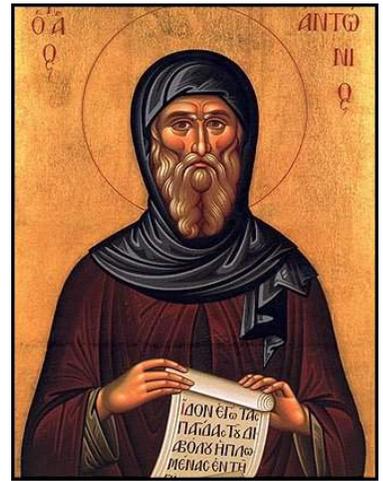


# St. Anthony's Scroll

A publication of  
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Church

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## Marriage Retreat w/His Grace Bishop JOHN

By Barbara Maligas

The topic of “Strengthening the Orthodox Marriage” was addressed by His Grace Bishop JOHN during an open discussion seminar on Saturday, January 21<sup>st</sup>, held at St. Anthony the Great Orthodox Church. Father Anthony introduced His Grace: Bishop JOHN was consecrated as Auxiliary Bishop of the Diocese of Worcester and New England in 2011, three years after the passing of his wife with whom he had been married over 30 years. He is a clinical member of the American association of Pastoral Counselors and is editor of The Word magazine.

Here follows some of the notes I wrote throughout the talk which Fr. Anthony has asked me to share.

When the couple becomes one in Christ through the Sacrament of Orthodox marriage, they are to become selfless and freely offer themselves to their partner. Marriage replicates the relationship between Christ and the Church: Christ puts the Church's needs first and His own last, just as the couple is to put their spouse's needs before theirs. Marriage is to be a spiritual bond of love, commitment, respect, and mutual submission.

In Ephesians 5:21-30, St. Paul expresses the marriage obligations toward each other and God. The Church recognizes that men and women have different purposes and functions. While St. Paul says, “Wives be subject to your husbands, as to the Lord”, he is not implying that women have an inferior status. The Orthodox Faith teaches that when we submit ourselves to the loving care of

God, we find real happiness and fulfill our destinies.

Our submission becomes a pleasure because of our love for God. Likewise, a wife can find happiness being led by her husband and a husband can find happiness in loving his wife.

Genesis 1:26-27 – Then God said, “Let us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness. So God made man; in the image of God He made him; male and female He made them.”

Men and women were created in the image and likeness of the Holy Trinity, “Our image”; diverse persons joined in love. Equal but not the same; each person contributes as individuals to the union, in harmony, as one flesh, and one

in Christ.

The uniqueness in the natures of men and women results in diverse ways of thinking and behaving, and disparate needs. While men want respect and have a fragile ego, women want to be cherished and are more sensitive. These differences create the potential for misunderstandings or discord. During these times, it would be beneficial to remind ourselves that our spouse is a gift from God. By recognizing our partner's differences, and understanding their perspective, we are able to work through conflict, not around it. These challenges, when confronted with love and respect, the desire for reconciliation, the ability to forgive, initiative and effort, become an opportunity for individual and marital growth.

*(Cont'd on next page)*



St. Anthony the Great Orthodox Christian Church

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*Cont'd article*

Communication has always been acknowledged as an important aspect of a relationship: expressing openly and honestly, and listening with attentiveness and kindness. If a confrontation develops that becomes too emotional and cannot be discussed rationally, one method of coming to a resolution is to employ a time out to ask God for His guidance and allow emotions to calm down, then continue the discussion at a mutually agreed time. Both partners need to express humility to forgive or be forgiven by saying "I'm sorry", "I'm wrong", "I made a mistake", or "I'll try to do things a little better". As St. Paul said in Ephesians 4:26, "Do not let the sun go down on your anger."

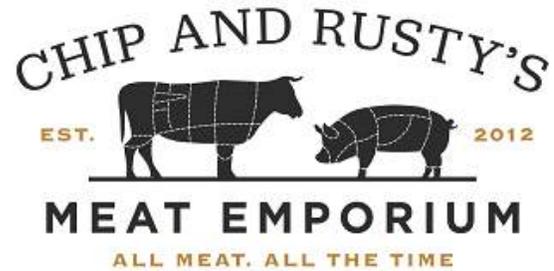
In summary, just as we need God's Grace in our daily lives to combat temptations, a married couple needs God's Grace to bless their union and strengthen them for the trials of married life. Only by submitting to God can a marriage grow and flourish and the individuals be fulfilled.

# Sunday Luncheon

MeatFare Sunday

February 19<sup>th</sup>

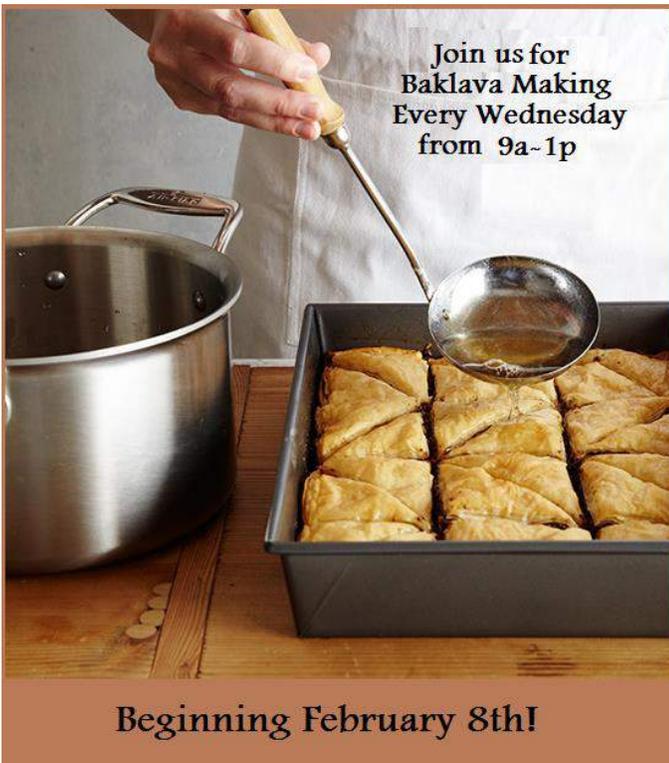
*Sponsored by MAM Ladies Society and...*



On the menu:

Pulled Pork Sandwiches, Chips and Beans  
Drinks and Desserts too!

A great opportunity to invite a friend!



Join us for  
Baklava Making  
Every Wednesday  
from 9a-1p

Beginning February 8th!



## 2017 CAMPING SEASON DATES

SESSION 1: JUNE 25 - JULY 1

SESSION 2: JULY 2 - JULY 8

SESSION 3: JULY 9 - JULY 15

Camp is available to all children,  
ages 9-17

Go to [WWW.CAMPSTRAPHAEL.ORG](http://WWW.CAMPSTRAPHAEL.ORG) for  
online registration available February 1st.

# YABOY!

## FEBRUARY FASTING

The traditional fasting (from meat, poultry, fish, eggs and dairy products) is observed on Wednesdays and Fridays. The second week of February 5-11th is fast free. The Meat Fast begins February 20th and the Great Fast begins February 27th.

## TEEN SOYO WINTER CAMP at CAMP ST. RAPHAEL

Winter Camp was held at Camp St. Raphael in Oklahoma January 13-16, with nearly 200 people in attendance. Teens from all across our diocese came to spend time with one another and to hear the wisdom of Fr. James Coles of St. Ignatius Antiochian Orthodox Church in Mesa, Arizona. Fr. James shared stories about his own experiences with God and related the book “Wounded by Love” by Saint Porphyrios to our everyday lives. He reminded us that while life will always be difficult, Christ’s love makes even the most terrifying situations safe as He is always with us.

On Saturday evening after being spiritually well-fed all day by Fr. James, a “Gong Show”, or talent show, was held, showcasing many of our children’s hidden skills. We were all amazed and full of joy and laughter as we discovered gifted singers, guitarists, impressionists, and comedians amongst our teens. The following morning, we celebrated Divine Liturgy together, with three priests in our tiny camp chapel, and Fr. Daniel Bethancourt, the spiritual advisor for our Diocese SOYO, gave a sermon on the life of St. John the Hut-Dweller.

Sunday evening, for the first time in Winter Camp history, and maybe just history in general, we had a National Holiday Dance on Sunday evening, where kids got creative and dressed up as their favorite national holiday. Donut Day, Crayola Day, Pajama Day, Nurse Appreciation Day, and many other fun and relatively unknown holidays were celebrated, again showing how creative and funny our camp family can be.

All weekend long, campers and advisors alike enjoyed angle ball, board games, hiking, roasting marshmallows, and simply being together at our home away from home. Through our shared faith,



camp is a place of stability and belonging, something often lacking in other aspects of our lives. When kids find it difficult to fit in at school, extracurricular activities, or even at home, they find comfort in camp and lean on their camp friends because they, too, understand the struggle of being an Orthodox Christian in today’s society. Camp St. Raphael is so fondly called, “heaven on earth” because it is just that for so many. Just as we would imagine the Kingdom to be, camp is full of unconditional love, joy, and peace. When we are at camp, we seem to forget our worldly cares and truly focus on loving Christ and loving one another. Every

time we leave, our hearts are fuller, and our souls are truly illumined with the light of Christ.

# Winter Camp 2017

# *St. Anthony's Scroll*

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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**

Rev. Fr. Anthony Baba ~ Priest

Rev. Dn. Photios Beekman ~ Deacon

Ms. Adella Winder ~ Youth Director

Mrs. Bonnie Kokkinis ~ Secretary

## **WHAT 2 WATCH 4 in FEBRUARY**

**Thursday, February 2<sup>nd</sup> @ 9:00 AM**

Divine Liturgy w/Bishop THOMAS

**Thursday, February 2<sup>nd</sup> @ 6:30p**

MAM Ladies Meeting

**Thursday, February 16<sup>th</sup> @ 7:15p**

Parish Council Meeting

**Friday, February 17<sup>th</sup> @ 6:00p**

SOYO Dinner

**Sunday, February 19<sup>th</sup>**

Church Luncheon

**Monday, February 27<sup>th</sup>**

Lent Begins