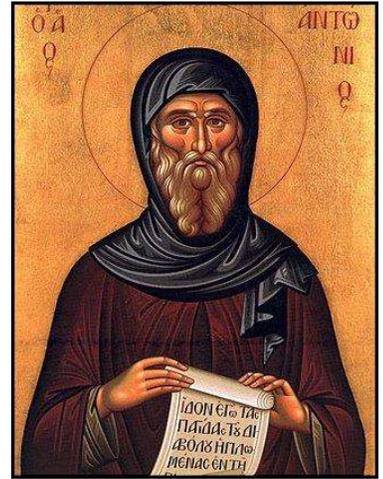


# St. Anthony's Scroll



A publication of  
St. Anthony the Great  
Orthodox Christian Church

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DECEMBER 2017



## How Much?

Fr. Anthony Baba

That's the question, "How much?" How much is it going to cost me? is really the heart of the question. Me. How much time? Effort? Money? Then the follow-up, "Is it worth it?" It's that time of year again when just about every other piece of mail we receive is from another non-profit organization seeking our financial contribution before the year ends. Well, lucky for you, this short article isn't about trying to solicit your financial contribution before the year ends – it's about making you aware before the New Year begins!

This past October, at our General Parish Meeting, the voting membership unanimously agreed on passing our 2018 Budget which is inching closer to half a million dollars! As an historical comparison, in 2010, the annual budget was about \$80,000. That's over a 500% increase! How remarkable and scary is that?! By God's Divine Grace and His bringing in more families who have generously provided for the building up of our Church, we have been able to accomplish all that we have in such a short period of time. And while we pray that God would bring us more families for their own spiritual nourishment and our renewal, it is incumbent upon us, the families and individuals of St. Anthony, to provide the Church with the daily sustenance needed.

No one likes to talk about money. Well, I'll speak for myself and say that I do not like to speak about money. It's a topic that is very personal and if not approached sensitively, you might just not even finish reading what I have to say. It is my prayer that each pledging family/person will offer a God-pleasing financial contribution and strive to tithe.

You know what you can afford to give, and you certainly don't need a priest to tell you. If you can tithe (give 10%), may it be blessed. If you can only offer 5%, may it too be blessed. Just don't cheat God.

As he looked up, Jesus saw the rich putting their gifts into the temple treasury. He also saw a poor widow put in two very small copper coins. "I tell you the truth," Jesus said, "this poor widow has put in more than all the others. All these people gave their gifts out of their wealth; but she out of her poverty put in all she had to live on." (Luke 21:1-4)

Let your own conscience convict you, and let us use the poor widow's example who was rich towards God for giving out the very little and all that she had.



St. Anthony the Great Orthodox Christian Church

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

# CHRISTMAS SERVICE SCHEDULE



Friday, December 22<sup>nd</sup>

9:30 AM ~ Royal Hours

Saturday, December 23<sup>rd</sup>

5:00 PM ~ Great Vespers

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

8:45 am ~ Orthros  
10:00 am ~ Divine Liturgy  
5:00 PM ~ Festal Orthros  
6:00 PM ~ Divine Liturgy – Nativity of Christ

No services will be held on Christmas Day ~ Monday, December 25<sup>th</sup>

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. Through a hands-on, service-learning approach, it intends to raise up service leaders who will guide others in loving and serving our neighbors and one another. YES was at St. George Orthodox Christian Church on October 27-29, 2017 with a team of young people from Houston, Dallas, Austin, and even Los Angeles.



The trip began on Friday evening with dinner, orientation, and a Prayer Tour, which was a brief tour of Houston from a very different perspective. On this tour, our group visited many important areas in our city especially locations impacted by Hurricane Harvey, including Hermann Park, the Third Ward, and the Fifth Ward, where many homes were still boarded up and damaged from the storm. On Saturday, our group headed out into the community to serve and get to know our neighbors around Houston. One of our very own Teen SOYO member, Lexi Rozanovich, participated and was able to share about her experience.

“This weekend, I got to meet some really amazing people and helped people as well. I did things that I probably never would have done. I did all of this at YES Houston. When I first arrived at YES, I didn’t know anybody, but by Saturday we were all very good friends. We spent the whole day Saturday gutting a house and talking with people we had never met. Each night we stayed up until 12:30am playing these ridiculous games, talking, laughing, and even singing Christmas carols and songs from our favorite musicals. We threw a World Party and met the people of Houston. We played with the kids and talked to their parents. I don’t think I would have ever experienced something like this and had this much fun anywhere else!”

This was Lexi’s first YES trip, where she along with her fellow teens, gave up their weekend for the sake of others and received so much in return through beautiful experiences and genuine friendship. YES provided a safe place to learn how to live in service to others while growing closer to one another and Christ.



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## CLERGY & STAFF

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*

Beginning January 11, 2018

Every Thursday 11 am - 2 pm

## Spaghetti Luncheon

\$ 8.00



In the Fellowship Hall of  
St. Anthony Orthodox Church  
7202 FM 2920

Brought to you by  
Italian Cafe  
19620 Korykendahl



## Weekly Divine Liturgy

Wednesday, Dec. 6 @ 9 AM  
Feast of St. Nicholas

Wednesday, Dec. 13 @ 9 AM  
Feast of St. Lucia

Wednesday, Dec. 20 @ 9 AM  
Feast of St. Ignatius

Here's  
What's  
Happening!



**Saturday, December 16<sup>th</sup> @ 9 AM**

Church School Christmas Caroling at local nursing home

**Sunday, December 17<sup>th</sup> after Liturgy**

- Church School Christmas Concert & Special Visitor!
- Parish Potluck Luncheon ~ Bring a Fasting Dish to Share!