



St Anthony Orthodox Church

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

Services This Week

Wednesday, December 20th

Daily Vespers
6pm

Friday, December 22nd

Royal Hours of Christmas
9am

Saturday, December 23rd

Great Vespers
5pm

Sunday, December 24th

Orthros and Divine Liturgy
9:00am

Great Vespers of Christmas
6pm

Tableau 7pm

Christmas Eve Reception
8pm

Monday, December 25th

The Nativity of Christ
Christmas Orthros and Divine
Liturgy
9:00am

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

- Confessions available before/after any weekday service, after Great Vespers on Saturday, or by appointment.**
- Church School & Teen SOYO will meet today.**
- SAVE THE DATE- On Saturday evening, January 13, 2024, St. Anthony's will host Rev. Fr. Calinic Berger, PH.D., Associate Pastor of St George Cathedral in Wichita, and Adjunct Professor of Dogmatic Theology at Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology in Brookline, MA.**
 - Great Vespers will be at 5pm, followed by a light reception and a presentation by Fr. Calinic entitled, *The Transformational Power of the Psalms: Our Daily Liturgy and Window to Christ.***
 - Where can we find the inspiration to renew our prayer life?** In this brief presentation, we will explore the Book of Psalms, and why the Fathers of the Church see it as a well-spring of wisdom, inspiration and spiritual power, bringing us closer to God, teaching us about our own selves, and most importantly, about Christ.
- 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) who will send you a link to do so.
- It is not too late, you can still order beautiful wreaths & centerpieces** from Lynch Creek Wreaths benefitting 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!
- SAVE THE DATE - St. Anthony's Day will be celebrated on Sunday, January 21, 2024!** More information to come.

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!

Can you believe we are only a week away from Christmas, the birthday of our salvation? As we move closer and closer to the great feast of our Lord's birth, the Church becomes more somber, more quiet, and more reflective. Of course, Christmas is a joyous time, but it is also a very serious time. In Western traditions, the hymn "Let all mortal flesh keep silent" became popular during this time of year. The hymn dates back to the third century and is an early type of cherubic hymn (sung before the great entrance procession in the liturgy with the bread and wine). It is still sung on Great and Holy Saturday.

This hymn became a popular Christmastime hymn in the West when an English poet adapted it. The original words of the hymn say: "Let all mortal flesh keep silent, and stand with fear and trembling, and in itself consider nothing earthly; for the King of kings and Lord of lords cometh forth to be sacrificed, and given as food to the believers; and there go before Him the choirs of Angels, with every Dominion and Power, the many-eyed Cherubim and the six-winged Seraphim, covering their faces, and crying out the hymn: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia."

Even though it is not properly used in the liturgy at Christmas time, the words are still extremely pertinent for this period. Let us quiet ourselves and ponder the fearful and awesome reality that the King of kings and Lord of lords is born into the world, comes to dwell among us, and offers us salvation. Amid the hustle and bustle of the season, try to find those quiet moments to "consider nothing earthly" as we prepare to welcome anew the King of all into our lives this year.

With love in Christ,
Fr. Nicholas

7. **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

8. The Archdiocese Food Drive was extended & **all non-perishable food items are due TODAY**. Thank you to Amanda Elsabee & the 20/40 Group for organizing this event.

9. **Thank you to Jackie Koskinas and the Women's Guild** for organizing the "The Giving Tree" in support of our seminarians. A special thanks to our parishioners who generously participated in this act of giving.

10. **The St. Anthony Choir is always looking to add some heavenly voices to our ensemble!** No experience necessary! Contact our director, **Daria Incorvaia** (dedah1964@yahoo.com).

- ✦ The Choir will be rehearsing every Monday until Christmas.

11. **December is St. Ignatius month. A special Thank You to the Order for hosting today's coffee hour.**

12. **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).

13. **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). If you are not receiving this monthly email, contact **Nike Bach** (nike.bach@gmail.com).

14. **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 40 day Memorial Service today for Nibal Saliba Fayad, sister of Joseph Saliba and aunt of Georges Saliba. May Her Memory Be Eternal!

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

-St Anthony the Great