

"BLESSED ARE THE PURE IN HEART . . . "

The life and death of the MARTYR MARKELLA OF CHIOS is a story that, even in our modern era where very little surprises us, would be considered most shocking. Markella was born in the 16th century on this small Greek island. It was said that her physical appearance was stunning beyond description. Still, Markella's true beauty was found in the depth of her soul, for she exhibited purity and gentleness at all times. Her family was prominent and wealthy - her father was the local mayor - but Markella was much more interested in developing a spiritual relationship with the Lord than in material gain.

When her mother died, Markella totally immersed herself in service to Christ. Her father, however, was not a believer, and soon Markella found herself abused by him both verbally and physically. Finally, after thwarting his perverted, amorous advances towards her, Markella attempted to run away. As her infuriated father chased her, she attempted to hide in a thorny bush. Discovering her place of concealment, the crazed man set fire to the bush, forcing her out from her hiding place. She continued to run, but was soon felled by an arrow. Trapped now between two rocks, Markella was brutally murdered by her father - her lifeless body cut into pieces.

After her death, the villagers found a spring of water flowing from the rocks at the location where Markella had died. The waters from it were found to have miraculous powers of healing. A small chapel was erected on the site in memory of this lovely young martyr named Markella.

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

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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 worshiping 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 Eminence Metropolitan SABA within 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, JULY 27, 2025 TONE 6 / EOTHINON 7; GREAT-MARTYR AND HEALER PANTELEIMON & SEVENTH SUNDAY OF MATTHEW

THE MARTYRED BLIND MAN HEALED BY PANTELEIMON

~ 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, sing these hymns in the following order:

RESURRECTIONAL APOLYTIKION IN TONE SIX

When Mary stood at Thy grave, looking for Thy sacred body, angelic powers shone above Thy revered tomb; and the soldiers who were to keep guard became as dead men. Thou led Hades captive and wast not tempted thereby. Thou didst meet the Virgin and didst give life to the world, O Thou, Who art risen from the dead, O Lord, glory to Thee.

APOLYTIKION FOR ST. PANTELEIMON IN TONE THREE

O holy prizewinner and healer Panteleimon, intercede with the merciful God that He grant unto our souls forgiveness of offences.

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 THE TRANSFIGURATION IN TONE SEVEN

Thou wast transfigured on the mount, and Thy Disciples, in so far as they were able, beheld Thy glory, O Christ our God; so that, when they should see Thee crucified, they would remember that all Thy suffering was voluntary, and could declare to all the world that Thou art truly the effulgent

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7TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
PANTELEIMON THE GREAT MARTYR & HEALER
BELOVED IN CHRIST

Peacemakers

***“Blessed are the peacemakers,
for they shall be called the children of God” (Matthew 5.9).***

Christ, the “*prince of peace*,” (Isaiah 9.6) gives the peace of God to those who believe in Him. “*Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you* (John 14.27); *I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace.*” (John 16.33). This is the peace which the Apostle Paul lists as one of the “*fruits of the Holy Spirit*” (Galatians 5.22); the “*peace of God which passes all understanding*” (Philippians 4.7). It is peace understood as “the liberation from passions, which cannot be attained without the action of the Holy Spirit” (Saint Mark the Ascetic, 4th c., *Two Centuries on Spiritual Law*). The peacemakers are those who have the peace of God in themselves and spread this peace to those around them. This peace, first of all, is the freedom from all anxiety and fear. It is the peace of those who are not anxious about their lives, about what they shall eat and drink, about what they shall wear (cf. Matthew 6.25–33). It is the peace with which men’s hearts are not troubled nor afraid of anything (cf. John 14.27). It is the peace which exists in men even in the most terrible of human situations, in suffering and in death.

The blessed peacemaker is the one who bears witness to Christ and takes up his cross and loses his life for the Lord without fear or anxiety. He is the one who enters every human conflict until the end of time, fortified by the peace of God. He is the one who does not deny the Lord or compromise His truth by the exercise of violence, but bears witness by his own peace in the midst of conflict, the peace which is “*not as the world gives*” (John 14.27). Thus, the peacemaker does not provoke others to irritation or violence, except by the truth and love of his life, and leaves all vengeance to the Lord. He is the one who follows Jesus in overcoming evil only by Good.

- Fr. Thomas Hopko - 'The Beatitudes'

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

Splendor of the Father.

THE EPISTLE

(For St. Panteleimon)

The righteous shall rejoice in the Lord. O God, hear my prayer.

The Reading from the Second Epistle of St. Paul to St. Timothy. (2:1-10)

Timothy, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus; and what you have heard from me before many witnesses entrust to faithful men who will be able to teach others also. Share in suffering as a good soldier of Christ Jesus. No soldier on service gets entangled in civilian pursuits, since his aim is to satisfy the one who enlisted him. An athlete is not crowned unless he competes according to the rules. It is the hard-working farmer who ought to have the first share of the crops. Think over what I say, for the Lord will grant you understanding in everything. Remember Jesus Christ, risen from the dead, descended from David, as preached in my gospel, the gospel for which I am suffering and wearing fetters like a criminal. But the word of God is not fettered. Therefore, I endure everything for the sake of the elect, that they also may obtain salvation in Christ Jesus with its eternal glory.

THE GOSPEL

(For the Seventh Sunday of Matthew)

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew. (9:27-35)

At that time, as Jesus passed on from there, two blind men followed him, crying aloud: “Have mercy on us, Son of David.” When He entered the house, the blind men came to Him; and Jesus said to them, “Do you believe that I am able to do this?” They said to Him, “Yes, Lord.” Then He touched their eyes, saying, “According to your faith be it done to you.” And their eyes were opened. And Jesus sternly charged them, “See that no one knows it.” But they went away and spread His fame through all that district. As they were going away, behold, a dumb demoniac was brought to Him. And when the demon had been cast out, the dumb man spoke; and the crowds marveled, saying, “Never was anything like this seen in Israel.” But the Pharisees said, “He casts out demons by the prince of demons.” And Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every disease and every infirmity.

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

METROPOLITAN MESSAGE

2 attachments were forwarded earlier

**Metropolitan Saba's archpastoral letter regarding assistance to those suffering from the recent terrorist attack on the Prophet Elias Orthodox Church in Dweilaa, Syria. Another offering tray will be passed today, with all donations collected forwarded towards the assistance of those suffering from this attack. So far we have only collected \$400
Please be generous in your donations and prayers.**

MEMORY ETERNAL

The Names of the Martyrs of St. Elias Church in Damascus
Nabil, Emile, Souliman, Simon, Abdallah, Amal, Milad, Razzouk, Farid, Peter,
Georgios, Mariam, Susan, Julia, Metanios, Maen, Anas, Laurance, Anji

Upcoming Events

This Week

Sunday, 7/27 8:45 am: Matins Service
10:00 am: Divine Liturgy
Followed by coffee hour, all are welcome.
Wednesday, 7/30 5:30pm: Vespers
Friday, 8/01 5:30pm Paraklesis Service
Saturday, 8/02 4:00 pm: Catechism class
5:30 pm: Great Vespers ,
followed by confessions

July Birthdays & Anniversaries

25: Austyn Dick
Tobias Beeny
26: Dylan Kelemecz
28: Julia Mariano B-day
Richard Enstice B-day
Bill Jackson B-day
30: Gabriella Baika B-day
May God Grant You Many Years!



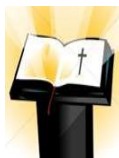
Next Week

Sunday, 8/03 8:45am: Matins Service, 10:00am: Divine Liturgy followed by the coffee hour
Wednesday, 8/06 5:30pm: Great Vespers for the Feast of Transfiguration
Friday, 8/08 5:30pm: Paraklesis Service,
followed by Antiochian Women Spiritual Growth Meeting with a potluck snack
Please RSVP to our President Olga at (321)405-8697
Saturday, 8/09 4:00pm: Catechism class, 5:30pm: Great Vespers,
followed by confessions
Sunday, 8/10 8:45 am: Matins Service, 10:00 am: Divine Liturgy with Blessing of the Grapes

Fasting Calendar

Abstain from meat, dairy, eggs, fish, olive oil and wine 7/30, 8/1;
abstain from meat, dairy, eggs and fish 8/2 and 8/3
[View calendar at https://tinyurl.com/AOCfast2025](https://tinyurl.com/AOCfast2025)

Announcements



July 27
August 3rd
August 10th
August 17th
August 24th
August 31st

Epistle Reader

Laney Ricketts
Debbie Thieme
Subdeacon Michael
Adrian Magelitz
Susan Moran
Isaac Vaughn

St. Matthew (9:27-35)

THANK YOU NICHOLAS AND VICTORIA FOR TODAY'S COFFEE HOUR

PLEASE SIGN UP ON THE CALENDAR IN THE NARTHEX TO PREPARE
AND SERVE FOOD FOR OUR COFFEE HOUR .



Please pray for the healing of Laney Ricketts, Michealle Carey, Debbie Thieme, Adriana Theodoropoulos, Beverly Delida, Alix Hall, Nina and Diogo Penas, Beth Manzini, John Archambeau, Alex & Soula, Susan Moran, Susan Perers, William Snell, Vasilika Yardines, Faouzi Najjar, Marie Williams, and His Grace Bishop Nicholas

St. Anthony's Got Talent

We can use talents of all kind: sewing, crafts, arts, singing, dancing, playing instruments etc. Please talk to Yuliya if you want to participate in our Christmas Talent Show.



AWO's Humanitarian Project -School Supplies Collection
Due date is today. If you didn't get a chance to buy school supplies, monetary donations may be put in offering envelope onto the offering plate.
Contact Priscilla if you have any questions (516) 695-1897

Church Work Day

A BIG Thank you to Dr. Skaff, Tito, Matthew, Pascal, Alex, Andrew and Chris, for everything they accomplished Saturday.
"Teamwork" was definitely the word of the day.

'Summer Pascha' - The Dormition of the Theotokos

It is that time of year when we in the Orthodox Church once again prepare and approach the joyful celebration of the feast of Pascha. You may say, "Pascha was on April 20th this year." And you would be right. However this Paschal celebration is celebrated every year on August 15th, and is known as the Dormition of the Theotokos, a.k.a. 'Summer Pascha.' What do these two feasts have to do with each other? One is the Resurrection of Christ, the other is the falling asleep of the Virgin Mary. Yet they are intimately connected. The life, Passion, and Resurrection of Christ liberated mankind from the power of death and come with a promise for humanity: "A time is coming and has now come when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God and those who hear will live" (John 5:25). Not only did Christ break death's power over us, but Christ promises eternal life to those who hear His voice. God has given us the assurance of His promise in the Feast of the Dormition of the Theotokos. Holy Tradition tells us that after her death and burial, the disciples of Christ found her tomb empty and beheld her alive in the Heavenly Kingdom. As we hear in the apolytikion of this feast: "You were translated unto life, you who are the mother of Life." This feast strengthens us as Christians living in the modern world that the promise which God has made us is true and will be fulfilled, that one day we too will rise and dwell forever in the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ! During this time, the Church gives us many opportunities to connect with God through the prayers of the Theotokos. Just as we come to church for Holy Week and Pascha services, beginning Friday, August 1st, let us again come to the church to celebrate the 'Summer Pascha,' the Dormition of the Theotokos.