

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 ~ (281) 251-6000

www.StAnthonyTheGreat.org

OFFICE HOURS: Tuesday-Friday 9:00a-3:00p ~ Office is closed on Mondays

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7 January 2018

WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS AND GUESTS If you would like to receive our weekly email of events and services, please complete the Welcome Card located in the pew pocket, and place it in the offering tray or give it to one of the ushers. You are welcome to join us next door for coffee and fellowship following the service.

RECEIVING COMMUNION While only Orthodox Christians who have spiritually prepared themselves by fasting, prayer and confession may receive Holy Communion, all are welcome to venerate the Cross and receive the blessed bread at dismissal.

CELL PHONES and all other electronic devices should be shut off during Divine Liturgy.

BULLETIN DEADLINE To include information in the bulletin, please notify the Church Office by 9:00AM Wednesday at OfficeOfStAnthony@gmail.com.

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 the Parish Council

CHURCH SCHOOL resumes today.

COFFEE HOUR/HOLY BREAD SIGN -UP CHART FOR 2018 is in the hall on the information table.

SPAGHETTI LUNCHEON starts January 11th! Please feel free to take information cards and share them with your friends, family and neighbors! Cards are on the information tables in the narthex and in the hall.

SCHEDULE OF THIS WEEK'S DIVINE SERVICES

Wednesday, Jan. 10	12:00 p	Sixth Hour
Saturday, Jan. 13	4:30 p 5:00 p	Confession (or by appointment w/Fr. Anthony) Great Vespers
Sunday, Jan. 14	8:45 AM 10:00 AM	Orthros Divine Liturgy

UPCOMING MEETING AND ACTIVITIES

HOME BLESSING SEASON IS HERE! If you would like to have your home blessed in the New Year, please fill out the form in this bulletin and give it to Fr. Anthony or Fr. John.

SPAGHETTI LUNCH COMMITTEE If you would like to volunteer your time for our weekly Spaghetti Luncheons, please join us for our preliminary meeting this Tuesday, January 9th at 10:30AM. Please call the Church Office (281-251-6000) if you plan to attend this meeting.

FIRST SPAGHETTI LUNCH will be this Thursday, January 11th from 11 AM to 2 p. Come and join us for great food and fellowship!

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING is scheduled for this Thursday, January 11th, at 7:15p.

DIVINE LITURGY FOR THE FEAST OF ST. ANTHONY with His Grace Bishop THOMAS will be served on Tuesday, January 16th, at 6:30p.

GENERAL PARISH MEETING (non-voting) will be Sunday, January 21st, in the Fellowship Hall immediately following Divine Liturgy. The purpose of this meeting is to inform our parishioners of the year-end reports of 2017.

NOTICES & ANNOUNCEMENTS

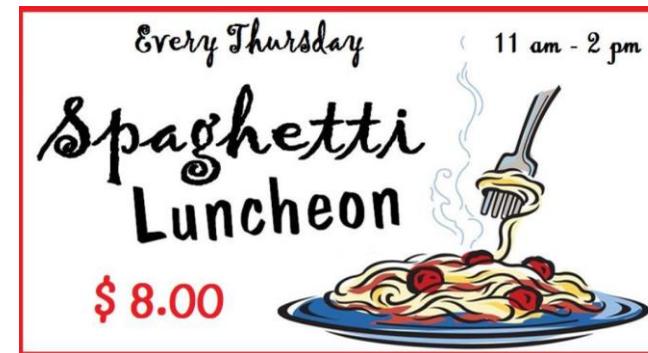
STRIVE TO TITHE Our General Pledge Fund Drive for the coming year has commenced. The goal is for each of us to offer the Biblical tithe (or 10%) of our income. Understandably, giving a tithe can be difficult, financially burdensome and maybe even impossible, but we can certainly strive for it little by little. Pledge forms are available in the narthex and on the information table in the Hall. As of December 3rd there are 30 pledging families for 2018.

ADULT EDUCATION AND CATECHISM CLASS led by Deacon Photios begins after everyone has received Holy Communion and meets in the old Fellowship Hall.

YOUTH & YOUNG ADULT NEWS AND EVENTS

WINTER CAMP for Teen SOYO is January 12-15, 2018.

YOUTH SUNDAY is Sunday, January 21st. The youth of our parish will be reading the Epistle, ushering, and singing during Communion.



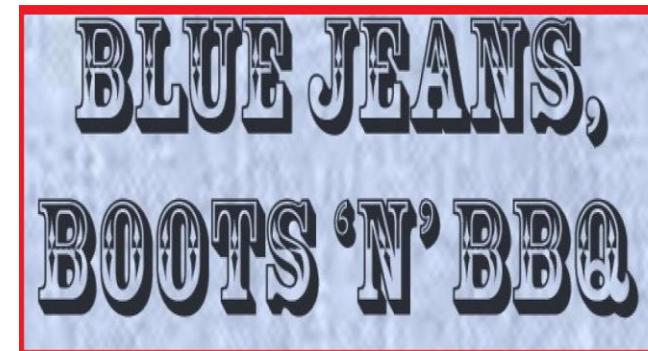
Every Thursday 11 am - 2 pm

Spaghetti Luncheon

\$ 8.00

The sign features a red border and an illustration of a plate of spaghetti with a fork lifting a strand.

SPAGHETTI LUNCHEON Our parish is partnering with Italian Café (19620 Kuykendahl) to provide our community with a weekly luncheon every Thursday from 11-2 beginning on January 11th. It will be open to the public, and to you and your friends! While it will not be our responsibility to do any cooking, it is a great opportunity for you to provide our parish with your time. We will need greeters and helpers to volunteer. Please call the Church Office to sign up!



BLUE JEANS,
BOOTS 'N' BBQ

The sign has a blue background with white, stylized, blocky text.

"BLUE JEANS, BOOTS & BAR-B-Q" EVENT is scheduled for **Saturday, February 10th** after Vespers! This will be a fun-filled night for the adults and teens of our parish (ages 13 and up). Event tickets are available for \$25, and that ticket not only gets you a delicious dinner brought to you by "Chip and Rusty Meat Emporium", it also gives you a chance to win a \$500 Visa gift card! For tickets or more information, please contact Theresa Allen at Dandt3@att.net.

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 and Fr. John will be blessing homes this in January.

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

Name: _____

City: _____

Cell Phone: _____

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

SYNAXIS OF THE HOLY PROPHET, FORERUNNER & BAPTIST JOHN

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 6)

When Mary stood at Thy grave, looking for Thy sacred body, angelic powers shone above Thy revered tomb; and the soldiers who were to keep guard became as dead men. Thou led Hades captive and wast not tempted thereby. Thou didst meet the Virgin and didst give life to the world, O Thou, Who art risen from the dead, O Lord, glory to Thee.

Troparion of the Theophany (Tone 1)

When Thou, O Lord, wast baptized in the Jordan, worship of the Trinity wast 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 hath appeared and enlightened the world, glory to Thee.

Troparion of the Synaxis of John the Baptist (Tone 2)

The memory of the righteous is celebrated with songs of praise, but the Lord’s testimony is sufficient for thee, O Forerunner. Thou wast shown indeed to be the most honorable of the prophets, for in the waters thou didst baptize Him Who had been proclaimed. After suffering with joy in behalf of the truth, thou didst proclaim even to those in Hades the God Who appeared in the flesh, Who takest away the sin of the world, and granteth us the Great Mercy.

Troparion of St. Anthony, our Patron (Tone 4)

Thou didst become like the zealous Elijah, and didst follow John the Baptist in his upright ways, as a 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

(For the Synaxis)

The righteous shall rejoice in the Lord. O God, hear my prayer.

The reading is from the Acts of the Apostles. (19:1-8)

In those days, while Apollos was at Corinth, Paul passed through the upper country and came to Ephesus. There he found some disciples. And he said to them, “Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?” And they said, “No, we have never even heard that there is a Holy Spirit.” And he said, “Into what then were you baptized?” They said, “Into John’s baptism.” And Paul said, “John baptized with the baptism of repentance, telling the people to believe in the One Who was to come after him, that is, Jesus.” On hearing this, they were baptized in the Name of the Lord Jesus. And when Paul had laid his hands upon them, the Holy Spirit came on them; and they spoke with tongues and prophesied. There were about twelve of them in all. And he entered the synagogue and for three months spoke boldly, arguing and pleading about the Kingdom of God.

THE GOSPEL

The reading is from the Holy Gospel according to St. John. (1:29-34)

At that time, John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, “Behold, the Lamb of God, Who takes away the sin of the world! This is He of Whom I said, ‘After me comes a man Who ranks before me, for He was before me.’ I myself did not know Him; but for this I came baptizing with water, that He might be revealed to Israel.” And John bore witness, “I saw the Spirit descend as a dove from heaven, and it remained on Him. I myself did not know Him; but He Who sent me to baptize with water said to me, ‘He on Whom you see the Spirit descend and remain, this is He Who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.’ And I have seen and have borne witness that this is the Son of God.”