



St Anthony Orthodox Church

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

Services This Week

Wednesday, February 28th
No Daily Vespers

Friday, March 1st
No Daily Vespers

Saturday, March 2nd
Great Vespers
4 pm

Sunday, March 3rd
Orthros and Divine Liturgy
9 am

Daily Liturgical Guide

Antiochian Archdiocese Website:
<https://antiochian.org/liturgicday>

Confessions available before/after any weekday service, after Great Vespers on Saturday, or by appointment

“There is nothing upon earth holier, higher, grander, more solemn, more life-giving than the Liturgy.”

- **St John of Kronstadt**

Weekly Announcements

1. **Church School & Teen SOYO will meet TODAY.**
2. **Lenten Book Study** - This year during the Great Fast, we will be reading *The Lenten Spring* by Fr Thomas Hopko. This easy read, with bite-sized chapters, is the perfect companion to our lenten journey. **Join us after Great Compline on Mondays** as we dig deeper into the meaning and purpose of this transformative season.
3. **Catechism will resume during Great Lent - On Fridays after Small Compline with the Akathist Hymn**, we will meet for Part 2 of our catechism class. This class is for those catechumens seeking holy illumination on Pascha, as well as all members of our community who would like a refresher on the Orthodox faith.
4. **Fr. Nicholas and the Stewardship Committee request ALL Parishioners fill out a Stewardship Pledge form** committing a portion of your *time, talent and treasure* to St Anthony's by offering a portion of the gifts with which you have been blessed. **Please return form to the box in the narthex, by February 29th.**
5. **Mardi Gras 2024 - THIS Saturday, March 2nd (5-8pm)**
 - Vespers will start at 4pm & then 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
 - Tickets are \$25 for adults, \$10 for kids (12 and under) & \$60. for families. Cash or check. **See Enid, Karen or Daria for tickets.**
6. **Tricky Tray is 2 weeks away - March 8th! Buy your tickets!**
 - ✦ Contact **Pam Scarpa (201-315-7917 or pamela.scarpa@yahoo.com)** directly to receive the link to purchase tickets electronically or pay cash for tickets at the door.
 - ✦ Help is needed-setting up, selling tickets, running gifts to tables, etc. Contact **Leslie Carter (201-264-1662 or lesliecarter2@aol.com).**
 - ✦ **All donations due TODAY!**
7. **There will be a Women's Guild meeting on Sunday, March 3rd in the Jabara Room. All members & non-members are invited. Bring your "coffee and" to the meeting.**

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:

Every year, as Lent approaches, I fall into a familiar pattern of sluggishness and apathy towards my spiritual life. It's a struggle I've faced since I joined the Church. Over time, and with guidance from my confessor, I've understood that this pre-Lenten slump is a shared experience. My confessor explained that this is a tactic of the evil one to tempt us into failure before Lent even begins.

You see, not every thought originates within ourselves. Many of the negative or sinful thoughts that plague us aren't truly ours but are suggested to us by the enemy to derail us from our spiritual journey. Our holy Fathers tell us to dismiss these intrusive thoughts and ignore them.

When I sense some evil thought creeping in, I remind myself, "This is not my thought, this is not who I am, this is not what I want to do," and then I refuse to engage with it. It's not about reasoning or arguing with these thoughts; we must be aware of their source and ignore them. Now, I expect these thoughts of apathy to come before Lent, and I know they are not my thoughts. I shake my head and move on, and I continue doing this until the thoughts leave altogether.

While this practice is challenging, and I don't always succeed, it's vital in guarding my mind against destructive influences. As Lent approaches and the temptations intensify, I'm prepared to deal with them, armed with the knowledge that I have the power to reject them and stay true to my spiritual convictions. And so do you! Our thought life plays a tremendous part in our spiritual journey, for good or ill. I encourage all of you to begin to discern your thoughts, to utterly ignore the evil ones, and to delight only in those thoughts that encourage us toward a life of repentance and salvation. Easier said than done, but God is with us!

With love in Christ,
Fr Nicholas

8. **Young At Heart will meet in the church pews at 1pm on March 14th.** Fr. Nicholas will be giving a descriptive tour from the Narthex to the Icons to the Altar. Please enter through the main entrance.

9. 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 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 accepted on Sunday, April 14** after coffee hour. Don't bring items to church beforehand - there is no storage space.
- Questions, contact **Valerie Joseph (917-597-6503)**.

10. **Thank you to Amanda Elsabee & the 20/40 Group** for hosting the beautiful *Family & Friends Fellowship Night Pasta Dinner* last night.

11. **A special thank you to the Bach Family for hosting today's coffee hour.**

12. **PLEASE SIGNUP FOR COFFEE HOUR** - Parishioners are asked to host at least ONE coffee reception a year. **Many dates are available, including March 3, 24 & 31.**

- Guidelines are on the church website & handouts available in the coffee room (<https://stanthonyorthodox.org/coffee-hour>).
- Sign up on the 2024 schedule posted outside the coffee room or contact **Alice Ziemba (201-664-8068 or aliceziemba@yahoo.com)**.

13. **If you have 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. **LOCAL PARISH NEWS:**

- **St. George Orthodox Church in Little Falls is hosting a Tricky Tray** on Friday, March 1st. Admission is \$15.00 with doors opening at 5:30pm. Food, beer & wine will be sold.

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 tables.

"I no longer fear God, but I love Him.

For love casts out fear."

-St Anthony the Great