



ST. ANTHONY ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

385 Ivy Lane, Bergenfield, NJ 07621

December 31, 2017

PARISH

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St. Anthony's web page: <http://www.stanthonybergenfield.org>

Antiochian Archdiocese web page: <http://www.antiochian.org>

SUNDAY BEFORE THEOPHANY

Epistle: II Timothy 4:5-8

Gospel: Mark 1: 1-8

Tone: Five

THE EPISTLE.

Prokeimenon: O Lord, save your people and bless your inheritance.
To you, O Lord, have I cried, O my God.

The reading is from Saint Paul's Second Letter to Timothy.

TIMOTHY, my son, always be steady, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, fulfil your ministry. For I am already on the point of being sacrificed; the time of my departure has come. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that Day, and not only to me but also to all who have loved his appearing.

THE EUCHARISTIC OFFERINGS

The Holy Oblations are offered at the offertory of the Great Entrance for the health and welfare of those living members, and for those departed this life in Christ of the Watkins family.

PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. **HOLY OBLATIONS (OFFERING) BOOK.** The new pages for the year 2018 are being prepared to receive the names of our family members. **NEW COMMEMORATIONS BEGIN ON JANUARY 7th.** We remember our loves ones

on Names Days, Birthdays, Anniversaries, etc., and also when we want to remember our beloved departed ones. Please record these names as soon as possible. **PRINT CLEARLY: DO NOT WRITE!** and remember **MEMORIAL SERVICES** are scheduled **ONLY** by speaking directly with Father or secretary Genny Mandalakis (Do not write memorial services in the Holy Oblations Book; this list is for the Great Entrance Commemorations only.)

2. From Christmas Day (December 25th) through January 4th inclusive, there is no fasting. This is a general dispensation due to the celebratory nature of this season, i.e. the Twelve Days of Christmas."
3. Liturgy for the Feast Day of the Circumcision of our Lord, and the New Year, will be celebrated next Sunday, December 31st. Liturgy as usual at 10:00 AM
4. The Feast Day of Epiphany (Theophany) will be celebrated on **Sunday, January 7th.** We will then bless the waters. You may bring a small container or bottle.
5. **Sunday, January 21st** is the celebration of our **PATRONAL FEAST DAY of St. Anthony the Great!** St. Anthony is recognized as the "Father of Monasticism" in both the Eastern and Western Churches. You will soon receive a letter from Father, sent to the entire parish regarding this day. It is our "Identity Day!" **PLEASE READ THIS LETTER CAREFULLY!** It will include the meaning of the day, as well as the procedure for the day. Please follow the instructions.
6. After the Liturgy, we will bless the loaves, the Artoclasia, and in the spirit of this Family Day, we will then share a Patron Day Brunch. There is **NO CHARGE** for this day; we expect to see all our children present! This "identity day" is **OUR** day as a community united in love and faith; it is a day of celebrating "who we are and what we do!"
7. When you receive my letter, please consider what I write to you seriously, and respond accordingly. Since this is "our" day, I pray that you will please ponder my words: then fill out the **PLEDGE CARD** you receive, place it in the accompanying envelope, and **BRING IT TO CHURCH** on the 21st; these will be collected and **PLACED ON THE ALTAR** as a sign of our pledge (our vow) to God. We look for a pledge from every person and family in our parish!
8. The Women's Guild would like to thank all the parishioners for the warm clothing that they brought for those less fortunate.
9. **Women's Guild Holiday Dinner:** January 11th will be the Women's Guild post Holiday dinner at Madeline's Petit Paris in Northvale. The price will be \$38.00. Men are welcomed. The dinner will begin at 6:30 PM. Attend for some post holiday fun. See Margaret Klarer or Valerie Allen for any additional details. You may give them your checks.

"Presents under the Christmas tree are of less importance than the presence of Christ in the home."