

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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6 January 2019

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 Marlene Rebeiz

COFFEE HOUR is sponsored by the St. Anthony Parish Council

DIVINE LITURGY OF ST. BASIL is celebrated today. If you are following along in the Divine Liturgy book, at page 21 we jump to page 37.

BLESSING OF THE WATERS will follow today's Divine Liturgy.

2018 VOTING MEMBERS are listed in today's bulletin and in following Sunday bulletins until the Annual Parish Meeting on January 27, 2019. In order to vote, you must be a pledging member. Please see the insert in this bulletin.

JANUARY IS HOME BLESSING MONTH Please see insert in this bulletin for more information.

2019 COFFEE HOUR CHART is now in the hall. Sign up for your 2019 dates today!

JANUARY CALENDAR is available in the narthex and hall.

SCHEDULE OF UPCOMING DIVINE SERVICES

Wednesday, January 9	12:00 p	6 th Hour Prayer Service
Saturday, January 12	4:30 p 5:00 p	Confession (or by appointment w/Fr. Anthony or Fr. John) Great Vespers
Sunday, January 20	8:45 AM 10:00 AM	Orthros Divine Liturgy

UPCOMING MEETING AND ACTIVITIES

CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS Join the ladies on Tuesday, January 8 at 9:00AM to help take down the Christmas decorations.

All are welcome!

MAM LADIES MEETING will be Tuesday, January 8 at 5:30p. Meeting will include elections of officers for 2019.

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING is scheduled for Thursday, January 10, at 7:15p.

CHURCH SCHOOL resumes next Sunday, January 13.

DO YOU LIVE IN SPRING OR THE WOODLANDS? If so, join us at the next monthly Home Outreach on Friday, January 25th at the home of Stefanos and MaryAnne Giannaris. For more information and/or to RSVP, please contact MaryAnne at maryannehora@hotmail.com.

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING will be Sunday, January 27, immediately following Divine Liturgy. The Annual Report packet will be mailed to the voting membership of St. Anthony.

NOTICES & ANNOUNCEMENTS

STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN DRIVE has commenced and will continue through December. If you have already received your pledge form in the mail, please submit it as soon as possible. Forms are available in the narthex.

ST. EMMELIA ORTHODOX HOMESCHOOL CONFERENCE Interested in homeschooling? Are you a homeschooling family? Mark your calendars for Friday through Sunday, January 11-13, at The Saint Constantine School in Houston for "Charting & Staying the Course". Fr. John Whiteford, of St. Jonah Orthodox Church in Spring will be the keynote speaker. Registration is coming soon! Please see www.saintemmeliaconferences.com for more information.

THE SAINT CONSTANTINE SCHOOL GALA will be held on January 26th with His Grace Bishop THOMAS. Save the date! For more information, call 832-975-7075, or visit saintconstantine.org/gala.

ST. MICHAEL BEAUMONT ANNIVERSARY GALA Save the date for our sister parish's 120th Anniversary Gala which will be held on Saturday, February 23rd with His Eminence Metropolitan JOSEPH. For more info, call 409-838-4951.

YOUTH & YOUNG ADULT NEWS AND EVENTS

TEEN SOYO WINTER CAMP for 7th - 12th graders will be held January 18-21, 2019 at Camp St. Raphael! Registration is open! Please make every effort to sign your teen up as soon as registration opens. Visit www.eventbee.com/v/wamp2019#/tickets.

FAMILY CAMP ST. RAPHAEL will be the weekend of Presidents' Day (February 15-18). Flyers and registration forms are available in the narthex and hall information table.

CAMP ST. RAPHAEL DATES for 2019 are as follows: Session 1: June 30 - July 6, Session 2: July 7-13, Session 3: July 14-20. Please plan accordingly as these dates are a week later than our usual camping sessions.

Food For Parish (FFP)

Drop-Off Schedule:

Sunday, January 6 ~ Non-Perishables

Sunday, January 27 ~ Perishables

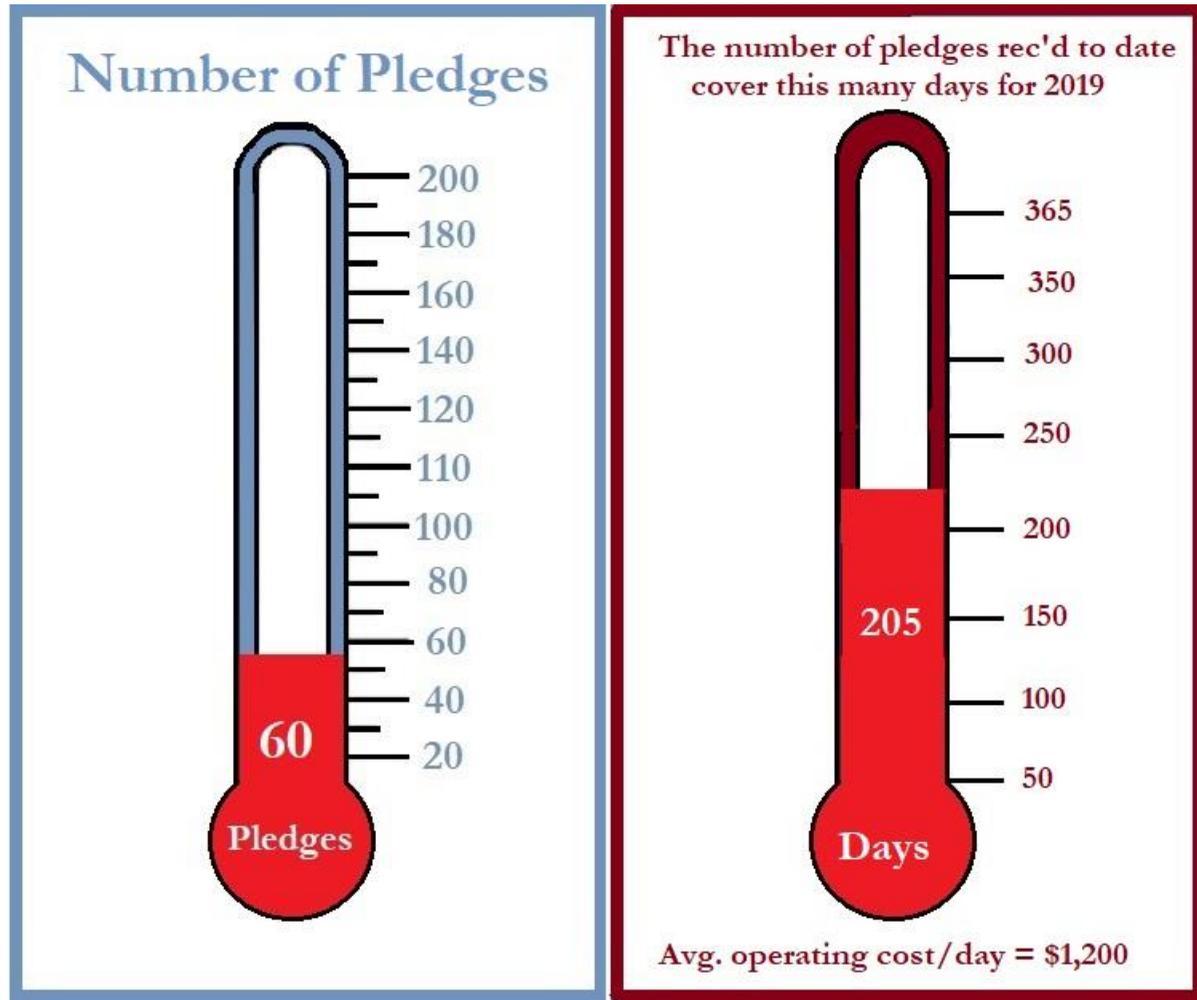
****We are in need of perishable items, such as milk, eggs, cheese, ground beef and chicken****

Any St. Anthony parishioner who is in need is invited to set a confidential appointment with our Church Secretary, Bonnie (281.251.6000) or Fr. Anthony for pickup.

STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN

As a point of reference, for 2019, our projected expenses are estimated to be \$440,000 – that’s an average of over \$36,000/month or \$1,200/day! These expenses include everything from paying the monthly mortgage to clergy and staff salaries to all the bills: electric, gas, water, waste, cleaning service, lawn care, etc. Our parish serves approximately **150** families. We are striving for 100% participation and are hopeful you will help us reach that goal.

Help us reach the top!



THEOPHANY OF OUR LORD, GOD AND SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST

Entrance Hymn of The Theophany of CHRIST

Blessed is He that cometh in the Name of the Lord. The Lord is God and hath appeared unto us. Save us, O Son of God, Who wast baptized by John in the Jordan; who sing to Thee. Alleluia.

Troparion of the Theophany of CHRIST (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 hast appeared and enlightened the world, glory to Thee.

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

Blessed is He that cometh in the Name of the Lord.

O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good; for His mercy endureth forever.

The Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to Titus. (2:11-15; 3:4-7)

My son Titus, the grace of God has appeared for the salvation of all men, training us to renounce irreligion and worldly passions, and to live sober, upright, and godly lives in this world; awaiting our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, Who gave Himself for us to redeem us from all iniquity and to purify for Himself a people of His own who are zealous for good deeds. Declare these things; exhort and reprove with all authority. Let no one disregard you. When the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, He saved us, not because of deeds done by us in righteousness, but in virtue of His own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal in the Holy Spirit, which He poured out upon us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that we might be justified by His grace and become heirs in hope of eternal life.

THE GOSPEL

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew. (3:13-17)

At that time, Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to John, to be baptized by him. John would have prevented Him, saying, "I need to be baptized by Thee, and Thou dost come to me?" But Jesus answered him, "Let it be so now; for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness." Then he consented. And when Jesus was baptized, He went up immediately from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and alighting on Him; and lo, a voice from heaven, saying, "This is My beloved Son, with Whom I am well pleased."

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 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**