



# St Anthony Orthodox Church

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

## Services This Week

**Sunday, December 24th**  
Great Vespers of Christmas  
6pm  
Tableau 7pm  
Christmas Eve Reception

**Monday, December 25th**  
The Nativity of Christ  
Christmas Orthros and Divine  
Liturgy  
9:00am

**Saturday, December 30th**  
Great Vespers 5pm

**Sunday, December 31st**  
Orthros and Divine Liturgy  
9am

Circumcision/St. Basil Great  
Vespers 6pm

## Daily Liturgical Guide

**Antiochian Archdiocese  
Website:**  
[https://antiochian.org/  
liturgicday](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

**CHRIST IS BORN, GLORIFY HIM!**  
**Wishing everyone a blessed Christmas and a joyous New Year!**

- Confessions available before/after any weekday service, after Great Vespers on Saturday, or by appointment.**
- Church School & Teen SOYO will NOT meet today.**
- SAVE THE DATE (Note Date and Time change) - On Friday evening, January 12, 2024, St. Anthony's will host Rev. Fr. Calinic Berger, PHD., 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.**  
- **Vespers will be at 6pm, 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.
- SAVE THE DATE - St. Anthony's Day will be celebrated on Sunday, January 21, 2024!** More information to come.
- A special thank you to the beautiful voices of our St. Anthony Choir, especially Choir Director Daria Incorvaia and our chanters, Teresa Thomas and Caitlin Sanchez.**
- Thank you to Nike Bach and Helen Chimel for organizing the collection for church flowers & the sharing of Christmas/New Year wishes.** Thank you to all parishioners who contributed to the beautiful decorations. ***There is still time to add your names to the Christmas/New Year wishes. Please speak to Nike Bach if you would like to add your names.***

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:**

Christ is in our midst!

The whole world is already celebrating! The roadways and cityscapes are draped in lights, and the festive spirit has swept through in the days leading us closer to Christmas, raising daily life's ordinary and mundane aspects to a more joyous and celebratory reality. People yearn for this time of year and are often disappointed to see it pass.

If you turn on the radio, you will eventually hear a song explaining why this time of year is important. "Away in a manger, no crib for a bed, the little lord Jesus lays down his sweet head." Or "Hark the herald angels sing, Glory to the newborn king." We celebrate—and this isn't news to any of us—because Jesus Christ was born today. We have so many beautiful traditions and expectations around this time of year, which is ultimately connected to the birth of Jesus Christ.

God became a human being to heal humanity. He took on everything that makes us human in order to make a way for us to break out of the cycle of sin, to be healed completely, and to see the reality of our lives. God has become a human being and offers Himself to us.

Today isn't just the eve of the birth of Christ; it is the eve of our birth as well because Christ is our life, He is our freedom, He is our joy, and in His birth, we are all reborn. Every day, we all have the chance to acknowledge the amazing mystery that God has accomplished for us, and we can choose to be transformed by Christ and walk with him.

Christ is born! Merry Christmas!

With love in Christ,  
Fr. Nicholas

7. **The 20/40 Group would like to thank all parishioners who brought food items in** for the Thanksgiving Families and the Archdiocese Food Drive. We collected 395 pounds!

8. **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)

9. **Thank You to the Scarpa Family for hosting tonight's Christmas Eve reception that will follow the Tableau.**

10. **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.**

11. **The 2024 Coffee Hour Schedule 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)).**

12. **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)).**

13. **An Update to the last Church Directory printed in 2018 is available in the narthex.** Included are new parishioners, as well as changes in the contact information for those who have moved, changed phone numbers, emails, etc. Please use this list as an addendum to the Parish Directory. Send any changes in your contact information to **Alice Ziemba ([aliceziemba@yahoo.com](mailto:aliceziemba@yahoo.com)).**

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

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.

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

-St Anthony the Great