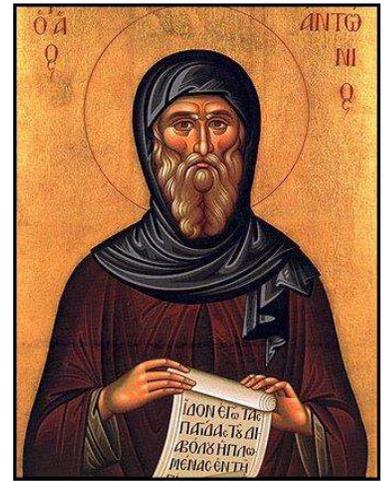


# St. Anthony's Scroll



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Orthodox Christian Church

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## Don't Let Lent Pass You By

Fr. Anthony Baba

So it's coming...Great Lent. In just a short two weeks or so, Lent will begin on Monday, February 19<sup>th</sup>. Actually, it begins on the eve of the 19<sup>th</sup>, Sunday evening with Forgiveness Vespers. If you've never been to this service, you should definitely make plans to come. (Sunday, Feb. 18 @ 6pm). There's no better way to start Lent than by asking and receiving forgiveness from your brothers and sisters in Christ.

I have a habit of referring to almost every service in Lent as "my favorite service". If you're familiar with the services, especially those of Holy Week, you might even have a favorite yourself. Each service of Lent has its own special meaning and significance. From Great Compline on Monday evenings to Pre-Sanctified Liturgy on Wednesday evenings to the Akathist service on Friday evenings, there is a beautiful fountain of spiritual nourishment to appreciate. Then there's Holy Week where each night brings new meaning to our spiritual lives.

Don't let Lent pass you by! The fast can seem so daunting that we might say to ourselves, "Our Lent is just too hard for me to even try." Or you might even say, "There's really no point in taking Lent seriously because I just don't understand any of it." Or, I'm busy with work. I'm too involved with my extracurricular activities that I don't have time to go to an evening service.

And perhaps one of the greatest deterrents is that the traffic is so horrible that it would take well over an hour to get to Church. We could go on and on about what might prevent our presence in the weekday evening services. I certainly cannot relate to the traffic problem, because I "work" at Church and my job is to be here to serve. For you who have "real jobs", it can be very difficult to attend the services, especially if you're not leaving work till after 6. I get it. Even if you leave work at a decent hour, it can still be difficult. But that's the point. Lent isn't supposed to be easy because life isn't always easy. We all have challenges we are faced with – Lent allows us to understand the depth of what those challenges can produce in us.

Schedule days within the week to attend the services. Wednesday evening, for Pre-Sanctified Liturgy is a great opportunity to express the Lenten season and make it real in your daily life. It's in the middle of the week, there's a pot-luck dinner afterwards, and you can receive Holy Communion (if you've fasted after your noon-day meal).

I wish to strongly encourage you, the parishioners of St. Anthony (and those who may read this who are not members of our parish) to take Lent seriously. Use this time to reflect on your personal relationship with Christ and how it can be strengthened. Don't let Lent pass you by.

St. Anthony the Great Orthodox Christian Church

7202 FM 2920 ~ Spring, TX 77379 ~ (281) 251-6000 ~ [www.stanthonythegreat.org](http://www.stanthonythegreat.org)

*On Martin Luther King weekend, eight of our teens went to Camp St. Raphael in Oklahoma for our Annual Teen SOYO Winter Camp. 15 year-old Jowana Musleh shares her experience here:*

Hi my name is Jowana and I am one of the teens here at St Anthony. This year, I went for the second time to WAMP, or Winter Camp. I pretended to be upset about having to go, but inside I was so excited! I love WAMP and all the kids there, and the best part is that no one is on their phone because we have no cell service or wifi ~ it was like the 1980s!

First came the eight hour bus ride. It was great because all three of my friends were there, and I loved every second of it. It was nice to talk to all of the people who I only see maybe twice a year. Then came the arrival to camp. It was very cold, but that didn't bother me. From there, to keep it short, I met everyone in my cabin who were really cool girls. There were these girls who I didn't really like at first, but when I actually talked to them, I realized we were just alike.

The second day was great too! I met new people and showed people my talent of talking. You should see ~ it's great. The third day was even better because we had a big party, and I got to see my first bonfire. We also got these really cute sweatshirts.

The fourth and final day was sad because it was leaving day, but during those four days a lot happened! I went to my second confession which was such an amazing experience, and I also learned a lot about Jesus, you know, because it IS a church camp. It was nice to log off the real world for a while. One of my favorite moments of the entire WAMP experience was the sessions we had with the two priests who were there, Fr. Daniel, the Diocese Spiritual Advisor for Teen SOYO, and the speaker, Fr. Philip Rogers. They taught me very important things on what I should and should not do in order to lead a Christ-like life and how to be an Orthodox Christian. Another great moment was when everyone was in the chapel, and we were all singing together. It was nice to hear

everyone's voices, and it really made me think of how blessed I am to have such an opportunity to come to these type of events. Overall I would recommend this camp or WAMP to anyone, and I can't wait to go back next year or at least this summer for Camp St. Raphael!



**WINTER CAMP**  
JANUARY 12-15, 2018

"THAT THEY MAY ALL BE ONE, JUST AS YOU, FATHER, ARE IN ME, AND I IN YOU."

# **SOUTHEAST TEXAS CLERGY ASSOCIATION**

INVITES YOU TO CELEBRATE

## **SUNDAY OF ORTHODOXY PAN-ORTHODOX VESPERS**

POTLUCK LENTEN MEAL FOLLOWS

**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 25<sup>TH</sup>, 2018 AT 5:00 PM**

**"JOURNEY TO ORTHODOX CHRISTIANITY"  
GUEST SPEAKER: HANK HANEGRAFF**

**ST. ANTHONY  
ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH**

7202 FM 2920 SPRING, TX 77379

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## CLERGY & STAFF

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Rev. Fr. Anthony Baba ~ *Priest*

Rev. Fr. John Ballard ~ *Attached Priest*

Rev. Dn. Photios Beekman ~ *Deacon*

Ms. Adella Winder ~ *Youth Director*

Mrs. Bonnie Kokkinis ~ *Secretary*

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# Camp at Home & Flag Football Tournament

at St. Anthony the Great, Spring

**\$25**  
registration



Saturday,  
**March 3, 2018**  
10:00am - 7:00pm

**Feb. 26th**  
registration  
deadline

