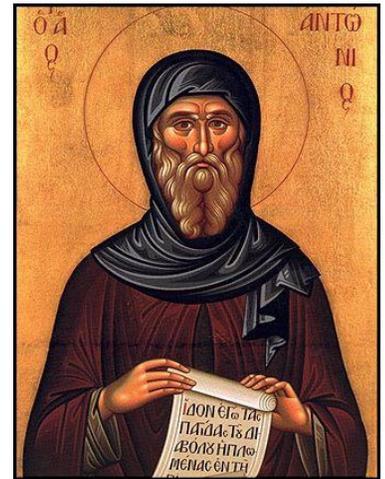


St. Anthony's Scroll



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St. Anthony Orthodox Christian
Church

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A New Year's Resolution?

Fr. Anthony Baba

That's right! September 1st marks the beginning of the New CHURCH Year. It's appropriate the Church New Year begins in September simply because it's around the time when our kids go back

to school. It's also when Church School resumes. It's when summer is just about over, and we welcome the activities of the fall.

So as we welcome the New Year, it's not uncommon to make a New Year's resolution, and since September 1st is considered the "Church New Year", your biased priest encourages you to adopt one simple resolution. **Come to Church on time.** Someone will say, "Well Father, at least I'm coming." Yes, and don't stop coming! God accepts those who come late just as much as He accepts those who come early, but coming late means that you've missed out on special parts of the service. Exactly what those special parts are have been prepared in the form of a chart.

What time do I arrive?	What part did I miss?	I have deprived myself of the opportunity to...
9:55	Matins	An entire service (beginning at 8:45 AM). Hear the hymns of the week & prepare for the Liturgy.
10:00	Blessed is the Kingdom	Proclaim that God's Kingdom is blessed and to respond, "Amen."
10:15	Litanies & Prayers	Pray for peace, the Church, the sick. Participate in the Entrance of the Holy Gospel
10:25	Epistle, Gospel, Sermon	Hear the Word of God, and think of how it applies to my daily life.
10:40	Cherubic Hymn	Participate in the procession of the Holy Gifts among the people.
10:50	The Creed & Offering	Proclaim what "I believe" and acknowledge the One Who is being offered.
11:00	The Lord's Prayer	Prepare to receive the Body & Blood of Christ.
11:10	The Eucharist	Receive the Body & Blood of Christ.
11:20	Thanksgiving Prayers	Give praise and thanks to God for the Gift we have received from Him.
11:30	The Dismissal	Commemorate Christ's saving work, and the prayers and intercession of all the saints.

St. Anthony the Great Orthodox Christian Church

7202 FM 2920 ~ Spring, TX 77379 ~ (281) 251-6000 ~ www.stanthonythegreat.org

Sunday lunch

September 11th
The Loaded Spud!
Brought to you by Chip & Rusty's
Meat Emporium

\$10/Adult ~ \$5/Child

Welcome to all of our guests and visitors!
Make plans to join us and invite a friend!

Altar Server TRAINING DAY

Saturday, Sept. 10th
10:30a – 1:30p

Calling all young men
entering the 2nd
grade! The Church
needs you to serve
in the Altar on
Sundays!

We will meet
at the Church
to begin the
training at
10:30 AM. Again, we will meet at Church first. Once
training ends, we'll make our way to The Main Event
(I-45 location) for fun and fellowship. The day will
end at 1:30 PM. Parents should make plans to pick up
their child from The Main Event.



Call the Church Office (281-251-6000) or
just let Fr. Anthony or Adella know if your
son(s) will be there!



Classes resume September 11th!
Please be sure to register your child(ren)!

NOTICE FOR COMMUNION:
Church School classes begin following
Holy Communion. Teachers should
receive first, followed by the Altar
Servers, students and adults.

Wednesday Night

RECHARGE

BEGINNING SEPTEMBER 14TH

6:30-7:00 PM ~ VESPERS

7:00-7:30 PM ~ POT LUCK DINNER

7:30-8:30 PM ~ BREAKOUT

YOUTH (AGES 4 & UP) ~ ADELLA WINDER

CATHECHISM ~ MARK ENTERLINE

DEFEATING SIN ~ FR. ANTHONY

GOING TO CHURCH ON SUNDAYS HELP ALL OF US TO RE-FOCUS ON
WHAT'S REALLY IMPORTANT. LET'S USE WEDNESDAYS TO HELP REMIND US!

The Exaltation of the Precious and Life-Giving Cross

Wednesday, September 14 – Divine Liturgy @ 9:00AM

The pagan Roman emperors tried to completely eradicate from human memory the holy places where our Lord Jesus Christ suffered and was resurrected for mankind. The Emperor Hadrian (117-138) gave orders to cover over the ground of Golgotha and the Sepulchre of the Lord, and to build a temple of the pagan goddess Venus and a statue of Jupiter.

Pagans gathered at this place and offered sacrifice to idols there. Eventually after 300 years, by Divine Providence, the great Christian sacred remains, the Sepulchre of the Lord and the Life-Creating Cross were again discovered and opened for veneration. This took place under the Emperor Constantine the Great (306-337) after his victory in the year 312 over Maxentius, ruler of the Western part of the Roman empire, and over Licinius, ruler of its Eastern part. In the year 323 Constantine became the sole ruler of the vast Roman Empire.

In 313 he had issued the Edict of Milan, by which the Christian religion was legalized and the persecutions against Christians in the Western half of the empire were stopped. The ruler Licinius, although he signed the Edict of Milan to oblige Constantine, still fanatically continued the persecutions against Christians. Only after his conclusive defeat did the 313 Edict of toleration extend also to the Eastern part of the empire. The Emperor Constantine, having gained victory over his enemies in three wars with God's assistance, had seen in the heavens the Sign of the Cross, and written beneath: "By this you shall conquer."

Ardently desiring to find the Cross on which our Lord Jesus Christ was crucified, St Constantine sent his mother, the pious Empress Helen, to Jerusalem, to set about completing the task with enthusiasm. The empress gave orders to destroy the pagan temple and the statues in Jerusalem. Searching for the Life-Creating Cross, she made inquiry of Christians and Jews, but for a long time her search remained unsuccessful.

Finally, they directed her to a certain elderly Hebrew by the name of Jude who stated that the Cross was buried where the temple of Venus stood. They demolished the pagan temple and, after praying, they began to excavate the ground. Soon the Tomb of the Lord was uncovered. Not far from it were three crosses, a board with the inscription ordered by Pilate, and four nails which had pierced the Lord's Body.

In order to discern on which of the three crosses the Savior was crucified, Patriarch Macarius alternately touched the crosses to a corpse. When the

Cross of the Lord touched the dead one, he came to life. Having beheld the raising of the dead man, everyone was convinced that the Life-Creating Cross was found.

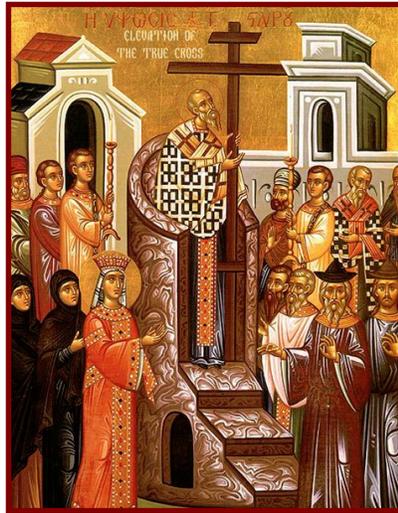
The holy empress Helen journeyed to the holy places connected with the earthly life of the Savior, building more than 80 churches, at Bethlehem the birthplace of Christ, and on the Mount of Olives where the Lord ascended to Heaven, and at Gethsemane where the Savior prayed before His sufferings and where the Mother of God was buried after her death.

St Helen took part of the Life-Creating Wood and nails with her to Constantinople. The holy emperor Constantine gave orders to build at Jerusalem a majestic and spacious church in honor of the Resurrection of Christ, also including under its roof the Life-Giving Tomb of the Lord and Golgotha. The temple was constructed in about ten years. St Helen did not survive until the dedication of the temple, she died in the

year 327. The church was consecrated on September 13, 335. On the following day, September 14, the festal celebration of the Exaltation of the Venerable and Life-Creating Cross was established.

Another event connected to the Cross of the Lord is remembered also on this day: its return to Jerusalem from Persia after a fourteen year captivity. During the reign of the Byzantine emperor Phocas (602-610) the Persian emperor Khosroes II in a war against the Greeks defeated the Greek army, plundered Jerusalem and captured both the Life-Creating Cross of the Lord and the Holy Patriarch Zachariah (609-633). The Cross remained in Persia for fourteen years and only under the emperor Heraclius (610-641), who with the help of God defeated Khosroes and concluded peace with his successor and son Syroes, was the Cross of the Lord returned to the Christians.

With great solemnity the Life-creating Cross was transferred to Jerusalem. Emperor Heraclius in imperial crown and royal purple carried the Cross of Christ into the temple of the Resurrection. With the emperor went Patriarch Zacharios. At the gates by which they ascended Golgotha, the emperor suddenly stopped and was not able to proceed farther. The holy Patriarch explained to the emperor that an angel of the Lord was blocking his way. The emperor was told to remove his royal trappings and to walk barefoot, since He Who bore the Cross for the salvation of the world from sin had made His way to Golgotha in all humility. Then Heraclius donned plain garb, and without further hindrance, carried the Cross of Christ into the church.



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Place
Postage
Here

St. Anthony the Great Orthodox Church

7202 FM 2920

Spring, TX 77379

www.stanthonythegreat.org

CHURCH STAFF

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

Mediterranean Night Gala

10th ANNUAL FUNDRAISER & BANQUET DINNER

Saturday, September 17th

The Woodlands Resort & Conference Center

~ Live Entertainment ~ Dinner & Dance ~ Silent Auction ~

\$100 Raffle Tickets available for 2016 Toyota Camry

Do not need to be present to win!

Reserve Your Tickets or Table!

281~251~6000