



# St Anthony Orthodox Church

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## Services This Week

**Tuesday, December 5th**

**\*Canceled\***

St. Saba the Sanctified  
Divine Liturgy

**Wednesday, December 6th**

St. Nicholas  
Divine Liturgy  
8am

-  
Daily Vespers  
6pm

*Followed by final Bible Study session*

**Friday, December 8th**

Daily Vespers  
6pm

**Saturday, December 9th**

Great Vespers  
5pm

**Sunday, December 10th**

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>

## 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. **SAVE THE DATE - St. Anthony's Day will be celebrated on Sunday, January 21, 2024!** More information to come.
6. **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 on Sunday, December 10th.
7. **Bring all non-perishable food items to church by NEXT Sunday, December 10th** for the Archdiocese Food Drive. Boxes are at the front & back entrances. See the flyer for 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)).**
8. **The Young At Heart Christmas Luncheon** will be held on Thursday, December 14th at 12noon at the Mado Restaurant in River Edge. Payment is due TODAY. For information, contact **Annette Takla (201-261-6244).**

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:**

In this morning's Epistle, St Paul tells us to "walk as children of the light."

References to light and darkness frequently appear in both the Scripture and the hymns of the Church. Jesus says, "The eye is the lamp of the body. So, if your eye is healthy, your whole body will be full of light..." (Matt 6.22-24). When someone is baptized, we say they have been "illuminated" or "enlightened." After the liturgy, following holy communion, we joyfully announce, "We have seen the true light!" But what does this light signify?

Of course, we are not talking about physical light but spiritual light. Similar to how physical light from the sun renders the material world visible, spiritual light unveils the spiritual realm. Whatever is revealed by physical light is considered an accurate representation of reality. In the presence of sunlight, we observe green leaves on trees, the bright hues of our children's eyes, and numerous other truths that light makes apparent to us. Spiritual light operates similarly, disclosing what is genuinely true.

The spiritual light, that which enlightens our spiritual darkness, is Christ. As St John the Evangelist says, Christ is the "true light, which gives light to everyone." (John 1.9) He is the torch, beacon, and radiant sun illuminating our spiritual path.

Without spiritual light, just as without physical light, we stumble in spiritual obscurity, reaching for direction. Christ has illuminated the path and has equipped us with the tools to progress on this spiritual journey. We have seen the true light; we have encountered Christ and the truth of the Gospel message. This encounter leads us to "walk as children of the light," embracing the truths revealed by Christ and His Church on our journey of faith.

With love in Christ,  
Fr. Nicholas

9. **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.

10. **A special Thank You to Lauren & Joe Elsabee, Dana Hanna, The Church School & Teen SOYO** for organizing and hosting the beautiful St. Nicholas Dinner.

11. **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!

12. **A special Thank You to the Canellos and Incorvaia Families for hosting today's coffee hour.**

13. **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)**.  
♦ The Choir will be rehearsing every Monday until Christmas.

14. **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 alicenziemba@yahoo.com)**.

15. **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)**.

16. **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-year Memorial Service today for Peter Marcopul, father of Valyce Andrews, grandfather of Peter and Denise. May his Memory be Eternal!***

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

-St Anthony the Great