



St Anthony Orthodox Church

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

Services This Week

Wednesday, February 14th

Daily Vespers
6 pm

Friday, February 16th

Daily Vespers
6 pm

Saturday, February 17th

Great Vespers
5 pm

Sunday, February 18th

Orthros and Divine Liturgy
9 am

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.**
- St Anthony's Stewardship Committee invites all parishioners to a complimentary breakfast & a recommitment to our St Anthony's family immediately after services TODAY.**
 - ✦ **Parishioners are asked to stay for the parish's 2023 Annual Meeting.** Members of the church will elect new members to serve on the Parish Council and vote on our 2024 budget.
- Join us for a Family & Friends Fellowship Night Pasta Dinner hosted by the 20/40 Group on Saturday, February 24th.** No charge, donations welcome! Menu includes: appetizers, pasta, salad, bread, soft drinks, dessert, coffee & tea. R.S.V.P by February 17th to Amanda Elsabee (aelsabee@gmail.com or 732-979-9929).
- Mardi Gras 2024 - Be True to Your School! (Or Team!)**
Join us on Saturday, March 2nd from 5-8pm
 - Vespers will start at 4pm
 - It's an early evening of family fun, food, music, dancing & games for kids of all ages! There will be a kids flag football game!
 - Wear your high school or college tee, sweatshirt or a jersey for your favorite team!
 - Tickets are \$25 for adults, \$10 for kids (12 and under) & \$60. for families. Cash or check. **See Enid, Karen or Daria for tickets.**
- The Luck of Saint Anthony's Tricky Tray continues.**
 - ✦ Go to our church Amazon registry, to donate a new item for the Tricky Tray (<https://www.amazon.com/registries/gl/guest-view/2BC832EIL900N>).
 - ✦ Bring in any **NEW** items such as candles, soaps, coffee maker, air fryer, electronics, kitchen gadgets, jewelry, glass, crystal, etc.
 - ✦ Monetary donations are also needed & appreciated.
 - ✦ **See Leslie Carter or Christine Moomjy** if you have questions or to drop off donations.
 - ✦ **All donations due TODAY!**

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:

After the liturgy today, we will cut Vasilopita, which is a Greek term referring to bread that has been made in honor of St Basil the Great. The tradition comes from a well-known story that during a devastating famine in the 4th century, the Roman emperor imposed an excessively burdensome tax on the people of Caesarea. Witnessing this injustice, St. Basil the Great, the archbishop of Caesarea, confronted the emperor, demanding he repent. By divine intervention, the emperor relented and revoked the tax. He further ordered that all confiscated valuables be returned to St. Basil. But how would St. Basil get the taxes back to the people?

After imploring God's guidance, St. Basil baked all the treasures into one tremendous circular loaf of bread. St. Basil gathered the townsfolk and celebrated the Divine Liturgy; afterward, he blessed the giant loaf of bread and distributed the pieces to the people. Astonishingly, each person found their belongings within their piece.

This extraordinary event led to the tradition of Vasilopita, celebrated on the day of St. Basil's passing on January 1st. A coin is baked within the Vasilopita, representing the treasure St Basil baked into his bread. After prayers are said, pieces are cut out for everyone present. Whoever discovers the coin is believed to receive God's special blessing for the upcoming year.

Beyond its symbolism, Vasilopita serves as a reminder of the importance of generosity, hospitality, and communal solidarity. The miracle of St. Basil encourages us to share our blessings with others and to trust in God's providence for the year ahead. In essence, Vasilopita is not merely a tradition but a profound expression of faith, unity, and hope for the future.

With love in Christ,
Fr Nicholas

7. Has the clutter piled up? Are you running out of closet space? Can't park the car in the garage? Then, we have the solution!

Donate all unwanted items to our Yard Sale - April 19th & 20th.

- Save gently used & clean items in labeled boxes (linens, home décor, working electronics, china, crystal, housewares, toys & small accent furniture are big sellers).
- **All items will be accepted on Sunday, April 14** after the coffee hour. Do not bring items to church beforehand as there is no storage space.
- Questions, contact **Valerie Joseph @917-597-6503**.

8. **Thank you to all** who contributed to the Teen SOYO Winter Coat Drive.

9. **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**.

10. **PLEASE SIGNUP FOR COFFEE HOUR - The 2024 Coffee Hour Schedule is posted in the church hall.**

Parishioners are asked to PLEASE host at least ONE coffee reception a year. **Many dates are available.**

- Guidelines are on the church website & handouts available in the coffee room (<https://stanthonyorthodox.org/coffee-hour>).
- Sign up on the schedule posted outside the coffee room or contact **Alice Ziemba (201-664-8068 or aliceziemba@yahoo.com)**.

11. **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 Ziemba (jzphysics@yahoo.com)** to be removed from the mailing list. The smaller the mailing list, the less our printing & postage expenses.

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

13. **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 tables.

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

-St Anthony the Great