



# St Anthony Orthodox Church

Fr Nicholas Fine | Pastor | (503) 502-2817 | [fnicholas@stanthonyorthodox.org](mailto:fnicholas@stanthonyorthodox.org)

## Services This Week

**Wednesday, November 29th**  
St. Andrew  
Orthros and Divine Liturgy. 6pm

**Friday, December 1st**  
Daily Vespers  
6pm

**Saturday, December 2nd**  
Great Vespers  
5pm

**Sunday, December 3rd**  
Orthros and Divine Liturgy  
9:00am

**\*Confession available before/  
after any weekday service,  
after Great Vespers on  
Saturday, or by appointment.**

## Daily Liturgical Guide

**Antiochian Archdiocese Website:**  
<https://antiochian.org/liturgicday>

“There is nothing upon earth holier, higher, grander, more solemn, more life-giving than the Liturgy.”

- **St John of Kronstadt**

## Weekly Announcements

1. **Church School & Teen SOYO will meet today.**
2. **The dates of the Fall Adult Education Series are:**
  - I. Catechism-7pm on Fridays through December 15th
  - II. Byzantine Chant Class-3pm on Saturdays through December 16th

\*Please refer to handout & consult the calendar on our church website.
3. **Teen SOYO & The Church School invite everyone to our annual St. Nicholas Complimentary Dinner THIS Saturday, December 2, 2023,** held in honor of our parish seniors. The dinner will follow Great Vespers which starts at 5pm.
4. **The 2023 Antiochian Archdiocese Food Drive is underway.** Please bring non-perishable food items to the church by **Sunday, December 10th.** There are boxes at the front & back entrances. See the flyer for a list of needed foods. Any questions, **contact members of the 20/40 Group or Amanda Elsabee (732-979-9929 or [aelsabee@gmail.com](mailto:aelsabee@gmail.com)).**
5. **The Women's Guild is collecting pajamas & gift cards for the children & families from St. Vladimir's Seminary.**
  - The “Giving Tree” is located in the church hall. **See Caitlin Sanchez or Alexandra Stith for directions/information.**
  - All gifts should be wrapped or placed in a gift bag & labeled.
  - **Bring all gifts to church no later than Sunday, December 3rd.**
6. **The Young At Heart Christmas Luncheon will be held on Thursday, December 14th at 1pm at the Mado Restaurant** in River Edge, NJ. Reservations & payment are due no later than December 3rd. For information, contact **Annette Takla (201-261-6244).**
7. It's never too early to start your holiday shopping! **Beautiful wreaths & centerpieces from Lynch Creek Wreaths are being sold again this year by our Teen SOYO using code: 301489.** Items can be purchased by phone (1-888-426-0781) or online at **<https://lynchcreekwreaths.com/pages/fundraising>.** Go to “find your campaign” & enter our code. Click on St. Anthony's SOYO & begin shopping! Please, remember, the code must be used!

Thank you for worshiping with us this morning!  
If this is your first time visiting, please introduce yourself to Fr. Nicholas at the end of Liturgy.

**From Father:**

Reflecting on the past week, we were blessed with the celebration of two significant feasts. Thursday marked Thanksgiving, and I sincerely hope everyone experienced a blessed and joyful time surrounded by family and loved ones. However, there was another noteworthy feast last week: commemorating the Virgin Mary's entrance into the holy temple of God in Jerusalem.

The convergence of these feasts in the same week this year is a beautiful alignment. Mary, tenderly brought into God's holy temple as a child to be nurtured in His presence, exemplifies unwavering faith and devotion. Her role in the greatest mystery known to humanity—the birth of God, Jesus—becomes the ultimate cause for our Thanksgiving.

Whether honoring the Mother of God or giving thanks on Thanksgiving, this festive moment serves as a pivotal transition in our journey toward Christmas. It beckons us to turn inward, to delve deeper, as we prepare ourselves to encounter God come in the flesh for our salvation.

Amidst the hustle and bustle of the season—gift shopping, decorating, and engaging in various celebrations, all of which are wonderful activities—it's crucial to keep Christ's birth, the birth of God in the flesh, at the heart of our preparations.

As we approach the great feast of Christmas, I encourage you to dedicate time each week for contemplation. Reflect on the magnificence and love of our God, who humbled Himself to take on human form for our sake. Let this reflection deepen your connection with the profound significance of the season.

With love in Christ,  
Fr. Nicholas

8. **Thank you to Amanda Elsabee, the 20/40 Group & all those who supported the greater Bergen Head Start program for providing Thanksgiving meals.** Because of your generosity, we were able to sponsor 4 families instead of 2.

9. **A special *Thank You* to Siham Saliba & Family for hosting today's coffee hour.**

10. **The St. Anthony Choir is always looking to add some heavenly voices to our ensemble!** No experience necessary! Contact our director, **Daria Incorvaia** ([deedah1964@yahoo.com](mailto:deedah1964@yahoo.com)).

11. **Shoprite Gift Cards are available for purchase.** For \$100, you get \$100. of gift cards & the Church earns 5%. This is a cost-free fundraiser! To purchase gift cards, see **Betty Gakos**.

12. **PLEASE VOLUNTEER FOR COFFEE HOUR** - Parishioners are asked to to host at least ONE coffee reception a year. Guidelines are on the church website & handouts available in the coffee room.

- Sign up on the schedule posted outside the coffee room or contact **Alice Ziemba** (201-664-8068 or [aliceziemba@yahoo.com](mailto:aliceziemba@yahoo.com)).

13. **Parishioners are reminded to check the online St. Anthony Church Calendar** for the most current church services and activities (<https://stanthonyorthodox.org/calendar/>).

14. **If you have any news for our church e-newsletter, *The Desert News*, that goes out the 1st of each month, send it at least one week prior to Claudia Bogris** ([cbogris@aol.com](mailto:cbogris@aol.com)). If you are not receiving this monthly email, contact **Nike Bach** ([nike.bach@gmail.com](mailto:nike.bach@gmail.com)).

15. **Reminder: The UPCI Jesus Christ Tabernacle Church celebrates services** on Sundays (2pm - 5pm) and Thursdays (6:30pm - 9:00pm) in our church hall. Please clean your table.

***There will be a Memorial Service today for George Saliba, husband of Siham, and father of Ghassan Saliba, Rose Targove and Najwa DeMartino. May His Memory be Eternal!***

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“I no longer fear God, but I love Him.  
For love casts out fear.”

-St Anthony the Great