



# St Anthony Orthodox Church

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## Services This Week

### Monday, December 11th

St. Spyridon  
Orthos and Divine Liturgy  
6pm

### Wednesday, December 13th

Daily Vespers  
6pm

### Friday, December 15th

Daily Vespers  
6pm

### Saturday, December 16th

Great Vespers  
5pm

### Sunday, December 17th

Orthos 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. **December is St. Ignatius month.**
  - ✦ See the flyers in the bulletin for information.
  - ✦ All members should wear their crosses on December 17th
  - ✦ The Order will be hosting the coffee hour on December 17th
4. **Parishioners are invited to donate to church flowers** used to decorate the altar, & share Christmas/New Year wishes with the parish.
  - Submit your name(s) and donation for holiday wishes and/or Christmas flowers, **by December 24, to Helen Chimel.**
  - To donate electronically, contact Nike Bach ([nike.bach@gmail.com](mailto:nike.bach@gmail.com)) who will send you a link to do so.
5. **The Parish Council will have a brief meeting** to review and approve next year's budget, in anticipation of the annual meeting, immediately after liturgy **TODAY.**
6. **Registration for the Antiochian Village Summer Camp Programs 2024 opens Sunday, January 7 at 6pm EST!** For more information and to register, go to: [avcamp.org](http://avcamp.org)
7. **All non-perishable food items are due TODAY** for the Archdiocese Food Drive. Boxes are at the front & back entrances.
8. **The Women's Guild reminds all parishioners** who chose a Christmas Wish from “The Giving Tree” **that all gifts are due TODAY.** Gifts should be wrapped or placed in a gift bag & labeled.
9. Reminder - **The Young At Heart Christmas Luncheon** will be held **THIS** Thursday, December 14th at 12noon at the Mado Restaurant in River Edge.

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

**From Father:**

Christ is in our midst!

Today, St Paul exhorts us to put on “the whole armor of God.” He explains that we need to equip ourselves in this armor to fight our enemy—not against “flesh and blood,” but against “the wiles of the devil.” Our struggle in the spiritual life is not against each other, although the devil often tempts us to fight with each other as a distraction from our actual fight. We fight against the “principalities, against the powers, against the world rulers of this present darkness, against the spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.” These words refer to the various ranks of dark angels or demons, the hostile spiritual forces still at work in the world.

Our enemy is spiritual, and so too is our armor and weapons. We gird ourselves with truth, put on the breastplate of righteousness, guard ourselves with the shield of faith, wear the helmet of salvation, and fight with the sword of the Spirit. As St John Chrysostom explains, these all correspond to “a life of universal virtue.” We protect ourselves with truth, which destroys falsehood; righteousness, which is a life pleasing to God; and faith, which is trusting in God’s providence. And we fight with the sword of the Spirit—prayer. Our fervent prayer has the ability, as Chrysostom explains, to sever all things: “By this, we cut off even the serpent's head.”

This armor and these weapons have tremendous power because they have their foundation in God. Struggle for virtue, call on God in prayer, and reject the weapons of the world—the hostility and turmoil against one another. Take courage and know that God has given us the necessary armor and weapons; we must use them.

With love in Christ,  
Fr. Nicholas

10. **Beautiful wreaths & centerpieces from Lynch Creek Wreaths are being sold again this year by our Teen SOYO using code: 301489.** Order 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!

11. **SAVE THE DATE - St. Anthony’s Day will be celebrated on Sunday, January 21, 2024!** More information to come.

12. **A special Thank You to Dan & Dimitria Mayhew & Family for hosting today’s coffee hour.**

13. **Thank you to Amanda Elsabee & the 20/40 Group** for organizing the Archdiocesan Food Drive.

14. **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)).

✦ The Choir will be rehearsing every Monday until Christmas.

15. **The new Coffee Hour Schedule for 2024 is posted in the church hall.** Signup early to commemorate those special events & members in your family.

- Parishioners are asked to host at least ONE coffee reception a year.
- Guidelines on church website & handouts are 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)).

16. **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)).

17. **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 one year Memorial Service today for Jobanna Tsourkaris, mother of Dimitria Mayhew, and great-grandmother of Natalia and Angel. May Her 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