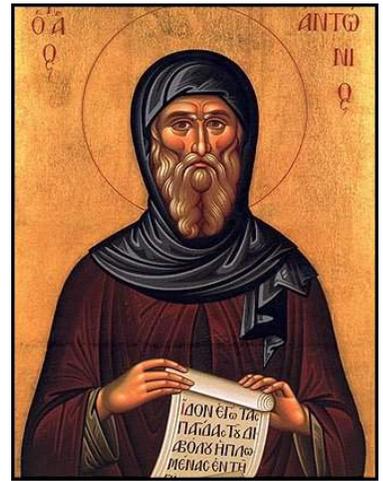


St. Anthony's Scroll

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St. Anthony Orthodox Christian
Church

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Relationships In Iconography

Fr. Anthony Baba

Though the article shows that I'm the author, the title is taken from the words that our Iconographer, Kh. Erin Kimmett shared with us after Liturgy on Sunday, October 30th. Icons are relational. Sure, they're paintings or writings, but there is a much deeper meaning and understanding of what the purpose is. The purpose of fashioning a church with icons is not to "make it look pretty" though it is that, however, it's much more than that! Icons are often referred to as "windows to Heaven." We have plenty of windows that bring in natural light, now we have even more windows that bring us the natural light of Heaven. Each icon in the church is placed in a certain place for a certain purpose. The Pantocrator, Christ the Almighty, rests at the highest point in the church holding the Holy Book and giving us His blessing, surrounded by the Prophets who foretold of His coming, and held up by the four columns of the Evangelists: Matthew, Mark, Luke and John, who brought The Word of God to us in their Holy Gospels. They speak to us, and the Church is beautified with the holy icons so that we can appreciate their words, etch them in our hearts and minds, and emulate them in our own walk of life.

Our relationship with God: the Father, Son and Holy Spirit – our relationship with His Mother, the Holy Prophets and all the Saints, and our relationship with each other is strengthened by their intercessions. We ask them to pray for us. We call on our friends and family when we're in need. We come to Church to be in Communion with one another. What a joy it is now that we can visually see being in Communion with the Holy Ones who have gone before us!



It's in our nature to secure what is sacred or special to us. Our personal jewelry, for example, might be kept in a safe we have at home. Our records, be it baptismal or birth certificates, are kept in a file or drawer where no one else in the family usually opens. We don't casually share this with others because of what these things personally mean to us. There is absolutely no doubt in my mind that our Church is sacred and very special to each and every one of us, but it's not meant to be just for us. It's not a place we lock up in a safe where only a few people know the code. Our Church, with all the Holy Icons, are to be shared with the hundreds and thousands of people who have no relationships at all. The icons are not just paint and canvas to be admired – YOU are the icon. You are the living icon who bring the images to life. Pray to them, ask for their intercession, and allow them to invigorate your life and all the relationships you share.

St. Anthony the Great Orthodox Christian Church

7202 FM 2920 ~ Spring, TX 77379 ~ (281) 251-6000 ~ www.stanthonythegreat.org

JOIN US ON SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 13TH

*The Ordination of Photios Beekman to the
Holy Diaconate by the hand of
His Grace Bishop Basil*

MATINS - 8:45 AM

HIERARCHAL DIVINE LITURGY - 10:00 AM

FOLLOWED BY LUNCHEON IN HONOR OF THE NEWLY-ORDAINED

GREAT VESPERS

Saturday, November 12th at 5:00 PM

with His Grace Bishop BASIL & Clergy,
chanted by Protopsalti Dr. Sam Cohlma.

**Your prayers and presence at Great Vespers on
Saturday and Liturgy on Sunday
morning are appreciated.**

Please arrive early or on time!

Y.E.S. In Houston

Adella Winder

YES, or Youth Equipped to Serve, provides opportunities for teenagers to participate in a weekend of service that aims to bring youth to an awareness of Christ in themselves and others while serving their community. YES was in Houston on October 28-30, 2016.

The YES experience began on Friday evening with dinner, orientation, and a Prayer Tour, which was a two-hour tour of Houston from a very different perspective. On this tour, our group visited many well-known Houston locations, such as the Houston Police Officer's Memorial and The Joy School, to learn about the relatively unknown disparities existing within our community.

All day Saturday, the team did multiple acts of service together at different locations around Houston, further diving into the real issues that face our neighbors who are most in need. We began our day at Bread of Life, an organization that "provides solutions to the consequences of poverty through sustaining, equipping, and transforming the forgotten – with compassion." Our teens helped sort and distribute donated clothing to homeless individuals while they waited for lunch, which is provided each Sunday by Bread of Life. After passing out clothes, teens sat with these members of the community, talking, painting, and playing cards.

After visiting Bread of Life, our group participated in several other activities which helped to change perceptions on who our brothers and sisters in Christ really are. Each person on this trip had unique encounters with different members of the Houston community that they would not have interacted with on just any given day.

One teen beautifully summed up YES when he shared about his experience, "The YES trip really changed my view of the poor and homeless in Houston, and also changed how I view every stranger I encounter. I think the most important concept I learned in my participation in YES is the idea that we ALL are one family, and there is no reason why we can't treat everyone as if they were our brothers and sisters."

Through the brief orientation and many opportunities of direct service, our students were provided a safe place to learn how to live for the sake of others. This hands-on, service-learning approach is intended to raise up service leaders who will guide others in loving and serving our neighbors and one another. God willing, YES will be an annual event for the teens of Houston.



St. Anthony's Scroll

St. Anthony the Great Orthodox Church

7202 FM 2920

Spring, TX 77379

www.stanthonythegreat.org

CHURCH STAFF

| | |
|----------------|-----------------------|
| Pastor | Rev. Fr. Anthony Baba |
| Youth Director | Adella Winder |
| Secretary | Bonnie Kokkinis |

NOVEMBER FASTING

On Wednesdays and Fridays prior to November 15, the normal fasting traditions are observed: abstinence from meat, poultry, and dairy products. The Nativity Fast begins Tuesday, November 15th. The usual fasting regime is kept everyday during the Fast in November, except we are dispensed from fasting on Thanksgiving Day, and wine and in some traditions, fish, is permitted on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and weekends.

MAM Ladies Society selling baklava at the Gypsy Market



L to R: Christine Rigia, Randa Nassif, Fr. Anthony, Faten Ashrawi, Jean Mathopoulos and Joanne Papadopoulos

STEWARDSHIP MONTH

Every year during our General Parish Meeting, the Voting Membership of our Church reviews the upcoming year's budget. We must give glory and thanks to God for the growth we have seen in our young Church! This generation is blessed to witness so many milestones in the life of parish. Beginning with the actual temple, completed just five years ago, to the installation of icons which will be completed this month, to the construction of a new fellowship hall!

All this work cannot be done without your generosity. Our expected expense for next year is nearly half a million dollars, \$460,000 to be more precise.

Each year, we ask our non-tithing pledging members to increase their pledge by 10% so that we can help reach our goal. Please make every effort to submit your 2017 Pledge form before the year gets here!

BISHOP BASIL ENDOWMENT

Honor Bishop BASIL on his name day, the Feast of St. Basil the Great, January 1, with a gift to the Endowment Fund that bears his name for establishing and maintaining missions within the Diocese of Wichita and Mid-America. See one of our Mission Support Team Members at the table in the hallway starting November 6th through the end of the month. Make checks payable to the "Bishop BASIL Missions Endowment Fund" and take this opportunity to honor Bishop BASIL.