



St. Anthony The Great Antiochian Orthodox Church

4031 Aurora Rd.; Melbourne, Florida

Mailing address : P.O.Box 267, Melbourne, FL 32902

Very Rev. Fr. Elia Shalhoub, Pastor & Dean of South Florida Deanery

Phone: (305) 812-4940 , E-Mail: elia_shalhoub@yahoo.com

Pastor's address: 2295 Oklahoma St.. W. Palm Beach, FL 33406

<http://www.stanthonyvorthodoxchurch.com>

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 His Beatitude Patriarch JOHN X 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, DECEMBER 04, 2022 TONE 8 / EOTHINON 3

GREAT-MARTYR BARBARA OF SYRIA & TENTH SUNDAY OF LUKE VENERABLE JOHN OF DAMASCUS

MARTYR JULIANA; NEW-HIEROMARTYR SERAPHIM, BISHOP OF PHANARION IN GREECE

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 these hymns in the following order:

RESURRECTIONAL APOLYTIKION IN TONE EIGHT

From the heights Thou didst descend, O compassionate One, and Thou didst submit to the three-day burial, that Thou might deliver us from passion; Thou art our life and our Resurrection, O Lord, glory to Thee.

APOLYTIKION OF ST. BARBARA IN TONE EIGHT

Let us honor Saint Barbara, for she hath broken the snares of the enemy; and like a sparrow, she, the all-modest maiden, was delivered out of them by the help and weapon of the Cross.

APOLYTIKION OF ST. JOHN OF DAMASCUS IN TONE THREE (**Thy confession**)

O ye faithful come, let us on this day * laud with praise the sweet-sounding nightingale * that adorned and captivated the Church of Christ * with his sweet songs and tuneful, heav'nly hymns, * he is the all-wise and eloquent John Damascene, * the utmost chief of hymnographers, and a man of God * who was filled with every earthly and divine wisdom.

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Dr. Julia Bunker, D.D.S
General Dentistry

Info@dentalchoiceofmelbourne.com

Dental Choice Of Melbourne

402 N. Babcock St. Suite 103

Melbourne, FL 32935

Office (321) 600-4487

Fax (321) 622-6630

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TODAY'S FEAST SUNDAY, DECEMBER 4TH 2022

10TH SUNDAY OF LUKE

BARBARA THE GREAT MARTYR

Saint Barbara was from Heliopolis of Phoenicia and lived during the reign of Maximian.

She was the daughter of a certain idolater named Dioscorus. When Barbara came of age, she was enlightened in her pure heart and secretly believed in the Holy Trinity. About this time Dioscorus began building a bath-house; before it was finished he was required to go away to attend to certain matters, and in his absence Barbara directed the workmen to build a third window in addition to the two her Father had commanded. She also inscribed the sign of the Cross with her finger upon the marble of the bath-house, leaving the saving sign cut as deeply into the marble as if it had been done with an iron tool. (When the Synaxarion of Saint Barbara was written, the marble of the bath-house and the cross inscribed by Saint Barbara were still preserved, and many healings were worked there.) When Dioscorus returned, he asked why the third window had been added; Barbara began to declare to him the mystery of the Trinity. Because she refused to renounce her faith, Dioscorus tortured Barbara inhumanely, and after subjecting her to many sufferings he beheaded her with his own hands, in the year 290.



JOHN THE RIGHTEOUS OF DAMASCUS

Saint John was born in Damascus about the year 675, the son of wealthy and pious parents, of the family of Mansur. He was reared together with Saint Cosmas (see Oct. 14), who had been adopted by John's father Sergius, a man of high rank in the service of the Caliph of Damascus. Both of these young men were instructed by a certain monk, also named Cosmas, who had been taken captive in Italy by the Arabs and later ransomed by John's Father. Saint John became a great philosopher and enlightener of the age in which he lived, and was honoured by the Caliph with the dignity of counsellor. When Emperor Leo the Isaurian (reigned 717-741) began his war on the holy icons, John wrote epistles defending their veneration. Since the Saint, being under the Caliph of Damascus, was beyond Leo's power, the Iconoclast Emperor had a letter forged in John's handwriting which invited Leo to attack Damascus, saying the city guard was then weak; Leo then

sent this letter to the Caliph, who in his fury punished John's supposed treason with the severing of his right hand. The Saint obtained the Caliph's Permission to have his severed hand again, and that night prayed fervently to the most holy Theotokos before her icon. She appeared to him in a dream and healed his hand, which, when he awoke, he found to be healed in truth. This Miracle convinced the Caliph of his innocence, and he restored John to his office as counsellor. The Saint, however, with many pleadings obtained his permission to withdraw from the world to become a monk. He assumed the monastic habit in the Monastery of Saint Sabbas. Then he had as elder a very simple and austere monk who commanded him neither to write to anyone, nor to speak of the worldly knowledge he had acquired, and John faithfully obeyed. A monk grieving over his brother's death, however, after insisting vehemently, prevailed upon John to write a funeral hymn to console him for his brother's death. When John's elder learned of his transgression of the rule he had given him, he cast him out of his cell, and would only accept him back after John had humbly, with much self-condemnation and without murmuring consented to clean all the latrines in the lavra. After his elder had received him back, our Lady appeared to the elder and sternly charged him not to hinder John any longer from his writings and composition of hymns.

In his writings he fought courageously against the Iconoclasts Leo the Isaurian and his son Constantine Copronymus. He was also the first to write a refutation of Islam. The time he had spent as a counsellor in the courts of the Moslems of Damascus had given him opportunity to learn their teachings at first hand, and he wrote against their errors with a sound understanding of their essence. Saint John was sur-named Chrysorroas ("Golden-stream") because of the eloquence of his rhetorical style and the great abundance of his writings; this name - Chrysorroas was also the name of the river that flows by Damascus. In his writings he set forth the Orthodox Faith with exactness and order. In his old age, after his foster-brother Cosmas had been made Bishop of Mauma, John also was ordained presbyter by the Patriarch of Jerusalem. Having lived eighty-four years, he reposed in peace in 760. In addition to his theological writings, he adorned the Church of Christ with metrical and prose hymns and composed many of the prosomia used as the models for the melodies of the Church's liturgical chant; he also composed many of the sacred hymns for the feasts of the Lord Saviour and the Theotokos. The life of Saint John of Damascus was written by John, Patriarch of Jerusalem. See also June 28.

APOLYTIKION OF ST. ANTHONY THE GREAT

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 our God to save our souls.

KONTAKION OF PREPARATION OF CHRIST'S NATIVITY IN TONE THREE

(**The original melody**)

Today the Virgin cometh to the cave to give birth to * God the Word ineffably, * Who was before all the ages. * Dance for joy, O earth, on hearing * the gladsome tidings; * with the Angels and the shepherds now glorify Him * Who is willing to be gazed on * as a young Child Who * before the ages is God.

THE EPISTLE

(For St. Barbara)

God is wondrous in His saints. Bless God in the congregations.

The Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Galatians. (3:23-4:5)

Brethren, before faith came, we were confined under the Law, kept under restraint until faith should be revealed. So that the Law was our custodian until Christ came, that we might be justified by faith. But now that faith has come, we are no longer under a custodian; for in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, through faith. For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus. And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to promise. I mean that the heir, as long as he is a child, is no better than a slave, though he is the owner of all the estate; but he is under guardians and trustees until the date set by the father. So with us; when we were children, we were slaves to the elemental spirits of the universe. But when the time had fully come, God sent forth His Son, to redeem those who were under the Law, so that we might receive adoption as sons.

THE GOSPEL

(For the Tenth Sunday of Luke)

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Luke. (13:10-17)

At that time, Jesus was teaching in one of the synagogues on the Sabbath. And there was a woman who had had a spirit of infirmity for eighteen years; she was bent over and could not fully straighten herself. And when Jesus saw her, He called her and said to her, "Woman, you are freed from your infirmity." And He laid His hands upon her, and immediately she was made straight, and she praised God. But the ruler of the synagogue, indignant because Jesus had healed on the Sabbath, said to the people, "There are six days on which work ought to be done; come on those days and be healed, and not on the Sabbath day." Then the Lord answered him, "You hypocrite! Does not each of you on the Sabbath untie his ox or his ass from the manger, and lead it away to water it? And ought not this woman, a daughter of Abraham, whom Satan bound for eighteen years, be loosed from this bond on the Sabbath day?" As Jesus said this, all His adversaries were put to shame; and all the people rejoiced at all the glorious things that were done by Him.

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

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

Announcements



November 27th
December 4th
December 11th
December 18th
December 25th

Epistle Readers
Alix Hall
Subdeacon Michael
KH. Odette
Subdeacon Adrian
Ionica Dragu

TODAY’S COFFEE HOUR IS SPONSORED BY KH. AMANI

The Nativity Fast is one of four main fast periods throughout the ecclesiastical year. Beginning on November 15 and concluding on December 24, the Nativity Fast gives individuals the opportunity to prepare for the Feast of the Nativity of Our Lord and Savior in the Flesh on December 25. By abstaining from certain food and drink, particularly from meat, dairy products, as well as focusing more deeply on prayer and almsgiving, we can find that the primary aim of fasting is to make us conscious of our dependence upon God.

St. Anthony Presents
“Precious Gifts”

Christmas Talent Show

Sunday, December 11 after the Liturgy.

Join us for Order of St. Ignatius Luncheon Fundraiser after the show.



2023 Calendars

They are here with beautiful iconography inside.
Please make a donation of \$5 to Sunday School Sunday School.

Thank you to Eddie and Joyce Smeen at Skewers Restaurant for sponsoring our calendars!



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



Beloved in Christ,
December is Dedicated to the Order of St. Ignatius.

DECEMBER 4TH TENTH SUNDAY OF LUKE
ST. BARBARA THE GREAT MARTYR & ST. JOHN OF DAMASCUS
ADVENT: PREPARING FOR HIS COMING AGAIN

The Perfect Gift

by Fr. Steven Rogers Word Magazine, December 1998

Probably every one of us has uttered these words this time of year: “What do you want for Christmas this year?” The more we care for a person, the more important those words are as we seek to bring joy to those we love.

What special something can I get my wife this year?” What can I give that special friend to show how much I appreciate him?” “What can I do to make Christmas special for the kids this year?” And so we scurry about, seeking that perfect something — that perfect gift that will fulfill our loved ones’ hearts’ desire.

But once the gifts have been given, the question changes. Now the words on our lips are not, “what do you want,” but “what did you get for Christmas?” Those words are uttered in almost every household, office, schoolroom, and yes, even every church. The measure of a joy-filled Christmas is most often a comparison of our “wants” and “gets.” A good Christmas is when we “get what we wanted,” when we give that perfect gift.

Try as we might year after year, we will never be able to give that “perfect gift.” Why? Because there is only one Bestower of perfect gifts. Near the end of the Divine Liturgy we proclaim, “For every good and perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from Thee, the Father of Lights.”

The truth is, the perfect gift has already been given and on the Feast of the Nativity of Christ, St. Paul proclaims the nature of that gift in the appointed epistle reading: “Brethren, when the fullness of time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law, to redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons. And because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father. Wherefore thou art no more a servant, but a son: and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ.” (Galatians 4:4)

Paul proclaims the perfect Christmas gift: being made a son and heir of God! God has come in the flesh, and in taking on our flesh has reunited us with our Father, offering us eternal peace of soul and spirit. The perfect gift lies not in a department store or catalog, but in a tiny manger in Bethlehem!

“Let heaven and earth today make glad prophetically. Angels and men, let us keep the spiritual feast. For God, born of a woman has appeared in the flesh to those that sit in darkness and shadow. A cave and a manger have received Him. Shepherds announce the wonder; Magi from the east offer gifts in Bethlehem.

Let us, then, from our unworthy lips offer praise like the angels: Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, which Thy coming has bestowed upon us, O Savior: glory to Thee.” (Litya of the Feast)

As we seek to bestow gifts and anticipate the receiving of gifts this Christmas season, let us not lose sight of the truth that the greatest and perfect gift is not under the tree, but is He who was crucified on a “tree” for our salvation. If we desire to give a joyous gift to those we love and care for, then let us share the gift that God has given us.

May this Nativity Fast be a blessing to you.

Fr. Elia Shalhoub

Very Rev. Fr. Elia Shalhoub, Pastor

Saint Anthony Orthodox Christian Church

Annual Holiday Food & Bale Sale



*Sweet & Savory
Ethnic Foods & Desserts
Vegan & Vegetarian*



Saturday, December 10, 2022

9am—3pm

4031 Aurora Road, Melbourne, FL 32934

Pre-Orders Welcome!

For more information, OR to place an order

CALL 321-428-4819

Menu Order Form is posted on
Facebook — [st.anthonyorthodox](https://www.facebook.com/st.anthonyorthodox)
[StAnthonyOrthodoxchurch.com](https://www.StAnthonyOrthodoxchurch.com)

Email:

StAnthonyAWOFL@yahoo.com

Sponsored by the Antiochian Women Organization



Christmas Book Store Shopping

New items are here! There is something for everyone!
All the purchases from our book store benefit Sunday School.

Shopping with a smile.

If you are shopping on Amazon this year, please choose
Saint Anthony the Great Orthodox Church Inc
as your Charity. We get 0.5% of your purchase with no cost to you.
Every penny counts



2023 PLEDGE DRIVE

Thank you to all who already have signed the form.
Total from 8 pledges is 29,740.00

Fr. Elia and Kh. Odette Shalhoub

Dr. Alex and Bobbi Skaff

Michael and Janet Gorczynski

Susan Perers

Patricia Smith

Priscilla Spinola

Debbie Thieme

Isaac Vaughn

(Our Goal for 2023 is \$90,000.00)

All Pledge & Tithing members Names will be listed in the Bulletin
(will be updated next week)

2022 ARCHDIOCESE ANNUAL ASSESSMENT

(\$50.00) PER BAPTISED SOUL IS NOW DUE

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

O Little Town of Bethlehem

O little town of Bethlehem
How still we see thee lie
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
The silent stars go by
Yet in thy dark streets shineth
The everlasting Light
The hopes and fears of all the years
Are met in thee tonight

For Christ is born of Mary
And gathered all above
While mortals sleep, the angels keep
Their watch of wondering love
O morning stars together
Proclaim the holy birth
And praises sing to God the King
And Peace to men on earth

How silently, how silently
The wondrous gift is given!
So God imparts to human hearts
The blessings of His heaven.
No ear may hear His coming,
But in this world of sin,
Where meek souls will receive him still,
The dear Christ enters in.

O holy Child of Bethlehem
Descend to us, we pray
Cast out our sin and enter in
Be born to us today
We hear the Christmas angels
The great glad tidings tell
O come to us, abide with us
Our Lord Emmanuel

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

*The candle is **White** to express Peace.*

The service begins with the lighting of the first four candles by a member of the family. Review the meaning of the first three colors.

FATHER: The fourth candle reminds us of the Angel's message to the shepherds, "Peace on earth and goodwill toward men."

VERSE: *Four Advent candles burn. Now we with Wise Men turn ; To seek the Child Who brings us light And follow Him wherever He goes In blazing sun or blackest night.*

SCRIPTURE: The Journey to Bethlehem in St. Luke 2:1-18.

“And it came to pass in those days that a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. This census first took place while Quirinius was governing Syria. So all went to be registered, everyone to his own city. Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David. To be registered with Mary, his betrothed wife, who was with a Child. So it was, that while they were there, the days were completed for her to be delivered. And she brought forth her first born Son, and wrapped Him in swaddling cloths, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn. Now there were in the same country shepherds living out in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. And behold, an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were greatly afraid. Then the angel said to them, Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people. For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be the sign to you: You will find a babe wrapped in swaddling cloths, lying in a manger. And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and Saying: “Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace, good will toward men. So it was when the angels had gone away from them into Heaven that the shepherds said to one another, “Let us now go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has come to pass, which the Lord has made known to us.” And they came with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the Babe lying in a Manger. Now when they had seen Him they made widely known the saying which was told them concerning this Child. And all those who heard it marveled at those things which were told them by the shepherds.

CAROL: "O Little Town of Bethlehem"

PRAYER: Christ, You are our Peace. You broke down the wall of partition that separated Us from God. Now there is no condemnation for those who are in Christ.
Make us reconcilers and peace makers. Amen.

DISCUSSION: Is there someone who has something against us? Do we have something against anyone? What relationships in our lives need repairing? Whom do we need to forgive? The Prince of Peace is coming. Prepare the way. Forgive and be forgiven.

ST. ANTHONY ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

P.O. Box 267, Melbourne, FL 32902

Pastor's Phone: (305) 812-4940

E-mail: Elia_shalhoub@yahoo.com



2022 CHRISTMAS

POINSETTIAS

IF YOU LIKE TO DONATE TOWARD THE POINSETTIAS FLOWERS
FOR THE GOOD HEALTH OF YOUR FAMILY OR IN MEMORY OF
YOUR BELOVED ONES SO WE CAN DECORATE THE CHURCH FOR CHRISTMAS,
PLEASE FILL THE FORM BELOW AND MAKE YOUR
DONATION TO ST. ANTHONY CHURCH EARMARKED
"Poinsettia Donation"

GIVEN BY:(NAME) _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

ADDRESS: _____

TELEPHONE: _____

DONATION AMOUNT (MINIMUM \$15.00 for Christmas Poinsettia) \$ _____

NAMES TO BE COMMEMORATED AT NATIVITY LITURGY

LIVING: _____

DECEASED: _____

PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM TO YULIYA
NO LATER THAN Dec. 11th, 2022

ST. ANTHONY ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

P.O. Box 267, Melbourne, FL 32902

Pastor's Phone: (305) 812-4940;

E-mail: Elia_shalhoub@yahoo.com



2022 CHRISTMAS

COMMUNITY CARD

IF YOU LIKE TO DONATE TOWARD THE COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS TO HAVE YOUR
NAME LISTED IN THE CARD SO WE CAN WISH THE CHURCH MEMBERS AND
FRIENDS A MERRY CHRISTMAS & A HAPPY NEW YEAR, PLEASE FILL THE FORM
BELOW AND MAKE YOUR DONATION TO ST. ANTHONY CHURCH
EARMARKED "Christmas card"

GIVEN BY:NAME: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

ADDRESS: _____

TELEPHONE: _____

DONATION AMOUNT PER NAME (MINIMUM \$10.00 for Christmas Card) \$ _____

NAMES TO BE LISTED IN THE CHRISTMAS CARD

PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM TO YULIYA
NO LATER THAN Dec. 11th, 2022