

The Voice of Saint Anthony

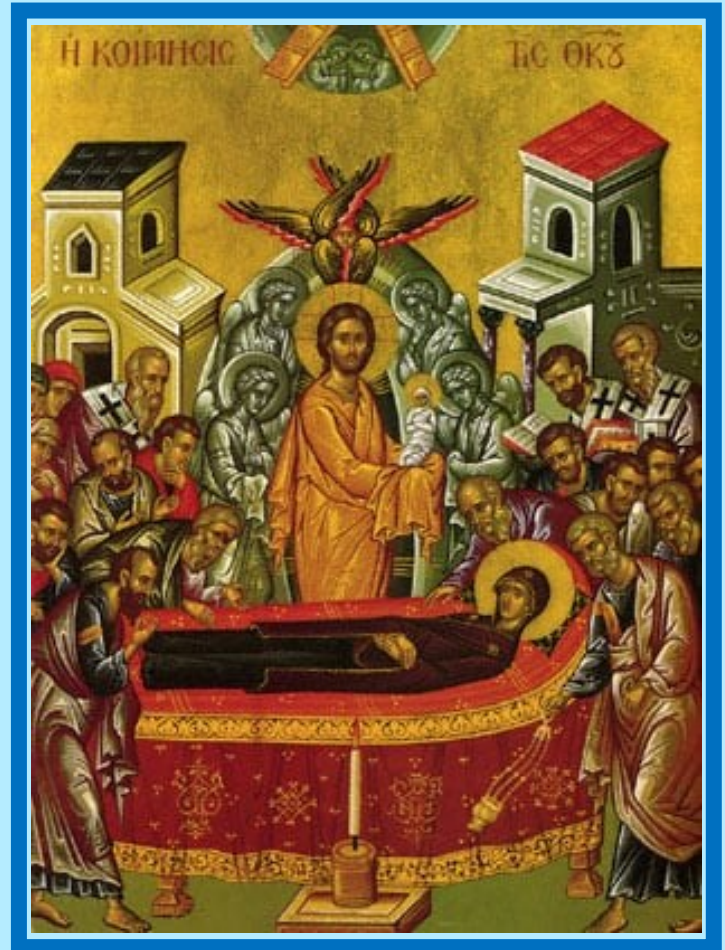
August 2025

Saint Anthony Greek Orthodox Church

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

Dormition Fast	1-14 August
Holy Transfiguration	06 August
Dormition of Theotokos	15 August
Saint Phanourios	27 August
Beheading John the Baptist	29 August

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**Dormition of the
Holy Theotokos
15 August**

DEADLINE for SEPTEMBER Newsletter is MONDAY, 25 AUGUST
Please send to: newsletter_church@aol.com

Message from Father Peter

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

We have reached that beautiful time of year when we offer devotions in honor of the Ever-Blessed Virgin Mary, **August 1st–August 15th**.

Our Holy Orthodox Church has set four major Feast Days for the Mother of God. August 15th is one of these holy days where we commemorate the **Dormition (falling asleep) of the Blessed Virgin Mary**.

This great Feast Day of the Dormition is preceded by 15 days of devotions and prayers to the Blessed Mother of God. During this period we observe a strict period of fasting. We pray and attend Paraklesis (Supplication) Services to the Theotokos and we attend the Divine Liturgy on August 15th. By following these disciplines of the Church, we can properly prepare ourselves for the sacrament of Holy Communion on that blessed day.

When visiting the Old City of Jerusalem, one can see just below the beautiful gardens of Gethsemane, the tomb of the Theotokos. This is the holy site of her Dormition. Descending the stairs to the tomb, one can observe on the left side (at the 50 foot level) the tomb of the parents of the Theotokos, Joachim and Anna. At the immediate right, one will find the tomb of the protector of the Theotokos, St. Joseph. Continuing down to the 100 foot level, at the base of the marble staircase, is the empty tomb of the Mother of God.

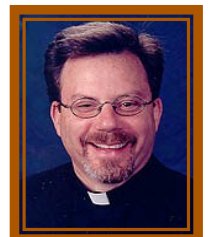
According to Holy Tradition, when the time came for the Mother of God to depart from this earth to join her Son in Heaven, she sent for all of the Apostles of Christ to be at her bedside. All the Apostles were present at the time of her burial, except for St. Thomas who returned too late for the funeral. He asked to visit her body, which had been buried for three days. When the tomb was opened, they were amazed to find that the body of Mary was gone. An Angel of the Lord appeared to the Apostles and announced that she had been taken into Heaven. This is the belief of all Orthodox Christians in accordance with Holy Tradition.

The first 15 days of August are sacred for Orthodox Christians around the world, a special time that brings feelings of intensified reverence. Special prayers and services are held regularly during these 15 days. Please consult our calendar for dates and times to attend or watch via live stream. This is a special time half way between Pascha and Advent (Christmas), when we can all refocus our minds and souls on our faith. This is a golden opportunity for us to be in church to pray, fast, and participate in our blessed services. Join us so that we can proclaim together...

Most Holy Theotokos Save Us!

In Christ,

Fr. Peter



The Major Feasts of the Church

The ecclesiastical year, which according to Byzantine practice begins on the first of September, is divided between movable and immovable or fixed holy days. The movable holy days are determined by the date of Easter, the most important of all feast days, which is in a class by itself. The determination of the date of Easter was definitively regulated by the decision of the First Ecumenical Synod, held in Nicaea (325). Next in importance to Easter are the "twelve great feasts," of which three are movable. Eight of these feasts are devoted to Christ and four to the Virgin Mary. There are also a number of feast days of varying importance, most of which commemorate the more popular saints.

We have highlighted in red the two upcoming major feast days in August. There will be a Divine Liturgy Service on these two days...The Transfiguration of Christ on Wednesday, August 6th and the Dormition of the Theotokos on Friday, August 15th. These are important days in the calendar of the Orthodox Church and your attendance at these services is highly encouraged.

- January 6: The Feast of Epiphany
- February 2: The Presentation of Christ
- March 25: The Annunciation
- Great Lent, Triodion, and Pentecostarion Seasons
- Palm Sunday
- Great and Holy Pascha
- The Ascension of Christ
- Holy Pentecost
- August 6: The Transfiguration of Christ
- August 15: The Dormition of the Theotokos
- September 8: The Nativity of the Theotokos
- September 14: The Exaltation of the Cross
- November 21: The Entrance Into the Temple of the Theotokos
- December 25: The Nativity of Christ



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

\$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

****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

BookstoreChristiana Kontaxis
Michael Kontaxis**Bowling**

Anthia Drulias Lucas

Golf Tournament

Jimmy Christos

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

Pana Gelt

GOYA VolleyballAnthia Lucas
Pana Gelt**Greek Dance Groups**

Nikole Zoumberakis

Greek Festival

Christian Balas

Greek Language

Anastasia McClain

JOY/HOPE

Irene Albeck

Myrrh Bearers

Irene Albeck

Oratorical Festival

Pres Aida Stratos

Prayer Shawls

Maria Kypreos

Psalter Group

Fr. Peter Stratos

Vacation Bible SchoolSophia Syrengelas
Mary Udria**VIPs**

Irene Albeck



Parish Council



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.





Save the date for Sunday School registration and the first day of class:
Sunday, August 17th!!

Attendance is encouraged, as there will be opportunity to register your children for all youth ministry programs at St. Anthony!

We look forward to welcoming our students back and starting a new year together.

More detailed information to come.

Contact Sophia Syrengelas with any questions:
sundayschool@saint-anthonys.org

Youth & Young Adults



LABOR DAY WEEKEND 2025
SEATTLE, WA

RENEW

WORSHIP | SERVICE | WITNESS | FELLOWSHIP

AUGUST 28 - SEPTEMBER 1

Seattle Marriott Bellevue

Join us in the Emerald City to refresh your faith,
reconnect with *paria*, and rediscover your purpose in
Christ. Unforgettable moments. Lasting friendships.
Powerful convos.

*Register
Now*



For young adults. By young adults.

Questions? Email registration@sfyalconference.org



*****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!

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

OPERATION CLASSROOM

Thank you for your generous support of our recent school supply drive. Your kindness helps equip students with the tools they need to succeed. Your generosity makes all the difference.

Throughout the year, Philoptochos will continue supporting schools through a variety of Operation Classroom projects. If you would like to contribute toward these future efforts, we've included a smartphone checkout link for your convenience.



We will keep you updated as new projects come up. Your generous gifts will go directly toward helping students and classrooms in need.

FRIENDS IN DEED

Philoptochos continues to deliver food to the Friends In Deed Food Pantry in Pasadena. The Food Pantry provides food assistance to low-income and no-income families in the greater Pasadena and Altadena areas. In July, we delivered cereals, canned tomato goods, pasta sauces, and peanut butter jars to the pantry.

Upcoming Philoptochos Meetings

2025 Christmas Benefit Planning Meeting – August 19, 2025 –7:00 PM in Trinity Hall.

Please consider being a part of the 56th Anniversary Christmas Benefit committee. This fun group of talented volunteers annually plans our largest fundraiser of the year. The proceeds from the Benefit fund the programs and extensive charity work Philoptochos accomplishes throughout the year.



FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA

Facebook: St. Anthony Philoptochos
Instagram: stanthonypiloptochos



**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>



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 July 8th, the VIPs met in the Community Center for their first get-together of the summer. The meeting was called to order by president Irene Albeck after which an opening prayer was offered.

Irene began her report by informing us that the succulent arrangements crafted by our members during the last meeting in June could potentially fetch up to \$150.00 retail. Members were asked to sign a card thanking Julie Balas for chairing this event along with her mom Stavrula Kiotas. Irene encouraged members to participate in various presentations volunteered by our members and guest speakers as a way to increase our knowledge base and skill sets. It was shared that Nicole Schulman, daughter of Maria and Jim Hronas, would be making a presentation on the value and utility of "Life Alert Systems" followed by a guest speaker Mark Davila on 'Colors,' with a pertinent activity to follow.

Always eager to inform us of our members' extracurricular activities, Irene mentioned that Helen Treantafelles was at the beach with her daughter and family, and Christine Kades recently returned from a trip to Greece, with her sister Eleni preparing to depart for Greece. We welcomed back Christine and wished her sister Eleni "Kalo Taxidi."

With the Fourth of July holiday weekend behind us, we are called to remember that our nation will commemorate and celebrate the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence on July 4th, 2026. It goes without saying that celebratory events leading up to this date will no doubt take place across the nation.

Our Sunshine chairman Christine Kades reminded us that we should notify her of anyone who should be sent a get-well card because of illness, hospitalization or convalescence.

It was suggested that since **National Senior Citizens Day** occurs on Sunday, August 17th, the VIPs might sponsor the post-liturgic Fellowship Coffee Hour. Always on the third Sunday in August, National Senior Citizens Day recognizes the contributions senior citizens make in communities across the nation.

Thank you to the VIPs who participated in the production of tyropita trays on July 21 in preparation for GreekFest 2025. All are reminded of the August baking schedule: Galaktoboureko (8/20), Spanakopita (8/21), Moussaka (8/27). All of our talented VIP chefs are encouraged to help on these dates as your schedules permit!! As these dates are subject to change, please call the church office to confirm the dates prior to coming to the hall.

GreekFest 2025 will be Saint Anthony's 66th annual celebration of Greek culture, food, music and dance, so be sure to pencil in **Friday September 19** (5:00-10:00 pm), **Saturday September 20** (12:00 noon-10:00 pm), and **Sunday September 21** (12:00 noon-10:00 pm) on your social calendars.

And just for fun, let's set aside **Tuesday, September 30th, 11:30am** as a day when we might meet for lunch at the Old Spaghetti Factory in Duarte. This will give us an opportunity to be served and to celebrate the success of our festival with no need to serve or clean-up and no meeting agenda. Details will follow as we make our way through the summer months.

Our July birthday celebrants in attendance included Christina Becronis, Paul Mallis, and Artemis Onuma. **WE WISH YOU ALL MANY HAPPY RETURNS!!**

We look forward to seeing many of you at our **next meeting on Tuesday August 11th**.

Jim Hronas
VIP Communications



Community News & more...



Saint Anthony Ministry Day Faire

Sunday 17 August
after Divine Liturgy in Parish Hall

Please join us for food, fun, music
and information about our church.
Learn about how you can become
a part of our church family !

Coffee Hour hosted by
St. Anthony Dance Ministry

THE ANNUAL PAN-ORTHODOX SUMMER MUSIC FESTIVAL

of Greater Los Angeles

Featuring Orthodox Christian choirs from Greater Los Angeles



“WE MAGNIFY THEE”:

A concert of Sacred Music

Performed by Orthodox Christian Choirs in Southern California

SATURDAY, AUGUST 23, 2025

Concert 3:00 p.m.—Reception 5:00 p.m.—Vespers 6:00 p.m.

Saint Steven's Cathedral

1621 West Garvey Avenue—Alhambra, CA 91803



EVERYONE WELCOME! CONCERT ADMISSION: FREE!

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
ADLJSLO2@yahoo.com

Georgia Tripodes
georgiatripodes@gmail.com

St. Sophia Camp Golf Tournament

Saint Sophia Camp Annual Golf Tournament

**Due to scheduling conflicts,
the Saint Sophia Camp Annual Golf Tournament
has been cancelled for 2025.**

Please save the date for 2026

**Friday, 11 September
California Country Club, Whittier**

Contact

Stephanie Caiopoulos Lubian
GolfLA4camp@aol.com

Upcoming Church Festivals - 2025

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

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

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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

For it will be as when a man going on a journey called his servants and entrusted to them his property; to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability.

Matthew 25:14-15

Everyone who goes to college studies something different. Of course, many students have the same major, but if you put together majors, minors, and electives, almost no two students have the exact same course of study. Factor in extracurricular activities and we'll see that each journey through college is probably unique. What is the same is that people finish and graduate.

Life works in the same fashion. Each of us is on a unique journey. I'm not the only Orthodox priest in the world. I might not be the only Orthodox priest who was ordained on May 15, 1998—perhaps another priest was ordained that day. I am not the only Orthodox priest who grew up in the Los Angeles area. However, I am the only Orthodox priest who grew up in the Los Angeles area who was ordained on May 15, 1998, and who serves in Tampa, is married with one child, loves yard work, and who writes every day. This story is unique to me.

One of the guiding Scripture passages for my life is Matthew 25:14-30, which is the Parable of the Talents. The parable begins with Jesus telling His Disciples: *"For it will be as when a man going on a journey called his servants and entrusted to them his property; to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability."* In this parable, the "talent" is a large sum of money, what one would expect to earn in ten years. Each of the three servants was entrusted with something. They each got something different, no one was the same. If one talent is ten years' worth of earnings, even the one who received the least still received something substantial. The most significant word here is the word "entrusted". These talents were not given, they were *entrusted*, or *loaned*. The three servants were not owners, but stewards. A steward is a temporary caretaker, who takes care of what he or she has received.

This parable should speak to each of us. Each of us has been given something substantial to offer the world. This includes our talents (our abilities), our opportunities, the people we meet, even our very life itself. Each of us will have different abilities, opportunities, people, and lifespan. It is important to remember that whatever we have is a loan, something to which we are entrusted temporarily. No matter what I do with what I have been given, whether I double it, as did the servant with the five talents and the servant with the two talents, or whether I bury it in the ground, as did the servant with the one talent, at some point, the Master (the Lord) will return and ask me what I did with what He had entrusted me.

If you continue to read this parable (Matthew 25:14-30), the master was equally happy with the man who started with five and made ten talents, as he was with the one who had two and made four talents. He didn't ask the man who started with two why did he not end up with ten. He did, however, question (and punish) the man with one talent for wasting what he had been given.

The goal of life is not to live to reach a certain age. It is to see everything we have that is good as a gift from God and to use what we have been given to glorify God and serve others. What we have been given, in a very basic form, is our life today. I'm not entitled to anything and certainly am not entitled to live to be 80 or 90 or 100 or whatever society considers a good life. What we should be more concerned with is what God considers to be a good life, a Godly life. We should be grateful for today. We should use our talents each day. And if the end comes when we are 40 or 70 or 100, we can rest assured that we've done our best and if we've done our best, what more can God ask from us?

When a clergyman passes away, there is a special prayer that is offered by the Bishop at his funeral. It speaks to death as being a great equalizer and the common destiny for everyone:

We thank You, O Lord our God, for Your life alone is immortal, and Your glory is incomprehensible, and Your mercy immeasurable, and Your love for mankind inexpressible, and Your reign without succession, and with You, Lord, there is no partiality towards persons; for You have required all men to pay the same debt when the full measure of their life has been completed.



In a world that seems obsessed with equality, the Lord reminds us through this prayer and through the parable of the talents that:

it is not longevity that the Lord cares about, but good stewardship over what we've been given to take care of.

In the same vein, it is not about how much we end up having, but how much we do with what we've been blessed.

And third, it reminds us that indeed we are stewards – temporary caretakers.

God has invested in each of us, and He wants a good return on His investment. We won't all be blessed with 100 years of life. Each one will have a different lifespan. What matters most is making the most of the life you have, beginning with the unique talents and circumstances that God provides for your life, and making the most of each gift, each day, even each moment.

Finally, each person's gifts are different. Some are doctors, some are teachers, some are parents, some are plumbers. What would the world be like if we had no sanitation workers to pick up the garbage? We would all die quickly. There certainly would be no need for doctors. What if there were no truck drivers? Food wouldn't get to the grocery store, supplies wouldn't get to doctors, medicines would not get to pharmacies.

While many parents wish for their children to be doctors or lawyers, the truth is that we need all kinds of people doing all kinds of things to make the world function in a way that is healthy and viable.

Rather than focus on what we do for a career, how much money we make and even how long we live, we need to focus on what we do with what we've been given, beginning with how we use this day.

*Let your steadfast love come to me, O Lord,
your salvation according to your promise;
then shall I have an answer for him who taunts me,
for I trust in your word.
And take not the word of truth utterly out of my mouth,
for my hope is in your rules.
I will keep your law continually,
forever and ever,
and I shall walk in a wide place,
for I have sought your precepts.
I will also speak of your testimonies before kings
and shall not be put to shame,
for I find my delight in your commandments,
which I love.
I will lift up my hands toward your commandments, which I love,
and I will meditate on your statutes.*

Psalm 119:41-48



It's not how many days you have, but what you **do** with the days you have !!

Saints & Feasts

Dormition Fast

1 August–14 August

The commemoration of the **Dormition of the Theotokos** and the preparation for the Feast begin on August 1 with a period of fasting. A strict fast is followed on most of the days (no meat, dairy, oil, or wine), with the exceptions of fish on the Feast of the Transfiguration (August 6) and the day of the Dormition. Oil and Wine are allowed on Saturdays and Sundays.

On the weekdays before the Feast, Paraklesis services are held in most parishes. These consist of the Great Paraklesis and the Small Paraklesis, both services of supplication and prayer for the intercessions of the Theotokos.

Transfiguration of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ

6 August

Our Lord had spoken to His disciples many times not only concerning His Passion, Cross, and Death, but also concerning the coming persecutions and afflictions that they themselves would endure. Since all these evils were near at hand, but the enjoyment of good things which they hoped to receive in their stead was yet to come, our Savior desired to give them full assurance, evidently and openly, concerning that glory which is prepared for those who endure to the end. Therefore, fulfilling what He had promised:

"there be some standing here which shall not taste of death, till they see the Son of man coming in His Kingdom"
(Matthew 16:28)

He took His three foremost disciples and ascended Mount Tabor, where He was transfigured before them. His face shone like the sun, and His clothes became white as the light. Suddenly, together with this dread and marvelous effulgence of light, there appeared those pinnacles of the Prophets, Moses and Elias, who spoke with the Lord Jesus concerning His saving Passion which was about to take place. Standing before Him as reverent servants, they showed that He is the Lord of both the living and the dead, for Moses came forth from Hades, having died many centuries before, and Elias, as it were from heaven, whither he had been taken up while yet alive. After a little while a radiant cloud overshadowed them and out of the cloud they heard that same voice which had been heard at the Jordan at the Baptism of Christ, testifying to the Divinity of Jesus saying:

"This is My beloved Son, in Whom I am well-pleased; Listen to Him"
(Matthew 17: 5)



Transfiguration of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ – continued

Such are the marvels, truly worthy of God, celebrated in this present feast, which is an image and prefiguring of the future state of the righteous, whose splendor the Lord spoke of, saying: "Then shall the righteous shine forth as the sun" (Matt. 13:43). According to tradition, the Lord's Transfiguration came to pass forty days before His Crucifixion; this is why the Transfiguration is celebrated forty days before the Exaltation of the Cross.

The Dormition of our Most Holy Lady the Theotokos and Ever Virgin Mary

15 August

Concerning the Dormition of the Theotokos, this is what the Church has received from ancient times from the tradition of the Fathers. When the time drew nigh that our Savior was well-pleased to take His Mother to Himself, He declared unto her through an Angel that three days hence, He would translate her from this temporal life to eternity and bliss. On hearing this, she went up with haste to the Mount of Olives, where she prayed continuously. Giving thanks to God, she returned to her house and prepared whatever was necessary for her burial. While these things were taking place, clouds caught up the Apostles from the ends of the earth, where each one happened to be preaching, and brought them at once to the house of the Mother of God, who informed them of the cause of their sudden gathering. As a mother, she consoled them in their affliction and then raised her hands to Heaven and prayed for the peace of the world. She blessed the Apostles, and, reclining upon her bed with seemliness, gave up her all-holy spirit into the hands of her Son and God.

With reverence and many lights, and chanting burial hymns, the Apostles took up that God-receiving body and brought it to the sepulcher, while the Angels from Heaven chanted with them, and sent forth her who is higher than the Cherubim. But one Jew, moved by malice, audaciously stretched forth his hand upon the bed and immediately received from divine judgment the wages of his audacity. Those daring hands were severed by an invisible blow. But when he repented and asked forgiveness, his hands were restored. When they had reached the place called Gethsemane, they buried there with honor the all-immaculate body of the Theotokos, which was the source of Life. But on the third day after the burial, when they were eating together, and raised up the artos (bread) in Jesus' Name, as was their custom, the Theotokos appeared in the air, saying "Rejoice" to them. From this they learned concerning the bodily translation of the Theotokos into the Heavens.



Saint Phanourios

27 August

Little is known of the holy Martyr Phanourios, except that which is depicted concerning his martyrdom on his holy icon, which was discovered in the year 1500 among the ruins of an ancient church on Rhodes, when the Moslems ruled there. Thus he is called "the Newly Revealed." The faithful pray to Saint Phanourios especially to help them recover things that have been lost, and because he has answered their prayers so often, the custom has arisen of baking a Phaneropita ("Phanourios-Cake") as a thank you-offering.



Beheading of John the Baptist

29 August

The divine Baptist, the Prophet born of a Prophet, the seal of all the Prophets and beginning of the Apostles, the mediator between the Old and New Covenants, the voice of one crying in the wilderness, the God-sent Messenger of the incarnate Messiah, the forerunner of Christ's coming into the world who by many miracles was both conceived and born; who was filled with the Holy Spirit while yet in his mother's womb; who came forth like another Elias the Zealot, whose life in the wilderness and divine zeal for God's Law he imitated: this divine Prophet, after he had preached the baptism of repentance according to God's command; had taught men of low rank and high how they must order their lives; had admonished those whom he baptized and had filled them with the fear of God, teaching them that no one is able to escape the wrath to come if he does not do works worthy of repentance; had, through such preaching, prepared their hearts to receive the evangelical teachings of the Savior; finally, after he had pointed out to the people the very Savior, and said,



"Behold the Lamb of God, Which taketh away the sin of the world"

(Luke 3:2-18; John 1: 29-36)

After all this, John sealed with his own blood the truth of his words and was made a sacred victim for the divine Law at the hands of a transgressor. This was Herod Antipas, the Tetrarch of Galilee, the son of Herod the Great. This man had a lawful wife, the daughter of Arethas (or Aretas), the King of Arabia (that is, Arabia Petraea, which had the famous Nabatean stone city of Petra as its capital. This is mentioned by Saint Paul in 2 Corinthians 11:32).

Beheading of John the Baptist – continued

Without any cause, and against every commandment of the Law, he put her away and took to himself Herodias, the wife of his brother Philip, to whom Herodias had borne a daughter, Salome. He would not desist from this unlawful union even when John, the preacher of repentance, the bold and austere accuser of the lawless, censured him and told him:

"It is not lawful for thee to have thy brother's wife"

(Mark 6: 18)

Thus Herod, besides his other unholy acts, added yet this, that he apprehended John and shut him in prison; and perhaps he would have killed him immediately, had he not feared the people, who had extreme reverence for John. Certainly, in the beginning, he himself had great reverence for this just and holy man. But finally, being pierced with the sting of a mad lust for the woman Herodias, he laid his defiled hands on the teacher of purity on the very day he was celebrating his birthday.

When Salome, Herodias' daughter, had danced in order to please him and those who were supping with him, he promised her -- with an oath more foolish than any foolishness -- that he would give her anything she asked, even unto the half of his kingdom. And she, consulting with her mother, immediately asked for the head of John the Baptist on a plate. Hence this transgressor of the Law, preferring his lawless oath above the precepts of the Law, fulfilled this godless promise and filled his loathsome banquet with the blood of the Prophet. So it was that the all-venerable head, revered by the Angels, was given as a prize for an abominable dance, and became the plaything of the dissolute daughter of a debauched mother.























As for the body of the divine Baptist, it was taken up by his disciples and placed in a tomb.

(Mark 6: 21 - 29)



Orthodox Calendar

August 2025

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1  6pm Great Paraklesis	2 
Dormition Fast						
3  8th Sunday of Matthew 8:45am Orthros 10am Divine Liturgy Indoor & Live-stream	4  6pm Small Paraklesis	5  6pm Great Vespers	6  9am Transfiguration 7pm Union Staton Philopotochos	7  6pm Small Paraklesis	8 	9 
Dormition Fast						
10  9th Sunday of Matthew 8:45am Orthros 10am Divine Liturgy Indoor & Live-stream	11  6pm Small Paraklesis	12  6pm Great Paraklesis 7pm Parish Council Mtg.	13  6pm Small Paraklesis	14  7pm Great Vespers	15  9am Dormition of the Virgin Mary	16
Dormition Fast						
17 10th Sunday of Matthew 8:45am Orthros 10am Divine Liturgy 12pm Ministry Registrat. 1pm Dance Practice Indoor & Live-stream	18	19	20 	21	22 	23
24 11th Sunday of Matthew 8:45am Orthros 10am Divine Liturgy Sunday School 12:15 Dance Practice Indoor & Live-stream	25	26	27 	28	29  9am Beheading of Saint John the Baptist	30
31 12th Sunday of Matthew 8:45am Orthros 10am Divine Liturgy NO Sunday School 12:15 Dance Practice Indoor & Live-stream		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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August 2025

POSTAGE
STAMP

TIME SENSITIVE

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.

DO NOT SKIP THIS PRAYER



Thank You, God.

I don't have a luxurious house, yet I can still find shelter from the storm. There are nights when I struggle to sleep, but I can still wake up to face a new day. My wallet may not be filled, but I am still provided for with food and clothing. I may not have everything I want, but I have everything I need. God, I am grateful to You for this.

Amen.

