



St Anthony Orthodox Church

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

Services This Week

Monday, April 1st
Great Compline
6pm

Wednesday, April 3rd
Pre-Sanctified Liturgy followed
by Lenten Potluck
6pm

Friday, April 5th
Little Compline w/Akathist
6pm

Saturday, April 6th
Great Vespers
5pm

Sunday, April 7th
Sunday of the Holy Cross
Orthros and Divine Liturgy
9am

Daily Liturgical Guide

**Antiochian Archdiocese
Website:**
[https://antiochian.org/
liturgicday](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

- Church School will meet after Holy Communion.**
- Confessions are available before/after any weekday service, after Great Vespers on Saturday, or by appointment.**
- Fr. Nicholas and the Stewardship Committee request ALL parishioners to return the Stewardship Pledge form** to the box in the narthex as soon as possible
 - Copies of the form are available in the lower lobby.
- Choir rehearsal** is scheduled for Monday, April 1st, at 7:30pm and Saturday, April 6th at 10:30am.
- There will be a Young At Heart meeting** on Thursday, April 4th, at 1:00pm in the church hall.
- There will be a Parish Council meeting** next Sunday, April 7th, after coffee hour.
- Parishioners are invited to donate for flowers** to adorn the Epitaphios, on Good Friday, and in anticipation of Holy Resurrection, flowers will also be used to decorate the iconostasis and altar.
Donate online (www.stanthonyorthodox.org/events) or give donations to Helen Chimel/Lisa Fares. *Please donate by April 28th.*
 - All donor names will appear in the Easter bulletin, as our usual way of greeting each other with the Pascal Greeting: “**Christ is Risen! Indeed He is Risen.**”
- Lenten Book Study - We are reading *The Lenten Spring* by Fr Thomas Hopko during the Great Fast.** 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.
- The Catechism class will meet on Fridays after Small Compline with the Akathist Hymn.** We will be reading and discussing St. Cyril of Jerusalem's *Lectures on the Christian Sacraments*. This class is for those catechumens seeking holy illumination on Pascha and members of our community who would like a refresher on the Orthodox faith. Speak to Fr Nicholas to confirm your attendance.

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:

Last Sunday, we celebrated the Triumph of Orthodoxy. Similarly, on the second Sunday of Great Lent, we, in a sense, continue this Triumph of Orthodoxy by remembering St Gregory Palamas. Like the iconoclasts, new critics of Orthodox life and practice emerged in the 14th century that denigrated the human body and the possibility of theosis—deification, becoming divine.

They dismissed the monks on the Holy Mountain (Athos) who claimed that through prayer and stillness—which we call hesychasm—it was possible to know God “face to face,” to really experience Him through His uncreated divine activity (energies). Through Hesychasm, and especially the practice of the Jesus Prayer, mind and body are brought into a state of undistracted stillness and unity, allowing God to reveal Himself and transform the believer in body and soul. This is why, for example, some of the bodies of the saints are incorrupt, smell fragrant, perform miracles, and so on.

St Gregory Palamas defended, not only the practice of hesychastic prayer but also provided a defense of the distinction between God’s unknowable essence and his uncreated energies to explain what these monks claimed to experience. They truly experienced God, but they became like God *by grace* and not *by nature*.

The Church in her wisdom gives this example to us for a reason: as we continue our own ascetic struggle toward Holy Pascha, we cannot forget *who* we struggle for. We desire, just like those monks, to see God *face-to-face*. Though this is beyond human nature, God has made a way that we can prepare a place within our heart, free from sin and distraction, for Him to come and reveal Himself to us.

In Christ,
Fr Nicholas

10. **Join us for our second Lenten Lecture on Saturday, April 13th, at 6pm following vespers.** Subdeacon Nicholas Nagorny will be speaking on St John Climacus and his seminal work, *The Ladder of Divine Ascent*. Light refreshments provided.

11. **Bring all items for the Yard Sale to church on Sun., April 14th.** There is limited space in the Hall, so please bring your items into the hall **after the tables are set up following coffee hour.**

- 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.

12. **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).

13. **A special Thank you to Hanneh Kalyousseff for sponsoring today’s coffee hour.**

14. **PLEASE SIGNUP FOR COFFEE HOUR** - Parishioners are asked to host at least ONE coffee reception a year. **A sponsor is needed for NEXT 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).

15. **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).

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 tables.

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

For love casts out fear.”

-St Anthony the Great