



St Anthony Orthodox Church

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

Services This Week

Sunday, December 31st

Circumcision/St. Basil
Great Vespers
6pm

Monday, January 1st

At St George in Little Falls

Circumcision/St. Basil
Orthros and Divine Liturgy at
St. George in Little Falls
9:00am

Friday, January 5th

Royal Hours of Theophany
9am

Vesperal Divine Liturgy of
Theophany (Great Water
Blessing)
6pm

Saturday, January 6th

Theophany Orthros and Divine
Liturgy with Great Water
Blessing
9am

Great Vespers
5pm

Sunday, January 7th

Orthros and Divine Liturgy
9am

Daily Liturgical Guide

Antiochian Archdiocese
Website:

<https://antiochian.org/>

Weekly Announcements

CHRIST IS BORN, GLORIFY HIM!

Wishing everyone a joyous New Year!

1. **Confessions available before/after any weekday service, after Great Vespers on Saturday, or by appointment.**
2. **Church School & Teen SOYO will resume in January.**
3. **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 at 6pm, followed by a light reception & 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.
4. **SAVE THE DATE - St. Anthony's Day will be celebrated on Sunday, January 21, 2024!** More information to come.
5. **Attention all St. Anthony parishioners** - If you are receiving church envelopes but no longer use them because you have switched to ParishSoft Giving to submit your assessment & weekly dues, please notify **John Ziembra (jsphysics@yahoo.com)** to be removed from the mailing list. The smaller the mailing list, the less our printing & postage expenses.
6. **Save the date Saturday - February 10th, 2024 - All are invited to a Valentine's Pasta Dinner hosted by 20/40 Group.** Details to follow!
7. **The Young At Heart will meet at 1pm on Thursday, January 4th** in the Jabara Room.

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 Born!

Today is the leave-taking (apódosis) of the Great Feast of Christmas. This means that the liturgical celebration of Christmas is ending, and we begin to look forward to another Great Feast: Theophany—literally, the appearance or revelation of God.

This season began with the birth of Christ and culminates with the revelation that Jesus Christ is the Son of God, both God and human, made manifest in His baptism. But there is something important in the middle of all of this. Tomorrow, apart from celebrating the New Year, we remember Christ's circumcision according to the Law.

When Christ was eight days old, He underwent circumcision and received His name. In the context of that time, these two rites were essential initiation practices dictated by the Law. Circumcision and naming symbolized the inclusion of a young boy into the tribes of Israel, making him a part of God's chosen people. Christ, being born under the Law, fulfilled its requirements by undergoing circumcision. However, His fulfillment of the Law extends beyond mere completion or conclusion. Christ transforms the Law into its intended purpose. His circumcision is one aspect of fulfilling the Law, but the ultimate transformation occurs through His baptism.

Baptism makes you brand new; it washes away all sin; it transforms a human being into a true child of God. Baptism is now the sign and seal that you are a part of God's family and have a covenant relationship with Him. What began as the physical removal of the flesh has now become the spiritual removal of the "old man," the rebirth of the new man, and the restoration of the divine image in human beings.

In Christ,
Fr Nicholas

8. St. Anthony's Annual Meeting will be held on Sunday, February 11, 2024, immediately following Liturgy.

9. The Luck of Saint Anthony's Tricky Tray is Friday, March 8, 2024, and the committee is accepting new donations.

- ✦ Please bring in your new items such as candles, soaps, coffee maker, air fryer, electronics, kitchen gadgets, jewelry, glass, crystal, restaurant & Amazon gift cards or any other donations etc.
- ✦ We also need family & friends monetary donations for our sponsorships.
- ✦ **See Leslie Carter or Christine Moomjy** if you have questions or to drop off donations.

10. 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

11. A special Thank You to Mike & Angie McMinn and Ellen Thomsen-Peterson for hosting today's coffee hour.

12. 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.**

13. 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).**

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

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

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.

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

-St Anthony the Great