



St Anthony Orthodox Church

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

Services This Week

Sunday, March 17th

Forgiveness Vespers
6pm

Monday, March 18th

Great Compline w/Canon of St.
Andrew
6pm

Tuesday, March 19th

Great Compline w/Canon of St.
Andrew
6pm

Wednesday, March 20th

Pre-Sanctified Liturgy followed
by Lenten Potluck
6pm

Thursday, March 21st

Great Compline w/Canon of St.
Andrew
6pm

Friday, March 22nd

Little Compline w/Akathist
6 pm

Saturday, March 23rd

Great Vespers
5pm

Followed by the first Lenten
Lecture in the Hall

Sunday, March 24th

Sunday of Orthodoxy
Orthros and Divine Liturgy
9 am

Weekly Announcements

1. **Church School will meet after Holy Communion. Teen SOYO will meet after Divine Liturgy.**

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

3. **Join us for our first Lenten Lecture next Saturday, 3/23, at 6pm following vespers.** The title of the first lecture is "The Prayer of St Ephraim: Great Lent Summarized." Light refreshments provided.

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 as soon as possible.**

- Copies of the form are available in the lower lobby.

5. **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.

- ✦ Copies of the book are available at the Religious Gift Shop.

6. **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. Please speak to Fr Nicholas to confirm your attendance.

7. **The Church School is hosting their annual Bake Sale during Coffee Hour TODAY.** Funds raised help students learn & explore together. Their next trip is to the Statue of Liberty & Ellis Island.

8. **St. Anthony's will be feeding the less fortunate on Tuesday, April 9th.** If you are interested in physically helping or providing funds, contact **Betty Gakos** (jbgakos@yahoo.com). Also, 200 desserts are needed for that date. Let Betty know if you can possibly provide 50 desserts. Future dates of the Walk-In Dinner Program are Tuesday, September 10th & Tuesday, November 19th.

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!

Forgiveness is the task set before us on this Sunday of forgiveness. As the concluding theme of these pre-Lenten Sundays, forgiveness stands as the pinnacle of the virtues we aspire to during Great Lent. Though undoubtedly challenging, forgiveness lies at the core of the Christian journey.

When we withhold forgiveness, we inadvertently construct barriers around our hearts, isolating ourselves from others and trapping ourselves in a cycle of pain. These walls, born from the wounds inflicted by others' sins, grow steadily, suffocating us in a state of profound isolation akin to a personal hell.

Conversely, forgiveness offers liberation. Through forgiveness, we break the chains of sin that bind both the forgiven and the forgiver. It is a pathway to freedom from the shackles of isolation and the burdens of our own transgressions.

As the pastor of this community, I humbly acknowledge my own imperfections and transgressions. I ask for your forgiveness for the mistakes I've made, the offenses I've caused, and the disregard I've shown. Together, let us enter the spiritual arena, united in prayer, as we embark on the transformative journey of the Great Fast—a season of repentance and salvation. May this sacred time be a catalyst for profound change and renewal in our lives. Blessed be the journey ahead! Good Strength!

In Christ,
Fr Nicholas

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

10. **In celebration of Women's History Month**, members of the Women's Guild will read the Epistle during the month of March.

- The **Lenten Philanthropic Project** supporting the **New Hope Pregnancy Resource Center in Westwood, NJ.**, will run through April 28th.

- Visit the display in the church hall - "**Take a bunny and bring back a gift for a family in need**". Questions, contact Presbytera Liana Fine (lianacfine@gmail.com) or Jackie Koskinas (jackiek29@hotmail.com).

11. **Leslie Carter and Christine Moomjy would like to thank** the many committee members who solicited donations, assembled & wrapped baskets, sold tickets, set up & were runners/callers, cooked, donated food, cleaned up & worked finances for a very successful Tricky Tray. We are blessed to have had this event happen.

12. 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.

- To help** or questions, contact **Valerie Joseph (917-597-6503)**.

13. **PLEASE SIGNUP FOR COFFEE HOUR** - Parishioners are asked to host at least ONE coffee reception a year.

- Guidelines are on the church website & handouts available in the coffee room (<https://stanthonyorthodox.org/coffee-hour>).

14. **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)**.

There will be a Memorial Service today for Theano and Damiano, parents of Stavroula Koronis. May their Memories be Eternal!

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

-St Anthony the Great