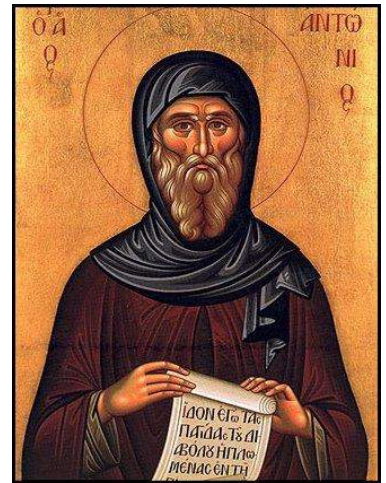


# St. Anthony's Scroll



A publication of  
St. Anthony the Great  
Orthodox Christian Church

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MAY 2017



## CHRIST IS RISEN! INDEED HE IS RISEN



If you haven't seen any of these photos, go to our Facebook page and "like" it! Thank you to everyone who made this year's journey to Pascha such a blessed and memorable experience! May God grant us all to celebrate this Feast of Feasts for many years to come!

Usually, parish life tends to slow down after Pascha. This year is an exception because we have hit the ground running as we're preparing to host this year's Parish Life Conference. If you haven't registered, or signed up to help, or whatever...NOW is the time! Please do not delay or wait until it's too late!

St. Anthony the Great Orthodox Christian Church  
7202 FM 2920 ~ Spring, TX 77379 ~ (281) 251-6000 ~ [www.stanthonythegreat.org](http://www.stanthonythegreat.org)

His Eminence  
The Most Reverend  
Metropolitan JOSEPH

The Right Reverend  
Bishop BASIL



Archbishop of New York and  
Metropolitan of  
All North America

Diocese of Wichita and  
Mid-America

## ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN ARCHDIOCESE OF NORTH AMERICA

P A S C H A 2 0 1 7

Beloved and Christ-loving Clergy, Monastics and Laity of the Diocese of Wichita and Mid-America:

I embrace and greet you with a holy kiss in the Name of the Resurrected Theanthropos Jesus Christ, and, together with you and Orthodox Christians throughout the world, I joyfully proclaim that Christ is risen! **Christos anesti! Al-Maseeh qaam! Christos Voskresse! Hristos a înviat!**

As we prepare to celebrate the most glorious Feast of feasts in our beautifully adorned church temples across the Heartland of America, let us recall and be inspired by another glorious Pascha – this one celebrated in stark Block 26 at Dachau Concentration Camp in 1945:

“The room was bare, save for a wooden table and an icon of the Theotokos. A creative solution to the problem of the vestments was found. Linen towels were taken from the SS hospital. When sewn together lengthwise, two towels formed an epitachelion, and when sewn end-to-end they became an orarion. Red crosses, originally intended to be worn by the medical personnel of the SS guards, were put on these towel-vestments. On Pascha, May 6<sup>th</sup>, countless Serbs, Greeks and Russians gathered in and around the barracks. In the entire history of the Orthodox Church there has probably never been a Paschal service like that one. Greek and Serbian priests together with a Serbian deacon wore the makeshift vestments over their blue and gray-striped prisoner’s uniforms. Then they began to chant, alternating from Greek to Slavonic, the Paschal Canon and the Paschal Stichera all from memory! The Gospel—“In the beginning was the Word”—from memory! And finally, the Paschal Homily of Saint John Chrysostom—also from memory! A young Greek monk from the Holy Mountain stood up in front of us and recited it with such infectious enthusiasm that we shall never forget him as long as we live. Eighteen Orthodox priests and one deacon concelebrated this unforgettable service.”

May our Paschal joy approximate in some small measure that experienced by those courageous Orthodox Christians in Dachau seventy-two years ago.

Wishing you and your families a glorious Paschal season, and looking forward to being with you all at our Diocesan Family Reunion hosted by St Anthony Church of Spring, Texas (June 7<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup>), I remain

Your Father in the Risen Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bishop Basil". The signature is written in a cursive style with a cross at the beginning.

+Bishop Basil  
Diocese of Wichita and Mid-America

*“The disciples were first called Christians in Antioch” (Acts 11: 26)*

1559 North Woodlawn Street, Wichita, KS 67208-2429  
(316) 687-3169 Phone BpBasil@aol.com (316) 636-5628 Fax

## Recent Conversions to Holy Orthodoxy at St Anthony

Fr. Anthony Baba

Rae Hamauei (*Left*) has been attending our parish for many years! Her husband, John and son Nicholas were born into Holy Orthodoxy, and Rae was born into Catholicism. For many years, she would come to St. Anthony only to refrain from receiving Holy Communion. Unfortunately, the divisions among our Christian faiths prevent non-Orthodox from receiving Communion. It would cease being a “common-union” otherwise. Rae recently approached me and said, “Father, what do I need to do to become Orthodox?” So on the evening of Palm Sunday, Rae was chrismated (confirmed) and has become a full participant in the Sacrament life of the Orthodox Church.



Robert “Bob” Finch (*Left*) has a similar story in that he also was Catholic. He’s been married to our beloved Joyce Finch for forty-seven years and just before Christmas last year, Bob asked to meet me for coffee and it wasn’t much longer after that that he was chrismated. Since becoming Orthodox, he’s been singing in the choir!

Laurence Emsley (*Right*) is no stranger to the Orthodox Christian faith. For several years, he was attending St. Basil Greek Orthodox Church in West Houston as a visitor, but

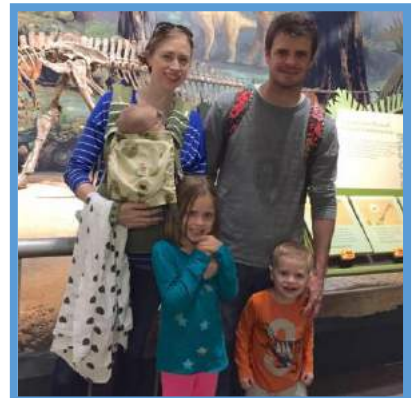


after reading the front page of the Houston Chronicle on Christmas Day, he learned that another Orthodox Church, St. Anthony the Great, was much closer! His first Sunday, he introduced himself to me and highlighted that his sister is a Sister, more specifically, a Nun at a Greek Orthodox Monastery in Greece. Laurence was drawn to our parish thanks not just because of its proximity, he felt very welcomed from the moment he walked in. He was received into Holy Orthodoxy on the eve of Palm Sunday.



Allen Michael Rowland (*Left*) is also no stranger to the Orthodox Christian faith. He was introduced to the faith by his fiancé, Melissa Anderson. He would frequent St. George, but he too learned that another church was closer. He was attending our parish as a Catechumen for over a year, before converting on St. Mary of Egypt Sunday.

The Sherman Family! On Lazarus Saturday, Zachary and Amy were chrismated and their three, young beautiful children (Jane, Cal and Lucy) were baptized and chrismated since they were never baptized. The Shermans were led into Holy Orthodoxy through their beloved husband and father, Zach. Formerly faithful members of a different Christian faith tradition, he believed there was something more to Christianity than what he’d been taught. So he studied and studied more before visiting and eventually converting himself along with his young family.



# *St. Anthony's Scroll*

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Spring, TX 77379

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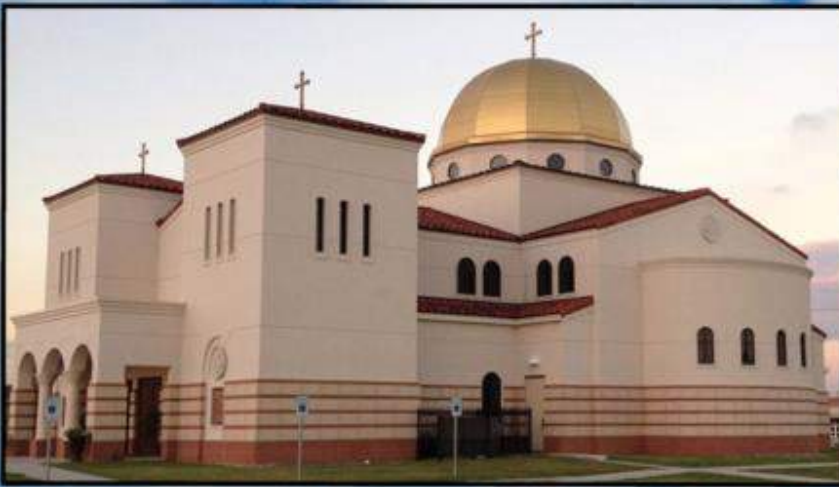
## **CHURCH STAFF**

Rev. Fr. Anthony Baba ~ Priest

Rev. Dn. Photios Beekman ~ Deacon

Ms. Adella Winder ~ Youth Director

Mrs. Bonnie Kokkinis ~ Secretary



## **2017 Parish Life Conference**

**Hosted by St. Anthony Church in Spring, June 7-10**

***(Held at the Westin Hotel - Memorial City)***

**[www.Spring2017.org](http://www.Spring2017.org)**