

# THE DESERT NEWS

Your *online* monthly news & updates

**Desert News** is published online, every month, for a quick glimpse of the goings on at St. Anthony's and with our parishioners. Desert News editors are Claudia Bogris and Nike Bach. If you have parish organization or personal news to share, please email information to [Claudia Bogris](mailto:claudia@stanthony.org).

With so many of our parishioners now vaccinated and back at Church, the Sunday Bulletin is the main source of weekly information.

## March Feast Day



**FEAST OF THE ANNUNCIATION, MARCH 25**

# A Message From Fr. Michael

Dear St. Anthony's family,

The Lord said, "When you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, so that you do not appear to men to be fasting, but to your Father who is in the secret place; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly." (Matt. 6:17-18).

As you know Great Lent is around the corner and we need to prepare ourselves. Fasting is not only abstaining from certain food. It is accompanied with prayers and almsgiving. Here are daily New Testament readings for March and April.

That is why during Great Lent our Church offers extra different services which I hope you can attend at least one of each. Also, with Great Lent comes Confession which helps us cleanse ourselves, repent, and get closer to God.

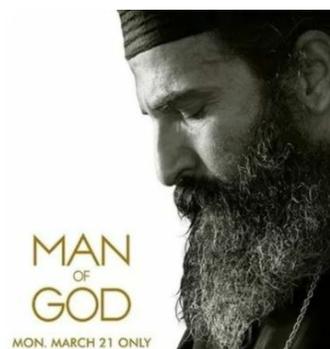
So please try to make every effort this year to attend any service, come to confession and start planning to give alms.

Remember that every morning we wake up is an extra opportunity God gives us to repent and be good.

My prayers to all for a Blessed Lent season and may our God and Savior Jesus Christ bless you all.

Your servant in Christ,  
Fr. Michael

## One Night Only on March 21: Man of God



Man of God, the life of St. Nektarios of Aegina, is coming to 800 movie theaters across the U.S. for one night only, Monday, March 21. **Buy tickets at the movie theater closest to you (including the AMC theaters in Ridgefield Park and Paramus)** or join with St. George Greek Orthodox Church in Clifton for a prayer service, pre-movie talk, and Lenten supper at 5pm before the 7pm showing in Wayne by registering at [heisrisen.org](http://heisrisen.org).

t only: Monday, March 21, 2022.

## Stewardship and ParishSoft Giving

Last month, parishioners received a letter from Fr. Michael about giving of their talents, time, and treasure - *STEWARDSHIP* -- to our church. To make it easier to keep track of parishioner donations, all parishioners are encouraged to use **ParishSoft Giving for your weekly pledges, annual assessments and any other donations you care to make.**

If you would like help setting up your account, please contact Robyn Ziembra (201-694-9133) or Isaiah Vallejo-Juste. They can also work with you in the Fellowship hall after liturgy though best to contact them to set up a convenient appointment.

To set up your Stewardship account (regular giving to St Anthony's plus your Assessment to the Archdiocese), visit **Weekly Stewardship**

When you'd like to donate toward the bread and wine -- communion -- select **Liturgical Offering**. A donation to offer the gifts for the Divine Liturgy will include identifying the names of the living and the departed, which will be read at the liturgy to which you are donating.

Finally, if you'd like to donate in memory of someone who has passed away, visit **Memorial Giving**. The Father Joseph Allen Memorial Fund is a separate donation portal.

## Life in Our Parish

### Meet the Parish Council

Our Parish Council ([see list](#)) is comprised of elected members, whose terms expire on a rotating basis, and the heads of organizations who represent those functions. Parish Council meetings are open to all parishioners.

### It's Bible Bowl Time!

Are you a guru of Matthew's Gospel? We're looking for contestants for Teen and Adult team for the Parish Life Conference, June 29 - July 3. No experience necessary, Nick Nagorny, Church Catechist will train! Test your knowledge during our Parish Coffee Hour at the ten minute mini-Bible Bowl contest every Sunday during Great Lent beginning March 13. Contact Nick at 973.953.0360 and [see the flyer](#) for all the details.

## Recovering a Lost Treasure



Fr. Michael received a beautiful letter from the Chancellor of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America thanking Nick Nagorny for recovering the original street sign for St. Nicholas Church in lower Manhattan. This sign had been in front for the church from the 1970s-1990s. The church was destroyed on 9/11. God bless you Nick and Debbie!

### Women's Guild News

March is Women's History Month throughout the country and our own Women's Guild has many activities planned. Every woman in our parish is a part of this group that leads so many of our philanthropic and social efforts. Please return the membership form you received in the mail, as well as consider a donation to the Bakeless Bake Sale.

Throughout the month, the Women's Guild will host the Coffee Hour on March 6 in honor of all the they do to support in our parish; and on March 20, will have a memorial service in remembrance of our departed sisters in Christ who have served our church community. During the month of March, the women will be making phone calls to those women who have not been attending church. Reaching out to one another is so critical to who we are and what we need to do as a Church community. And in the Women's Guild's continued focus on philanthropy, during the entire month of March, please contribute generously for the **Food Drive to benefit the Center for Food Action** in Englewood, this year's Lenten project. A list of the most needed items are available [here](#). God bless our fabulous women!

The Women's Guild is also sponsoring a **Lenten learning series**. Our own Amy Abdallah will be leading these sessions, open to all parishioners.

**On March 14, the session "Mary, Mary, and Martha—Saints from the Bible,"** will investigate the stories of often-misunderstood biblical saints, Mary Magdalene, Mary of Bethany, and Martha of Bethany. We will consider their great merits and how we can emulate their holiness. This will be followed by Q and A and discussion.

**On March 28, the session is about Our Female Saints.** Participants

will be invited to come with a story of a female saint who is important to them. This saint could be the one for whom they are named for someone whom they admire and desire to emulate. A list of saints will be available from which to choose. This promises to be a communal discussion designed to encourage one another.

## Upcoming Events

### The Luck of St. Anthony TRICKY TRAY

#### **Tricky Tray! Friday, April 29**

The Parish Luck of St. Anthony's Tricky Tray is in full swing and the team has been busy assembling baskets of great gifts!

**Friday, April 29** will be a fun night for all who attend as there are over 200 prizes, Lucky Lady 50/50, door raffles, great food and more!



Some of the great gifts we already have include an overnight New York Experience, Crystal Springs Resort overnight with golf, Tiffany sterling silver jewelry, Waterford crystal, Nora Fleming whimsical ceramics, designer handbags, Ettinger men's and women's leather goods from England, Jersey Mikes Sub for 7, Diners Night Out, gift cards to restaurants for dine in or take out from area restaurants.

See the flyer and invite your friends and make a table. Tickets are on sale now for what is sure to be an evening of fun. Doors open at 6:30 and raffle pull begins at 8pm.

Admission is \$20 in advance, \$25 door  
Includes one sheet of First Tier tickets, coffee, tea, & live music!  
*Dinner options available for purchase*

Additional sheets (25 tickets per sheet)  
\$20 for First Tier sheet (value up to \$100)  
\$30 for Second Tier sheet (value up to \$225)  
\$40 for Third Tier sheet (value up to \$500)  
\$20 for each Grand Prize ticket (prizes value over \$500)  
Limited Bundles available: A \$110 value for \$80. Includes a First,

Second and Third tier sheet plus one Grand prize ticket.

For tickets contact Pam Scarpa (201)-315-7917 or email [stanthonyswomensguild@gmail.com](mailto:stanthonyswomensguild@gmail.com)

This is an all-parish event, and an extremely important and needed fundraiser for our Church. All hands on deck!

## Giant Yard Sale, May 12, 13 and 14, 2022

Don't let your no-longer-needed items end up in landfills. Let them have a second life in someone else's home! It's the perfect time to start that spring cleaning and finding items to donate to the Yard Sale. Pro tip: Set up boxes, and label them: accessories, Christmas decor, housewares; costume jewelry, etc. and then as you sort through your things, drop them in the labeled box. They will be already sorted and ready to drop off on Sunday, May 8, when **Valerie Joseph** and her team create a department store for bargain shoppers in our church hall. **See [the flyer](#)** with all the details. And mark your calendar from May 8-14 for set up, sales and take down.



## News and Notes



**Summer camp registration opened January 8 and sessions are already filling up!**

Scholarships are available to any St. Anthony's child who would like assistance to attend the Antiochian Village Camp this summer. Please speak with Fr Michael.

**Want the camp feel close to home?** St. George Orthodox Church, Little Falls is hosting a **Village Camp at Home** on Saturday, March 12. Students in Grades 3 through 12, and their parents, are invited to spend a fun and educational day with St. George's church school children and teens reliving a typical day at Antiochian Village Camp.

- 9am-4:15pm: Fun activities with AV Camp counselors

- 1:30pm: Parent seminar
- 5:30-8:00pm: Teen event

Register [here](#).

### ShopRite Gift Cards

Reminder: ShopRite supermarket gift cards are available for purchase For \$100, you get \$100 of gift cards; and the Church earns 5%. Cost-free fundraiser! **We are still looking for a volunteer to take over this program.** Please see Betty Gakos, who has run this for many years, or Fr. Michael.

## Sign up to Host Coffee Hour

*(And many thanks to all the parishioners and organizations who already have.)*



We have simplified the process to be both safe and make it easier for every parishioner to host at least one coffee hour a year. A schedule and guidelines are posted in the coffee room. To sign up or learn more, please email [Alice Ziemba](mailto:Alice.Ziemba@stgeorge.org) or call Alice at 201-644-8068.

## March Calendar

**Friday, March 4, 7pm in Church Hall**  
**Women's Guild Book Club**  
 Pride and Prejudice

**Monday, March 7**  
**Clean Monday, Lent Begins**  
*Look for our full Lenten Calendar in the mail*

**Saturday, March 12, starting at 9am**  
**Village Camp at Home at St. George in Little Falls**  
*See story above*

**Sunday, March 13, during coffee hour**  
**Mini Bible Bowl** *Continues every Sunday. See story above*

**Sunday, March 13, 5pm**  
**Sunday of Orthodoxy**  
 Inter-Jurisdictional Vespers, Holy Resurrection Orthodox Church, Wayne, NJ  
[CLICK FOR COMPLETE INFO AND FLYER](#)

**Monday, March 14, 7:45pm**  
**Women's Guild talk on Saints, Mary, Mary, and Martha—Saints from the**

Bible, presented by Amy Abdallah (see story above)

In person or via Zoom link <https://nyack.zoom.us/j/92404996482?pwd=S2tNSDlCRi9OZU9hc3pKa2F0akpkdz09>

Meeting ID: 924 0499 6482

Passcode: 702485

**Tuesday, March 15, 6-9pm.**

**Mini Choir Workshop** with Mareena Boosamra Ball, Dept. of Sacred Music Chairperson. Contact Stratos Mandalakis for information

**Wednesday, March 16, 7:30pm**

**Parish Council meeting** in Fellowship Hall (following Pre-Sanctified liturgy)

**Saturday, March 19, starting at 9am**

**Retreat at St. Stephen's, South Plainfield**

*See details, including [schedule](#)*

**Sunday, March 20**

**Memorial Service for our departed sisters in Christ**

**Monday, March 21, 7pm**

**One night only showing of movie, Man of God**

*See story above*

**Monday, March 28, 7:45pm**

**Women's Guild talk on Our Female Saints.** presented by Amy Abdallah (see story above)

In person or via Zoom link <https://nyack.zoom.us/j/92404996482?pwd=S2tNSDlCRi9OZU9hc3pKa2F0akpkdz09>

Meeting ID: 924 0499 6482

Passcode: 702485

## Looking Ahead

**Friday, April 29, 2022**

**Tricky Tray** (see story above)

**Thursday, Friday, Saturday**

**May 12, 13 and 14, 2022**

**Giant Indoor Yard Sale** (see story above)

**Saturday, May 21, 2022**

**IOCC Wine Tasting**

*Save the date; more info to follow*

**Saturday, May 21-Sunday May 22**

**St. George Little Falls 100 Year Anniversary Celebration Weekend**

**Tuesday, June 14, 2022**

**Don DiNovi Memorial Golf Outing**

*Save the date from now!*

**Wednesday, June 29 - Sunday, July 3**

**Parish Life Conference at Antiochian Village**

<https://www.antiochianevents.com/ny>

**Thursday, Friday, Saturday, Sunday**

**September 8, 9, 10 and 11, 2022**

**Bergen Street Fest and Carnival - Combined!**

Planning for the combined BSF and Carnival has started. If you are interested in helping with the planning or working the event, please see Brian Scarpa or Ed Assile.