

~::~ GREGORY THE WONDERWORKER ~::~

Gregory the Wonderworker is often referred to as a "Second Moses." Born in the city of Pontus of wealthy and eminent parents in 203 A.D. Gregory, whose given name was Theodore, grew up receiving the best of educations. He was extremely interested in philosophy, but somehow felt the Greek and Egyptian thought of his time was not complete or fulfilling for his intellectual needs. He went off to study in Alexandria, where he fell under the influence of Origen and other Christian teachers. The young scholar soon embraced Christianity and was baptized into the faith, taking the name of Gregory.

By the time Gregory returned to his home region of Neocaesarea, he had but one goal to fulfill: winning souls for Christ. A gathering of fellow Christians found that they were only 17 in number! Indeed, Gregory had his work cut out for him. A lesser man would have been discouraged, but Gregory was not a lesser man! He was consecrated bishop and soon his tiny flock began to grow. It is said that Gregory had the power to drive away evil spirits and to heal illnesses and diseases. When a plague hit Asia Minor in 253 A.D., Gregory tirelessly ministered to those suffering its effects. His inspiring example led to the conversion of thousands of pagans.

Gregory fell asleep in the Lord in 270 A.D. At the time of his death, the spiritual environment of his city had been completely reversed. Now there were only 17 pagans to be found in what this "Second Moses" had molded into a vibrant Christian community.

The Orthodox Weekly Bulletin . . . . . Vestal, Cliffwood, New Jersey . . . . . Litho in U.S.A.



**ABOUT COMMUNION**

*We are happy that you have joined us today. Indeed, we pray for the "unity of the Faith" for the day when all of Christianity are united as ONE and can share a common Chalice. However, this is not the case as yet. Please note that Holy Communion, the actual Body & Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, is only for Members of the Orthodox Church who have prepared themselves through prayer, fasting, and confession, & arrived before the Gospel reading. However, everyone is welcome to partake of the blessed bread and receive a blessing from the pastor at the dismissal. If you are interested, you may inquire with the pastor how you can become a member.*

*If you are a guest or otherwise not a regular communicant, please give your baptismal name when receiving.*



# 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](mailto:elia_shalhoub@yahoo.com)  
<http://www.stanthonyorthodoxchurch.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, NOVEMBER 19, 2023 TONE 7 / EOTHINON 2; TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST & NINTH SUNDAY OF LUKE

THE HOLY PROPHET OBADIAH; MARTYR BARLAAM OF ANTIOCH;  
MARTYR AZI THE WONDERWORKER OF ISAURIA IN ASIA MINOR AND 150 SOLDIERS WITH HIM

~ 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 SEVEN

Thou didst shatter death by Thy Cross, Thou didst open paradise to the thief; Thou didst turn the sadness of the ointment-bearing women into joy. And didst bid Thine Apostles proclaim a warning, that Thou hast risen O Christ, granting to the world the Great Mercy.

### 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 ENTRANCE OF THE THEOTOKOS IN TONE FOUR

(\*\*Thou Who wast raised up\*\*)

The sacred treasury of God's holy glory, \* the greatly precious bridal chamber and Virgin, \* the Savior's most pure temple, free of stain and undefiled, \* into the House of the Lord \* on this day is brought forward \* and bringeth with herself the grace \* of the Most Divine Spirit; \* her do God's Angels hymn with songs of praise, \* for she is truly the heavenly tabernacle.

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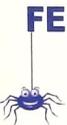


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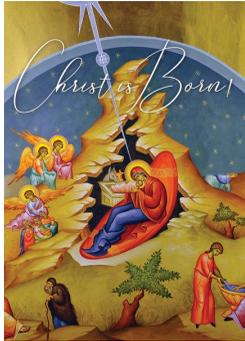
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P.O. Box 267, Melbourne, FL 32902  
Pastor's Phone: (305) 812-4940;  
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**2023 CHRISTMAS**  
**COMMUNITY CARD**

**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"**

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**NO LATER THAN Dec. 10th, 2023**

**THE EPISTLE**

(For the Twenty-Fourth Sunday after Pentecost)

*The Lord will give strength to His people.*

*Ascribe to the Lord, O sons of God, ascribe to the Lord honor and glory.*

**The Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Ephesians. (2:14-22)**

Brethren, Christ is our peace, Who has made us both one, and has broken down the dividing wall of hostility, by abolishing in His flesh the law of commandments and ordinances, that He might create in Himself one new man in place of the two, so making peace, and might reconcile us both to God in one body through the Cross, thereby bringing the hostility to an end. And He came and preached peace to you, who were far off, and peace to those who were near; for through Him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father. So then you are no longer strangers and sojourners, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the cornerstone, in Whom the whole structure is joined together and grows into a holy temple in the Lord; in Whom you also are built into it for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit.

**THE GOSPEL**

(For the Ninth Sunday of Luke)

**The Reading is from the Holy Gospel according to St. Luke. (12:16-21)**

The Lord spoke this parable: "The land of a rich man brought forth plentifully; and he thought to himself, 'What shall I do, for I have nowhere to store my crops?' And he said, 'I will do this: I will pull down my barns, and build larger ones; and there I will store all my grain and my goods. And I will say to my soul, Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; take your ease, eat, drink, be merry.' But God said to him, 'Fool! This night your soul is required of you; and the things you have prepared, whose will they be?' So is he who lays up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God." As He said this, Jesus called out, "He who has ears to hear, let him hear." ~ *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 19th**  
**November 26th**

***Epistle Readers***  
**Ethan Packey**  
**Dr. Alex Skaff**



### Angel Tree

*Christmas Season is the season of sharing.  
This year we are trying to help 2 non-profits:*

*Salvation Army - please write your name on the list in the Fellowship Hall to keep track. Gifts due back November 26.*

*Pregnancy Center - backpacks for new mothers are all the same, just put your gift under the tree with the tag. Thank you for your support.*

### 2024 PLEDGE DRIVE

**The Pledge Form for 2024 is available for you at the Church. Please sign one and turn it in ASAP so we can plan out budget. Thank you to the following Parishioners who contributed this year. Total Pledges for 2023 from 32 pledges was \$93,230 (Our Goal for 2024 is \$100,000.00)**

#### **FOOD FOR THE NEEDY (Basket in the Foyer)**

**Please remember to bring non-perishable food items for the basket.**



*Please pray for the healing of* Michealle and Tyrone Carey, Beverly Delida, Alix Hall, Nina and Diogo Penas, Beth Manzini, John Archambeau, Alex & Soula.



**Brothers and Sisters in Christ,**

**(November 15th), the Orthodox Church enters into a 40 day fast known as the Nativity Fast or Advent. With today's society painting Christmas as a joyous celebration filled with decorations, parties and gatherings, food, family, friends and gifts, why do we fast before we celebrate the Feast of the Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ?**

**We fast before the Feast of the Nativity in order to prepare ourselves for the celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ. Similar to Great Lent, the Nativity Fast is one of preparation, during which we focus on the coming of our Lord by fasting, prayer, and almsgiving. By fasting, we "shift our focus" from ourselves to others. We spend less time worrying about our consumption of food. We set aside more time for prayer and reading of the scripture. We look towards the**

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## **2023 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"**

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

#### **NAMES TO BE COMMEMORATED AT NATIVITY LITURGY**

LIVING: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

DECEASED: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM TO YULIYA OR ETHAN  
NO LATER THAN Dec. 10th, 2023**

# LOVE GOD MORE THAN ANYTHING

One day, our Lord Jesus told a parable. A parable is a story that has a special meaning. He said, "Once there was a very rich man. One year, the man's crops grew so well that he didn't know what to do! He had too much grain to fit into his barns. 'What should I do?' the man wondered.

"Then he got an idea. 'I know what I'll do. I will tear down these old barns and build great big ones! Then I can store all of my grain AND all of my stuff! Then I will tell myself, 'Self, you have plenty of food, and stuff to last you for many years. Relax! Eat all you want! Drink what you want! Be happy!'"

"But God said to that greedy rich man, 'You are foolish. Tonight you will die. All that stuff you worked for and kept to yourself will be left behind. You will not have it.'"

Then Jesus said, "That is what it is like for someone who works hard to get money and things just for himself and is not rich in the things of God. Whoever has ears to hear, let him hear!" Jesus really wants everyone to learn from this story!



Icon courtesy of Iconographics (www.theologic.com)

## WHAT DO YOU THINK?

1. In the story Jesus told, a farmer was very rich. The rich farmer had a problem and wondered what to do. What was his problem?
2. What idea did he have to solve his problem?
3. In the story, God told the man he was foolish because he was always thinking about the stuff that he owned. What did God say was going to happen to the man that night?
4. Would he be able to take many things with him?
5. If we can't keep all of our stuff forever, then what is most important in life?
6. Do you have ears? Do you use them to hear? Our Lord Jesus said, "Whoever has ears to hear, let him hear!" He meant that we should not just listen to the lessons He teaches us. We should also DO what he teaches us!

poor and ask ourselves; "How can I help? We push back from a world that controls us to regain control over our lives - especially our spiritual lives. We place God at the center of our lives and in particular during this period, prepare ourselves to receive Him.

During the Nativity Fast, we are challenged, to fast to the best of our ability, and to do so consistently. Jesus Christ does not teach fasting as optional, but as a "must." In Matthew 6:16, Christ says, "WHEN you fast, do not be like the hypocrites," not "IF you fast" or "IF YOU CHOOSE to fast."

May this Nativity Fast be a blessing to you.

In Christ,  
*Fr. Elia Shalhoub*  
Very Rev. Fr. Elia Shalhoub, Pastor



## TODAY'S FEAST SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 19<sup>TH</sup> 2023 TWENTY FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST 9TH SUNDAY OF LUKE OBADIAH THE PROPHET

The Divine Scriptures do not tell us with any certainty when the Prophet Obadiah lived nor what was his homeland. Thus, some say that he is that Obadiah who was Ahab's steward, who, because of Jezebel's wrath, hid one hundred prophets in a cave and fed them with bread and water (III Kings 18:4), and that he later became a disciple of Elias the Prophet about 903 B.C. But others surmise from the words of the same prophetic book that he is somewhat later than Joel (celebrated on Oct.

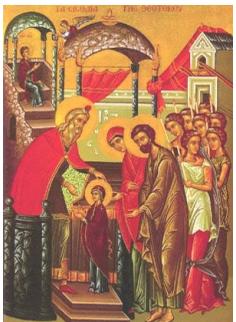
19). He is also called Obdiu, or Abdiu, or Obadiah; his name means "servant of God." His book of prophecy, which consists of only one chapter, is ranked fourth among the minor Prophets.

## NILUS BARLAAM OF CAESAREA

Saint Barlaam, who was from a certain village near Antioch in Syria, was advanced in years and a husbandman by occupation. Because of his confession of Christ, he was brought before the judge, who had him scourged with whips and then scraped with iron claws. Since this could not break his constancy, he was forcibly haled to the idols' temple, and live coals with incense were placed in his right hand. The judge thought that he would cast them down because of the pain, thus seeming to have offered a sacrifice of incense to the idols. But Saint Barlaam stood unmoving until his hand was thoroughly burned by the coals; he fell to the ground, and so gave up his soul into the hands of the Lord. He contested in martyrdom during the reign of Diocletian (284-305). Saint Basil the Great and Saint John Chrysostom both gave homilies in his honour.

## THE ENTRANCE OF THE THEOTOKOS INTO THE TEMPLE

According to the tradition of the Church, the Theotokos was brought to the Temple at three years of age, where she was consecrated to God and spent her days until she was fourteen or fifteen years old; and then, as a mature maiden, by the common counsel of the priests (since her parents had reposed some three years before), she was betrothed to Joseph.



## FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

The candle is green to express Faith.

The service begins with the lighting of the candle by a member of the family.

As this is done, the father of the family begins the service by saying:

**FATHER:** The first candle reminds us of faith; the faith we have in God that He will keep His promise to send His Son.

VERSE: (to be said by a member of the family)

***One Advent candle now we light  
To show the coming gift of light  
Now hasten to our darkened sight  
The light that's given from above.***

**SCRIPTURE:** The Prophecy from Isaiah 9:5-6; 40:3-5; 52:7

*“For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given; and the government will be upon His shoulder. His name will be called the Angel of Great Counsel, for I shall bring peace upon rulers, peace and health by Him. Great shall be His government, and of His peace there is no end. His peace shall be upon the throne of David and over his Kingdom, to order and establish it with righteousness and judgement, from that time forward and unto ages of ages. The zeal of the Lord of hosts shall perform this. The voice of the crying in the wilderness: “Prepare the way of the Lord; make straight the paths of our God. Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill humbled; the crooked places shall be made straight, , and the rough places into plains. The glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see the salvation of God; for the lord has spoken.” I am present like springtime in the mountains, like the feet of one who announces a good report of peace, like one who preaches good things, for I will cause Your salvation to be heard, Saying, “O Zion, your God reigns”*

**CAROL: “O, Come, O Come Emmanuel”**

**PRAYER:** Dear God, as the world that sat in darkness looked forward to Your coming, so we on this first Sunday of Advent light the candle of our anticipation. We eagerly desire your coming to our souls to dispel the darkness of sin and prideful living, to ignite in us the flame of love and service to our fellow humans. Amen.

**DISCUSSION:** God kept His promise to send the Messiah. What other promises does God make? Does He keep them?

## O come, O come, Immanuel

O come, O come, Immanuel,  
and ransom captive Israel  
that mourns in lonely exile here  
until the Son of God appear.

Refrain:

Rejoice! Rejoice! Immanuel  
shall come to you, O Israel.

O come, O Wisdom from on high,  
who ordered all things mightily;  
to us the path of knowledge show  
and teach us in its ways to go. Refrain

O come, O come, great Lord of might,  
who to your tribes on Sinai's height  
in ancient times did give the law  
in cloud and majesty and awe. Refrain