



St. Anthony The Great Antiochian Orthodox Church

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Very Rev. Fr. Elia Shalhoub, Pastor & Dean of South Florida Deanery
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WELCOME TO ST. ANTHONY'S

Where people from around the world come together to serve God and our community.
We are glad you are worshipping with us today! This Church is one community of many in the One, Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic Church. The Church of Antioch belongs to two thousand years of evangelization, teaching, history, and tradition which expresses the continued commitment of its members to the Orthodox Christian faith in the Lord Jesus Christ!
St. Anthony Church is a Pan-Orthodox community, under the omophorion of Metropolitan JOSEPH within the Self-ruled Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America.
If you are a first time visitor, please fill out the guest form located on the literature table.
We want you to feel at home in prayer and worship. Please submit your names to the ushers and introduce yourself to Fr. Elia at the end of the service so he may welcome you personally.
Following services, please join us for sharing of fellowship, coffee, and food.

DIVINE LITURGY VARIABLES ON SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2022 TONE 2 / EOTHINON 2 SUNDAY OF THE PRODIGAL SON

LEO, BISHOP OF CATANIA IN SICILY; VENERABLE VISSARION THE GREAT OF EGYPT;
AGATHON, POPE OF ROME

NOTE TO CLERGY: Remember to include this special petition in the Great Litany before the one for the head of state, as directed by the Antiochian Archdiocese.

Deacon: For Metropolitan Paul, Archbishop John, and for their quick release from captivity and safe return, let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

~ During the Little Entrance, chant the Resurrectional Apolytikion. The Eisodikon (Entrance Hymn) is "O come, let us worship... save us, O Son of God, Who art risen from the dead..." After the Little Entrance, chant the apolytikia in the following order:

RESURRECTIONAL APOLYTIKION IN TONE TWO

When Thou didst submit Thyself unto death, O Thou deathless and immortal One, then Thou didst destroy hell with Thy Godly power. And when Thou didst raise the dead from beneath the earth, all the powers of Heaven did cry aloud unto Thee: O Christ, Thou giver of life, glory to Thee.

APOLYTIKION OF ST. ANTHONY THE GREAT IN TONE FOUR

Thou didst become like the zealous Elijah in his condition, and followed John the Baptist in his upright ways, becoming a dweller in the wilderness and an establisher of the universe by thy prayer, O Father Anthony. Wherefore, intercede thou with Christ God to save our souls.

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To place your ad in our weekly bulletin call or email Yuliya: (321) 960-9564 or yuliya.warner@yahoo.com

Covid Precautions Update

Over the past few weeks, our country, state and local communities have witnessed a substantial increase in Covid 19 cases after the 'Omicron' variant. We ask that you please be mindful of the following:

If you are experiencing any Covid symptoms, please contact your medical provider and refrain from attending church services.

There is currently a mask mandate at Saint Anthony's. For those who does not have one, a box of masks have been placed on the table in the Church Narthex.

We ask that you please continue to maintain social distancing when possible, in particular while in line to receive Communion; and at the Dismissal while you are receiving the blessing at the end.

We are putting a hold on our Coffee Hour, until we see a decline in the Covid Cases.



TODAY'S FEAST SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 20TH 2022
(SUNDAY OF THE PRODIGAL SON)
2ND SUNDAY OF THE TRIODION

Through the parable of today's Gospel, our Saviour has set forth three things for us: the condition of the sinner, the rule of repentance, and the greatness of God's compassion. The divine Fathers have put this reading the week after the parable of the Publican and Pharisee so that, seeing in the person of the Prodigal Son our own wretched condition -- inasmuch as we are sunken in sin, far from God and His Mysteries -- we might at last come to our senses and make haste to return to Him by repentance during these holy days of the Fast. Furthermore, those who have wrought many great iniquities, and have persisted in them for a long time, oftentimes fall into despair, thinking that there can no longer be any forgiveness for them; and so being without hope, they fall every day into the same and even worse iniquities. Therefore, the divine Fathers, that they might root out the passion of despair from the hearts of such people, and rouse them to the deeds of virtue, have set the present parable at the forecourts of the Fast, to show them the surpassing goodness of God's compassion, and to teach them that there is no sin -- no matter how great it may be -- that can overcome at any time His love for man.

ST. LEO, BISHOP OF CATANIA

This Saint, who was from Ravenna in Italy, lived during the reign of Leo the Wise and his son Constantine Porphyrogenitus (end of the ninth and beginning of the tenth centuries). He struggled especially against the paganism and sorcery still prevalent in those regions.

ABOUT THE DIVINE LITURGY

The Divine Liturgy expresses the entire Christian faith in a continuous song of praise and prayer addressed to God. It is focused on God, not on us. There is nothing just for amusement or entertainment. Since much of the service is the same every week, worshippers know it and can participate personally, either by singing along or just by prayerful attention. Worshippers are surrounded by icons (pictures of Christ and the saints), which remind us that we are participating, while on earth, in the worship of all the angels and saints in heaven. The entire service (except for the sermon) is sung. The words are all from Scripture or ancient Christian texts. Please follow the service in the books available in the pews. Weekly changes will appear below and marked with a corresponding letter in the service book.

COME BACK

We hope to see you next week. Each Sunday we celebrate the Resurrection of Christ with our morning Matins service at 8:45am followed by the main Sunday service, Divine Liturgy at 10am. Sunday School for the Children follows Communion. Fr. Elia would love to speak with you and answer any questions you may have. Please fill out our Guest Form (CONNECTION CARD). There's also a place where you can let us know any specific needs or concerns and we will lift them up in prayer. We welcome everyone who would like to learn more about the Orthodox Christian Faith. Please contact Fr. Elia either by E-Mail (elia_shalhoub@yahoo.com) or on his cell phone (305) 812-4940

KONTAKION FOR THE PRODIGAL SON IN TONE THREE

*(**On this day the Virgin**)*

Foolishly I sprang away * from Thy great fatherly glory, * and dispersed in wicked deeds * the riches that Thou didst give me. * With the Prodigal I therefore * cry unto Thee now: * I have sinned against Thee, O compassionate Father. * But receive me in repentance; * make me as one of * Thy hired servants, O Lord.

THE EPISTLE

(For Sunday of the Prodigal Son)

Let Thy mercy, O Lord, be upon us. Rejoice in the Lord, O ye righteous.

The Reading from the First Epistle of St. Paul to the Corinthians. (6:12-20)

Brethren, all things are lawful for me, but not all things are expedient. All things are lawful for me, but I will not be brought under the authority of anything. Foods are for the belly, and the belly for foods; but God will destroy both it and them. Now the body is not for fornication, but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body; and God both raised up the Lord, and will also raise us up through His power. Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Shall I therefore take away the members of Christ, and make them members of a harlot? God forbid! Or, do you not know that he who is joined to a harlot is one body with her? For, "The two," He says, "shall become one flesh." But he who is joined to the Lord is one spirit. Flee fornication! Every sin that a person commits is outside the body, but whoever commits fornication sins against his own body. Or, do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have received from God, and that you are not your own? For you were bought with a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's.

THE GOSPEL

(For Sunday of the Prodigal Son)

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Luke. (15:11-32)

The Lord spoke this parable: "There was a man who had two sons; and the younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of property that falls to me.' And he divided his living between them. Not many days later, the younger son gathered all he had and took his journey into a far country, and there he squandered his property in loose living. And when he had spent everything, a great famine arose in that country, and he began to be in want. So he went and joined himself to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him into his fields to feed swine. And he would gladly have fed on the pods that the swine ate; and no one gave him anything. But when he came to himself he said, 'How many of my father's hired servants have bread enough and to spare, but I perish here with hunger! I will arise and go to my father, and I will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me as one of your hired servants."' And he arose and came to his father. But while he was yet at a distance, his father saw him and had compassion, and ran and embraced him and kissed him. And the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' But the father said to his servants, 'Bring quickly the best robe, and put it on him; and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet; and bring the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and make merry; for this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found.' And they began to make merry. Now his elder son was in the field; and as he came and drew near to the house, he heard music and dancing. And he called one of the servants and asked what this meant. And he said to him, 'Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has received him safe and sound.' But he was angry and refused to go in. His father came out and entreated him, but he answered his father, 'Lo, these many years I have served you, and I never disobeyed your command; yet you never gave me a kid that I might make merry with my friends. But when this son of yours came, who has devoured your living with harlots, you killed for him the fatted calf!' And he said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. It was fitting to make merry and be glad, for this your brother was dead, and is alive; he was lost, and is found.'"

~ *The Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom continues as usual.*

Announcements



February 20th
February 27th

EPISTLE READING

Kevin Michael Brown
Ionica Dragu

St. Paul to the Corinthians. (6:12-20)
St. Paul to the Corinthians. (6:12-20)

BarBQ yesterday was a success. Thank you to all who helped.

FOOD FOR HUNGRY PEOPLE PROGRAM
Will start next Sunday - Sunday of the Last Judgment
(Meat Fare Sunday). Please make sure to pick up your
change BOX to take home. They will be due back
on Sunday after Pascha.

Offering Holy Bread

It is the tradition of the Orthodox Church to offer Holy Bread for a Divine Liturgy for the health of a loved one; in memory of one who has fallen asleep in the Lord; a feast day, anniversary, birthday or other special occasion. The customary donation is \$25.00 per offering. Please fill out the form inserted, if you wish to offer Holy Bread.

January Food Donations 34LB

Please bring canned and non perishable food to Church to help out those in need.
St. Anthony supports local food pantries.
Thank you for participating in this important matter.



HOUSE BLESSINGS ARE IN PROGRESS

Fr. Elia would like to bless each of the homes of all of the parishioners of St. Anthony. If you have not filled out a House Blessing form, please do so as soon as possible. Form is available at the Display table for your convenience.

Join us for a workday, Saturday, February 26th, from 8:30am-1pm.

We'll be painting, spreading mulch,

organizing the storage room and the shed and do other tasks.

We're also going to have a pop-up yard sale to clear out the shed.

(At this time, we do not need any donations from our parishioners.)



Please pray for the healing of John Thieme, Debbie Thieme, Ann Shark, Jennifer Glass, Luke and Beverly Delida, Lisa Zolton, Tatiana Jones, Gabriella Baika, Ted Theodoropoulos, Susan Perers, Lou Abraham, Alix Hall, Shirley, Nina and Diogo Penas, Beth Manzini, John Archambeau, Holly Blank, Alex & Soula.



Sunday of the Prodigal Son PREPARING FOR GREAT LENT

There are so many times throughout my day that people ask me to pray for people. Whether an email, phone call or in person - it is a daily occurrence. I have always felt that this is such an important part of my ministry. But the truth of the matter is that prayer is something not just for the priest.

Praying for others is a central part of our daily lives as Orthodox Christians. We need to pray daily. You may be so busy throughout your day that you feel that you don't have time to pray.

I remember listening to a sermon of a bishop who said, "I have so much to do today, I must spent at least an hour a day in prayer".

You see, prayer gives us strength; Prayer gives us peace; Prayer gives us patience; Prayer gives us humility; Prayer allows us to put focus in our lives.

Saint John of Kronstadt, a wonderful 20th century saint of our Church writes, "*When you prayer, endeavor to pray more for others than for yourself alone. When you pray for others it purifies the heart, strengthens faith and hope in God, and arouses love for God and our neighbor. If you make a habit of praying for the salvation of others, God will give you an abundance of spiritual gifts, the gifts of the Holy Spirit. But be careful, for there is a great difference between repeating names apathetically and remembering them heartily. Pray for them with the same ardor and zeal as you would pray for yourself.*"

Make time today to commune with the one who created you! Make time today to pray for others! Make time today to pray for the forgiveness of your sins! Make time today to pray. I guarantee . . . it will be worth every minute! 1 Thessalonians 5:17-18 "Pray without ceasing; give thanks; for this is the will of God." Have a Blessed Day!

In Christ,

Fr. Elia Shalhoub

Very Rev. Fr. Elia Shalhoub, Pastor

This Sunday we read our Lord's parable of the Prodigal Son (which Charles Dickens called the greatest story in the English Language). The following is a reflection on God's mercy in terms of this parable...

Do not call God just, for His justice is not manifest in the things concerning you. And if David calls Him just and upright, His Son revealed to us that He is good and kind. 'He is good', He says 'to the evil and to the impious.' How can you call God just when you come across the Scriptural passage on the wage given to the workers?...How can a man call God just when he comes across the passage on the prodigal son who wasted his wealth with riotous living, how for the compunction alone which he showed, the father ran and fell upon his neck and gave him authority over all his wealth? Where, then, is God's justice, for while we are sinners Christ died for us!

- St. Isaac of Syria

2022 PLEDGE DRIVE

Thank you to the following Parishioners who already signed their pledge card.

Very Rev. Fr. Elia & Kh. Odette Shalhoub
Patricia Smith
Debbie Thieme
Dr. & Mrs. Alex Skaff
Subdeacon Jean Najjar
Alix Hall
John and Joanne Karas
Lou Abraham
Gabriella Baika
Mark and Lori Sorenson
Susan Perers
Ionica Dragu
Michael and Janet Gorczynski
Peri Kiros
Adrian and Carrie Matos
Deborah Abdo Dambrosio
Michealle Carey
Mr. and Mrs. Bill Jackson
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Dodge
Yuliya Gabbasova
Subdeacon Michael And Alyssa Liberman
Jeffrey Bellinger
Carlos and Olga Munoz
Isaac Vaughn
Ann Shark
Kevin Michael Brown
Stephanie Enstice
Jeff & Holly Dick
Tristan & Jennifer Riter

(Our Goal for 2022 is \$75,000.00)

THE ARCHDIOCESE ANNUAL ASSESSMENT (\$50.00) PER BAPTISED SOUL
EVERY PARISHIONER IS RESPONSIBLE TO PAY THIS ASSESSMENT ONCE A
YEAR BESIDE YOUR PLEDGE TO THE CHURCH.

IF YOU HAVEN'T SUBMITTED THE ASSESSMENT MONEY YET,
PLEASE DO SO AS SOON AS YOU CAN. THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!

UPCOMING SUNDAY CALENDAR

Below lists the upcoming Sundays from January 30th until Holy Pascha, which falls on April 24th this year. We invite you to join us each week for Sunday Liturgy to celebrate this special commemoration of Jesus' life, death, and Resurrection.

Please mark these special dates on your calendar.

February 20	Prodigal Son
February 27	Meatfare Sunday (Last Judgement)
March 6	Cheesefare Sunday (Forgiveness Sunday)
March 7	Beginning of Great Lent
March 13	1st Sunday of Lent (Sunday of Orthodoxy)
March 20	2nd Sunday of Lent
March 27	3rd Sunday of Lent
April 3	4th Sunday of Lent
April 10	5th Sunday of Lent
April 17	PALM SUNDAY
April 22	GOOD FRIDAY
April 24	HOLY PASCHA
May 1	THOMAS SUNDAY



HOLY BREAD

(COMMUNION OFFERING)

If you wish to offer \$25 to provide

Holy Bread for the Communion in memory of one who has fallen asleep in the Lord; for the health of a loved one; a feast day, anniversary, birthday or other special occasion, please fill out this form.

YOUR NAME _____

PHONE NUMBER _____

OCCASION _____

DATE OF THE OCCASION _____

MESSAGE TEXT AND/OR NAMES TO BE MENTIONED IN THE BULLETIN _____

Please write your check to St. Anthony Church with a memo “Communion offering” or put \$25 cash in the “Communion offering” envelope.

**Hand your form to Yuliya, no later then one week before the mentioned occasion for it to be in the bulletin.
Call or text (321) 960-9564 if you wish to use a special image.**

PREPARING FOR GREAT LENT

FATHER ALEXANDER SCHMEMANN

RETURN FROM EXILE (The Sunday of the Prodigal Son)

On the third Sunday of preparation for Lent, we hear the parable of the Prodigal Son (Lk. 15: 11-32). Together with the hymns of this day, the parable reveals to us the time of repentance as man's *return from exile*. The prodigal son, we are told, went to a far country and there spent all that he had. A far country! It is this unique definition of our human condition that we must assume and make ours as we begin our approach to God. A man who has never had that experience, be it only very briefly, who has never felt that he is exiled from God and from real life, will never understand what Christianity is about. And the one who is perfectly "at home" in this world and its life, who has never been wounded by the nostalgic desire for another Reality, will not understand what is Repentance.

Repentance is often simply identified as a cool and "objective" enumeration of sins and transgressions, as the act of "pleading guilty" to a legal indictment. Confession and absolution are seen as being of a juridical nature. But something very essential is overlooked-without which neither confession nor absolution have any real meaning or Power. This "something" is precisely the feeling of *alienation from God*, from the joy of communion with Him, from the real life as created and given by God. It is easy indeed to confess that I have not fasted on prescribed days, or missed my prayers, or become angry. It is quite a different thing, however, to realize suddenly that I have defiled and lost my spiritual beauty, that I am far away from my real home, my real life, and that something precious and pure and beautiful has been hopelessly broken in the very texture of my existence. Yet this, and only this, is repentance, and therefore it is also a deep desire *to return*, to go back, to recover that lost home. I received from God wonderful riches: first of all life and the possibility to enjoy it, to fill it with meaning, love, and knowledge; then-in Baptism-the new life of Christ Himself, the gift of the Holy Spirit, the peace and the joy of the eternal Kingdom. I received the knowledge of God, and in Him the knowledge of everything else and the power to be a son of God. And all this I have lost, all this I am losing all the time, not only in particular "sins" and "transgressions," but in the sin of all sins: the deviation of my love from God, preferring the "far country" to the beautiful home of the Father.

But the Church is here to remind me of what I have abandoned and lost. And as she reminds me, I *remember*: "I have wickedly strayed away from Thy fatherly glory," says the *Kontakion* of this day, "and wasted with sinners the riches Thou gavest me. Then do I raise the prodigal's cry unto Thee, O bountiful Father: I have sinned against Thee; take me back as a penitent, and make me as one of Thy hired servants." And, as I *remember*, I find in myself the desire to return and the power to return: " ... I shall return to the compassionate Father crying with tears: Receive me as one of Thy servants"

One liturgical particularity of this *"Sunday of the: Prodigal Son"* must be especially mentioned here. At Sunday Matins, following the solemn and joyful Psalms of the *Polyeleion*, we sing the sad and nostalgic Psalm 137: By the rivers of Babylon, there we sat down, and we wept when we remembered Zion. How shall we sing the Lord's song in a strange land? If I forget thee, O Jerusalem, let my right hand forget her cunning. If I do not remember thee, let my tongue cleave to the roof of my mouth; if I prefer not Jerusalem above my chief joy.

It is the Psalm of exile. It was sung by the Jews in their Babylonian captivity as they thought of their holy city of Jerusalem. It has become forever the song of man as he realizes his exile from God, and realizing it, becomes man again: the one who can never be fully satisfied by anything in this fallen world, for by nature and vocation he is a pilgrim of the Absolute. This Psalm will be sung twice more: on the last two Sundays before Lent. It reveals Lent itself as pilgrimage and repentance-as *return*.

St. Mary's Orthodox Church Presents

An Evening of Enchantment

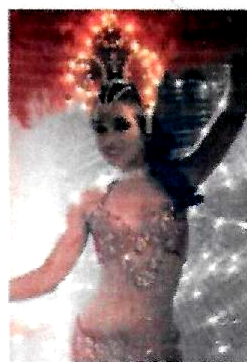
Saturday February 26, 2022



Carla Sleiman
All the way from
Lebanon!

Doors Open at 7:30pm
Cash Bar Cocktail Hour
Dinner at 9:00pm

Featuring
Fadi Harden
Musician



Bellydance by
Cheeky Belly

St. Mary's Banquet Hall
1317 Florida Mango Road
West Palm Beach

Tickets: \$75 in Advance, \$85 at the Door

For Tickets and Information Contact
Nabil Aboukhaled: 501-502-8588

Jane Pasley: 501-380-0340

7 years & under (free)

8 years to 12 \$25

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An Evening of Enchantment

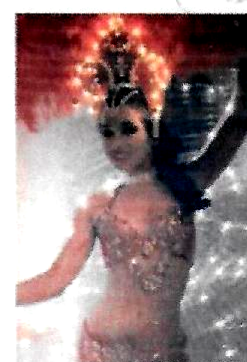
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