The Voice of Saint Anthony

Saint Anthony Greek Orthodox Church
Monthly Newsletter

www.saint-anthonys.org **November 2026** (626) 449-6943 Office

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Cosmas & Damianos	1 November
Archangel Michael	8 November
Saint Nektarios	9 November
Saint John Chrysostom	13 November
Saint Philip	14 November
Nativity Fast Begins	15 November
Saint Matthew	16 November
Saint Gregory	17 November
Entrance of the Theotokos	21 November
Saint Katherine	25 November
Saint Andrew	30 November



Entrance of the Theotokos into the Temple

21 November

DEADLINE for the DECEMBER Newsletter WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 25

Please send input to:
newsletter_church@aol.com

Message from Father Peter

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Let us Pray..

Let us rejoice!
Let us celebrate with songs!
The revelation of Christ is made manifest:
The preaching of the prophets
Having received their fulfillment.
For Christ of whom they spoke,
Foretelling His appearance in the flesh,
Is to be born in a holy cave
and to be placed as a babe in a manger.
With uprightness of mind
let us lift up a joyful prayer,
celebrating the coming of the Lord.
O Christ, our God, glory to You!
Adapted Vesper Hymn—Fore feast of the Birth of Christ

For forty days the Church seeks to prepare us for the true meaning of Christmas. Most of us need time to prepare for special events. It takes time to plan for a trip, a vacation, for entering college, for a baptism or wedding. We need time to anticipate, to prepare for the practical aspects, to think about their significance for us. With adequate preparation we enjoy these events much more.

During the liturgical year the Church has several periods of preparation prior to great feast days. The first such period begins on ***November 15, the Christmas Fast,*** *which is not as strict as Great Lent prior to Easter. For forty days (Advent) we anticipate and prepare for the coming of Christ into the world and into our lives.*

Some practical advice for Advent:

As part of your preparation for Christmas resolve to give closer attention to the Word of God by reading for example, one chapter a day from the Gospels for the forty days of Advent. You might read the Gospels of Mark and Luke which together have forty chapters. Getting to know more about the life of Christ will make you appreciate more deeply the significance of His coming which we celebrate on Christmas. In your daily prayers include thanksgiving for the Lord's coming, invite Him to be at the center of your life and let your heart leap for joy as you meditate on God's gift of His Son to the world.



In Christ,

Fr. Peter

STUDIES IN THE FAITH

Fall Session, 2026
October 05th – Nov. 23rd

Our text for the 2026 Studies in the Faith class will be, *The Orthodox Faith, "Worship" Volume 2,* by Fr.Thomas Hopko. Our class for this fall, will be taught over 8 class sessions, meeting on Monday evenings 6:30 – 7:45pm.

These informative classes will serve as an excellent introduction to the Orthodox Faith for those interested in learning about the Orthodox Church. This series of classes will also provide an inspiring enrichment and review for practicing Orthodox Christians.

*Reading each week's assigned chapter and participating in class discussions is encouraged to ensure that the sessions become an exciting and meaningful experience for all participants. For those interested in this year's class please email Fr. Peter at this address: frpeter@saint-anthonys.org

* Google SVS Press, go to Find a Book tab at the top right of page, and type in: Volume 2, *Worship*. The cost of the book is approximately $23. (Please order your copy as soon as possible and begin reading).

CHAPTERS TO BE DISCUSSED

Fifth Session – Monday November 02nd

Chapter Five: "*Daily Cycle of Prayers*" continued

Sixth Session – Monday November 09th

Chapter Six: "*The Church Year*"

Seventh Session – Monday November 16th

Chapter Seven: "*The Church Year*" continued

Eighth Session – Monday November 23rd

Chapter Eight: "*The Divine Liturgy*"

Stewardship

SAINT ANTHONY
GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

2026 Stewardship Financial Commitment

2026

"As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's grace." (1 Peter 4:10)

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 December 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 2026 offering of:

My Total Commitment for 2026: $_____

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
_____Bible Studies
_____Bookstore
_____GOYA Basketball
_____GOYA/Jr. GOYA
_____Greek Dance
_____Greek Language School
_____JOY/HOPE
_____Kouvouklion
_____Little Lambs
_____Myrrh Bearers
_____OCF (Orthodox Christian Fellowship)
_____Office Volunteers
_____St. John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival
_____Stewardship Committee
_____Studies in the Faith
_____Sunday School
_____Vacation Bible School
_____VIPs
_____Volleyball Tournament
_____Welcoming Committee
_____ Other

Parish Events

_____Palm Sunday Luncheon
_____Pasadena Golf Classic
_____Pasadena Greek Fest
_____Resurrection Magiritsa Dinner
_____Saint Anthony Feast Day
_____Summer Family Picnic
_____Other

Name_____ **Email**_____ **Phone**_____

Name_____ **Email**_____ **Phone**_____

Ministries



2026 PARISH COUNCIL

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

Christian Balas
Tom Grafos
Louis Kades
Pete Katsafados
Jonathan Nassos
James Pappas
Constandinos Vagenas

OFFICE STAFF

Maria Prantzikou – Office Administrator

Alma Vorgias - Part time Office Admin.



CUSTODIAL STAFF

Carlos Sosa





CHOIR

TBD

CHANTER

Liam McCann

READERS

Nicholas Kokoris



SUNDAY SCHOOL STAFF

Sophia Syrengelas - Director

Pre-K & TK:
Sophia Syrengelas & Andrianna Lareau

Kindergarten & First:
Elena Tsianos & Taia Bissias

Second & Third:
Eleni Wojick & Jenni Pulos Nassos

Fourth & Fifth:
Athena Serban and Mary Udria

Middle School:
Polly Vagenas & Chris Syrengelas

High School:
Presvytera Aida Stratos

PHILOPTOCHOS SOCIETY

Executive Board

President
Nicolette Fuerst
1st Vice President
Liz Skandale
2nd Vice President
Carolina Kokoris
Sophia Syrengelas
Corresponding Secretary
Tanya Christodoulelis
Recording Secretary
Fontaine Malisos
Treasurer
Maria Kypreos
Assistant Treasurer
Mary Dewar Philoptochos
Advisor
Judith Din
Spiritual Advisor
Father Peter Stratos

Board of Directors

Beautification
Connie Becker
Andrea Patzakis
Community Outreach
Mary Dewar
Fellowship
Mary Udria
Noula Serban
Operation Classroom
Helen Skandale
Lisa Xanthos
Publicity
Christine Pappas
Scholarship
Presbytera Aida Statros
Sunshine and Visitation
Maria Hronas
Union Station
Maria Kokoris

ADDITIONAL MINISTRIES

Acolytes	Pres Aida Stratos
Bible Study	Fr. Peter Stratos
Bookstore	TBD
Bowling	Anthia Drulias Lucas
Choir	TBD
Golf Tournament	Jimmy Christos
GOYA	Anthia Drulias Lucas Polly Vagenas
GOYA Basketball	Pana Gelt
GOYA Volleyball	Anthia Drulias 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
VacationBible School	Sophia Syrengelas Mary Udria
VIPs	Bessie Kouvara Thean Grafos

Parish Council

ENTERING CHURCH

Please make every effort to arriveforservices a little early.
If you arrive late, it is important to observe the following moments in the Divine Liturgy when you should not enter the Nave but wait quietly in the Narthex:

During the Small Entrance
During the Epistle Reading
During the Gospel Reading
During the Homily
When the Priest is censing just before the Great Entrance
During the Great Entrance
From the Creed until after the Consecration of the Gifts
During the Lord's Prayer

A Parish Council member will gladly assist you with any question about the appropriate times to enter the Nave.

HOLY COMMUNION PROCEDURE
Winter schedule

For the benefit of our Sunday School students, their teachers and the TIMELY start of their Sunday School Classes please allow all the children to receive Holy Communion first.

PLEASE NOTE that only baptized/Chrismated Orthodox Christians may receive the Sacrament of Holy Communion. At the end of the Divine Liturgy, you are welcome to receive the Holy Bread.

All Orthodox Christians must be spiritually prepared to receive the Sacrament of Holy Communion. Please see your priest if you have any questions.

· 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 and 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.



October was a fun and full month for our Sunday School ministry! Our teachers are enjoying the new curriculum and the students are engaged and having fun in class. It's really wonderful to hear the discussions amongst the kids taking place in class, as this really is where the true learning happens and where we see their faith come to life. Please be sure to ask your children what they learned and talked about in class!

Please take note of the following dates as we head into the holiday season:

Sunday, November 8th: Youth Ministry Sunday (HOPE, JOY, + GOYA)
Sunday, November 29th: No class (Thanksgiving break)
Sunday, December 13th: Christmas pageant + hosting coffee hour
Sunday, December 20th: Youth Ministry Sunday (HOPE, JOY, + GOYA)
Sunday, December 27th: No class (Christmas break)
Sunday, January 3rd: No class (Christmas break)

We look forward to celebrating the holiday season with our students and hope to have strong attendance in class during this time!

If you have not filled out a registration form for your child for this school year, please do so. Parent contact information is needed in order to ensure that all families receive email communication from our ministry. Please email ***sundayschool@saint-anthonys.org*** *if you are not receiving emails.*

Little Lambs News

GREAT news! Little Lambs will be starting up again on Sunday, November 8th! Infants through age 4 1/2 and their parent are invited to join us for interactive stories, music, movement, craft, and play. Together, we will explore, create, and make joyful memories in a nurturing faith-based environment. Little ones learn best when they learn with you.

This is a parent-child participatory program. We ask that a parent stay and take part in all activities alongside their child.

Following Holy Communion, please join us in the preschool classroom for our first class and a special orientation for child and parent on ***Sunday, November 8th.***

HOPE + JOY News
Please see next page…

Contact ***sundayschool@saint-anthonys.org*** *with any questions.*

Our **Hope** group got into the Halloween spirit with a craft that revisited a key component of their faith: the Holy Trinity. Using the three colors of the candy corn, the students learned about the three parts of the Holy Trinity: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. After a class-wide discussion of the Trinity, each of the order students paired up with a younger student to complete a candy corn cross. Students got to color each candy corn and glue them into the shape of a cross. The older students loved being able to guide the little ones through the activity and the littles loved being included with the big kids.

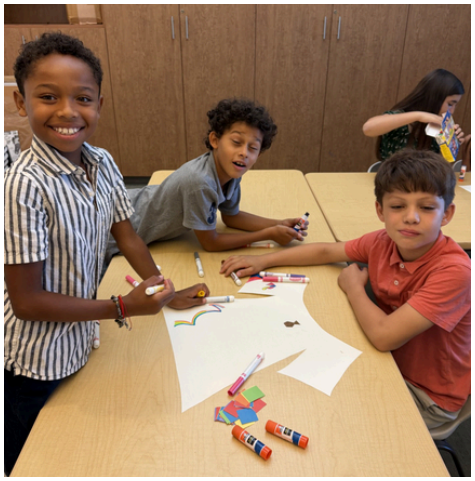














Youth & Young Adults

SAINT ANTHONY
GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH



Help IOCC Rebuild in Altadena, CA

Want to help others get back on their feet after the 2025 California wildfires? In the wake of a disaster, families often need help rebuilding and repairing their homes. Volunteer for a day or week to help individuals and families move toward long-term recovery.

REQUIREMENTS & COST

- You don't need to be skilled—just energetic!
- You must be 18 years old or older
- Free for day volunteers
- For volunteers traveling in, the cost is $100 a week and covers all your basic expenses on the ground: room and board, local transportation, and site supervision.

DATES

- Weeks are available January – March of 2027. To select a week, or for more information, contact Krista Hamann at 667-331-9812 or volunteercoordinator@iocc.org.

"Our experience was incredible. While we were there to help an owner rebuild his home, we learned so much, [and] had great fellowship. We plan to do this again next year. "

- **2023 Action Team Volunteer**

International Orthodox Christian Charities IOCC

Philoptochos

Good Works

Union Station Homeless Service (USHS)

USHSis in need ofsack 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
Maria Kokoris	nmkokoris@gmail.com
Christina Kades	christinekades@gmail.com

"Break your bread for the hungry, and bring the homeless poor into your house;

Philoptochos is here to help those in need.
Should you find yourself facing hardship, contact a Philoptochos member or Nicolette Fuerst, Philoptochos President - nicolette.fuerst@gmail.com

Community Happenings



On Sunday, October 4, we celebrated Father Peter Stratos's 20-year Anniversary at Saint Anthony Church and his 25 years ordained to the Priesthood. Philoptochos hosted Father's Anniversary Luncheon after liturgy.

May the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ continue to bless Father Peter as he faithfully serves the Church!
Αξιος!

Fall Back into Philoptochos – General Meeting

Fall Back into Philoptochos brought together more than 30 members for a wonderful evening of fellowship, a delicious buffet dinner, and fall desserts. Our president, Nicolette, shared an overview of our chapter's activities and plans for 2026-2027. A lively Philoptochos trivia contest added to the fun, with members choosing pumpkins for each correct answer. We were excited to welcome new members and reconnect with familiar friends – a lovely way to fall back into Philoptochos!








Blessed







Blessing of the Animals in Memory of Stephanie Zanglis Soewers

On This special prayer service took place outside the Trinity Ballroom on a sunny Saturday, October 17, 2026. Everyone enjoyed the fellowship and tasty treats, especially the dogs. We appreciate the support from all who attended. Thank you for the donation of blankets, towels and cash which has been donated to the Pasadena Humane Society. Many thanks to Judith Din who continued this ministry started by our Philoptochos Sister Stephanie Zanglis Soewers in 2022. We are appreciative that Stephanie's family was able to join us and continue her good work.












The Philoptochos Society of
Saint Anthony Greek Orthodox Church
Proudly Presents our 57th Annual Benefit
Santa's Wonderland
SATURDAY,
DECEMBER 5, 2026
The Langham Huntington Hotel
1401 South Oak Knoll Avenue
Pasadena, California
10:15 a.m.
Christmas Boutique &
Santa's Kitchen
11:45 a.m.
Luncheon, Fashion Show,
Live Auction & Grand Awards
PROCEEDS WILL BENEFIT
ALTADENA GIRLS
& other Philoptochos Charities
For Reservations and Star Donations
please visit our website
SAPHILOPTOCHOS.GIVESMART.COM
or scan the QR Code
Questions?
stanthonysphiloptochosbenefit@gmail.com

Dear Friends,

We are excited to announce the 57th Annual St. Anthony Christmas Benefit Luncheon. As we prepare for another wonderful celebration, we are pleased to share some exciting changes to this year's reservations, Star Program and more.

We are introducing an online platform that will make it easier and more convenient for you to participate. You will be able to make your reservations, select your entree, request seating with friends, support the Star Program, and participate in the raffle — all in one place!

If you prefer to pay by check, please fill out the enclosed envelope. At this time, however, we will not be accepting credit card information through the mail. To help accommodate seating preferences, fully paid tables of 10–12 guests will receive priority seating, based on the order reservations are received.

Thank you for your continued love, generosity, and support of the St. Anthony Philoptochos Society. Your participation helps us continue our mission of serving others and making a meaningful difference in our community. We look forward to celebrating the Christmas season with you and sharing another memorable afternoon of fellowship, fashion, fun, and philanthropy!

With warmest wishes,

St. Anthony Philoptochos Christmas Benefit Committee

Join Philoptochos and friends for our Benefit Luncheon, Santa's Wonderland, on ***Saturday, December 5, 2026.***
Proceeds will benefit a very worthy local organization ALTADENA GIRLS as well as other Philoptochos charities in our community, Metropolis and National.
We hope you support our good works by making a reservation, becoming a Star Donor, purchasing a Grand Awards raffle ticket, shopping at our amazing Christmas boutique and specialty vendors, and purchasing tasty goodies from Santa's Kitchen.

Make your reservation early since seating is limited. Fully paid tables of 10 - 12 are reserved on a first come, first served basis.
Reservations and Star Program deadlines are ***November 20, 2026.***

For Reservations, Star Program Donations and Raffle Tickets, click on the link to our new event website – ***SAPHILOPTOCHOS.GIVESMART.COM***

Upcoming Philoptochos Meetings

Board Meeting – Wednesday, November 4, 2026

Upcoming Metropolis Events

His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos and the Metropolis of San Francisco Philoptochos joyfully invite you to attend

Light the Path

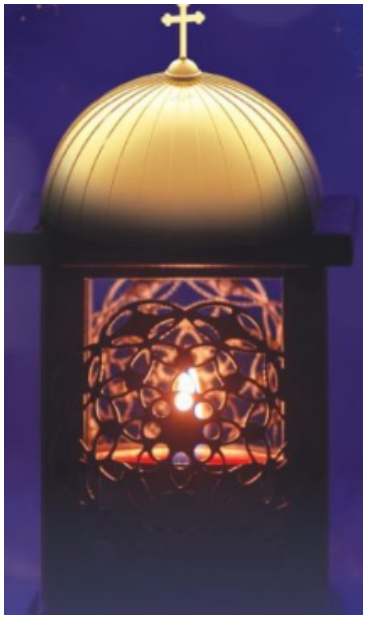
Sunday, November 15, 2026 @ 2:00 PM

The Centre
5000 Lakewood Avenue, Lakewood, California.

This festive holiday event will benefit the Bishop Anthony Philoptochos Student Aid Endowment Fund for seminarians and students at Hellenic College/Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology in Brookline, Massachusetts.

$125 per person, limited capacity – secure your reservation early.
*Register at **www.sfphiloptochos.org** or by calling 415-431-2600 by November 8.*
Mark your calendar and plan to attend!

For more information and to donate,
*click on the link: visit the **Metropolis of SF Philoptochos website** .*



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 3-340z 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	

VIPs

On Tuesday, October 13th, the VIPs met in the Community Center for their first meeting under the leadership of our new co-presidents, Thean Grafos and Bessie Kouvara. After an opening prayer led by Stavrula Kiotas, Thean and Bessie then invited immediate past president Irene Albeck up to the head table and presented her with a beautiful floral bouquet and gift card in appreciation for her solid and inspired leadership of our ministry over the last two administrative terms. Not one to rest on her laurels, Irene has vacated the VIP Presidency and assumed the job of recording secretary. Thank you Irene for all you have done....and continue to do for our VIP ministry and parish.

With this important order of business accomplished, Irene then passed out informational envelopes to the attendees containing a Suggested and Tentative Schedule of Events/Activities for the June 2026-June 2027 Term, a membership roster, and a list of our members' birthdays.

In preparation for upcoming events for the rest of 2026, sign-up sheets were passed around for members to indicate their plans to attend events like the Citrus College Christmas Holiday production and the holiday gathering at the Balas Residence in December.

Of more immediate concern was the sign-up sheet being passed around for members to indicate what food items they plan to bring to our now-traditional ***Thanksgiving Holiday Potluck Feast*** *to be held this month on* ***November 10th.*** *Members who were not present at our last meeting are encouraged to look at the menu sign-up sheet on the next page to determine what Potluck Trimmings they would like to contribute to the meal. Please contact Stavrula Kiotas or Gena Pegadiotes with your menu items.*

Before our luncheon was enjoyed, our October birthday celebrants in attendance were invited up to the food table for the traditional rendition of Happy Birthday.

MANY HAPPY RETURNS were wished upon ***Katherine Dupas, Chris Giannoulias, Tashia Vagenas, and Evelyn Kefalas****. Immediately following this expression of birthday wishes, our membership then made a FaceTime call to* ***Vivian Mavredakis*** *who celebrated her One Hundredth Birthday this October. And though she was unable to be at our meeting, she took great joy in taking our call at her home. NA TA EKATOPENINTARISIES VIVIAN!!*

With a delicious luncheon having been enjoyed by all, the icing on the cake of the October meeting was a Bingo Tournament which featured some hilarious "White Elephant" prizes for the winners.

Tuesday October 20th from 10:00 to 11:00 am, our Ladies Philoptochos Chapter began to underwrite twice weekly sessions of chair aerobic exercise classes to improve the health and mobility of our VIPs.

Nicole Schulman has committed to leading these sessions for our members two times a week on Tuesdays and Thursdays until May 27th of 2027, with days off for Thanksgiving, Christmas and Holy Week to be announced at the appropriate times. Begun earlier this year, these sessions proved to be a popular activity for our membership and we thank Nicole for again making herself available to promote and improve the health and wellbeing of our VIPs… and any of our parishioners who have some free time on Tuesday and Thursday mornings.

It is with great sadness that our ministry offers sincere condolences to Alma Vorgias for the loss of her dear husband Zacharias who departed this life on October 15th. May God grant him eternal rest among the saints and may his memory be eternal.

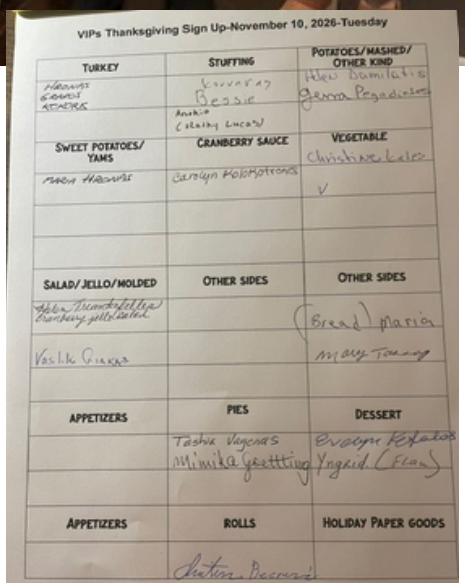
We look forward to seeing many of our members on ***November 10th*** *for our next meeting and Thanksgiving Feast.*

Jim Hronas
VIP Communications









VIPs Thanksgiving Sign Up-November 10, 2026-Tuesday

TURKEY	STUFFING	POTATOES/MASHED/ OTHER KIND
	Bessie	Gerri Pegadiotes
SWEET POTATOES/ YAMS	CRANBERRY SAUCE	VEGETABLE
SALAD/JELLO/MOLDED	OTHER SIDES	OTHER SIDES
		(Bread) Maria
APPETIZERS	PIES	DESSERT
	Tasha Vagenas	Yngrid (Flan)
APPETIZERS	ROLLS	HOLIDAY PAPER GOODS

Community News & more...

A Gentle Reminder

Enjoy that extra hour of rest, and we look forward to seeing you at Church on Sunday!







Bowling League News

St. Anthony Bowling League began their fall season on Thursday, September 10. We were fortunate to welcome back many of our long-time bowling regulars and excited to have a few new bowlers join our league. Special welcome to new bowlers, Kendra and Ted Lagousis, JP Caire and Sophia Mobayen. Sidelined for this season are Chrissa Mobayen and Andrew Dewar, both recuperating and getting into shape for the Winter/Spring Season.

As we enter into the second half of the season, we would love to welcome any of you who have a desire to get out for a few hours on a Thursday evening for some fun and fellowship.
Consider joining us for the ***Winter/Spring*** *season beginning* ***January 2027.***

This year's teams are as follows"

Team 1: Maria and Kosta Papavasiliou, Elleni Conley
Team 2: Parviz, Syrus and Sophia Mobayen
Team 3: Cleo Kades, Elene Kalivas, Nick Paziouros
Team 4: Joyce Mavredakis, Ted Dupas, Chris Conley
Team 5: Jim Horaites, Max Ibrahimzade, Vincent Lappas
Team6: Alice Jacquez, Anthia Lucas, Jim Nichols
Team 7: Mary Dewar, John and J.P. Caire
Team 8: Peter Bissias, Virginia Lappas, Randy Soewers
Team 9: Maria Conley, Lee Anton, Rick Nassif
Team 10: Kristen and Rick McGregor, Andrea Lappas
Team 11: Sophia Angelos, Kendra and Ted Lagousis
Team 12: Vacant

As you can see, we have only 11 teams this season. Every week one of our teams play the "Vacant" team. We would love to carry an even number of 3-person teams' next season! All skill levels welcome!
Hope you consider joining!

HELLENIC REPUBLIC
CONSULATE GENERAL OF GREECE
IN LOS ANGELES

Los Angeles Clippers

GREEK HERITAGE NIGHT

CLIPPERS VS HEAT

WEDNESDAY NOV 4, 2026 AT 7:30PM

CELEBRATE GREEK CULTURE, COMMUNITY, AND THE SHARED SPIRIT OF SPORT.

PRESENTED UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE CONSULATE GENERAL OF GREECE IN LOS ANGELES AND IN COLLABORATION WITH THE PHILOPTOCHOS OF THE GREEK ORTHODOX METROPOLIS OF SAN FRANCISCO & AHEPA DISTRICT 20



EVERY TICKET PURCHASED THROUGH THIS OFFER INCLUDES:

EXCLUSIVE GREEK HERITAGE NIGHT SHIRT
+ ACCESS TO A PREGAME RECEPTION*

$10 FROM EVERY TICKET BENEFITS
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*SPECIAL TICKET OFFER REQUIRED.
WHILE SUPPLIES LAST.

QUESTIONS OR GROUP INQUIRIES:
ALASKA YOKOTA • AYOKOTA@CLIPPERS.COM • (213) 232 - 2720

Southern California Cretans' Association

CRETAN GLENDI

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2026

Appetizers 5:30 pm Traditional Cretan Dinner 7:00 pm

St. Anthony Greek Orthodox Church Trinity Ballroom
788 South Rosemead Boulevard
Pasadena, California 91107

SPECIAL GUEST



ADULTS - $90.00 (purchased by 10/7) $100.00 after
YOUTH/STUDENTS 21 AND UNDER - $45.00
(purchased by 10/7) $50.00 after
CHILDREN 5 AND UNDER - free

RESERVATIONS
David Kaparos (626) 232-2706
Bobby Zoumberakis (562) 413-3968
socalcretans@gmail.com

SCAN ME
RESERVE NOW

Saint Anthony Church

Community Christmas Card 2026

With the start of the Nativity Fast our Church has officially entered the Christmas Season. During this special time of year, we turn our hearts and minds to the Nativity of Christ and we reflect on what this means for us. Of course, we have the opportunity to give thanksgiving to God by offering a gift to our church by participating in the annual St. Anthony's Community Christmas Card. This beautiful Nativity card is being made available to the entire community, as it has been done in the past. Let our prayers turn to unity with Christ our God, who was born in a cave and lay in a manger for our salvation.

Should you wish to participate and have your name(s) listed in the Community Christmas Card, please complete and mail the form below to the church office by Sunday December 6, 2026



YES! I/We would like to participate in this year's Community Card!

Enclosed is my offer of $ _____

(Suggested $50 minimum per family)

Please print clearly how you would like your name(s) to appear on the card:

_____

_____

Checks can be made out to: St. Anthony Greek Orthodox Church
Memo: Christmas Card

Mail to: 778 S. Rosemead Blvd. Pasadena, CA 91107-5613
or email us: office@saint-anthonys.org or call the church office (626) 449-6943
to pay by Credit Card.

**St. Anthony Greek Orthodox Church is a 501(c)3 non-profit. All donations are tax-deductible*



Pasadena Rose Bowl AHEPA #373
2026 Christmas Party

Honoring 45 year AHEPA member **Jim Horaites** on his exemplary service to the Pasadena Greek community.

Friday, December 11, 2026
North Woods Inn

7247 Rosemead Blvd, San Gabriel, CA 91775 (at Huntington Drive & Rosemead Boulevard)
7:00 p.m. no host cocktails, 7:30 p.m. dinner — free parking

Choice of Filet Mignon Steak, New York Steak, Icelandic Filet of Cod, or Broiled Mahi Mahi
Two Salads, Cheese Bread, and Rice Pilaf
Baked Potato with Butter, Chives and Cheese, plus dessert!

$75 each, limited to 50 persons, paid reservations required

Virginia Lappas will lead us in an optional $15—$20 Gift Exchange after dinner. Neutral gift suitable for either men or women, wrapped, with no names. Anyone who brings a gift will receive a gift. The community is invited.

Please make checks payable to: Pasadena AHEPA
Send to: Dean Tripodes, Post Office Box 486, Sierra Madre, CA 91025-0486
Or pay by Zelle on your bank's app or website, enter ahepa373@gmail.com as the recipient.

Thank You, St. Anthony Community!
Thank you to everyone who made this year's Pasadena Greek Festival possible.
Your support made the difference by spreading the word and giving your time as volunteers.

Thank you!!
This was our most successful festival to-date!

Save the date for next year.
September 17-19, 2027.



SOME SCRIPTURE VERSES FROM THE LETTERS OF ST. PAUL

PRACTICING CHRISTIANITY - LIVING THE FAITH

HONORING CHRIST BY HOW WE LIVE ACCORDING TO ST. PAUL

Live your life in a manner worthy of the Gospel of Christ.
Philippians 1:27

Let your love be without hypocrisy.
Romans 12:9

Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer.
Romans 12:12

Extend hospitality to strangers.
Romans 12:13

Bless those who persecute you. Bless and do not curse them.
Romans 12:14

Do not be arrogant, but associate with those who are humble.
Romans 12:15

Do not claim to be wiser than you are.
Romans 12:16

Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all.
Romans 12:17

If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone.
Romans 12:18

Do not be overcome by evil; but overcome evil with good.
Romans 12:21

Let us no longer pass judgment on one another.
Romans 14:21

Bragging is not a good thing.
1 Corinthians 5:6

Shun sexual immorality.
1 Corinthians 6:18

Make love your aim.
1 Corinthians 14:1

Do not be deceived: bad company ruins good morals.
1 Corinthians 15:33

Keep alert, stand firm in your faith, be courageous, be strong.
1 Corinthians 16:13

Let everything you do be done in love.
1 Corinthians 16:14

The only thing that counts is faith working through love.
Galatians 5:6

The whole Law is summed up in a single commandment: love your neighbor as yourself.
Galatians 5:14

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 censing 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

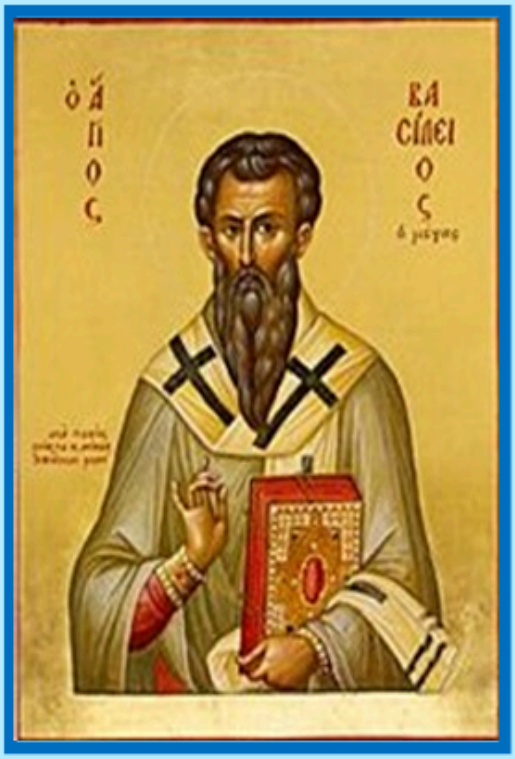


The Voice of Saint Anthony

Saint Anthony Greek Orthodox Church

January 2026 www.saint-anthonys.org (626) 449-6943 Office

sample



Saint Basil
1 January

DEADLINE for FEBRUARY Newsletter is SUNDAY 25 JANUARY

Please send to: newsletter_church @aol.com

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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

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

Yet who know that a man is not justified by works of the law but through faith in Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Christ Jesus, in order to be justified by faith in Christ, and not by works of the law, because by works of the law shall no one be justified. But if, in our endeavor to be justified in Christ, we ourselves were found to be sinners, is Christ then an agent of sin? Certainly not! But if I build up again those things which I tore down, then I prove myself a transgressor. For I through the law died to the law, that I might live to God. I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me; and the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. Galatians 2:16-20

How, exactly are we "saved"? Is it in one finite moment? Are we judged based on our whole life, or just how we are at the end? Is there a moment where we can say our salvation is guaranteed?

These are questions that many Christians ask, and even try to answer. The answers are found in various places in Scripture, so that we don't have to guess, we can go right to the Scriptures.

In his letter to the Galatians, Saint Paul tells us that we "know that a man is not justified by works of the law but through faith in Jesus Christ." (Galatians 2:16) And in the Epistle of St. James, he writes to us that "faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead." (James 2:17) We know then that our salvation is based on both faith and works. Ultimately, salvation is an act of God's grace and mercy. For no amount of faith or works can make us worthy of salvation. No one can approach the Judgment Seat of Christ and proclaim themselves worthy to enter the Kingdom of God. Ultimately, our entrance into the Kingdom of God is an act of mercy on the part of the Lord, which will be affected by both our faith and our works.

There are some churches that espouse the notion of "once saved, always saved," the idea that one is "saved" in a finite moment in time. This notion doesn't account for works, not does it account for spiritual struggle that defines each Christian life. If I was "saved" years ago, then what is the incentive to struggle today?

One way to look at the salvation equation is to take a cup, rocks and water. The cup represents faith. It is the structure of what we believe. The rocks represent our works. If we have faith with no works, our faith is as empty as the empty cup. For faith without works is dead. On the other hand, if we have works without faith, it's like pouring a bunch of rocks on a table. They have no order, no structure, and ultimately no purpose.

So we combine faith and works. We fill the cup with rocks. A close look at the cup, even when filled with rocks, indicates that there are still some empty spaces. This is where grace comes in. Grace is the God-like quality that completes what is lacking in each life. Because no matter how hard we try to follow after Christ, something will be lacking in each of us.

How do we get grace? One spoonful of Communion at a time is the best way to get it. One prayer at a time. One confession at a time. And over time, these "spoonfuls" of grace begin to truly fill the cup. The ultimate expression of grace, however, is God granting us His Kingdom at the end of our lives. And His judgment of our lives will be based on the "cup" we present Him. Will we have a large cup of faith? Will we have an empty cup, meaning we did no works to support the faith we claim to have? Will we have an impressive amount of rocks but no cup in which to keep them, meaning we did lots of good things but not in His name. The problem with works that are not in His name is, in whose name are they in? Ultimately good works not done for God end up being done for ourselves. Finally, how much grace did we seek out through prayer and the sacraments?

There is a finite equation for salvation—It is faith plus works plus grace. The challenge is that faith, works and grace are things that cannot be quantified. There isn't a certain amount of each one that guarantees salvation. So we work each day to deepen our experience of each so that we can make our "case" before His Judgment Seat and ultimately leave it to God's Providence to judge us worthy of Paradise.

Saint Paul tells us that we should "live to God" (Galatians 2:19). And that the best way to live our lives is to not live for ourselves but for Him. He says in Galatians 2:20 "It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me" and consequently our lives are not lived for ourselves, but as St. Paul says "the life I now life in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loves me and gave Himself for me." (Galatians 2:20)

Faith *plus* ***works*** *plus* ***grace*** *equals* ***salvation****.*
A life lived in Christ and for Christ bolsters ***faith, works and grace.***

Saints & Feasts

Cosmas and Damianos

1 November



These Saints were from Asia Minor. After the death of their father, their Christ-loving mother Theodota reared them in piety and in all manner of virtue and had them instructed in every science, especially that of medicine. This became their vocation, and they went about healing every illness and malady, bestowing healing freely on both men and beasts alike. Because of this, they are called "Unmercenaries" and thus, having completed the course of their life, they reposed in peace.

Synaxsis of Archangel Michael & other Bodiless Powers

8 November



All the Angels, according to the Apostle Paul, are ministering spirits, - sent forth to minister to them who shall be heirs of salvation - (Hebrews 1:14). God sent them as overseers of every nation and people and guides to that which is profitable (Deuteronomy 32:8); and while one Angel is appointed to oversee each nation as a whole, one is also appointed to protect each Christian individually. He commands them to guard those who hope on Him, that nothing should harm them, neither should any evil draw nigh to their dwelling (Psalms 90:10-12). In the Heavens they always behold the face of God, sending up to Him the thrice-holy hymn and interceding with Him on our behalf, seeing they rejoice over one sinner that repents (Matthew 18:10; Luke 15:7).

In a word, they have served God in so many ways for our benefit, that the pages of Holy Scripture are filled with the histories thereof. It is for these reasons that the Orthodox Church, wisely honoring these divine ministers, our protectors and guardians, celebrates today the present Synaxis that is, our coming together in assembly for their common feast to chant their praises, especially for the Archangels Michael and Gabriel, who are mentioned in the Scriptures by name.

The name Michael means "Who is like God?" and name Gabriel means "God is mighty." The number of Angels is not defined in the divine Scriptures, where Daniel says that thousands of thousands ministered before Him, and ten thousands of ten thousands attended upon Him (Daniel 7:10). But all of them are divided into nine orders which are called Thrones, Cherubim, Seraphim, Dominions, Powers, Authorities, Principalities, Archangels, and Angels.

Saint Nektarios

9 November

Saint Nektarios was born in Selyvria of Thrace on October 1, 1846. After putting himself through school in Constantinople he became a monk on Chios in 1876, receiving the monastic name of Lazarus. Because of his virtue, a year later he was ordained deacon, receiving the new name of Nektarios. Nektarios went to Athens to study in 1882. Completing his theological studies in 1885, he went to Alexandria, where he was ordained a priest in 1886 at the Cathedral of Saint Sabbas. In August of the same year, in the Church of Saint Nicholas in Cairo, he was ordained an Archimandrite. Archimandrite Nektarios showed much zeal both for preaching the word of God, and for the beauty of God's house. He greatly beautified the Church of Saint Nicholas in Cairo. Years later, when Nektarios was in Athens, Saint Nicholas appeared to him in a dream, embracing him and telling him he was going to exalt him very high.



In 1889, in the same Church of Saint Nicholas, Nektarios was consecrated Metropolitan of the Pentapolis in eastern Libya, which was under the jurisdiction of Alexandria. This office did not affect his modesty and childlike innocence, but it aroused the envy of lesser men, who slandered him. In 1890, Sophronius relieved Metropolitan Nektarios of his duties; in July of the same year, he commanded Nektarios to leave Egypt.

Without seeking to avenge or even to defend himself, the innocent Metropolitan left for Athens. Because his good name had been soiled, he was unable to find a position worthy of a bishop, and in February of 1891 accepted the position of provincial preacher in Euboia; then, in 1894, he was appointed Dean of the Rizarios Ecclesiastical School in Athens. Through his eloquent sermons, his generous alms deeds despite his own poverty, and the holiness, meekness and fatherly love that were manifest in him, he became a shining light and a spiritual guide to many.

At the request of certain pious women, in 1904 he began the building of his convent of the Holy Trinity on the island of Aegina while still Dean of the Rizarios School. Finding later that his presence there was needed, he took up his residence on Aegina in 1908, where he spent the last years of his life, devoting himself to the direction of his convent and to very intense prayer; he was sometimes seen lifted above the ground while rapt in prayer.

He became the protector of all Aegina, through his prayers, delivering the island from drought, healing the sick and casting out demons. Although he had already worked wonders in life, an innumerable multitude of miracles have been wrought after his repose in 1920 through his holy relics, which for many years remained incorrupt. There is hardly a malady that has not been cured through his prayers; but Saint Nektarios is especially renowned for his healings of cancer for sufferers in all parts of the world.

Saint John Chrysostom

13 November

This greatest and most beloved of all Christian orators was born in Antioch in the year 344; his pious parents were Secundus and Anthusa. After his mother was widowed at the age of twenty, she devoted herself to bringing up John and his elder sister in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. John received his literary training under Anthragathius the philosopher, and Libanius the sophist, who was the greatest Greek scholar and rhetorician of his day. Libanius was a pagan. With such a training, and with such gifts as he had by nature, John had before him a brilliant career as a rhetorician. But through the good example of his godly mother Anthusa and of the holy Bishop Meletius of Antioch, by whom he was ordained reader about the year 370, he chose instead to dedicate himself to God.



From the years 374 to 381 he lived the monastic life in the hermitages that were near Antioch. His extreme asceticism undermined his health, compelling him to return to Antioch, where Saint Meletius ordained him deacon about the year 381. Saint Meletius was called to Constantinople later that year to preside over the Second Ecumenical Council, during which he fell asleep in the Lord. In 386 Bishop Flavian ordained John presbyter of the Church of Antioch. Upon his elevation to the priesthood his career as a public preacher began, and his exceptional oratorical gifts were made manifest through his many sermons and commentaries. They are distinguished by their eloquence and the remarkable ease with which rich imagery and scriptural allusions are multiplied; by their depth of insight into the meaning of Scripture and the workings of God's providence; and not least of all, by their earnestness and moral force, which issue from the heart of a blameless and guileless man who lived first what he preached to others. Because of his fame, he was chosen to succeed Saint Nectarios as Patriarch of Constantinople. He was taken away by stealth, to avoid the opposition of the people, and consecrated Patriarch of Constantinople in 398, by Theophilus, Patriarch of Alexandria, who was to prove to be his mortal enemy.

At that time the Emperor of the East was Arcadius, who had had Saint Arsenius the Great as his tutor. Arcadius was a man of weak character, and much under the influence of his wife Eudoxia. The zealous and upright Chrysostom's unsparing censures of the lax morals in the imperial city stung the vain Eudoxia; through Theophilus' plottings and her collaboration, Saint John was banished to Pontus in 403. The people were in an uproar, and the following night an earthquake shook the city; this so frightened the Empress Eudoxia that she begged Arcadius to call Chrysostom back. While his return was triumphant, his reconciliation with the Empress did not last long. When she had a silver statue of herself erected in the forum before the Church of the Holy Wisdom (Saint Sophia) in 403, Saint John thundered against her, and she could not forgive him.

Saint John Chrysostom

Continued..

In June of 404 he was exiled to Cucusus, on the borders of Cilicia and Armenia. From here he exchanged letters with Pope Innocent of Rome, who sent bishops and priests to Constantinople requesting that a council be held. Saint John's enemies, dreading his return, prevailed upon the Emperor and had John taken to a more remote place of banishment called Pityus near the Caucasus. The journey was filled with bitter sufferings for the aged bishop, both because of the harshness of the elements and the cruelty of one of his 310 guards. He did not reach Pityus, but gave up his soul to the Lord near Comana in Pontus, at the chapel of the Martyr Basiliscus, who had appeared to him shortly before, foretelling the day of his death, which came to pass on September 14, 407. His last words were "Glory be to God for all things."

His holy relics were brought from Comana to Constantinople thirty-one years later by the Emperor Theodosius the Younger and Saint Pulcheria his sister, the children of Arcadius and Eudoxia, with fervent supplications that the sin of their parents against him be forgiven.

Saint John was surnamed Chrysostom ("Golden-mouth") because of his eloquence. He made exhaustive commentaries on the divine Scriptures and was the author of more works than any other Church Father, leaving us complete commentaries on the Book of Genesis, the Gospels of Saints Matthew and John, the Acts, and all the Epistles of Saint Paul. His extant works are 1,447 sermons and 240 epistles. Twenty-two teachers of the Church have written homilies of praise in his honor. Besides his feast day, he is celebrated as one of the Three Hierarchs on January 30, together with Saint Basil the Great and Saint Gregory the Theologian.

Saint Philip

14 November



Saint Philip one of the Twelve, was from Bethsaida of Galilee, and was a compatriot of Andrew and Peter. He was instructed in the teachings of the Law and devoted himself to the study of the prophetic books. Therefore, when the Lord Jesus called him to the dignity of apostleship, he immediately sought out and found Nathanael and said to him, "We have found Him of Whom Moses in the Law and the Prophets did write, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph" (John 1.45). Having preached Jesus the God-man throughout many parts of Asia Minor and having suffered many things for His Name's sake, he was finally crucified upside down in Hierapolis of Phrygia.

Advent Fast for the Feast of the Nativity

15 November - 24 December



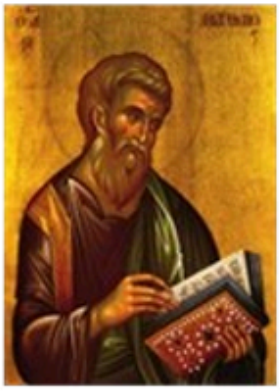
In the Orthodox Church the Feast of Christmas is called **"The Nativity".** As with Pascha, the Feast of the Nativity begins with a period of preparation known as **Advent or the Nativity Fast.** It is proceeded by a fast corresponding to Lent and lasting for forty days. The fast begins on **November 15**, 40 days prior to the Birth of Christ.

The Nativity Fast is one of four main fast periods throughout the ecclesiastical year. Beginning on November 15 and concluding on December 24, the Nativity Fast gives individuals the opportunity to prepare for the Feast of the Nativity of Our Lord and Savior in the Flesh on December 25. By abstaining from certain food and drink, particularly from meat, fish, dairy products, olive oil, and wine, as well as focusing more deeply on prayer and almsgiving, we can find that the primary aim of fasting is to make us conscious of our dependence upon God.

As we go thru the next 40 days, let us reflect on how we can make ourselves better Christians. Let us change our habits for the next 40 days and focus on the true meaning of Thanksgiving and Christmas. Beginning with Christmas Day, the Feast of the Nativity is celebrated for twelve days of fast-free (except on January 5), culminating in the Feast of Epiphany on January 6.

Saint Matthew

16 November



Saint Matthew who was also called Levi, was the son of Alphaeus and had Galilee as his homeland. A publican before being called by Christ, he became one of the Twelve Apostles, and an Evangelist. While still in Palestine, he wrote his Gospel first in Hebrew, being also the first of all to write the Gospel. When he is depicted in icons, there is portrayed next to him the likeness of a man, one of the symbolic living creatures mentioned by Ezekiel (1.10), which, as Saint Irenaeus writes, is a symbol of our Savior's Incarnation.

Gregory the Wonderworker

17 November



Saint Gregory was born in Neocaesarea of Pontus to parents who were not Christians. He studied in Athens, in Alexandria, in Beirut, and finally for five years in Caesarea of Palestine under Origen, by whom he was also instructed in the Faith of Christ. Then, in the year 240, he became bishop of his own city, wherein he found only seventeen Christians. By the time the Saint reposed about the year 265, there were only seventeen unbelievers left there. Virtually the whole duration of his episcopacy was a time of continual, marvellous wonders worked by him. Because of this, he received the surname "Wonderworker"; even the enemies of the truth called him a second Moses.



The Entrance of the Theotokos into the Temple

21 November

According to the tradition of the Church, the Theotokos was brought to the Temple at three years of age, where she was consecrated to God and spent her days until she was fourteen or fifteen years old; and then, as a mature maiden, by the common counsel of the priests (since her parents had reposed some three years before), she was betrothed to Joseph.

Saint Katherine

25 November



Saint Katherine who was from Alexandria, was the daughter of Constas. She was an exceedingly beautiful maiden, most chaste and illustrious in wealth, lineage, and learning. By her steadfast understanding, she utterly vanquished the passionate and unbridled soul of Maximinus, the tyrant of Alexandria; and by her eloquence, she stopped the mouths of the so-called philosophers who had been gathered to dispute with her. She was crowned with the crown of martyrdom in the year 305. Her holy relics were taken by Angels to the holy mountain of Sinai, where they were discovered many years later; the famous monastery of Saint Katherine was originally dedicated to the Holy Transfiguration of the Lord and the Burning Bush, but later was dedicated to Saint Katherine. According to the ancient usage, Saints Katherine and Mercurius were celebrated on the 24th of this month, whereas the holy Hieromartyrs Clement of Rome and Peter of Alexandria were celebrated on the 25th. The dates of the feasts of these Saints were interchanged at the request of the Church and Monastery of Mount Sinai, so that the festival of Saint Katherine, their patron, might be celebrated more festively together with the Apodosis of the Feast of the Entry of the Theotokos.

Saint Andrew

30 November



Saint Andrew was from Bethsaida of Galilee; he was the son of Jonas and the brother of Peter, the chief of the Apostles. He had first been a disciple of John the Baptist; afterwards, on hearing the Baptist's witness concerning Jesus, when he pointed Him out with his finger and said, *"Behold the Lamb of God, Which taketh away the sin of the world."* (Book of John 1:29,36), he straightway followed Christ, and became His first disciple; wherefore he is called the First-called of the Apostles. After the Ascension of the Saviour, he preached in various lands; and having suffered many things for His Name's sake, he died in Patras of Achaia, where he was crucified on a cross in the shape of an "X," the first letter of "Christ" in Greek; this cross is also the symbol of Saint Andrew.

Orthodox Calendar

November 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 **STS. COSMAS & DAMIANOS** **5th SUNDAY OF LUKE** 8:45am Orthros 10am Divine Liturgy 11am Sunday School 12:15 Greek Dance Indoor & Live-stream	2 Grk Dance Workshop 4:30 Greek School 7pm Greek School	3 10am VIP Chair Exer.	4 3pm Philoptochos Union Station 4:30 Greek School 5pm Greek Dance 6:30 Greek School 6:30 Book Club 7pm Philop. Board	5 10am VIP Chair Exer. 4:30 Greek School	6	7 Cretan Glendi
8 **SYNAXIS - ARCHANGELS** **7th SUNDAY OF LUKE** 8:45am Orthros 10am Divine Liturgy 11am Sunday School 12:15 Greek Dance 12:30 GOYA Indoor & Live-stream	9 **ST. NEKTARIOS** 9am Orthos 10am Divine Lit 4:30 Greek School 7pm Greek School	10 10am VIP Chair Exer. 10:30 VIP Mtg 5pm Philop. Board 7pm Parish Council Meeting	11 **Veterans Day** 4:30 Greek School 5PM Greek Dance 6:30 Book Club 6:30 Greek School	12 10am VIP Chair Exer. 4:30 Greek School	13 **ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM** 9am Orthos 10am Divine Lit	14 **ST. PHILIP THE APOSTLE**
15 **8TH SUNDAY OF LUKE** ***NATIVITY FAST BEGINS*** 8:45am Orthros 10am Divine Liturgy 11am Sunday School 12:15 Greek Dance GENERAL ASSEMBLY Indoor & Live-stream	16 **Matthew - Apostle** 4:30 Greek School 7pm Greek School **NATIVITY FAST**	17 **Gregory the Wonderworker** 10am VIP Chair Exer. **NATIVITY FAST**	18 4:30 Greek School 5PM Greek Dance 6:30 Book Club 6:30 Greek School **NATIVITY FAST**	19 10am VIP Chair Exer. 4:30 Greek School **NATIVITY FAST**	20 **NATIVITY FAST**	21 **ENTRANCE OF THEOTOKOS INTO THE TEMPLE** 9am Orthos 10am Divine Lit **NATIVITY FAST**
22 **9TH SUNDAY OF LUKE** 8:45am Orthros 10am Divine Liturgy 11am Sunday School 12:15 Greek Dance IOCC Fundraiser Lunch Indoor & Live-stream **NATIVITY FAST**	23 4:30 Greek School 7pm Greek School **NATIVITY FAST**	24 4pm GOYA Friends-giving **NATIVITY FAST**	25 **ST. KATHERINE** 9am Orthros 10am Divine Liturgy 4:30 Greek School 5PM Greek Dance 6:30 Book Club 6:30 Greek School **NATIVITY FAST**	26 **OFFICE CLOSED for Thanksgiving** **NATIVITY FAST**	27 **NATIVITY FAST**	28 **NATIVITY FAST**
29 **13th SUNDAY OF LUKE** 8:45am Orthros 10am Divine Liturgy **NO** Sunday School 12:15 Greek Dance Indoor & Live-stream **NATIVITY FAST**	30 **ST. ANDREW** 9am Orthos 10am Divine Lit 4:30 Greek School 7pm Greek School **NATIVITY FAST**					
		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 foodsallowed No Symbol

Saint Anthony
Greek Orthodox Community
778 South Rosemead Blvd
Pasadena, California 91107

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TIME SENSITIVE

Dated Material.. Please rush delivery

To generationsofourdescendantsyetunknowntoyou,whosomedayinthedimand distant futurewillreadthisaccountofthedramatichistoryoftheHelleniccommunity,we who havewrittenthisaccountnotonlyonpaper,butintheblood,sweatandtearsofour daily lives make this statement:

We havebuiltthiscommunitywithitshopesanditsfears,anditslandanditsbuildings because we believe, as did our forefathers, in the soul's immortality, and its eventual union with God.

We believethatwhetherornotwehaveamassedagreatdealofpersonalwealthorfame,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.

Phone
626.449.6943
Fax
626.449.6974
e-Mail
maria@saint-anthonys.org
Web Site
www.saint-anthonys.org

