

February 2023

THE DESERT NEWS

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 and Nike Bach. If you have parish organization or personal news to share, please email information to [Claudia Bogris](mailto:Claudia.Bogris).

A Message from Fr. Jeremy

Dear St. Anthony's Parish Family,
God bless you!

I've had the joy of meeting many of you, but for those I have yet to meet: Hello! I am Fr. Jeremy Davis, and I'll be interim pastor at St. Anthony Church for the next few months (until a new pastor is appointed this summer, God willing). I have been serving at the Archdiocese Headquarters in Englewood since 2021 as Protosyngellos and Assistant to the Metropolitan, and I will be continuing in this role while serving as your interim pastor. This full-time administrative role took me away from 15 years of parish ministry, which I miss dearly. So I'm very happy to be part of a parish family again!



Some have asked me about my many and exotic titles, so I thought I'd take this opportunity to give some explanation. First of all, you can just call me "Father" or "Father Jeremy" when we talk--this is what I prefer! However, my formal title and ecclesiastical rank is "The Right Reverend Archimandrite Jeremy (Davis)," which is appropriate for formal letters, wedding invitations, and diplomas, but that's about it. An archimandrite is a senior monastic (celibate) priest; in ancient times, an archimandrite was appointed by the bishop to oversee a region or group of monasteries, but today it's just a rank of honor. Formally, the last name of a monk or nun, when provided, is placed in parentheses, since they have set aside their family ties in order to completely commit themselves to God and His service.

As I mentioned above, I also have the title "Protosyngellos"--which

literally translates as "first cellmate"! This title also comes from ancient times, when the bishop shared living quarters (his "cell") with a few monastic assistants (each one would have been called a "synkellos" or "syngellos"). The chief of these was called the "Protosyngellos," or "first syngellos." Today, the Protosyngellos is the head of the clergy in an archdiocese (or "Dean of the Clergy") and assists the Metropolitan with pastoral matters throughout the archdiocese.

I might also mention that I am a riasophor monk, which indicates my monastic status as, basically, a junior monk. This is the first degree of tonsured monks--that is, the first step of one officially committing himself to the vows of monasticism (chastity, poverty, and obedience). There are two additional steps above mine, for those who are more advanced in their monastic life.

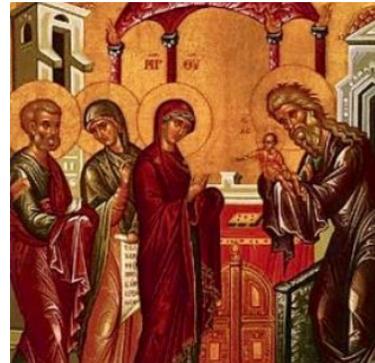
It has been so nice to meet so many of you, and I look forward to meeting the rest. Please feel free to call or email me if you need a visit, a house blessing, counsel, confession, a baptism, a marriage, or any other pastoral care. I will try to respond as quickly as I can, but I also appreciate your patience as I juggle this pastorate and my archdiocesan role.

Your servant in Christ,
Fr. Jeremy Davis
frjeremy@antiochian.org
405-625-0675

Upcoming Events

Metropolitan ANTONIOS to officiate at Hierarchical Liturgy on February 1

On Wednesday, February 1 we will celebrate the Feast of the Meeting of the Lord in the Temple with Orthros at 5:30pm (*earlier time*) and Hierarchical Divine Liturgy at 7pm with His Eminence Metropolitan ANTONIOS, our Patriarchal Vicar. Our archdiocesan seminarians from St Vlad's will also join us for these services. A reception will follow. ALL PARISHIONERS are encouraged to attend.



IOCC Wine Tasting Fundraiser February 11



Taste of North Jersey

TO BENEFIT IOCC

Saturday, February 11, 2023

Vespers: 6:00 pm | Wine & Hors d'oeuvres: 7:00 pm

SS Nicholas, Constantine & Helen Greek Orthodox Church
80 Laurel Ave, Roseland, NJ 07068-1461

Come and learn about how your support is helping families in places like Ukraine, Greece, Lebanon, and right here in the US. Enjoy delicious hors d'oeuvres and desserts from some of North Jersey's finest food stores, restaurants, bakeries, plus beer and wine from Stew Leonard's.

Register online until February 5:

adults	\$75
adults age 65+	\$50
students age 21-25	\$25

After February 5, all tickets at the door \$100



Early bird ticket pricing extended to February 5. **Order your tickets TODAY. Visit ioccc.org/newjersey**

Attend Annual Meeting on February 12

All parishioners are encouraged to attend St Anthony's Annual Meeting on Sunday, February 12, following Liturgy and coffee reception. At this annual meeting, required by our Constitution, parishioners will learn about the parish. They will vote on a budget for 2023 and see what 2022 expenditures and revenues were.

Candidates to fill FIVE vacant seats on the parish council will also be voted on. Candidates will be serving either first or second terms. The nominees are Christeen Scarpa, Dinu Morar, Alice Ziemba, Mike McMinn, and Helen Chimel. **A quorum is needed for these votes, so Nike Bach, Parish Council Chairperson, ask parishioners to plan to stay for the meeting, listen, ask questions, offer ideas, and vote!**

Parish organizations and committees are requested to submit reports of their 2022 activities. Some organizations and committees may also present at the meeting.

Women's Guild: Book Club Night

The Women's Guild is having a Book Club Night on Friday, February 24 at 6:30pm at the home of Claudia Bogris. All are welcome! We will discuss the book entitled *The Day that Changed Everything* by Catherine Miller. Women's Guild Gift Store has copies available for \$10. The Kindle and NOOK Editions are available online.

Feeding the Less Fortunate

St. Anthony's will once again be feeding the less fortunate in Hackensack on Tuesday, April 4. Please let Betty Gakos know if you would like to provide desserts or help preparing or serving on April 4th.

Spring Fling This Spring

Change of plans: Instead of a Mardi Gras before Lent begins, we are going to have a Spring Fling party after Pascha. Stay tuned for information.

ParishSoft Giving is for YOU



In gratitude for the gifts God has given us, we give from that which we have received. A to-be-formed Stewardship committee will be reaching out to parishioners to explain more.

In the meantime, St. Anthony's provides an easy, convenient, and safe way for parishioners to make online stewardship donations. ALL parishioners are encouraged to use ParishSoft Giving (PSG) for your giving. Lisa Fares and Nike Bach can help. Please contact them if you'dlike help setting up your account.

To do it yourself: Click [here](#). Then, select "Sign in". Scroll down to "**Don't have a giving account? Create One**". You'll need to decide:

- **How** you wish to donate: whether *to pay by credit card or to pay from your bank account*.
- **How often** to make your donation: *a weekly or monthly pledge, or a one-time payment* such as for your annual assessment or for a memorial gift.
- If you wish to *offset the 2.5% ParishSoft fee* (this is optional).

ParishSoft Giving allows you to have your giving information at your fingertips while also making it easier for parish finance volunteers to keep track of your donations.

PSG will *also* allow you make these donations:

- Offer gifts for the Divine Liturgy (Communion). Select **Liturgical Offering** and include the names of the living and the departed,

which will be read at the Liturgy.

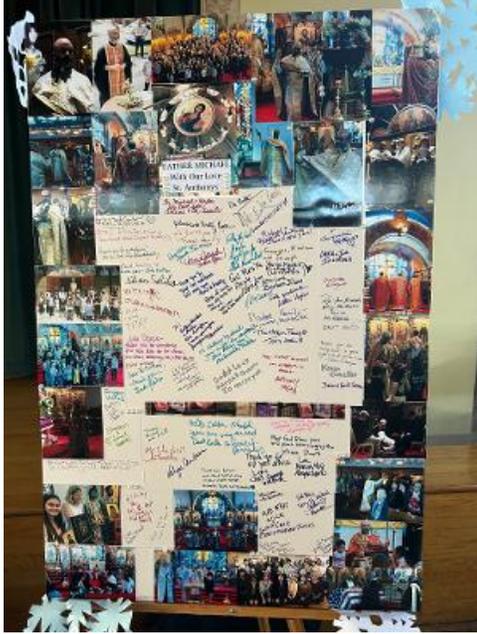
- Donate in memory of someone who has passed away, visit **Memorial Giving**.
- Visit the **Father Joseph Allen Memorial Fund** to make a donation to this.

Life in Our Parish

Sending off Fr. Michael Ibrahim with Love

On Sunday, January 8 we held a special luncheon with a capacity crowd to honor Fr. Michael and Kh. Roula Ibrahim for their time at St. Anthony's. Leslie Carter prepared a beautiful board of pictures celebrating Fr. Michael's time here and parishioners were invited to sign it. Parish Council Chair Nike Bach presented Fr. Michael with a gift on behalf of our parish and Sunday School head Dana Hanna described Fr. Michael's connection to the children of our parish as his superpower! Thank you to everyone who cooked and set up the hall to make the day so delightful.

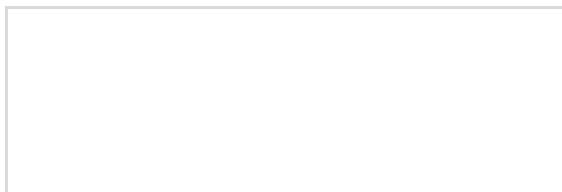




St Anthony's Patronal Feast Day

On Sunday, January 15, we celebrated St. Anthony's patronal Feast Day, which also inaugurated Fr. Jeremy Davis' service as our interim pastor.

After Liturgy, parishioners were invited to the Fellowship Hall for a short Artoklasia service conducted by Fr. Jeremy and Fr. Nicholas Fine, who has been assigned to St. Anthony's and is finishing his final year at St. Vladimir's Seminary. Fr. Jeremy introduced himself to the parish, and Ghiath Abdallah welcomed a wonderfully long list of new parishioners! *Please introduce yourselves to new parishioners.*





Young at Heart News

Young at Heart Members had their first meeting of the new year on Thursday, January 5.

The attendees participated in an exciting game of "Senior Jeopardy" planned by YAH president, Glenda Calvert. Our members scored well in recalling factual information to answer game questions -- even though, at times, it was a joint venture!!

In February, our YAH program will focus on senior health. A chiropractor will discuss the diagnosis, treatment and prevention of mechanical disorders of the musculoskeletal system. It will be an informative session for all attendees on maintaining good senior health!!! Light refreshments will be served after the program!

Got AED? We do!

First things first: An AED, or Automated External Defibrillator, is used to help those experiencing sudden cardiac arrest. It's a medical device that can analyze the heart's rhythm and, if necessary, deliver an electrical shock, or defibrillation, to help the heart re-establish an effective rhythm.

Do you know where it is or how to use it if an emergency arises? The AED is in a white cabinet as you enter the hall from the lobby by the bathrooms. *Please let Betty Gakos know if you are CPR trained so we can update our records.*

Summer Camp at the Antiochian Village

What have two generations of St. Anthony's children attended for two weeks and talked about for 50? Camp at AV!



The Antiochian Village Summer Camp Program serves young people ages 9-17 who come to attend one of four two-week sessions. One of the main goals of the Village Camp program is to present to young people a living experience of the Holy Orthodox Faith in their relationship with God and other campers in an uncluttered, natural environment.

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 Jeremy.

For more information or to register, visit AVcamp.org

Hiring for Church Hall Rental Onsite Support

The parish is looking **to hire** a parishioner to replace Ghazi Aboueid who has been preparing, minding, and cleaning up after St. Anthony's hall rentals for many years. If you are interested or would like to learn more, contact [John Ziemba](mailto:John.Ziemba).

Grave Plot at George Washington Cemetery

St. Anthony's has a grave plot at George Washington Memorial Park Cemetery in Paramus (Section A, Lot 224) available for sale. The grave plot allows for two burials. If any parishioner and/or their family is interested in purchasing it (discounted from the current cemetery price) or would like more information, please contact John Gakos at jbgakos@yahoo.com.

Milestones

Memory Eternal

Gus Lois, a longtime St. Anthony parishioner who moved to Naples, FL, departed this life on January 10, 2023. Our deepest condolences to his wife Susan and their children. Memory Eternal!

Archdiocese News

Holy Synod to Meet February 22 to Select New

Metropolitan

Parishes throughout the Antiochian Archdiocese of North America attended a special Convention on January 13 in Dallas to vote on candidates for Metropolitan of the archdiocese. The three candidates are:

- His Grace Bishop John Abdalah
- His Grace Bishop Nicholas Ozone
- His Eminence Metropolitan Saba Isper

His Eminence Metropolitan Antonios, Patriarchal Vicar, has submitted these three candidates to His Beatitude, Patriarch John, who will share them with the Holy Synod of Antioch in consideration of their election of the next Metropolitan.

Reminders

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.

New Year, New Coffee Hour Schedule.

Have you signed up yet?



Hosting coffee hour is simple and safe. EVERY parishioner is asked 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 Ziemba](#)** or call her at 201-644-8068.

Calendar

Wednesday, February 1

Feast of the Meeting of the Lord in the Temple

5:30pm Orthros (*earlier time*), 7pm Hierarchical Divine Liturgy.
Reception in hall follows. (*See above*)

Saturday, February 11

IOCC North Jersey Wine Tasting Fundraiser at Ss. Nicholas, Constantine and Helen in Roseland, NJ (*See above*)

Sunday, February 12
Parish Annual Meeting, after Liturgy

Friday, February 24 at 6:30pm
Women's Guild Book Club meeting (*See above*)

Monday, February 27
Orthodox Lent begins

Looking Ahead

Tuesday, April 4, 2023
Feeding the Less Fortunate (*See above*)

Thursday-Sunday, May 11-14, 2023
Carnival at Teaneck Armory (*Details to follow*)

Tuesday, June 20, 2023
Don DiNovi Memorial Golf Outing

Thursday-Sunday, September 7-10, 2023
Carnival II at Teaneck Armory (*Details to follow*)
