pete Nichols, Mike Nichols.**

Thank you to our St. Anthony GOYA advisors, **Maria Katsas and Polly Vagenas**, who managed the planning and communications with the other communities as well as our St. Anthony GOYAns. This is a tremendous undertaking and as you can see it takes an army of great people to get it done!

In addition to these wonderful people we are deeply grateful to **Pete Galanis** who secured Victory Park for this event for the second year in a row. No venue - no event! Thank you Pete.







Philoptochos

Good Works

EATON FIRE DISASTER RELIEF SUPPORT

Philoptochos has been working to provide support and assistance to those who have been affected by the Eaton Fire.

Recovery Relief Buckets are available to anyone who has been displaced or is recovering from the after-effects of the fire.

Buckets contain essential cleaning supplies to help you clean and neutralize the lingering ashes and residue of the fire.

Contact a Board member if you or someone you know needs a Disaster Relief Bucket.

Philoptochos is here to help those affected by the Eaton Fire.

If you need assistance or aid, please let us know.

The Army of Agape is here for you.

Questions: Judith Din (626) 676-1240 or jnda810@gmail.com

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

***"Break your bread for the hungry, and bring the homeless poor into your house;
If you see a naked man, cover him, and not to hide yourself from your own flesh."***

Isaiah 58:7

Community Happenings

TRUNK TREASURES Rummage Sale Fundraiser

On early Saturday morning, May 17, Philoptochos hosted a one-day BIG rummage sale. Forty minutes before the doors officially opened, at least 35 customers were lining up outside in the rain to get first dibs on our wide selection of items for sale. We had many donated items from our members for sale such as: antiques, china, household wares, books, toys, jewelry, clothing, purses, shoes, and so much more. We provided free coffee, sold donuts, and engaged with the many customers who walked into our hall. It was a very fulfilling and successful event, raising over \$2800. All funds raised from this sale will benefit the Kids 'N' Cancer - CAMP AGAPE ministry.

A big thank you to *Jeanne* Karaioannoglou who had the vision and experience to put on this type of fundraiser.

We also appreciate our many volunteers who donated their "treasured" items. And thank you to all the volunteers who gave their time setting up and pricing on Friday and managing the rummage sale on Saturday. We could not have held this event without all of you.

THANK YOU!!



The early Saturday morning crew ready to open!



Community Happenings continued



Upcoming Philoptochos Meetings

Board Meeting –

Wednesday, June 11 at 7:00 PM.

June General Meeting –

“End of the Year Dinner & Scholarship Presentation” – Wednesday, June 18 at 6:00 PM. Please join us for our end of the year meeting honoring our 2025 high school scholarship recipients – **Yianni Kades** and **Martinos Christodoulides** and recognizing two outstanding Philoptochos honorees – **Christina Becronis** and **Jeanne Karaioannoglou**.

This event will be held at the festive Mijares Mexican Restaurant in Pasadena. \$50 per person. Make your reservation online <https://stanthonypiloptochos.square.site> or contact Jeanne Karaioannoglou – 626-437-6078.

2025 Christmas Benefit Planning Meeting –

Monday, June 2 at 7:00 PM in the church hall. We invite you to come help us plan our largest fundraiser of the year.

All are welcome to join the **2025 Benefit Planning Committee**. This very successful annual fundraiser provides funds that allow Philoptochos to help where there is need throughout the year. All are welcome to join the 2025 Benefit Planning Committee. If you are interested in volunteering, please come to the next planning meeting in June or contact any Philoptochos Board member for more details.

Philoptochos Scholarship Recipients for 2025

CONGRATULATIONS to the 2025 Philoptochos High School Scholarships recipients:

Yianni Kades and Martinos Christodoulides

Their scholarships will be presented at the Philoptochos Past Presidents and Scholarship Awards Dinner on **June 18**.

National Scholarship Opportunities in 2025



— CELEBRATING 20 YEARS —

For more than twenty years, **FAITH: An Endowment for Orthodoxy and Hellenism** has been pleased to sponsor a series of merit-based FAITH Scholarships for Academic Excellence for young people of Hellenic descent and/or Greek Orthodox faith. This is a scholarship opportunity for the graduating high school seniors in our parish who are embarking on an undergraduate degree program in the fall at a 4-year accredited U.S. college or university. All applications must be postmarked by **June 24, 2025**.

Click on link below for requirement details and the application.

<https://www.thefaithendowment.org/scholarships>



**PHILOPTOCHOS SOCIETY OF
SAINT ANTHONY GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH
PANAGIA CHAPTER**

PHILOPTOCHOS MEMBERSHIP FORM

☐ 2025 Philoptochos Membership ☐ 2025 Associate Membership (Men / Non-Voting) Date _____

Last Name	First Name	Spouse Name	M.I.
Street Address			
City	State	Zip	
Home Phone		Cell Phone	
Email			
Notices will be sent via email. If you prefer your notices mailed, please, let us know by checking here <input type="checkbox"/>			
St. Anthony's Philoptochos Stewardship (membership dues). Select amount below:			
<input type="checkbox"/> \$50 <input type="checkbox"/> \$75 <input type="checkbox"/> \$100 <input type="checkbox"/> \$125 <input type="checkbox"/> Other			
Each \$50 stewardship supports National Philoptochos (\$15), San Francisco Metropolis (\$15) and St. Anthony Philoptochos obligations and projects (\$20). ___ Check ___ Credit Card ___ Cash			
I am interested in helping with the following:			
___ Feeding the Hungry	___ Hosting Fellowship	___ Marketing	
___ Delivering Meals to Parishioners	___ Baking & Cooking	___ Website Designer	
___ Homebound Visitations	___ Fundraising	___ Other Talents	
___ Telephone Tree	___ Social Media	___ Specify	



2025 PHILOPTOCHOS MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

Your continued generosity allows Philoptochos to provide financial assistance and outreach to those in need. We invite you to renew your membership or become a new member as we endeavor to do our philanthropic work. Join us as we strive to fulfill the word of Christ.

".. whatever you did for one of these, the least of my brethren, you did for me" - Matthew 25:30

PLEASE RENEW OR JOIN BY MAIL (Check payable to: Saint Anthony Philoptochos Society)

Mail your check along with this form to:

**Saint Anthony Philoptochos Society, Attention: Membership
778 South Rosemead Boulevard, Pasadena, CA 91107**

or pay online at <https://stanthonypiloptochos.square.site>

Scroll down to "Annual Membership Dues"

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

To register for membership online, click here:

<https://stanthonypiloptochos.square.site/product/become-a-philoptochos-member/58>

2025 St. Anthony Philoptochos Membership

We are deeply grateful to those who have joined or renewed your membership with Philoptochos this year. Your generosity and dedication make our ministry possible, and we are truly blessed by your support.

Below is a list of current members. If your name is missing in error, or if you would like to join or renew your membership, please contact Lisa Xanthos or Helen Skandale.

Abi-Farah, Angelica	Haralambos, Alik	McGregor, Kristen	Tarazi, Ellie
Albeck, Irene	Haralambos, Page	Mitropoulos, Eleni	Treantafelles, Helen
Angelos, Sophia	Hronas, Maria	Molinari, Ynggrid	Tripodes, Dena
Argueta, Teresa	Ioannou, Eleni	Mylonas, Presvytera Maria	Tripodes, Marianthe
Balas, Julie	Johal, Demetra	Pantazis, Aleka	Tsigkounis, Kathy
Baliotis, Tina	Kades, Christine	Pappas, Christine	Tsigkounis, Kyriaki
Becker, Connie	Kades, Vicki	Pappas, Maria E.	Tsouvalas, Jenny
Becronis, Christina	Kalivas, Elene	Pastis, Leah	Turner, Nicole
Boukidis-Kourafas, Patricia	Kalivas, Pota	Pastis, Patricia	Udria, Mary
Bowers, Connie	Kamar, April	Patsavas, Bertha	Vagenas, Georgia
Brown, Niki	Karagias, Christina	Patsavas-Rosenfeld, Alexandra	Vagenas, Janet
Buickians, Gary	Karaioannoglou, Jeanne	Patzakis, Andrea	Vagenas, Krystina
Buickians, Jacqueline	Karras, Maria	Patzakis, Dr. Michael	Vagenas, Mindy
Buickians, Joanna	Karvelas, Marina	Paziouros, Konstantina	Vagenas, Nikolitsa
Buzas, Pamela	Katsafados, Theoni	Pegadiotes, Gena	Vagenas, Polly
Buzas, John	Katsas, Alexandra	Pollalis, Dino	Vagenas, Sophia
Chames, Anastasia	Kazaltzes, Vickie	Pollalis, Isabella	Vagenas, Tashia
Chenos-Spathopoulos, Efi	Kefalas, Evelyn	Pollalis, Kim	Vavoulis, Esther
Christodoulelis, Tanya	Kefallinos, Vicky	Polwrek, Joe	Vezzuto, Stephanie
Christodoulides, Andri	Kiotas, Stavroula	Poulos, Yiota	Vidalakis, Nancy
Christopoulos, Judie	Kokoris, Carolina	Prantzizou, Maria	Vorgias, Alma
Dallas, Athena	Kokoris, Maria	Ranglas, Jeannie	Webster, Jennifer
Damilatis, Eleni	Kolokotronis, Carolyn	Reese, Helen	Xanthos, Lisa
Dewar, Mary	Koudanis, Helen	Riley, Evangelia	Xanthos, Jim
Din, Judith	Koulakis, Gisele	Roumbos, Penelope	Zanetos, Alison
Drulias-Lucas, Anthia	Koulos, Joanna	Samaan, Yvette	Zoumberakis, Nikole
Dupas, Evangeline	Kouvara, Bessie	Sanders, Devin	
Dupas, Katherine	Kypreos, James	Schulman, Nicole	
Efstathiou, Teddi	Kypreos, Maria	Serban, Noura	
Frangeskou, Xenia	Lappas, Andrea	Sipsas, Nafsika	
Fuerst, Nicolette	Lappas, Virginia	Skandale, Elizabeth	
Gallagher, Eleni	Lucas, Katherine	Skandale, Helen	
Gallanis, Danica	Macris, Catherine	Smith, Helen	
Gallanis, Mary	Malina, Dorothea	Stamos, Mary	
Gelt, Pana	Malisos, Fontaine	Stratos, Father Peter	
Giannakopoulos, Sandra	Mallis, Mary Ann	Stratos, Presvytera Aida	
Giannoulis, Anna	Marotta, Claire	Syngelas, Sophia	
Grafos, Thean	Mavredakis, Vivian		



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

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 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

Host a Coffee Hour

Food Suggestions & Quantities

100 people – 70 adults & 30 children

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 brought to the Parish Hall ready-to-serve on platters/bowls by 10AM. preferably disposable. If not disposable, please remember to take them home

Tables, Tablecloths, Coffee, Cream, Sugar, Paper Plates, Napkins, Cups and Water will be set up by 10AM

Paper goods are underwritten by both Parish Council & Philoptochos. Please consider donating these items to help offset the cost

Our dedicated Parish caretaker, Carlos, is responsible only for the setup of water and coffee. He should not be expected to set-up the snack or cleanup any remaining food or serving pieces.

Any questions, please contact Tanya Mallis-Christodoulelis @ 626-379-2304

QTY	ITEM	COMMENTS
	Mini Bagels or Bagels	100 Mini whole or 6 bags of 12 Regular Sliced, cut in half
1 Jumbo Jar	Peanut Butter	Served in 4 paper/plastic bowls
1-48oz Jar	Jelly	Served in 2 paper/plastic bowls
1 Jumbo Jar	Nutella	Served in 2 paper/plastic bowls
	OR	
100	Mini Deli Sandwiches	Assorted Meats, Tuna, Veggie
	OR	
5lbs	Greek Cheese	Feta or Kefalotyri, sliced
4lbs	Greek Olives	1-4lb Tub or equivalent
	Hummus	Homemade (1 lg can chickpeas) or 3-34oz tubs Costco Hummus
4	Pita Bread Bags of 12	Pita - cut into quarters / Baguettes - sliced
	OR	
2-3	Assorted Salads	Potato Salad, Greek Salad, Tabouli
2	Assorted Vegetable Trays	
	AND (Choose 2)	
100	Cookies	Biscotti, Oreos, Assorted
4	Bundt Cakes or similar	Cut into thin slices
50-100	Muffins / Pastries / Donuts	50 Large, cut in half or 100 Small
6 containers	Seedless Grapes	Cleaned and cut into small bunches
3 – 5lb bags	Tangerines	
2	Assorted Fruit or Veggie Trays	

On Tuesday, May 13th, the VIP meeting was called to order at 11:00 am by President Irene Albeck. The opening prayer was led by Stavrula Kiotas followed by *Christos Anesti* led by Gena Pegadiotes.

Irene began her announced that Julie Ballas, daughter of our own Stavrula Kiotas, received the *Teacher of the Year* award at Pasadena City College. We extend our hearty congratulations to Julie for being most deserving of this recognition in her teaching profession.

The members were asked to sign a sympathy card for the family of Bessie Mechalas, who departed this life on Easter Sunday, April 20th. Jim Hronas mentioned that he had recently received an evite from Bessie's daughter announcing a Celebration of Life reception for Bessie to be held in the Community Center on Sunday, June 8th from 4:00 to 7:00 pm.

It was then moved, seconded and voted that the VIPs would donate \$100.00 to the Saint Anthony Philoptochos in memory of Bessie Mechalas.

The members were informed that Fontaine Malisos had recently undergone back surgery and we trust that she will have a speedy recovery and uneventful convalescence.

Reminders were given to save **May 17th** for the Philoptochos **Trunk Treasures rummage sale** benefitting Kids 'N Cancer. On **May 27th**, another baking session will be held making *paximadhia* for after-church coffee hour.

With most of our business and announcements taken care of, the election of new officers was held. With the membership in agreement that the current slate of officers had performed admirably, it was decided by acclamation that the current officers would remain in their positions for the new year. **KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK FOLKS!!**

Happy Birthday wishes were then bestowed upon **Claire Marotta**. Being an experienced chorister and former member of our church choir, Claire can be seen below on the left conducting our rendition of Happy Birthday.....and on the right apparently expressing satisfaction for the job we did singing to her. **MANY HAPPY RETURNS CLAIRE!**

At our meeting this month on **June 10th** we will be treated to a succulent planting and arranging demonstration by Stavrula Kiotas and Julie Ballas. And finally, we have scheduled Tuesday, **June 3rd** at 10:00 am to prepare *pastitsio* for the 2025 GreekFest. Please come if you are able to help in the preparation of this GreekFest favorite entree!

We look forward to seeing you on **June 10th** for our next meeting!

Jim Hronas

VIP Communications



Community News & more...

SAINT SOPHIA CAMP



2025 SEASON

WEEK 1: July 20–July 26
WEEK 2: July 26–August 2



A UNIQUE AND ENRICHING GREEK
ORTHODOX SUMMER CAMP
EXPERIENCE, BUILDING LIFELONG
FRIENDSHIPS THROUGH FAITH,
FELLOWSHIP, AND FUN!

COUNSELORS & STAFF (18+):
APPLICATIONS OPEN NOW!

CAMPERS (AGES 7-17):
REGISTRATION OPENS MAY 1



SIGN UP AT
WWW.SAINTSOPHIAACAMP.ORG

Upcoming Church Festivals - 2025

June

Downey 6/7 - 8
 Covina 6/14 - 15
 Camarillo 6/20 - 22
 Irvine 6/20 - 22

July

Redondo 7/18 - 20



September

Long Beach 9/5 - 7
 San Juan Capo 9/27 - 28
 Pasadena 9/19 - 21

October

Los Angeles 10/4 - 5

SAVE THE DATE

September 19-21, 2025!

Pasadena Greek Festival 2025 Planning has begun !!

The Pasadena GreekFest committee is busy launching preparations for the anticipated 2025 Festival. Fueled by boundless enthusiasm, creativity, and a deep commitment to their community, we are determined to create an unforgettable experience for all attendees.

Under the guidance of Christo Vagenas, the committee, predominantly comprised of young adults, welcomes individuals interested in contributing to this year's festivities.

Join us in shaping our largest fundraiser event!

For more details, please contact us:
info@pasadenagreekfestival.org

ST. ANTHONY BOWLING LEAGUE



The St. Anthony Bowling League is looking for bowlers 18 years of age and older interested in bowling weekly for two (12) week seasons.

Location: Bowlero Lanes, 3545 East Foothill Blvd., Pasadena, 91107

When: Fall Season: Thursday, September 4 through Thursday, November 20

Time: 7:00 P.M.

On Sunday, August 24, the bowling league will host coffee hour immediately following Divine Liturgy. We will also have sign-ups for any new bowlers.

Please feel free to contact:

Anthia Drulias-Lucas

(626) 274-6133

ADLJSL02@yahoo.com



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 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

Priest's Message	2
Stewardship	4
Ministries	6
Parish Council Report	8
Sunday School	9
Youth/Young Adults	10
Philoptochos	13
VIPs	19
Community News, etc.	21
Monthly Lesson	26
Saints of the Month	29
Orthodox Calendar	35



Saint Anthony the Great
17 January

Christ is Born !
Glorify Him !

Deadline for February Newsletter is Saturday, 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

There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear. I John 4:18

People of different personalities can successfully co-exist. So can people with different interests, different sports teams, and plenty of other differences. In Florida, where I live, it can be sunny and rainy at the same time. One can enjoy a cold drink on a warm day or a warm drink on a cold day.

However, two things that cannot co-exist are **fear and love**. One cannot express love while giving off a “vibe” of fear. One cannot feel love at the same moment they are afraid. One cannot give love at the same time that they are scaring someone. Love and fear—they cannot co-exist. Now, you might be saying can’t we love God but still be afraid of Him? My answer is, we can love God and *be in awe of Him*. If we come to God in love, there is no need to feel afraid.

In I John 4:18, we read today’s verse “*There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out all fear.*” There is a practical application of this verse every day of our lives. When we encounter people—are we afraid of them, or do we look forward to speaking with them? If there is a loving relationship, then there is no need to fear. If the relationship is filled with fear, it is not going to be filled with love.

If you are the boss or manager over other people, would your employees rate you as more loving or someone they are afraid of? The same goes for employees, would your boss think of you in a loving way, or in a fearful way? Are you someone who works responsibly and who is trustworthy, whose work ethic the boss loves? Or are you someone who is moody and untrustworthy, someone whose work ethic the boss fears? Same thing goes for spouses. Does your spouse run home to you in love, or delay coming home out of fear? These are certainly hard and sobering questions, but these scenarios play out every day in real life.

When someone sees you, would their thoughts go first to love, or fear?

There are certain people who strike fear in others and look at that almost with pride, or with indifference, they don’t care what other people think about them. There are some people who take pleasure in knowing that people who are about to encounter them are sweating from stress.

I know I personally would feel devastated if my presence in the room raised someone else’s blood pressure. I hope no one ever has sweaty palms as they are calling me on the phone. I hope I give off a “vibe” of approachability, and that others know I am quick to forgive and don’t like holding grudges or having things between me and other people. Obviously, I don’t always succeed in showing love instead of inducing fear. There is probably no one who does it right all the time.

But the Bible tells us that we are always to seek love, and that when love is present there is no fear. On the contrary, if we are always implanting fear in others, we will miss out on love—on loving them, and on them loving us, because fear and love cannot co-exist. Light and dark do not co-exist. Darkness is the absence of light and light (any amount of it) will conquer darkness. It’s the same thing with love. Fear is the absence of love and where there is love, fear is absent. Where there is love, fear can be overcome. Where fear is put aside, love can blossom.

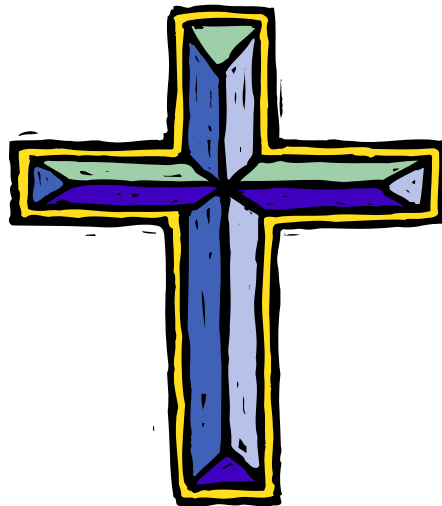


So ask yourself, seriously, when you interact with others, are you willed more with love than with fear? And when others interact with you, do you present yourself with love, or with fear?

Fear and love cannot co-exist. Each is a choice. You can choose to love. You can choose to fear. You can choose to love others. You can choose to make others afraid. Christ is very clear in His encouragement to us to choose love. Each of us will make dozens of choices today—many of those choices will show love or fear, many of those choices will have the power to relax others or to stress them out. Christ would tell us to choose love and not fear. The love and fear metric is a great way to make decisions. So use these two to check yourself and evaluate each decision you make today.

*Lord, thank You for showing us Your example of love by dying on the cross for us.
Thank You for the gift of forgiveness.
Help me to love You more.
Help me to show love to others.
Help me to be a person who promotes love and doesn't engender fear.
In my decisions today, and in my challenges today,
help me to remember to choose love over fear.
Amen.*

Choose love!



Saints & Feasts

Pentecost 8 June

After the Savior's Ascension into the Heavens, the eleven Apostles and the rest of His disciples, the God-loving women who followed after Him from the beginning, His Mother, the most holy Virgin Mary, and His brethren. All together about 120 souls returned from the Mount of Olives to Jerusalem. Entering into the house where they gathered, they went into the upper room, and there they persevered in prayer and supplication, awaiting the coming of the Holy Spirit, as their Divine Teacher had promised them. In the meanwhile, they chose Matthias, who was elected to take the place of Judas among the Apostles.

Thus, on this day, the seventh Sunday of Pascha, the tenth day after the Ascension and the fiftieth day after Pascha, at the third hour of the day from the rising of the sun, there suddenly came a sound from Heaven, as when a mighty wind blows, and it filled the whole house where the Apostles and the rest with them were gathered. Immediately after the sound, there appeared tongues of fire that divided and rested upon the head of each one. Filled with the Spirit, all those present began speaking not in their native tongue, but in other tongues and dialects, as the Holy Spirit instructed them.

The multitudes that had come together from various places for the feast, most of whom were Jews by race and religion, were called Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and so forth, according to the places where they dwelt. Though they spoke many different tongues, they were present in Jerusalem by divine dispensation. When they heard that sound that came down from Heaven to the place where the disciples of Christ were gathered, all ran together to learn what had taken place. But they were confounded when they came and heard the Apostles speaking in their own tongues. Marveling at this, they said one to another, *"Behold, are not all these which speak Galileans? And how hear we every man in our own tongue, wherein we were born?"* But others, because of their foolishness and excess of evil, mocked the wonder and said that the Apostles were drunken.

Then Peter stood up with the eleven, and raising his voice, spoke to all the people, proving that that which had taken place was not drunkenness, but the fulfillment of God's promise that had been spoken by the Prophet Joel: *"And it shall come to pass in the last days, that I shall pour out of My Spirit upon all flesh, and your sons and daughters shall prophesy"* (Joel 2:28), and he preached Jesus of Nazareth unto them, proving in many ways that He is Christ the Lord, Whom the Jews crucified but God raised from the dead.



Pentecost - continued

On hearing Peter's teaching, many were smitten with compunction and received the word. Thus, they were baptized, and on that day about three thousand souls were added to the Faith of Christ.

Such, therefore, are the reasons for today's feast: the coming of the All-holy Spirit into the world, the completion of the Lord Jesus Christ's promise, and the fulfillment of the hope of the sacred disciples, which we celebrate today. On this last, and great, and saving day of Pentecost, the Apostles of the Savior, who were unlearned fishermen, made wise now of a sudden by the Holy Spirit, clearly and with divine authority spoke the heavenly doctrines. They became heralds of the truth and teachers of the whole world. They were ordained and began their apostleship, of which the salvation of those 3000 souls in one day was the comely and marvelous first fruit.

Some erroneously hold that Pentecost is the "birthday of the Church." But this is not true, for the teaching of the holy Fathers is that the Church existed before all other things. Saint Gregory the Theologian speaks of "the Church of Christ ... both before Christ and after Christ". Saint Epiphanius of Cyprus writes, "The Catholic Church, which exists from the ages, is revealed most clearly in the incarnate advent of Christ". Saint John Damascene observes, "The Holy Catholic Church of God, therefore, is the assembly of the holy Fathers, Patriarchs, Prophets, Apostles, Evangelists, and Martyrs who have been from the very beginning, to whom were added all the nations who believed with one accord". According to Saint Gregory the Theologian, "The Prophets established the Church, the Apostles conjoined it, and the Evangelists set it in order". The Church existed from the creation of the Angels, for the Angels came into existence before the creation of the world, and they have always been members of the Church. Saint Clement, Bishop of Rome, says in his second epistle to the Corinthians, the Church *"was created before the sun and moon"*; and a little further on, *"The Church existeth not now for the first time, but hath been from the beginning"* (II Cor. 14).

That which came to pass at Pentecost, then, was the ordination of the Apostles, the commencement of the apostolic preaching to the nations, and the inauguration of the priesthood of the new Israel. Saint Cyril of Alexandria says that "Our Lord Jesus Christ herein ordained the instructors and teachers of the world and the stewards of His divine Mysteries ... showing together with the dignity of Apostleship, the incomparable glory of the authority given them ... Revealing them to be splendid with the great dignity of the Apostleship and showing them forth as both stewards and priests of the divine altars . . . they became fit to initiate others through the enlightening guidance of the Holy Spirit". Therefore, together with the baptism of the Holy Spirit which came upon them who were present in the upper chamber, which the Lord had foretold as recorded in the Acts, "ye shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days hence" (Acts 1:5), the Apostles were also appointed and raised to the high priestly rank, according to Saint John Chrysostom. On this day commenced the celebration of the Holy Eucharist by which we become "partakers of the Divine Nature" (II Peter 1:4). For before Pentecost, it is said of the Apostles and disciples only that they abode in "prayer and supplication" (Acts 1:14); it is only after the coming of the Holy Spirit that they persevered in the "breaking of bread, "that is, the communion of the Holy Mysteries-"and in prayer" (Acts 2:42).

The feast of Holy Pentecost, therefore, determined the beginning of the priesthood of grace, not the beginning of the Church. All foods are allowed during the week following Pentecost.

Monday of the Holy Spirit

9 June

As it is the custom of the Church, on the day after every great Feast, to honor those through whom it came to pass – our Lady on the day after the Lord's Nativity, Joachim and Anna after our Lady's Nativity, the holy Baptist the day after Theophany, and so forth. So on this day after Pentecost we honor our God the All-Holy Spirit, the Comforter promised by our Savior to His disciples (John 14:16), Who descended upon them at holy Pentecost and guided them "into all truth" and through them, us.

On this day we rest from labor.



Nativity of Saint John the Baptist

Elizabeth, mother of the Forerunner

24 June

He that was greater than all who are born of women, the Prophet who received God's testimony that he surpassed all the Prophets, was born of the aged and barren Elizabeth (Luke 1: 7) and filled all his kinsmen, and those that lived round about, with gladness and wonder. But even more wondrous was that which followed on the eighth day when he was circumcised, that is, the day on which a male child receives his name. Those present called him Zacharias, the name of his father. But the mother said, "Not so, but he shall be called John." Since the child's father was unable to speak, he was asked, by means of a sign, to indicate the child's name. He then asked for a tablet and wrote, "His name is John." And immediately Zacharias' mouth was opened, his tongue was loosed from its silence of nine months, and filled with the Holy Spirit, he blessed the God of Israel, Who had fulfilled the promises made to their fathers, and had visited them that were sitting in darkness and the shadow of death, and had sent to them the light of salvation. Zacharias prophesied concerning the child also, saying that he would be a Prophet of the Most High and Forerunner of Jesus Christ. And the child John, who was filled with grace, grew and waxed strong in the Spirit; and he was in the wilderness until the day of his showing to Israel (Luke 1:57-80).



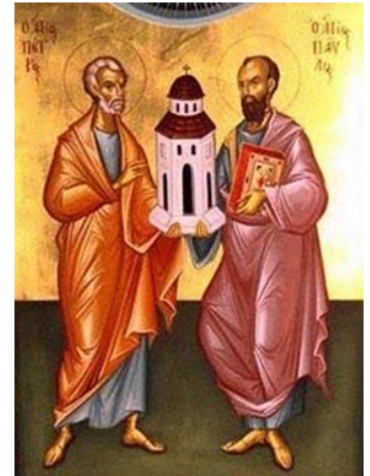
Peter & Paul, Holy Apostles

29 June

The divinely-blessed **Peter** was from Bethsaida of Galilee. He was the son of Jonas and the brother of Andrew the First-called. He was a fisherman by trade, unlearned and poor, and was called Simon; later he was renamed Peter by the Lord Jesus Christ Himself, Who looked at him and said, *"Thou art Simon the son of Jonas; thou shalt be called Cephas (which is Peter)"* (John 1:42). On being raised by the Lord to the dignity of an Apostle and becoming inseparable from Him as His zealous disciple, he followed Him from the beginning of His preaching of salvation up until the very Passion, when, in the court of Caiaphas the high priest, he denied Him thrice because of his fear of the Jews and of the danger at hand. But again, after many bitter tears, he received complete forgiveness of his transgression. After the Resurrection of Christ and the descent of the Holy Spirit, he preached in Judea, Antioch, and certain parts of Asia, and finally came to Rome, where he was crucified upside down by Nero, and thus he ascended to the eternal habitations about the year 66 or 68, leaving two Catholic (General) Epistles to the Church of Christ.

Paul, the chosen vessel of Christ, the glory of the Church, the Apostle of the Nations and teacher of the whole world, was a Jew by race, of the tribe of Benjamin, having Tarsus as his homeland. He was a Roman citizen, fluent in the Greek language, an expert in knowledge of the Law, a Pharisee, born of a Pharisee, and a disciple of Gamaliel, a Pharisee and notable teacher of the Law in Jerusalem. For this cause, from the beginning, Paul was a most fervent zealot for the traditions of the Jews and a great persecutor of the Church of Christ: at that time, his name was Saul (Acts 22:3-4). In his great passion of rage and fury against the disciples of the Lord, he went to Damascus bearing letters of introduction from the high priest. His intention was to bring the disciples of Christ back to Jerusalem in bonds. As he was approaching Damascus, about midday there suddenly shone upon him a light from Heaven. Falling on the earth, he heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou Me?" And he asked, "Who art Thou, Lord?" And the Lord said, *"I am Jesus Whom thou persecutest; it is hard for thee to kick against the pricks."*

And that heavenly voice and brilliance made him tremble, and he was blinded for a time. He was led by the hand into the city, and on account of a divine revelation to the Apostle Ananias, he was baptized by him, and both his bodily and spiritual eyes were opened to the knowledge of the Sun of Righteousness.



Peter & Paul – continued

And thru transformation beyond all expectation, he spoke with boldness in the synagogues, proclaiming that *"Christ is the Son of God"* (Acts 9:1-21). As for his zeal in preaching the Gospel after these things had come to pass, as for his un-abating labors and afflictions of diverse kinds, the wounds, the prisons, the bonds, the beatings, the stoning, the shipwrecks, the journeys, the perils on land, on sea, in cities, in wildernesses, the continual vigils, the daily fasting, the hunger, the thirst, the nakedness, and all those other things that he endured for the Name of Christ, and which he underwent before nations and kings and the Israelites, and above all, his care for all the churches, his fiery longing for the salvation of all, whereby he became all things to all men, that he might save them all if possible, and because of which, with his heart aflame, he continuously traveled throughout all parts, visiting them all, and like a bird of heaven flying from Asia and Europe, the West and East, neither staying nor abiding in any one place – all these things are related incident by incident in the Book of the Acts, and as he himself tells them in his Epistles.

His Epistles, being fourteen in number, are explained in 250 homilies by the divine Chrysostom and make manifest the loftiness of his thoughts, the abundance of the revelations made to him, the wisdom given to him from God, wherewith he brings together in a wondrous manner the Old with the New Testaments, and expounds the mysteries thereof which had been concealed under types; he confirms the doctrines of the Faith, expounds the ethical teaching of the Gospel, and demonstrates with exactness the duties incumbent upon every rank, age, and order of man. In all these things his teaching proved to be a spiritual trumpet, and his speech was seen to be more radiant than the sun, and by these means he clearly sounded forth the word of truth and illumined the ends of the world.

Having completed the work of his ministry, he likewise ended his life in martyrdom when he was beheaded in Rome during the reign of Nero, at the same time, when Peter was crucified.

Synaxis of 12 Apostles



















30 June

The names of the Twelve Apostles are these: Simon, who was called Peter, and his brother Andrew, the First-called; James the son of Zebedee, and his brother John, who was also the Evangelist and Theologian; Philip, and Bartholomew; Thomas, and Matthew the publican, who was also called Levi and was an Evangelist; James the son of Alphaeus, and Jude (also called Lebbaeus, and surnamed Thaddaeus), the brother of James, the Brother of God; Simon the Canaanite ("the Zealot"), and Matthias, who was elected to fill the place of Judas the traitor.



Orthodox Calendar

June 2025

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1 Fathers of the First Council 8:45am Orthros 10am Divine Liturgy 12:30 General Assembly Indoor & Live-stream	2 Greek School Graduation	3	4  7pm Union Staton Philoptochos	5	6 	7 Saturday of the Souls
8 HOLY PENTECOST 8:45am Orthros 10am Divine Liturgy Indoor & Live-stream	9 Monday of the Holy Spirit	10 10:30am VIP Meeting 7pm Par. Council	11 7pm Philoptochos Board Mtg.	12	13	14
15 Sunday of All Saints 8:45am Orthros 10am Divine Liturgy Indoor & Live-stream	16 	17 	18  7pm Philoptochos General Mtg.	19 	20 	21 
FAST OF THE APOSTLES						
22  2nd Sunday of Matthew 8:45am Orthros 10am Divine Liturgy Indoor & Live-stream	23 	24 	25 	26 	27 	28 
FAST OF THE APOSTLES						
29 Peter & Paul Holy Apostles 8:45am Orthros 10am Divine Liturgy Indoor & Live-stream	30 Synaxis of the Holy Apostles					
		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 All foods allowed No Symbol

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TIME SENSITIVE

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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.

It is in the waters of Baptism
that each Christian becomes
a member of Christ's Church.
And it is in the Eucharist that
each Christian is nourished
with Christ's Body and Blood.