



## ST. ANTHONY ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

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January 21, 2018

PARISH

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Metropolitan JOSEPH, Archbishop

### FIFTEENTH SUNDAY OF LUKE

Epistle: I Timothy 4:9-15

Gospel: Luke: 19:1-10

Tone: Eight

St. Maximos the Confessor

#### THE EPISTLE

Prokeimenon: The Lord will give strength to his people.

Bring to the Lord, O sons of God, bring to the Lord honor and glory.

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

TIMOTHY, my son, the saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance. For to this end we toil and strive, because we have our hope set on the living God, who is the Savior of all men, especially of those who believe. Command and teach these things. Let no one despise your youth, but set the believers an example in speech and conduct, in love, in faith, in purity. Till I come, attend to the public reading of scripture, to preaching, to teaching. Do not neglect the gift you have, which was given you by prophetic utterance when the council of elders laid their hands upon you. Practice these duties, devote yourself to them, so that all may see your progress.

#### 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 Assile Family.

#### PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. TODAY WE CELEBRATE OUR PATRONAL FEAST DAY OF ST. ANTHONY THE GREAT. St. Anthony is considered by both the Eastern and Western Churches as "The Father of Christian Monasticism." He followed Our Lord's command to "sell what you have and give it to the poor and come and follow me." Thus he entered the Egyptian Desert and there struggled against the Evil One through unceasing prayer and contemplation. As his reputation spread throughout Christendom, the many devout Christians followed him in this way of life. "Intercede for us, oh Holy Father Anthony!"
  - A. Here at St. Anthony's Parish, this is our "identity day," one upon which we recommit ourselves to our unity with each other as brothers and sisters in the "One, Holy, Catholic Apostolic Faith," that is, to that which binds us: our dedication to the "Pan-Orthodox" principle that transcends our

various ethnic roots. This was already formulated at the First Ecumenical Council where the Church ratified the Nicene-Constantinople Creed. (This, and nothing else, guides all we do!)

- B. Therefore, whether your roots are in Asia Minor, Greece, the Middle East, Romania, Serbia, a Slavic Country – or from Italy, Ireland, Germany, etc. – all together we re-dedicate ourselves to CARE for our parish of St. Anthony's which binds us as a family-community in Christ. May the Almighty God continue to bless St. Anthony's and may we all, in response, continue to express our commitment and support to our parish.
2. We thank all those who worked to make this Patronal Feast Day the beautiful day it has become. It is a shared responsibility of the Fellowship, Outreach Committee and our dedicated "Kitchen Crew," who have prepared this special Brunch. There will be no charge; all those present in the church are welcome next door-please bring the children.
  3. **Our PROCEDURE in the Church today:**
    - A. After the final blessing, the special **envelopes** with your **pledge cards**, (sent to our homes) will be collected. NOTE: Please do NOT place these envelopes in the Regular, every Sunday Collection Tray, during the Liturgy.
    - B. These sealed envelopes and pledge cards will be taken by the stewards up to the Sanctuary as our solemn pledge to God's Altar. This clearly reminds us that we are not members of a "club," a dues-paying institution as such, but of God's House to which we belong and for which we pledge our care.
    - C. After Father offers our pledge at the Altar with a special prayer, we will then reverence the Cross and proceed to the Church Hall.
  4. The Parish Council Meeting which was postponed on January 17th, will now be held on Wednesday, January 24<sup>th</sup>, at 7:30 PM SHARP! Please be on time.
  5. Next Sunday, January 28<sup>th</sup>, we will begin our "Epiphany Series of Lectures." The theme of this year's series is: "The Essential Elements" (of the Orthodox Church), and they will be delivered during the homily time. They are as follows:
    - A. January 28<sup>th</sup> - "The Place of Holy Orders in the Orthodox Church" Father Joseph;
    - B. February 4<sup>th</sup> - "The Place of Holy Scripture in the Orthodox Church" Nicholas Nagorny;
    - C. February 11<sup>th</sup> "The Place of the Sacramental Life in the Orthodox Church" Stratos Mandalakis;
    - D. February 18<sup>th</sup> - "The Place of the Church Building in the Orthodox Church" Father Michael.
  6. The next meeting of the "Young Men's Educational Auxiliary" group will be held on Monday, January 29<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 PM. We will again meet in the Jabara Media Room. Father Joseph looks forward to this second meeting, the first being held last September, and will again lead the discussion into another area of social and moral "issues." We will use an article entitled "Men aren't endangered species; real men might be," and flows out of the sexual abuse issues now prominent, and into imagined and real masculinity.
  7. **HOLY OBLATIONS (OFFERING) BOOK. The new pages for the year 2018 are ready to receive the names of our family members. NEW COMMEMORATIONS BEGIN TODAY, JANUARY 7<sup>th</sup>.** 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.)
  8. The deadline for the March/April edition of the Desert News is February 1. Please contact Claudia Bogris at [cbogris@aol.com](mailto:cbogris@aol.com) with any news or calendar dates to be included.
  9. Please remember to pay your Women's Guild dues today. The dues are \$20. See Eve Meyer or Betty Gakos if you have any questions.
  10. **SPRING YARD SALE: ITEMS NEEDED** Items are needed for the annual Yard Sale scheduled for May 17, 18, & 19. Are there some items sitting in your attic, basement or garage that you haven't used in a few years? Do you have any unwanted or unused Christmas gifts? If so, please put them aside to donate in May for this major fundraiser, which is entirely, profit for our church. See Valerie Joseph with any questions.