

St. Anthony the Great Orthodox Church

A Parish of the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America

Metropolitan JOSEPH, Archbishop

Bishop BASIL, Diocese of Wichita

7202 FM 2920 ~ Spring, TX 77379 ~ www.StAnthonyTheGreat.org

OFFICE HOURS: Tuesday-Friday 9:00a-4:00p ~ Office is closed on Mondays

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12 January 2020

WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS AND GUESTS It is a joy to have you with us this morning, and we invite you to join us in the social hall after the service for coffee and fellowship. Please feel free to complete the Welcome Card or sign the Guestbook in the vestibule. Thank you for worshipping with us!

RECEIVING COMMUNION While the Orthodox Church continues to pray for the unity of all, Holy Communion is only served to Orthodox Christians who have prepared themselves through prayer, fasting and confession.

ELECTRONIC DEVICES Upon entering, we ask that you silence your cell phone and refrain from using electronic devices during the service.

PRAYER REQUESTS To be included on the prayer list, or to join the parish prayer chain, please contact the Church Office.

TODAY'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

BREAD OF OBLATION is offered by Fadia Khoury

COFFEE HOUR is sponsored by Fadia Khoury, Pat Boyd, and Barbara Maligas

TODAY IS YOUTH SUNDAY The youth of our parish will be ushering, and reading the Epistle. A children's sermon will be offered.

CHURCH SCHOOL resumes today.

CATECHISM CLASS begins today immediately after Holy Communion. Class will be held in the Church Office building, at the end of the deck behind the church.

2019 VOTING MEMBERS are listed in today's bulletin and in following Sunday bulletins until the Annual Parish Meeting on **January 26th**, 2020. In order to vote, you must be a pledging member.

HOME BLESSING SEASON If you would like Fr. Anthony to bless your home, please see p. 5 of this bulletin.

SCHEDULE OF THIS WEEK'S DIVINE SERVICES

Wednesday, Jan. 15	6:00 p	Daily Vespers
Thursday, Jan. 16	6:00 p	Divine Liturgy for Feast of St. Anthony the Great
Saturday, Jan. 18	4:30 p 5:00 p	Confession (or by appointment w/Fr. Anthony) Great Vespers
Sunday, Jan. 19	8:45 AM 10:00 AM	Orthros Divine Liturgy

UPCOMING MEETINGS AND ACTIVITIES

BIBLE STUDY Join us Wednesday, January 15th, for our Bible study with Father Anthony from 10:00 AM – 11:00 AM. We are studying the Letter of James. All are invited to attend.

WEDNESDAY VESPERS will be served Wednesday, January 15th, at 6:00p.

DIVINE LITURGY for the feast of our patron, St. Anthony the Great, will be served Thursday, January 16th, at 6:00p.

MEN'S SOCIETY GATHERING Men of St. Anthony, join us Tuesday, January 21st, at 7:00p for dinner and a presentation. Freewill offering accepted. If you would like to attend, please RSVP Fr. Anthony by this Tuesday, January 14th.

GENERAL PARISH MEETING will be Sunday, January 26, following Divine Liturgy.

NOTICES & ANNOUNCEMENTS

2020 FUNDRAISERS We are targeting three major fundraisers this year: Lenten Fish Fry, Food Festival, and New Year's Eve Party. A co-chair, marketing person, and volunteers are needed for the Fish Fry; chairs, co-chairs and committees are needed for the Food Festival and New Year's Eve Party. If you would like to help with these events, join us on Thursday, January 23rd at 7:00p in the Hall for an informational meeting. For more information, contact Tod Bradley at 936-524-8525, or todwbradley@gmail.com.

FROZEN MEALS FOR PARISHIONERS We are accepting frozen 1 pan (8X12 inch aluminum pan) home-cooked meals for members of our parish family for special circumstances (new baby, loss of job, illness, etc.). If you would like to help, please bring a freezer-friendly meal such as casseroles, chili, lasagne, tortilla pie, etc. to the church on Sundays in January. Please label the meal with the date it was prepared, meal name, and with a list of ingredients. Meals will be stored in the office freezer and dispersed as needed. For more information, or to request a meal confidentially, please call Bonnie at the church office, or Fr. Anthony.

NOMINATIONS FOR PARISH COUNCIL St. Anthony's Annual Parish Meeting is scheduled for Sunday, January 26, 2020. We will elect two (2) members to the Parish Council for a term of three years. The Nominating Committee (Fr. Anthony, Ann Tannous, and Walid Kawaja) are receiving names. Potential nominees must be "voting members in good standing" according to our parish Constitution and By-Laws.

FAMILY CAMP HOUSTON 2020 You have heard of your child's wonderful experience at Camp St. Raphael in the summer. Now it's time for you to share the camp experience! Join us February 14th – 17th at the Kaiserhof Retreat Center in Tomball! Register at <https://forms.gle/79LfQcy2AY3FT38K9>. Deadline to register is Wednesday, January 15th.

YOUTH & YOUNG ADULT NEWS AND EVENTS

CHURCH SCHOOL NEWLETTER is available on the information table in the narthex.

3-Year History

YEAR	Actual Pledges	Pledge Goal
2020	59 as of Jan. 11	110
2019	100	100
2018	84	100

Why Should I Have My Home Blessed?

Fr. Anthony Baba

The title of this article is one of the questions I usually ask the children who are at the homes I go to bless. The basic question is pointing to the icon of Jesus and the Virgin and asking them who those people are. For me, seeing the children is the best part of blessing a home. In fact, when I was a child, my favorite time of year was when my priest was coming to bless our home. Besides the fact that my mother used to make me and all my siblings clean every square inch of the house, I anticipated his arrival with such joy and eagerness.

Among the many things I learned from him was his ability to connect with children. He too would ask questions, and one of the questions he would ask us was, "Do you take showers?" Not to be disrespectful but the first thought was, "What?" followed by, "Are you serious, Father?" Of course we shower. Then he'd ask, "What do you use when you shower?" And the response followed, "Umm, well Father, we use shampoo, conditioner, and body soap..." hoping that that was the answer he was looking for, but unfortunately it wasn't. "What else do you use?"

Of course, water. It's what we use to cleanse ourselves. It's no different when we have our homes blessed. We use water, Holy Water, to sprinkle and cleanse our homes from the spiritual sins that stain not just the carpet on our living room floors, but the sins that lurk there and in every room. Do we have arguments? Do we quarrel with our siblings? Do we let the "sun set on our anger?" Even if we live in a peaceful and perfect home, sin infiltrates. As Americans, we're accustomed to showering at least once a day. Can you imagine showering once a year? Or even worse, never showering?

The season of Theophany, when our Lord and Savior was baptized and through His baptism sanctified the waters and all of creation, is the time of year when we are all called to participate in this mystery. If you've never had your home blessed, I encourage you to. If you're accustomed to having your home blessed every year, don't stop! And if you need to have your home blessed "out of season", as the old Jackson Five song goes, "just call my name, and I'll be there."

HOME BLESSING SEASON

Begins in January

Fr. Anthony will be blessing homes in January.

If you would like to have your home blessed, please fill out this form
give it to Fr. Anthony.

Name: _____

City: _____

Cell Phone: _____

Preferred time of visit (circle one): **Morning** or **Evening**

SUNDAY AFTER THE THEOPHANY OF CHRIST

Entrance Hymn of Ordinary Sundays

Come, let us worship and fall down before Christ. Save us, O Son of God, Who art risen from the dead; who sing to Thee. Alleluia.

Troparion of the Resurrection (Tone 5)

Let us believers praise and worship the Word; coeternal with the Father and the Spirit, born of the Virgin for our salvation. For, He took pleasure in ascending the Cross in the flesh to suffer death; and to raise the dead by His glorious Resurrection.

Troparion of the Theophany of CHRIST (Tone 1)

When Thou, O Lord, wast baptized in the Jordan, worship of the Trinity was made manifest; for the voice of the Father bore witness to Thee, calling Thee His beloved Son. And the Spirit in the likeness of a dove confirmed the truth of His word. O Christ our God, Who hast appeared and enlightened the world, glory to Thee.

Troparion of St. Anthony the Great, our patron (Tone 4)

Thou didst become like the zealous Elijah, and didst follow John the Baptist in his upright ways, as dweller in the wilderness, thou didst steady the world by prayer. O Father Anthony, intercede with Christ our God for our soul's salvation.

Kontakion of the Theophany of CHRIST (Tone 4)

On this day Thou hast appeared unto the whole world, and Thy light, O Sovereign Lord, is signed on us who sing Thy praise and chant with knowledge: Thou hast now come, Thou hast appeared, O Thou Light unapproachable.

THE EPISTLE

Let Thy mercy, O Lord, be upon us. Rejoice in the Lord, O ye righteous.

The Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Ephesians (4:7-13).

Brethren, grace was given to each of us according to the measure of Christ's gift. Therefore, it is said, "When He ascended on high He led a host of captives, and He gave gifts to men." (In saying, "He ascended," what does it mean but that He had also descended into the lower parts of the earth? He who descended is He who also ascended far above all the heavens, that He might fill all things.) And His gifts were that some should be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ.

THE GOSPEL

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew. (4:12-17).

At that time, when Jesus heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew into Galilee; and leaving Nazareth he went and dwelt in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulon and Naphtali, so that what was spoken by the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled: "The land of Zebulon and the land of Naphtali, toward the sea, across the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles—the people who sat in darkness have seen a great light, and for those who sat in the region and shadow of death light has dawned." From that time Jesus began to preach, saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of Heaven is at hand."