

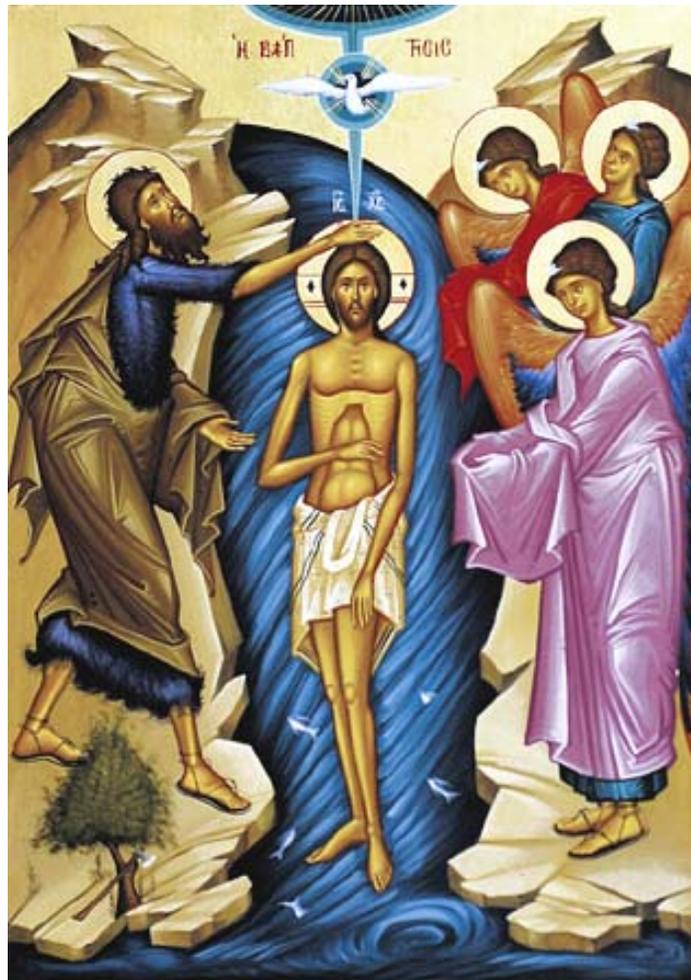
# THE DESERT NEWS

Your *online* monthly news & updates

**Desert News** is published online, every month, for a quick glimpse of the goings on at St. Anthony's and with our parishioners. Desert News editors are Claudia Bogris, Nike Bach, and Stratos Mandalakis. If you have parish organization or personal news to share, please email information to [Claudia Bogris](mailto:claudia@stanthony.org).

With so many of our parishioners now vaccinated and back at Church, the Sunday Bulletin is the main source of weekly information.

## January Feast Day



THEOPHANY, JANUARY 6

## A Message From Fr. Michael

Dear Members of St. Anthony's family,

Another year is going away and a new one is set to start. Last year did not have much fun. Yes it was better than the one before but still it had its own challenges.

And the start of this coming year does not look great. The pandemic is still controlling our lives. But we should not surrender. We should keep our hopes for better time very high.

If there is darkness, let us light a candle.

If there is less faith, let us pray more.

If there is hatred among people, let us show them love.

If we are still holding grudges against others, let us forgive them.

Let us start this year right. Let us defeat the devil, the prince of this world.

Let us together overcome this pandemic and all other problems we will face in this coming year.

Let us start fresh. Let us leave all the troubles of the year 2021 behind us and hope to see the light at the end of the tunnel, because there is one.

Together we can achieve miracles. Together we can do that.

Today I want to wish all of you a new year full of happiness, health, and blessedness.

God bless you all.

Your servant in Christ,  
Fr. Michael Ibrahim

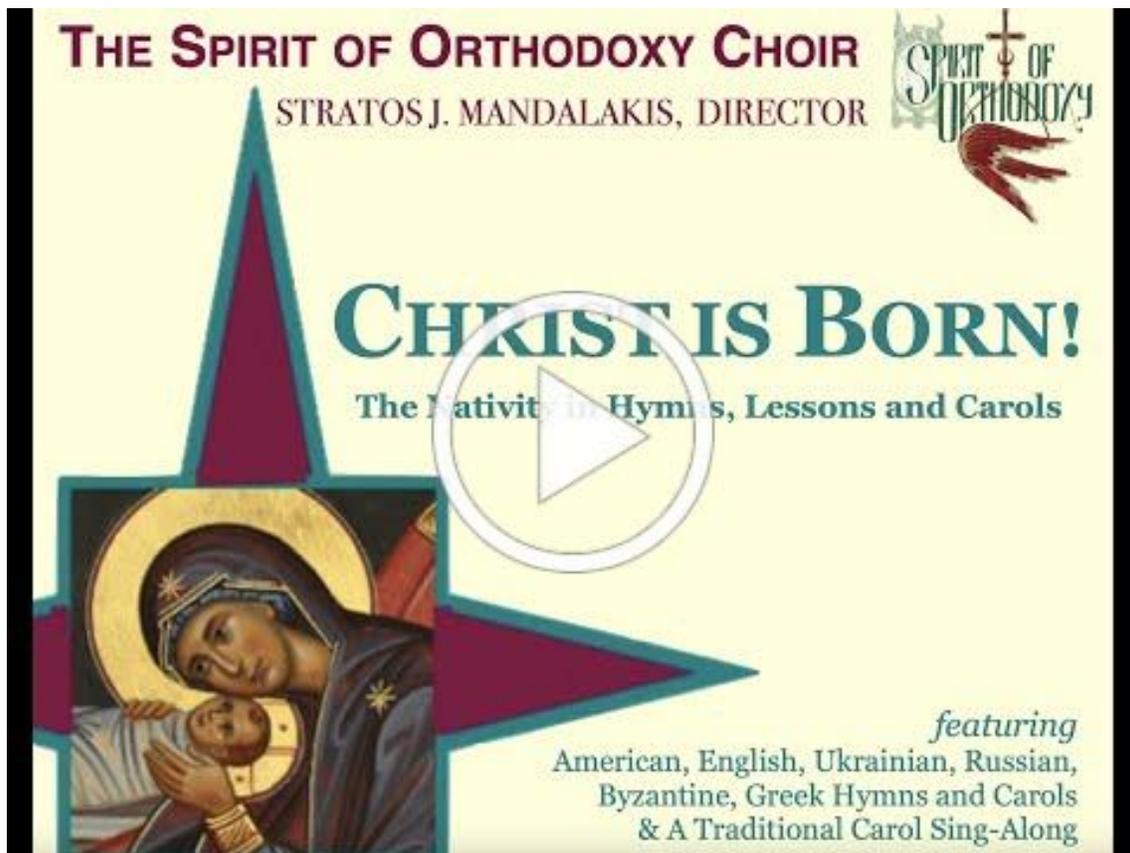
## December Reflections

### **The Spirit of Orthodoxy Concert**

The Spirit of Orthodoxy Choir Christmas concert, under the direction of our own Stratos Mandalakis and the participation of five St. Anthony choir members, was held on December 12 at Holy Resurrection Orthodox Church in Wayne.

Many St. Anthony's parishioners were in attendance. On behalf of SoO, Stratos, Daria, Joe, Cedric, Caitlin and Kathryn thank you for attending as you comprised over a third of the audience!

For those of you missed it, please [click here](#) to listen or enjoy the video below.



### **The Giving Season**

Thank you to everyone who participated in the Women's Guild collection of new pajamas and gift cards for 43 children (from 16 families) who have parents at St. Vladimir's Seminary.

And thank you to everyone who participated in the canned food drive for Teaneck Helping Hands Food Pantry before Christmas.



Teen SOYO thanks everyone who participated in the Christmas Wreath fundraiser. Whether you sent as a gift or decorated your home, everyone who received them raved. These pieces are beautiful, come on time and last a long time. If you missed it this year, don't miss it next!

### **Feeding the Less Fortunate**

Over 130 people were fed on November 30 at the Hackensack Walk-in Dinner Program thanks to many volunteers and under the leadership of Betty Gakos. A delicious homemade dinner of beef brisket, fresh carrots, smashed potatoes and salad

were prepared and served, plus water, dessert and Balthazar bread. A special thank you to all the families who helped: Assile, Bach, Bogris, Dedes, Fares, Gakos, Joseph, Samman and Watkins. The next WIDP dinner will be sponsored by St. Anthony's in April 2022.

### **St. Ignatius Christmas Reception**

St. Anthony hosted the Order of St. Ignatius Christmas reception for the Deanery on December 17. Four new members were inducted into the Order of St. Ignatius by Metropolitan JOSEPH. As is our lovely tradition, current members of The Order sponsor new members.



New members from St. Anthony were Hanneh Kalyoussef, Stephen Petrick and Alexa Petrick. God Bless!

December 19 was St. Ignatius Sunday and Choir Appreciation Day. We had a special cake to honor our beautiful choir.



### **Christmas Eve Tableau**

The Teens read lessons as the Choir beautifully sang carols and hymns immediately prior to Divine Liturgy on Christmas Eve.

Stratos Mandalakis and Joe & Daria Incorvaia would like to thank the Choir members and Teens John James Nola, and Sophia & Julia Scarpa, who

toughed it out despite all of the challenges of the Pandemic, to bring us this Christmas Eve Tableau tradition that is over a half century old. May God grant you many, many years!

## Annual Meeting

Parishioners are invited to attend the Parish Annual Meeting on Sunday, January 9, 2022, following liturgy and coffee reception. Invitation letters and a meeting agenda were mailed to all parishioners.

The Voting Membership will vote on the 2022 budget and elect a slate of four members to the Parish Council. The meeting will also include a presentation of the 2021 Financial Report, report about building needs and a discussion about how to address them. The 2021 Financial Report and 2022 Budget will be EMAILED to parishioners, in advance of the meeting. Otherwise, copies will be available at the meeting. As stated in our by-laws, single members in good standing are allowed one (1) vote on each item. Families are allowed an additional vote, for a total of 2 (two) votes on each item.

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## Tricky Tray is Just Around the Corner! Friday, March 4, 2022

The Parish Luck of St. Anthony's Tricky Tray planning is in full swing. It will be a great night for all who attend as there are over 200 prizes, Lucky Lady 50/50, door raffles, great food and more! **We are already collecting gifts and donations, prepping baskets and starting publicity.** Please bring your donations as soon as possible! See the flyer and invite your friends from now!

*The Luck of  
St. Anthony*  
**TRICKY TRAY**  
FRIDAY, MARCH 4, 2022  
DOORS OPEN 6:30PM  
RAFFLE PULL 8PM

ST. ANTHONY'S ORTHODOX CHURCH  
385 IVY LANE  
BERGENFIELD, NJ 07621  
(201)-315-7917

ADMISSION:  
\$20 in advance, \$25 door

Includes one sheet of First Tier tickets, coffee, tea, & live music!  
*Dinner options available for purchase [please no outside food]*

For more ticket information contact Pam  
(201)-315-7917 [stanthonywomensguild@gmail.com](mailto:stanthonywomensguild@gmail.com)

Over 200 raffles! Prizes include gift certificates, entertainment, experiences, restaurants, designer items, door prizes, home decor, electronics and much more!

HOSTED BY ST. ANTHONY'S PARISH  
TO BENEFIT THE BUILDING FUND & LOCAL COMMUNITY CHARITIES

**COVID-19 SAFETY MEASURES**

- Proof of vaccination required
- Masks required while walking around, not while seated

This is an all-parish event, and an extremely important and needed fundraiser for our Church. All hands on deck!

Donation Forms are available Church to take to businesses you frequent for gift cards. See Leslie Carter, Nike Bach or Hanneh

## **Father Joe Memorial Fund Committee Visits Ukrainian Center**

The Father Joseph Allen Memorial Fund (FJMF) Committee visited the Ukrainian History and Education Center (HEC) in Somerset, New Jersey in early November. The Committee members, including Kh. Valerie Allen, Lisa Fares, Alice and John Ziemba, Jim Vagias and Jim Bach, met with Dr. Michael Andrec, the Archivist for the Ukrainian Orthodox Church in the U.S. and the Director of the Ukrainian History and Education Center, to learn how they set up and support their archive and historical records.

The committee was recommended to meet with Dr. Andrec as part of the evaluation of St. Anthony's archive and historical records conducted by the N.J. Historical Commission (Caucus Archival Project Evaluation Services – CAPES) at St. Anthony's in August. The State auditor suggested the FJMF view the Ukrainian Archives, which she felt was particularly well organized. The committee visited the Ukrainian Museum at the site and then Dr. Andrec gave a comprehensive tour of their archive, explaining how they have developed a well-preserved print, photo, audio and digital record. Dr. Andrec was generous with his time and patiently answered our many questions. The St. Anthony Committee looks forward to continuing the dialogue with Dr. Andrec while we look to connect with other archives in the area. A future trip to the Orthodox Church in America (OCA) archive in Syosset, N.Y. is in the planning stage.

In addition to visiting the Ukrainian History and Education Center and Museum, the St. Anthony group also toured the Ukrainian's extensive facilities in Somerset, encompassing their seminary, St. Andrew Ukrainian Orthodox Memorial Church, and the largest Ukrainian Orthodox cemetery in the U.S.

Following the visit with the Ukrainians in Somerset, the committee members visited the Zimmerli Art Museum of Rutgers University in nearby New Brunswick. The Zimmerli collection includes a major exhibit of Russian art and the group viewed Russian icons, some dating from the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> century.

The Father Joseph Allen Memorial Fund Committee is seeking to establish an archive, historical record and associated programs at St. Anthony that recognizes both the unique role we play as the first English speaking Pan-Orthodox Church in the U.S. and the major role the Very Reverend Joseph Allen of Blessed

Memory played in Orthodox Christian teachings.



**Summer camp registration opens January 8.** Stay up to date and visit [AV Camp website](#) for all the details on session dates!

Scholarships are available to any St. Anthony's child who would like assistance to attend the Antiochian Village Camp this summer. Please speak with Fr Michael.

### **ShopRite Gift Cards**

Reminder: ShopRite supermarket gift cards are available for purchase For \$100, you get \$100 of gift cards; and the Church earns 5%. Cost-free fundraiser! **We are still looking for a volunteer to take over this program.** Please see Betty Gakos, who has run this for many years, or Fr. Michael.

## **Sign up to Host Coffee Hour**

*(And many thanks to all the parishioners and organizations who already have.)*



We have simplified the process to be both safe and make it easier for every parishioner to host at least one coffee hour a year. A schedule and guidelines are posted in the coffee room. To sign up or learn more, please email [Alice Ziembra](#) or call Alice at 201-644-8068.

## **Milestones**

### **Beautiful Babies**

Welcome to the world, James Philip Davino, the beautiful baby son of Alayna (Watkins) and Matt Davino! James, who was born on December 12, 2021, is the grandson of Somaya and Jim Watkins. God bless!

## **Calendar**

**Sunday, January 2**  
**Share Your Holiday Treat Coffee Hour**

Please bring your leftover Christmas cookies and treats to share with the parish for our January 2 Coffee Hour.

**Wednesday, January 5 at 7pm**

**Feast of Theophany**

This year we will divide the service into two parts since we are having our annual meeting on Sunday, January 9. Fr. Michael will be available for home blessings all year round. Please call the church office (201-568-8840) to schedule your visit.

**Sunday January 9 After Liturgy**

**Annual Meeting**

*See article above with all the details*

## Looking Ahead

**Friday, March 4, 2022**

**Luck of St. Anthony's Tricky Tray**

*See article above with all the details*

**Thursday, Friday, Saturday**

**May 12, 13 and 14, 2022**

**Giant Indoor Yard Sale**

Start putting away those "just not right for me; perfect for someone else" items from now. See the [flyer](#) with all the details. And mark your calendar from May 8-14 for set up, sales and take down.

**Tuesday, June 14, 2022**

**Don DiNovi Memorial Golf Outing**

Save the date from now!

**Thursday, Friday, Saturday, Sunday**

**September 8, 9, 10 and 11, 2022**

**Bergen Street Fest and Carnival - Combined!**

Planning for the combined BSF and Carnival has started. If you are interested in helping with the planning or working the event, please see Brian Scarpa or Ed Assile.