



St Anthony Orthodox Church

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

Services This Week

Monday, March 25th

The Feast Day of the
Annunciation
Vespers Divine Liturgy
6pm

Wednesday, March 27th

Pre-Sanctified Liturgy followed
by Lenten Potluck
6pm

Friday, March 29th

Little Compline w/Akathist
6pm

Saturday, March 30th

Great Vespers
5pm

Sunday, March 31st

Sunday of St. Gregory Palamas
Orthros and Divine Liturgy
9am

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

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 second Lenten Lecture on Saturday, April 13th, at 6pm following vespers.** 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 continues 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. **St. Anthony's will be feeding the less fortunate on Tuesday, April 9th.** If you are interested in 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.

8. **St. Anthony Church and St. George Church will celebrate a combined Presanctified Liturgy in Little Falls on Wednesday, April 24th at 7pm.** Immediately following, **The Order of Ignatius will be having a Town Hall meeting.** All parishioners are welcome.

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:

The second commandment, as stated in Exodus 20:4-5, forbids the creation of any image, whether carved or otherwise, representing anything in heaven, on earth, in the water, or beneath the earth. It also prohibits bowing down to or serving such images. This directive may seem at odds with our practice of using holy icons in our temples and homes, as well as for devotional purposes in worship. How do we reconcile this apparent contradiction when God explicitly commands against making images?

In ancient times, many cultures, including the Israelites' neighbors, employed images to represent their deities, often in the form of animals or hybrid beings. However, God instructed the Israelites not to depict Him in this manner because He transcends physical form. This prohibition did not preclude the use of all images, as evidenced by God's command to Moses to create representations of cherubim for specific purposes in the Tabernacle and on the ark of the covenant. The crucial distinction lies in the prohibition against depicting God Himself, not images in general.

The incarnation of Jesus Christ, however, changed this dynamic. Jesus, as the "image of the invisible God" (Colossians 1:15), became tangible as a human being and can therefore be depicted. In fact, the use of icons becomes essential in affirming the reality of the incarnation. By portraying Jesus in iconography, we acknowledge and celebrate the truth that God became human. Thus, icons serve not only as permissible but as necessary reminders of this central tenet of Christian faith. They are integral to both church adornment and personal devotional practices, serving to affirm the reality of the incarnation in our lives.

In Christ,
Fr Nicholas

9. **Bring all items for the Yard Sale to church after** coffee hour on **Sun., April 14th** since there is no storage available in the church. Bring your items into the hall **after the tables are set up**.

- Manpower is needed that day to help arrange tables. To help, contact **Brian Scarpa** (bcscarpa6@yahoo.com).

- **PLEASE...**No books, clothing, unclean items, CD's, DVD's or holiday decorations.

- If you haven't volunteered yet, please contact **Valerie Joseph** (917-597-6503) to assist with set-up, selling, or take-down.

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.
- If you haven't already done so, please visit the display in the church hall - **"Take a bunny and bring back a gift for a family in need"**.
- Questions, contact Presbyteria Liana Fine (lianacfine@gmail.com) or Jackie Koskinas (jackiek29@hotmail.com).

11. **A special Thank you to Alexandra Stith for sponsoring 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. **PLEASE SIGNUP FOR COFFEE HOUR** - Parishioners are asked to host at least ONE coffee reception a year. **A sponsor is needed for Sunday, April 7th.**

• Guidelines are on the church website & handouts available in the coffee room (<https://stanthonorthodox.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).

14. **If you have news for our church e-newsletter, The Desert Jews**, 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. **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