



Rev. Father Peter Stratos, Pastor

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Church office hours: Monday-Friday: 9:00am to 4:00pm (Closed Saturday & Sunday)

For pastoral emergencies only please call 626-855-3640

DECEMBER 22ND, 2019 – SUNDAY BEFORE THE NATIVITY

Saints: Anastasia the Great Martyr

ORTHROS ~ 8:45 A.M.

MEMORIAL ~ 9:45 A.M.

Maria Pegadiotes, 40 days; Demetra “Litsa” Stavropoulos, 40 days;

Pantele Xanthos, 4 years; Theodoros Stavropoulos, 20 years

DIVINE LITURGY ~ 10:00 A.M.

TODAY’S SOCIAL HOUR is hosted by the Xanthos, Pegadiotes, and Stavropoulos families in loving memory of Pantele, Maria, Litsa and Theodoros. Proceeds from today’s social hour will benefit IOCC.

UPCOMING DIVINE SERVICES: (saint-anthonys.org/calendar):

Tuesday, December 24th:

Christmas Eve (Vespertal Liturgy 6:00pm)

Wednesday, December 25th:

THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD (Orthros 8:00am, Liturgy 9:00am)

Tuesday, December 31st:

Feast of St. Basil the Great (Orthros 5:00pm, Liturgy 6:00pm)

RESURRECTIONAL APOLYTIKION. MODE 2 (BEFORE ENTRANCE)

When You descended unto death, O Lord who yourself are immortal Life, then did You mortify Hades by the lightning flash of Your Divinity. Also when You raised the dead from the netherworld, all the Powers of the heavens were crying out: O Giver of life, Christ our God, glory to You.

Ὅτε κατήλθες πρὸς τὸν θάνατον, ἡ Ζωὴ ἢ ἀθάνατος, τότε τὸν Ἄδην ἐνέκρωσας τῇ ἀστραπῇ τῆς Θεότητος, ὅτε δὲ καὶ τοὺς τεθνεῶτας ἐκ τῶν καταχθονίων ἀνέστησας, πᾶσαι αἱ Δυνάμεις τῶν ἐπουρανίων ἐκραύγαζον· Ζωοδότα Χριστέ ὁ Θεὸς ἡμῶν δόξα σοι.

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APOLYTIKION FOR THE FOREFEAST OF THE NATIVITY. MODE 4

O Bethlehem, prepare, Eden is opened unto all. And be ready, Ephrata, 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, ἠνοικται πᾶσιν ἡ Ἐδέμ. Εὐτρεπίζου Ἐφραθᾶ, ὅτι τὸ ξύλον τῆς ζωῆς, ἐν τῷ Σπηλαιῷ ἐξήνθησεν ἐκ τῆς Παρθένου. Παράδεισος καὶ γάρ, ἡ ἐκείνης γαστήρ, ἐδείχθη νοητός, ἐν ᾧ τὸ θεῖον φυτόν, ἐξ οὗ φαγόντες ζήσομεν, οὐχὶ δὲ ὡς ὁ Ἀδὰμ τεθνηξόμεθα. Χριστὸς γεννᾶται, τὴν πρὶν πεσοῦσαν, ἀναστήσων εἰκόνα.

APOLYTIKION FOR THE FATHERS. MODE PL. 1

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 ἰκεσίαις Χριστὲ ὁ Θεός, σῶσον τὰς ψυχὰς ἡμῶν.

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

SEASONAL KONTAKION FOR THE NATIVITY OF CHRIST. 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 ἡ οἰκουμένη ἀκουτισθεῖσα, δόξασον μετὰ Ἀγγέλων καὶ τῶν Ποιμένων, βουληθέντα ἐποφθῆναι, Παιδίον νέον, τὸν πρὸ αἰῶνων Θεόν.

Epistle Reading

Prokeimenon: Blessed are you, O Lord, the God of our fathers.

Verse: For you are just in all you have done.

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.

PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS:

We will be passing a second tray today to support the work of the International Orthodox Christian Charities (IOCC).

SCAM Alert! Some of our parishioners have been getting scam phone calls, emails, and text messages from people pretending to be one of our priests asking for gift cards. Our clergy will never reach out to parishioners to request emergency financial assistance, or in this case, gift cards. Please call the church office if you have any questions.

To view the photos from the 2019 Christmas fashion show please use the link: allenaltchechphotography.zenfolio.com/fashion2019. You may download any images at no charge as well.

Union Station Homeless Services - Make a New Year's resolution to book a month to serve in 2020. Our sign-up calendar for 2020 is open. Please contact Sophia Angelos at sangelos2000@gmail.com, Stephanie Sowers at szanglis@aol.com or Irene Albeck at mcmg2a@aol.com.

Let's ring in the New Year 2020, Tuesday December 31st, New Year's Eve Party by the St. Anthony Greek Folk Dance Groups. Adults: \$75.00, Teens/Young Adults (13-24) \$55.00, Kids 5-12 \$35.00, Under 4 FREE. RSVP by Dec. 23rd Pauline Voyagis (714) 321-5427 or pvoyagis@yahoo.com

GOYA Winter Retreat at Lake Arrowhead! Be sure to save the date and make it to our annual GOYA winter retreat, Friday Jan. 17 – Sunday Jan. 19.

GOYA TOY DRIVE! All parishioners are invited to please bring a toy (for ages 0-15 years old, new and unwrapped) to donate this Sunday Dec. 22nd. There will be a big box located next to the office doors in the ballroom. The toys will be donated to the Spark of Love

GOYA Ice Skating! GOYA will have an outing at the Pasadena Ice Skating center on December 27, 2019 at 3 p.m. First, we will go ice skating and afterwards we will walk to the Paseo mall and have dinner together at a restaurant (TBD) Please RSVP by the 22nd of December. To RSVP go to: evite.me/nrn34hNAP7

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

Make a donation or update your regular stewardship giving to St. Anthony's by visiting saint-anthonys.churchgiving.com.

**ST. ANTHONY GOYA
2020 WINTER RETREAT
@ LAKE ARROWHEAD**

WHEN?

JANUARY 17-19, 2020

WHO?

ALL GOYA GRADES 6-12

WHERE?

LAKE ARROWHEAD, CA

WHAT TO BRING?

**WARM CLOTHES FOR THE SNOW,
SPENDING MONEY, TOILETRIES**

WHAT'S THE POINT?

**FELLOWSHIP, DISCUSSIONS, FAITH,
WORSHIP, & FUN**

RSVP BY JAN. 5th, 2020

FRIDAY JAN 17th
meet at St. Anthony
4:30p
drive to Lake
Arrowhead, evening
activities, games and
discussions

SAT. JAN 18th
snow tubing &
sledding,
shopping in Lake
Arrowhead village,
evening Liturgy,
dinner, and games

SUNDAY JAN 19th
breakfast all together
depart for St. Anthony
at 11am, arrive at 1pm

COST:
\$150 (regular)
\$175 (after Jan. 5th)
CHECKS MADE OUT TO
'SAINT ANTHONY GREEK
ORTHODOX CHURCH'

CONTACT:
FR. CHRIS
frchris@saint-anthony.org

Anastasia the Great Martyr of Rome (Dec. 22nd)

This Saint, who was from Rome, was a most comely, wealthy, and virtuous maiden, the daughter of Praepextatus and Fausta. It was her mother who instructed her in the Faith of Christ. The Saint was joined to a man named Publius Patricius, who was prodigal in life and impious in disposition, but she was widowed after a short time. Henceforth, she went about secretly to the dwellings of the poor and the prisons where the Martyrs of Christ were, and brought them whatever was needed for their daily subsistence. She washed their wounds and loosed them from their fetters, and consoled them in their anguish. Also, because the Saint, through her intercessions, has healed many from the ill effects of spells, potions, poisons, and other harmful substances, she has received the name "Deliverer from Potions." Since the fame of her deeds had spread about, she was arrested by Diocletian's minions, and after enduring many torments she was put to death by fire in the year 290.

Please visit saint-anthonys.churchgiving.com to make your offering and schedule your regular stewardship giving



WELCOME!

We hope you enjoy your time with us today and that your worship experience is inspirational and uplifting.



If you are a visitor to our parish, please join us for our social hour in the community center and introduce yourself to the pastors and people. Please note that ***only baptized and/or Chrismated Orthodox Christians may partake of the Sacrament of Holy Communion.*** At the end of the Divine Liturgy, you are welcome to come and receive the *Antidoron* (blessed bread) from the priest.

Contact our office at 626-449-6943 or office@saint-anthonys.org to receive more information about our parish or the Orthodox Christian faith.