



SAINT ANTHONY
GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

Reverend Father Peter Stratos, Pastor

Reverend Father Christopher Retelas, Associate Pastor

778 S. Rosemead Blvd., Pasadena, CA 91107-5613

Tel. (626) 449-6943 ~ Fax: (626) 449-6974

www.saint-anthonys.org – office@saint-anthonys.org - www.pasadenagreekfest.org

Church office hours: Monday – Friday: 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

(Closed Saturday and Sunday)

St. Anthony's calendar link: <http://saint-anthonys.org/calendar>

For **pastoral emergencies** please call 626-855-3640

December 23rd, 2018 – Sunday before the Nativity

10 Martyrs of Crete

Orthros ~ 8:45 a.m.

Memorial ~ 9:45 a.m.

Pantele Xanthos, 3 years

Divine Liturgy ~ 10:00 a.m.

Today's Social Hour is hosted by Lisa Xanthos.

Let's ring in the New Year 2019! December 31st will be our New Year's Eve party here in The Trinity Ballroom to benefit the St. Anthony Greek Folk dance groups. The evening will begin with the Liturgy for the feast of St. Basil at 6:00pm. 7:30-9:00pm Appetizers/Cocktails. 9pm-Dinner & Blessing of Vasilopita. 10:00pm-Music & dancing.

Moms Pops 'n Tots is starting again! TODAY after Communion, come meet Presbyteria Kalli in the pre-school room 1A to talk about potential times and days for this wonderful program in the New Year. Any families with children 3 and under are welcome to come sing, dance, and learn with us!

Please visit the bookstore to see our new "Daily Lives, Miracles, and Wisdom of the Saints & Fasting Calendar for 2019". Everyday has a quote from a Church Father, a detailed story of one

of the saints being celebrated and the Scripture readings for the day. We also have Orthodox Christmas cards in case you have bought yours yet for your family! Bookstore opens immediately after the Divine Liturgy.

St. Anthony GOYA Winter Retreat will be February 22-24! All GOYAns grades 6-12 are invited. Put it on your calendars and come to a great winter retreat at Lake Arrowhead!

Divine Services for the months of December & January (*saint-anthonys.org/calendar*):

Monday, Dec. 24 – Vespers Liturgy of the Nativity of our Lord & Communion (6:00pm)

Tuesday, Dec. 25 – THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD (*Orthros 8:00 am, Liturgy 9:00 am*)

Monday, Dec. 31 – Vespers Liturgy for St. Basil the Great (6:00pm)

Saturday, Jan 5 – Vespers Liturgy of St. Basil & Blessing of Waters (9:00am)

Sunday, Jan 6 – THEOPHANY & Great Blessing of Waters (*Orthros 8:45, Liturgy 10am*)

Vasilopita and Luncheon to follow

Monday, Jan 7 – Synaxis of St. John the Baptist (*Orthros 9:00am, Liturgy 10:00am*)

Wed, Jan 16 – Great Vespers for FEAST OF ST. ANTHONY & Artoklasia (7:00pm)

Dinner will follow, hosted by Philoptochos

Thursday, Jan 17 – FEAST OF ST. ANTHONY (*Orthros 9:00am, Liturgy 10:00am*)

Financial Peace Class: No more money fights! With the Financial Peace class, you and your spouse will learn how to create (and stick to) a budget, save for emergencies, and make a plan for the future. Doesn't that sound peaceful? The class starts Sun. Jan, 13 at 1pm in classroom 2D. If interested in learning more, email Nick Kleissas at vikingum@yahoo.com or text 818-207-0181 or visit fpu.com/1079957 to sign up!

Union Station: Our community with Philoptochos for over 25 years serves an evening meal once a month at Union Station Homeless Services in Pasadena. Please help with this community outreach, first Wednesday of each month. For further information contact: Stephanie Soewers at szanglis@aol.com, Sophia Angelos at sangelos2000@gmail.com or Irene Albeck at mcmg2a@aol.com.

Trinity Home: St. Anthony Philoptochos is collecting donations to help the boys at Trinity Home purchase a piece of equipment for the gym and to also help fund breakfast and a movie for the boys on Christmas day. Connie Becker and Stephanie Soewers will be collecting donations. Questions? Email Nicolette Fuerst at nicolette8868@yahoo.com

Visit saint-anthonys.churchgiving.com to make a donation to the Church or update your regular stewardship contributions.

Order for Holy Communion (*only Baptized or Chrismated Orthodox Christians*): Please allow ushers to dismiss you row by row in an orderly fashion.

HYMNS OF THE DAY

(DURING SMALL ENTRANCE)

(1) Resurrectional Apolytikion. Mode Plagal 1.

Let us worship the Word who is unoriginate with the Father and the Spirit, and from a Virgin was born for our salvation, O believers, and let us sing His praise. For in His goodness He was pleased to ascend the Cross in the flesh, and to undergo death, and to raise up those who had died, by His glorious Resurrection.

Τὸν συνάναρχον Λόγον Πατρὶ καὶ Πνεύματι, τὸν ἐκ Παρθένου τεχθέντα εἰς σωτηρίαν ἡμῶν, ἀνυμνήσωμεν πιστοὶ καὶ προσκυνήσωμεν, ὅτι ἠυδόκησε σαρκί, ἀνελθεῖν ἐν τῷ Σταυρῷ, καὶ θάνατον ὑπομεῖναι, καὶ ἐγειῖραι τοὺς τεθνεῶτας, ἐν τῇ ἐνδόξῳ Ἀναστάσει αὐτοῦ.

(AFTER SMALL ENTRANCE)

(2) Resurrectional Apolytikion. Mode Plagal 1.

Let us worship the Word who is unoriginate with the Father and the Spirit, and from a Virgin was born for our salvation, O believers, and let us sing His praise. For in His goodness He was pleased to ascend the Cross in the flesh, and to undergo death, and to raise up those who had died, by His glorious Resurrection.

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(3) Apolytikion for the Forefeast. Mode 4.

O Bethlehem, prepare, Eden is opened unto all. And be ready, Ephratha, for the Tree of life has in the grotto blossomed forth from the Virgin. Indeed her womb is shown to be spiritually a Paradise, in which is found the God-planted Tree. And if we eat from it we shall live, and shall not die, as did Adam of old. Christ is born, so that He might raise up the formerly fallen image.

Ἐτοιμάζου Βηθλεέμ, ἠνοικταὶ πᾶσιν ἡ Ἐδέμ. Εὐτρεπίζου Ἐφραθᾶ, ὅτι τὸ ξύλον τῆς ζωῆς, ἐν τῷ Σπηλαίῳ ἐξήνηθησεν ἐκ τῆς Παρθένου. Παράδεισος καὶ γάρ, ἡ ἐκείνης γαστήρ, ἐδείχθη νοητός, ἐν ᾧ τὸ θεῖον φυτόν, ἐξ οὗ φαγόντες ζήσομεν, οὐχὶ δὲ ὡς ὁ Ἄδὰμ τεθνηξόμεθα. Χριστὸς γεννᾶται, τὴν πρὶν πεσοῦσαν, ἀναστήσων εἰκόνα.

(4) Apolytikion for the Fathers. Mode 2.

Magnificent are the accomplishments of faith! The holy Three Servants greatly rejoiced, as they stood in the fountain of fire, as if beside the still waters; and the Prophet Daniel appeared to be a shepherd of lions, as if they were sheep. At their entreaties, O Christ God, save our souls.

Μεγάλα τὰ τῆς πίστεως κατορθώματα! Ἐν τῇ πηγῇ τῆς φλογός, ὡς ἐπὶ ὕδατος ἀναπαύσεως, οἱ ἅγιοι Τρεῖς Παῖδες ἠγάλλοντο, καὶ ὁ προφήτης Δανιήλ, λεόντων ποιμὴν, ὡς προβάτων ἐδείκνυτο. Ταῖς αὐτῶν ἱκεσίαις Χριστὲ ὁ Θεός, σῶσον τὰς ψυχὰς ἡμῶν.

(5) Memorial Hymn. Mode Plagal 4.

Remember your servant O good and loving Lord, and forgive every sin he may have committed in life, for no one is without sin. O mighty one, grant your departed servant who has fallen asleep everlasting rest.

Μνήσθητι, Κύριε, ὡς ἀγαθὸς τοῦ δούλου σου, καὶ ὅσα ἐν βίῳ ἡμαρτεν συγχώρησον· οὐδεὶς γὰρ ἀναμάρτητος, εἰ μὴ σὺ ὁ δυνάμενος, καὶ τῷ μεταστάντι δοῦναι τὴν ἀνάπαυσιν.

(6) Apolytikion for St. Anthony the Great. Mode 4.

Emulating the ways of Elijah the zealot, and following the straight paths of the Baptist, O Father Anthony, you made the wilderness a city, and did support the world by your prayers. Wherefore intercede with Christ our God, that our souls be saved.

Τὸν ζηλωτὴν Ἠλίαν τοῖς τρόποις μιμούμενος, τῷ Βαπτιστῇ εὐθείαις ταῖς τρίβοις ἐπόμενος, Πάτερ Ἀντώνιε, τῆς ἐρήμου γέγονας οἰκιστῆς, καὶ τὴν οἰκουμένην ἐστήριξας εὐχαῖς σου· διὸ πρέσβευε Χριστῷ τῷ Θεῷ σωθῆναι τὰς ψυχὰς ἡμῶν.

(7) Seasonal Kontakion. Mode 3.

On this day the Virgin Maid goes to the grotto to give birth to the pre-eternal Word in an ineffable manner. Dance for joy, all the inhabited earth, on hearing. Glorify along with Angels and with the shepherds Him who willed that He appear as a newborn Child, the pre-eternal God.

Ἡ Παρθένος σήμερον, τὸν προαιώνιον Λόγον, ἐν Σπηλαίῳ ἔρχεται, ἀποτεκεῖν ἀπορρήτως. Χόρευε ἢ οἰκουμένη ἀκουτισθεῖσα, δόξασον μετὰ Ἀγγέλων καὶ τῶν Ποιμένων, βουλευθέντα ἐποφθῆναι, Παιδίον νέον, τὸν πρὸ αἰώνων Θεόν.

READINGS OF THE DAY

Orthros Gospel Reading

Eighth Orthros Gospel

The Gospel According to John 20:11-18

At that time, Mary stood weeping outside the tomb, and as she wept she stooped to look into the tomb; and she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had lain, one at the head and one at the feet. They said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping?" She said to them, "Because they have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid Him." Saying this, she turned round and saw Jesus standing, but she did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom do you seek?" Supposing Him to be the gardener, she said to Him, "Sir, if you have carried Him away, tell me where you have laid Him, and I will take Him away." Jesus said to her, "Mary." She turned and said to him in Hebrew, "Rabboni!" (which means Teacher). Jesus said to her, "Do not hold me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father; but go to my brethren and say to them, I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God." Mary Magdalene went and said to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord"; and she told them that He had said these things to her.

Epistle Reading

The reading is from St. Paul's Letter to the Hebrews 11:9-10; 32-40

BRETHREN, by faith Abraham sojourned in the land of promise, as in a foreign land, living in tents with Isaac and Jacob, heirs with him of the same promise. For he looked forward to the city which has foundation, whose builder and maker is God. And what more shall I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets - who through faith conquered kingdoms, enforced justice, received promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched raging fire, escaped the edge of the sword, won strength out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight. Women received their dead by resurrection. Some were tortured, refusing to accept release, that they might rise again to a better life. Others suffered mocking and scourging, and even chains and imprisonment. They were stoned, they were sawn in two, they were tempted, they were killed with the sword; they went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, afflicted, ill-treated - of whom the world was not worthy - wandering over deserts and mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth. And all these, though well attested by their faith, did not receive what was promised, since God had foreseen something better for us, that apart from us they should not be made perfect.

Gospel Reading

Sunday before Nativity

The Gospel According to Matthew 1:1-25

The book of the Genealogy of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham.

Abraham was the father of Isaac, and Isaac the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers, and Judah the father of Perez and Zerah by Tamar, and Perez the father of Hezron, and Hezron the father of Aram, and Aram the father of Amminadab, and Amminadab the father

of Nahshon, and Nahshon the father of Salmon, and Salmon the father of Boaz by Rahab, and Boaz the father of Obed by Ruth, and Obed the father of Jesse, and Jesse the father of David the king. And David was the father of Solomon by the wife of Uriah, and Solomon the father of Rehoboam, and Rehoboam the father of Abijah, and Abijah the father of Asa, and Asa the father of Jehoshaphat, and Jehoshaphat the father of Joram, and Joram the father of Uzziah, and Uzziah the father of Jotham, and Jotham the father of Ahaz, and Ahaz the father of Hezekiah, and Hezekiah the father of Manasseh, and Manasseh the father of Amon, and Amon the father of Josiah, and Josiah the father of Jechoniah and his brothers, at the time of the deportation to Babylon. And after the deportation to Babylon: Jechoniah was the father of Salathiel, and Salathiel the father of Zerubbabel, and Zerubbabel the father of Abiud, and Abiud the father of Eliakim, and Eliakim the father of Azor, and Azor the father of Zadok, and Zadok the father of Achim, and Achim the father of Eliud, and Eliud the father of Eleazar, and Eleazar the father of Matthan, and Matthan the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom Jesus was born, who is called Christ. So all the generations from Abraham to David were fourteen generations, and from David to the deportation to Babylon fourteen generations, and from the deportation to Babylon to the Christ fourteen generations. Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child of the Holy Spirit; and her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. But as he considered this, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit; she will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: "Behold, a virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and his name shall be called Emmanuel" (which means, God with us). When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took his wife, but knew her not until she had borne a son; and he called his name Jesus.