

THE PATRIARCH OF MONKS

Here is a question one may ask: WHICH IS MORE PLEASING TO GOD? SELF-DENIAL AND ISOLATION IN THE DESERT OR GOOD WORKS OF MERCY AMONG THE CROWDS? One can see value in each.

A man of prayer in the desert may think that without the solitude, one cannot do what is right. It would be too difficult to keep his heart pure and his mind fixed on God.

Conversely, someone who was doing good works among his fellow man, may feel that the desert-dweller is too occupied with his OWN salvation. This may come at the EXPENSE of his fellow man. We will never fully know, but our Church believes that BOTH are equally pleasing in the eyes of God. Both servants are perfect before our Maker.

One such pious example of SELF-DENIAL and ISOLATION is ST. ANTHONY THE GREAT, pictured on the bulletin today. Born in Egypt in the year 251 A.D., he lived to the advanced age of 105. His long lifespan was filled with service to the Lord as the "PATRIARCH OF MONASTIC LIFE." His good advice and wise counsel was sought by many. The Church Fathers wrote this about St. Anthony the Great: "O Father Anthony, you imitated the zealous Elijah in your manner of living. You followed the straight path of John the Baptist and became a desert dweller. By prayer, you confirmed the Universe. Wherefore, intercede with Christ our God to save our souls." Amen.

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



St. Anthony the Great

struggles with the devil in the desert

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 Christian 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
<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, JANUARY 14, 2024 LEAVE-TAKING OF & SUNDAY AFTER THE THEOPHANY

HOLY FATHERS SLAIN AT SINAI AND RAITHU; HOLY MARTYR AGNES

THE FIRST ANTIPHON

When Israel went out of Egypt, and the house of Jacob from among a barbarous people; Judah became His sanctuary; Israel His dominion.

Refrain: Through the intercessions of the Theotokos, O Savior, save us.

The sea beheld and fled: Jordan turned back. What aileth thee, O sea, that thou fleddest? And thou Jordan, that thou didst turn back? **(Refrain)** Glory... Both now... **(Refrain)**

THE SECOND ANTIPHON

I am filled with love, for the Lord will hear the voice of my supplication. For He hath inclined His ear unto me, and in my days will I call upon Him.

Refrain: Save us, O Son of God, Who wast baptized by John in the Jordan; who sing to Thee. Alleluia.

The pangs of death have encompassed me; the perils of hades have found me. Tribulation and sorrow have I found, and I called upon the name of the Lord. **(Refrain)** Merciful is the Lord, and righteous; and our God hath mercy. **(Refrain)** Glory... Both now... O, only begotten Son and Word of God...

THE THIRD ANTIPHON

O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good; for His mercy endureth forever. Let the house of Israel now confess that He is good; for His mercy endureth forever. Let the house of Aaron confess that He is good; for His mercy endureth forever. Let them now who fear the Lord confess that He is good; for His mercy endureth forever.

~ During the Little Entrance, after the verses of the Third Antiphon, chant the Apolytikion of Theophany. Then, the following:

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2024 PLEDGE DRIVE

The Pledge Form for 2024 is available for you, please sign one and turn it in ASAP

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

Fr. Elia and Kh. Odette Shalhoub

Adrian & Carrie Matos

Debbie Thieme

Ionica Dragu

John & Joanne Karas

Tristan & Jennifer Riter

Dr. Paul Alex & Bobbi Skaff

Patricia Smith

Subdeacon Michael and Alyssa Lieberman

Zach Ferrel

Sam and Ceara Jacobs

Jeffrey & Holly Dick

Susan Perers

Priscilla Spinola

Isaac Vaughn

Alix Hall

Stella White

Bill Jackson

Yuliya Warner

Michealle Carey

Olga and Carlos Munoz

Ethan Packey

Kevin Michael Brown

Total Pledges for 2024 from 23 pledges so far is \$70,230

(Our Goal for 2024 is \$100,000.00)

THE EISODIKON (ENTRANCE HYMN) OF THE LEAVE-TAKING OF THEOPHANY

Blessed is He that cometh in the Name of the Lord. The Lord is God and hath appeared unto us. Save us, O Son of God, Who art risen from the dead; who sing to Thee. Alleluia.

~ After the Entrance, sing the hymns in the following order below.

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 THE THEOPHANY OF CHRIST IN TONE ONE

When Thou, O Lord, wast baptized in the Jordan, worship of the Trinity wast made manifest; for the voice of the Father bore witness to Thee, calling Thee His beloved Son. And the Spirit in the likeness of a dove confirmed the truth of His word. O Christ our God, Who hast appeared and enlightened the world, glory to Thee.
~ Now sing the apolytikion of the patron saint or feast of the temple.

KONTAKION OF THE THEOPHANY OF CHRIST IN TONE FOUR

*(**The original melody**)*

On this day Thou hast appeared * unto the whole world, * and Thy light, O Sovereign Lord, * is signed on us who sing Thy praise * and chant with knowledge: Thou hast now come, * Thou hast appeared, O Thou Light unapproachable.

Trisagion Hymn: "Holy God."

THE EPISTLE

(For the Sunday after Theophany of Christ)

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

The Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Ephesians. (4:7-13)

Brethren, grace was given to each of us according to the measure of Christ's gift. Therefore, it is said, "When He ascended on high He led a host of captives, and He gave gifts to men." (In saying, "He ascended," what does it mean but that He had also descended into the lower parts of the earth? He who descended is He who also ascended far above all the heavens, that He might fill all things.) And His gifts were that some should be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ.

THE GOSPEL

(For the Sunday after Theophany of Christ)

The reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew. (4:12-17)

At that time, when Jesus heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew into Galilee; and leaving Nazareth he went and dwelt in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, so that what was spoken by the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled: "The land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, toward the sea, across the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles—the people who sat in darkness have seen a great light, and for those who sat in the region and shadow of death light has dawned." From that time Jesus began to preach, saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of Heaven is at hand."

MEGALYNARION OF THE LEAVE-TAKING OF THEOPHANY IN TONE TWO

Magnify, O my soul, the Maiden who delivered us from the curse.

O the wonder of thy super-intelligent birth-giving, thou all-pure bride, the blessed Mother through whom we have received perfect salvation, we indite a fitting song, offering as a gift the song of gratitude.

KOINONIKON (COMMUNION HYMN) OF THEOPHANY IN TONE EIGHT

The grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men. Alleluia.
~ After Communion, instead of singing "We have seen the true light," sing the Festal Apolytikion: "When Thou, O Lord."

St. Anthony Antiochian Orthodox Church
4031 Aurora Rd, Melbourne, FL. 32934
Notice of the 2024 General Assembly Meeting
December 20, 2023

Announcements

	January 14th	<i>Epistle Readers</i>	
	January 21st	Ionica Dragu	St. Paul to the Ephesians. (4:7-13)
	January 28th	Tristan Riter	St. Paul to the Colossians. (3:4-11)
		Olga Munoz	St. Paul to St. Timothy. (1:15-17)

Mark your Calendars (2024)

Today, January 14 - AWO Meeting

January 16 - Feast of St. Anthony the Great

Tuesday Evening Vigil at 5PM with the service of 5 loaves.

Followed by a Potluck Dinner Celebration.

St. Anthony Feast Day Meal Sign UP

We are planning on serving Italian Potluck Feast!

We need help with the meal by Parishioners bringing items to complete our meal.

The Sign Up is posted on the lobby entry bulletin board. Questions? Ask Holly

AWO 50/50 Raffle during the Feast, get your tickets now!!!

Door prizes are also available!

January 21 - General Meeting

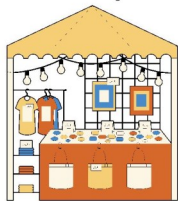
January 28 - Teen SOYO Meeting

FAMILY GARAGE

Saturday, February 3rd

8 am - 12 pm

**S
A
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E**



Vendors Welcome! \$15 for 10 x 10 spot and keep your profits!
Vendor Application at stanthonyorthodoxchurch.com

St. Anthony The Great Orthodox Church

4031 Aurora Road, Melbourne, FL

All proceeds support St. Anthony Teen Camp Fund

Cleaning and organizing your house for the new year? Support Teen Soyo while accomplishing your task by donating unwanted items to the Teen Soyo Garage sale.

We will collect items each Sunday in January. There will also be special drop off times set up January 29th-February 2nd (to be posted).

If you need a pick up, contact Holly @ 660-287-7860.

Dear Parishioner:

In compliance with St. Anthony Antiochian Orthodox Church's Constitution, I, as the Parish Council Recording Secretary, am required to notify you of the Annual General Assembly meeting. This Annual General Assembly meeting will be held on **Sunday, January 21, 2024**, immediately following the 10:00am Divine Liturgy in the St. Anthony Church, located at 4031 Aurora Rd., Melbourne, FL 32934.

The Agenda is as follows:

- | | |
|--|-------------------------------|
| 1. Opening Prayer and Roll Call | 7. Treasurer's Report |
| 2. Reading the Minutes of the 2023 Annual General Assembly Meeting | 8. Organizations' Reports |
| 3. Pastor's Message (Appointment of 1 Member) | 9. Old Business |
| 4. Election of two (2) Members of the Parish Council (Nominations will be accepted through January 11, 2024) | 10. New Business |
| 5. Update on the Church Property | 11. Approving the 2024 Budget |
| 6. Chairman's Report | 12. Adjournment |

2/3 of the Total members in good standing shall constitute a quorum. As you enter the Church, the Treasurer and the Pastor will check your name. Please fulfill your 2023 pledge before the end of the year (if you have not already done so.) According to our constitution, **ONLY MEMBERS IN GOOD STANDING** (i.e. who have fulfilled their 2023 pledge and have turned in their 2024 pledge card) **WILL BE ALLOWED TO VOTE/PARTICIPATE** in the meeting.

The following documents will be available one week before the annual meeting in the Narthex of the church: 1) The 2023 financial report. 2) The 2023 General Assembly meeting minutes. 3) The 2024 budget.

We encourage you to submit in writing any questions on the documents so that the Parish Council can prepare accurate and complete responses. Anyone wishing to include any topic on the agenda **MUST** submit it in writing to the attention of Fr. Elia no later than January 11th so that it may be appropriately considered for inclusion and the proper preparations made.

We look forward to your presence and participation.

Sincerely,

St. Anthony Antiochian Orthodox Church Parish Council

x *Debbie Thieme*

Debbie Thieme, Parish Council Secretary

ST. ANTHONY THE GREAT ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

4031 Aurora Rd., Melbourne, FL. 32934

www.StAnthonyOrthodoxchurch.com

Very Rev. Fr. Elia Shalhoub

Cell: (305) 812-4940

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Follow us on "FACEBOOK" <https://www.facebook.com/st.anthoniorthodox>

2024 HOUSE BLESSING FORM



IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO HAVE YOUR HOUSE BLESSED,
PLEASE COMPLETE THE FOLLOWING FORM ASAP.

CHOOSE THREE ALTERNATE DATES AND TIMES, AND GIVE DIRECTIONS TO YOUR HOME AS WELL.

**When the priest comes to bless your home please make sure to have an Icon; a candle
ready and your list of the names (Living & Deceased) to be prayed for.**

Thank you, V. Rev. Fr. Elia Shalhoub, Pastor

NAME: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

ADDRESS: _____

TELEPHONE: _____

(HOME)

(OFFICE)

(CELL)

DATES/TIMES REQUESTED (Please list three date/time options):

*(Please let me know if you are available or not during the day on Saturday & Sunday only from 12:00
Noon to 5:00 p.m. or if you prefer an Evening Visit.)*

Option #1: _____

Option #2: _____

Option #3: _____

DIRECTIONS & EXACT ADDRESS

PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM TO FATHER ELIA NO LATER THAN JANUARY 28, 2024.



2023 Parish Calendars

They are here with beautiful iconography inside.

Special thanks to this year's sponsors:

*Skewers and Flames Mediterranean Grills, who helped to cover the cost. You can leave a
Donation to Sunday School, when you get yours. Give one to the friend or family so they
know about our Church. Your support is greatly appreciated.*



LEAVE-TAKING OF THE THEOPHANY OF OUR LORD AND SAVIOR, JESUS CHRIST

Beloved In Christ,

Greetings and best wishes to you

in the New Year and the Epiphany season.

As we approach our patron Saint Feast Day

on Wednesday January 17th,

We will celebrate our Feast Day on Tuesday January 16th

the Eve of the Feast with a Mini Vigil ·

We will start with Vespers and Artoklasia at 5:00 PM

followed by Divine Liturgy at 6:15PM.

After the Service we will break Bread together with a Dinner.

On behalf of our Parish Council of St. Anthony

we would like you and your families to share with us

our Patron Saint Feast Day (St. Anthony) Celebration.

It is very important that each and every one of our Family of

St. Anthony be prepared to celebrate the Life of our Patron Saint.

Please let me know, or let Holly & Michealle know, if you can make it so

we can prepare properly. We look forward to have you with us.

Kh. Odette and I wish each of you and your families

a very blessed and prosperous year in 2024!

In Christ,

Fr. Elia Shalhoub



Please pray for the healing of Adriana Theodoropoulos, Lori Sorensen, Ethan Packey,
Michealle and Tyrone Carey, Beverly Delida, Alix Hall, Nina and Diogo Penas,
Beth Manzini, John Archambeau, Alex & Soula.



**TODAY'S FEAST SUNDAY, JANUARY 14TH 2024
LEAVETAKING OF THE THEOPHANY OF OUR LORD
AND SAVIOUR JESUS CHRIST**

About the beginning of our Lord's thirtieth year, John the Fore-runner, who was some six months older than Our Saviour according to the flesh, and had lived in the wilderness since his childhood, received a command from God and came into the parts of the Jordan, preaching the baptism of repentance unto the remission of sins. Then our Saviour also came from Galilee to the Jordan, and sought and received baptism though He was the Master and John was but a servant. Whereupon, there came to pass those marvellous deeds, great and beyond nature: the Heavens were opened, the Spirit descended in the form of a dove upon Him that was being baptized and the voice was heard from the Heavens hearing witness that this was the beloved Son of God, now baptized as a man (Matt. 3:13-17; Mark 1:9-11; Luke 3:1-22). From these events the Divinity of the Lord Jesus Christ and the great mystery of the Trinity were demonstrated. It is also from this that the present feast is called "Theophany," that is, the divine manifestation, God's appearance among men. On this venerable day the sacred mystery of Christian baptism was inaugurated; henceforth also began the saving preaching of the Kingdom of the Heavens.

THE HOLY FATHERS SLAIN AT SINAI AND RAITHO

As for the holy Martyrs of Sinai and Raithu, those of Sinai contested during the reign of Diocletian, about the year 296; those of Raithu were slain about the middle of the fifth century. On both occasions, the perpetrators of these massacres were a barbarian tribe called Blemmyes, from the parts of Arabia and Egypt.

Because of the Apodosis of the Feast of Holy Theophany also on the 14th of January, the liturgical services to the Holy Fathers slain at Sinai and Raitho are transferred to January 13th.



HOUSE BLESSINGS ARE IN PROGRESS

Fr. Elia would like to bless each of the homes of all of the parishioners of St. Anthony. House Blessing form is available in the bulletin and at the Display table for your convenience.

EPIPHANY 2024 – BLESSING OF HOMES

The central sign of our acceptance of God's sanctification of the creation is the blessing of the homes of faithful Orthodox Christians.

We bless homes:

- a. To reveal the home as what God created it to be, a way to heaven.
- b. To rid the home of every evil.
- c. To know that the family is a small church unit in Christ, to consecrate the home and all activity in it to God.
- d. To have the home and all who live in it with the fullness of God.

Only the Church reveals what life is, and she alone is the Kingdom of God on earth. The Church lives within Christ, revealing Him to us. As the Church, we sprinkle blessed water throughout the home, as we chant, ***“When you, O Lord, were baptized in the Jordan, the worship of the Trinity was made manifest. For the Fathers voice bore witness to you and called you His Beloved Son, while the Holy Spirit, in the form of a dove, confirmed these words. O Christ our God, who has appeared to us and has enlightened the world, Glory to you.”***

The priest consecrates the home to the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit in this act, the Church blesses, reveals and sanctifies.

When the priest comes for the house blessing, please adhere to these guidelines:

1. Have as many family members there as possible.
2. Setup a place for prayer, in the dining room or kitchen, with an icon and a candle.
3. Print the first names of those for whom specific prayers are to be offered, including all family members on a sheet of paper, making a clear distinction between living and departed.
4. Take this time to get to know Father Elia better, asking any questions you may have.
5. If a child needs some time to talk to Father, respect his/her privacy and make the opportunity.
6. Make Father Elia aware of any special needs you may have.
7. Tell Father Elia about any family members who are in nursing homes or in need of a visit

Please remember that Father Elia will be making many visitations. A lengthy social visit may not be possible at this time. If you would prefer a visit outside the Epiphany season, please let Father know.