

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.

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.



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.



Welcome to St. Anthony The Great Antiochian Orthodox Christian Church

DECEMBER 24, 2025

THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD AND SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST



CHRIST IS BORN! GLORIFY HIM!

4031 Aurora Rd., Melbourne, Florida 32934
Very Rev. Fr. Elia Shalhoub, Pastor & Dean of South Florida Deanery
Phone: (305) 812-4940 , E-Mail: elia_shalhoub@yahoo.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 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.

FESTAL DIVINE LITURGY VARIABLES ON DECEMBER 25 THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD AND SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST

****DIVINE LITURGY OF ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM****

THE FIRST ANTIPHON

I will praise Thee, O Lord, with my whole heart: I will speak of all Thy marvelous works. In the assembly of the upright and in the congregation, the works of the Lord are great.

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

They are sought out according to all His purposes. His work is honorable and glorious, and His righteousness endureth forever. *(Refrain)* Glory... Both now... *(Refrain)*

THE SECOND ANTIPHON

Blessed is the man that feareth the Lord; that delighteth greatly in His commandments. His seed shall be mighty upon earth; the generation of the upright shall be blessed.

Refrain: Save us, O Son of God, Who wast born of a Virgin; who sing to Thee. Alleluia.

Glory and riches shall be in His house, and His righteousness endureth forever. *(Refrain)*

Unto the upright there ariseth light in the darkness: He is gracious, full of compassion and righteous. *(Refrain)* Glory... Both now... O, only begotten Son and Word of God...

THE THIRD ANTIPHON

The Lord said unto my Lord: sit Thou at My right hand, until I make Thine enemies Thy footstool. The Lord shall send Thee a rod of strength out of Zion. With Thee is dominion in the day of Thy power, in the beauties of Thy saints. (Now sing the Festal Apolytikion: "Thy Nativity, O Christ.")

THE EISODIKON (ENTRANCE HYMN) OF THE NATIVITY OF CHRIST

From the womb before the morning star have I begotten Thee. The Lord hath sworn, and He will not repent; thou art a priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek. Save us, O Son of God, Who wast born of a Virgin; who sing to Thee. Alleluia.

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

APOLYTIKION OF THE NATIVITY OF CHRIST IN TONE FOUR

Thy Nativity, O Christ our God, hath given rise to the light of knowledge in the world; for they that

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Please pray for the healing of Joni DeBaldo, Georgia Davis,
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and His Grace Bishop Nicholas

**Please pray for those who have sponsored our
2025 Christmas Card project, and their loved ones**

Fr. Elia and Kh. Odette Shalhoub

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worshipped the stars did learn therefrom to worship Thee, O Sun of Justice, and to know that from the east of the Highest Thou didst come. O Lord, glory to Thee.

KONTAKION OF THE NATIVITY OF CHRIST IN TONE THREE

*(**The Original Melody**)*

Today the Virgin giveth birth to the Transcendent in essence; the earth offereth the cave to the unapproachable One; the angels with the shepherds glorify Him; and the Magi with the star travel on their way; for a new child hath been born for our sakes, God before the ages.

THE ANTI-TRISAGION HYMN (Sung in place of “Holy God”)

As many as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ. Alleluia. (THRICE)
Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; both now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Have put on Christ. Alleluia.

Dynamis! As many as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ. Alleluia.

THE EPISTLE

Let all the earth worship Thee, and sing to Thee. Shout with joy to God, all the earth.

The reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Galatians. (4:4-7)

Brethren, when the time had fully come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the Law, to redeem those who were under the Law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying, “Abba! Father!” Therefore, you are no longer a slave but a son; and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ.

THE GOSPEL

The reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew. (2:1-12)

Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, saying, “Where is He who has been born king of the Jews? For we have seen His star in the East, and have come to worship Him.” When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it is written by the prophet: ‘And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judea, are by no means least among the rulers of Judea; for from you shall come a ruler who will govern My people Israel.’” Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star appeared; and he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found Him bring me word, that I too may come and worship Him.” When they had heard the king they went their way; and lo, the star which they had seen in the East went before them, until it came to rest over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy; and going into the house they saw the child with Mary His mother, and they fell down and worshiped Him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered Him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh. And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way. ~ *The Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom continues with the following variables.*

MEGALYNARION OF THE NATIVITY OF CHRIST IN TONE ONE

Magnify, O my soul, her who is more honorable and more exalted in glory than the heavenly hosts.

I behold a strange and wonderful mystery: the cave a heaven, the Virgin a cherubic throne, and the manger a noble place in which hath lain Christ the uncontained God. Let us, therefore, praise and magnify Him.

KOINONIKON (COMMUNION HYMN) OF NATIVITY OF CHRIST IN TONE EIGHT

The Lord hath sent redemption unto His people. Alleluia. ~After Communion, instead of singing "We have seen the true light", sing the Festal Apolytikion: "Thy Nativity, O Christ."



Nativity of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ

December is the Order of St. Ignatius Month

The Incarnation and the Fruits of Repentance

Nativity Homily, from St. Isaac the Syrian

This Christmas night [Christ] bestowed peace on the whole world;

So let no one threaten;

This is the night of the Most Gentle One - Let no one be cruel;

This is the night of the Humble One - Let no one be proud.

Now is the day of joy- Let us not revenge;

Now is the day of Good Will - Let us not be mean.

In this Day of Peace - Let us not be conquered by anger.

Today the Bountiful impoverished Himself for our sake;

So, rich one, invite the poor to your table.

Today we receive a Gift for which we did not ask;

So let us give alms to those who implore and beg us.

This present Day casts open the heavenly doors to our prayers;

Let us open our door to those who ask our forgiveness.

Today the Divine Being took upon Himself the seal of our humanity,

In order for humanity to be decorated by the seal of divinity.

Christ is Born! - Glorify Him!

The Feast of the Nativity is not a mere remembrance of Jesus' birth in a cradle from the Virgin Mother of God; it was meant to be the feast of His birth in us, a birth that can only occur if we seek the purity that distinguished the Virgin Mary. The Birth of Jesus in us will invite us to renew our commitment to His Teachings, and our struggle to become His unblemished church, A Church that is free of weaknesses, pure in everything, and shining with the Holy Spirit. Together we shall be aware that the church of Christ is our mother. And that the shepherds and the believers are called to be Christ's messengers inviting their brethren in the world to reconciliation and to rejection of violence so that His peace may Prevail.

Kh. Odette and I wish each of you and your families a very blessed Christmas!



**TODAY'S FEAST SATURDAY, DECEMBER 24TH 2022
NATIVITY OF OUR LORD AND SAVIOR**

JESUS CHRIST

The incomprehensible and inexplicable Nativity of Christ came to pass when Herod the Great was reigning in Judea; the latter was an Ascalonite on his father's side and an Idumean on his mother's. He was in every way foreign to the royal line of David; rather, he had received his authority from the Roman emperors, and had ruled tyrannically over the Jewish people for some thirty-three years. The tribe of Judah, which had reigned of old, was deprived of its rights and stripped of all rule and authority. Such was the condition of the Jews when the awaited Messiah was born, and truly thus was fulfilled the prophecy which the Patriarch Jacob had spoken 1,807 years before: "A ruler shall not fail from Judah, nor a prince from his loins, until there come the things stored up for him; and he is the expectation of the nations" (Gen.49:10).

Thus, our Saviour was born in Bethlehem, a city of Judea, whither Joseph had come from Nazareth of Galilee, taking Mary his betrothed, who was great with child, that, according to the decree issued in those days by the Emperor Augustus, they might be registered in the census of those subject to Rome. Therefore, when the time came for the Virgin to give birth, and since because of the great multitude there was no place in the inn, the Virgin's circumstance constrained them to enter a cave which was near Bethlehem. Having as shelter a stable of irrational beasts, she gave birth there, and swaddled the Infant and laid Him in the manger (Luke 2:1-7). From this, the tradition has come down to us that when Christ was born He lay between two animals, an ox and an ass, that the words of the Prophets might be fulfilled: "Between two living creatures shalt Thou be known" (Abbacum 3:2), and "The ox knoweth his owner and the ass his master's crib" (Esaia 1:3).

But while the earth gave the new-born Saviour such a humble reception, Heaven on high celebrated majestically His world-saving coming. A wondrous star, shining with uncommon brightness and following a

The Adoration of the Magi: Melchior, Gaspar, & Balthasar



**The Commemoration of the Shepherds in Bethlehem
who were watching their flocks
and came to see the Lord**

