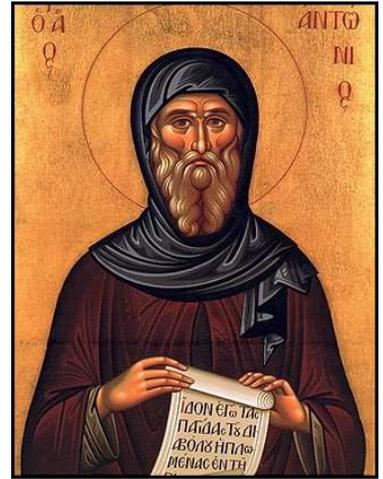


# St. Anthony's Scroll



A publication of  
St. Anthony Orthodox Christian Church

VOLUME 7 NUMBER 4  
APRIL 2016



## “The Time is at Hand”

Fr. Anthony Baba

“The time is at hand” are the words we hear from HIM Who is Christ, the Son of the living God. On the last Sunday of Lent we hear in the Gospel reading that the Son of Man will be betrayed into the hands of sinful men. They will condemn Him. They will mock Him. They will scourge Him. They will spit on Him. And they will kill Him. For what reason? Why would they do all these things? Even if He wasn't God, but just a man like you and me, why would anyone treat another human being with such hate and contempt? We know why *they* did this to Him, but surely we would not. Right?

I certainly hope not, but I cannot say that I would *surely* not do what *they* did because for one, I wasn't there when they did those things to Him, and secondly, I already *have* done those things. Those evil things that *they* did to HIM are the same evil things I have done to others. Albeit not in the same manner or fashion, but I have done those things, and if we're honest with ourselves, we might discover how those evil things have been done to others.

When I speak against someone in a negative light, do I not mock HIM? When I speak in anger with my neighbor, do I not figuratively and even inadvertently spit on HIM? When I go against the truth or just plainly lie, do I not betray HIM Who is The Truth?

We are approaching one of the holiest times of the year, in fact, it IS the holiest time of the year and the Church acknowledges

this by calling it “Holy Week.” During this period, we will learn and live in the realm of Christ's Holy Passion and Long-suffering. The time is at hand, brothers and sisters. Do not deprive yourselves of entering into the bridal chamber. He comes at midnight and calls those “blessed” whom He finds watching. As we come upon this holy time, may HE find all of us watching and waiting for Him.

### + HOLY WEEK SERVICE SCHEDULE +

Sunday, April 24	6:00 PM	Bridegroom Matins
Monday, April 25	7:00 PM	Bridegroom Matins
Tuesday, April 26	7:00 PM	Bridegroom Matins
Wednesday, April 27	7:00 PM	Holy Unction
Thursday, April 28	9:00 am	Divine Liturgy & Foot-Washing
	7:00 PM	The Twelve Passion Gospels
Friday, April 29	9:00 am	Royal Hours
	3:00 PM	Un-Nailing Vespers
	7:00 PM	Lamentations
Saturday, April 30	9:00 am	Vesperal Divine Liturgy
	10:00 PM	Paschal Divine Liturgy
Sunday, May 1	1:00 PM	Agape Vespers

St. Anthony the Great Orthodox Christian Church

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

COMING UP on Holy Saturday Morning  
~ April 30<sup>th</sup> @ 9 AM ~

Have you ever witnessed a miracle? People have often shared with me their personal experiences of a miracle and how it affected their lives. Some have even seen a vision of angels – in fact, one of the children in our parish recently asked her father if he saw the angel flying inside the Holy Altar during the Consecration of the Holy Gifts! Perhaps she was talking about the newly-fashioned angels on either side of the Mother of God that were installed. There are countless miracle stories we could share, and what a blessing it is to be a recipient of a miracle.

The blessing of another miracle will extend to five young recipients who have been catechized over the past year. On Holy Saturday morning (April 30<sup>th</sup>), we will celebrate the Divine Liturgy and during the service, a miracle will be wrought upon these five catechumens. They will be received into the Orthodox Church through Holy Baptism. The service, as stated, will take place during the Divine Liturgy – the only time of the year when it is permissible to perform a Baptism and Divine Liturgy at the same time. Through their baptism, they will participate in the death and resurrection of Christ Himself. Their triple immersion signifies their death (going under the water) and resurrection (being raised out of the water).



If you've never attended this service, you're missing out! Much like the start of Lent, when we begin with Forgiveness Vespers, the Church is fully illumined only to be darkened halfway through the service, signifying the start of Lent. The opposite occurs at the Vespersal Divine Liturgy on Holy Saturday morning – the Church is dark (well, only as dark as it can be at 9 o'clock), and after the catechumens are baptized (in the Narthex) and clothed in a white robe. The lights are brightened, and they make a procession into the Church while the choir sings, "As many of you as have been baptized into Christ, have put on Christ. Alleluia", signifying the end of the darkness and the beginning of New Life.



We congratulate our catechumens who will enter into the faith of Holy Orthodoxy, and we pray that God will grant them peace, health, salvation and furtherance in all good things for many years!

**Pictured**

**Above:** Carolyn Perkins (*center*)  
w/children Makayla and Reed  
**Left:** Joshua Wright  
**Right:** Jacqueline Smith





## Saturday, April 9<sup>th</sup> ~ Lenten Pilgrimage

9:00 AM ~ 4:00 PM ~ St. Paraksevi Monastery

We will meet in the St. Anthony parking lot at 9 AM,  
caravan to the Monastery, and return by 4 PM.

For more information, please call the Church Office (281-251-6000)  
or email Bonnie at [OfficeOfStAnthony@gmail.com](mailto:OfficeOfStAnthony@gmail.com)

### LENTEN VESPERS

St. Jonah Russian Orthodox Church

Sunday, April 17<sup>th</sup>

5:00 PM

*Lenten meal to follow*



2910 Spring Cypress Rd

A Lenten Service with the local North Houston  
Orthodox Christian Community  
St. Anthony ~ St. Cyril ~ St. Jonah ~ St. Sava

Saturday, April 16<sup>th</sup>

### Camp at Home Retreat & Flag Football Tournament

Hosted by St. Anthony

10 am ~ 7 pm

This retreat is for the youth of our parish  
and the youth of other parishes as well.

For more information, please contact  
[AdellaWinder@gmail.com](mailto:AdellaWinder@gmail.com)

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St. Anthony the Great Orthodox Church

7202 FM 2920

Spring, TX 77379

[www.stanthonythegreat.org](http://www.stanthonythegreat.org)

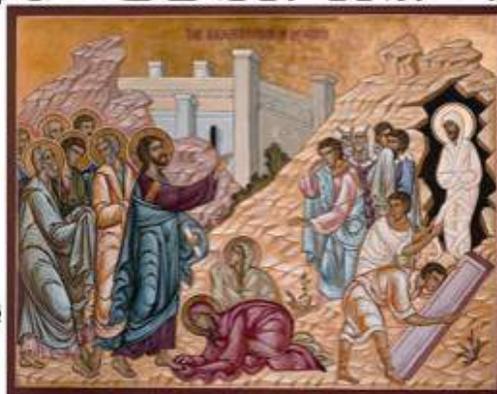
## CHURCH STAFF

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

## FOOD FOR HUNGRY PEOPLE

Please be generous in your contribution to this campaign. Checks should be made payable to St. Anthony. Earmark "FFHP"

## GREAT FRIDAY VIGIL



All are more than **WELCOME** to participate in the Holy Friday All Night Vigil!

A sign-board is placed in the Narthex.

## PARISH LIFE CONFERENCE ~ Tulsa, Oklahoma

June 15-18, 2016

Since our parish will be hosting the conference in 2017, we want as many people as possible from our parish to attend this year's conference.

What's it about? Visit [www.tulsa2016.com](http://www.tulsa2016.com) for more info!

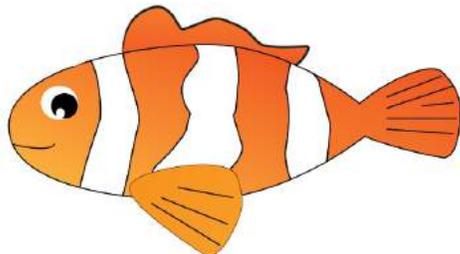
## PALM SUNDAY

### FISH FRY

Sunday, April 24<sup>th</sup>

*After Liturgy*

A Free-Will Offering is appreciated!  
All proceeds will go towards sending our children to Camp St. Raphael.



## Agape Vespers and Pot-Luck Luncheon

Pascha Sunday, May 1<sup>st</sup>

@ 1:00 PM

Come and join us with your family  
as we gather to celebrate the  
Resurrection of Christ!

Sign-up to bring a dish in the Fellowship Hall