

## THE PATRIARCH OF MONKS

**H**ere is a question one may ask: WHICH IS MORE PLEASING TO GOD? SELF-DENIAL AND ISOLATION IN THE DESERT OR GOOD WORKS OF MERCY AMONG THE CROWDS? One can see value in each.

A man of prayer in the desert may think that without the solitude, one cannot do what is right. It would be too difficult to keep his heart pure and his mind fixed on God.

Conversely, someone who was doing good works among his fellow man, may feel that the desert-dweller is too occupied with his OWN salvation. This may come at the EXPENSE of his fellow man. We will never fully know, but our Church believes that BOTH are equally pleasing in the eyes of God. Both servants are perfect before our Maker.

One such pious example of SELF-DENIAL and ISOLATION is ST. ANTHONY THE GREAT, pictured on the bulletin today. Born in Egypt in the year 251 A.D., he lived to the advanced age of 105. His long lifespan was filled with service to the Lord as the "PATRIARCH OF MONASTIC LIFE." His good advice and wise counsel was sought by many. The Church Fathers wrote this about St. Anthony the Great: *"O Father Anthony, you imitated the zealous Elijah in your manner of living. You followed the straight path of John the Baptist and became a desert dweller. By prayer, you confirmed the Universe. Wherefore, intercede with Christ our God to save our souls."* Amen.

The Orthodox Weekly Bulletin . . . . . Vestal, Cliffwood, New Jersey . . . . . Litho in U.S.A.



**St. Anthony the Great**  
struggles with the devil in the desert



**ST.DEMETRIOS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH**  
**NORTH WILDWOOD, NEW JERSEY**  
**JANUARY 14th, 2024**

**SUNDAY LEAVE-TAKING OF THE FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY:**

**WELCOME ALL VISITORS:**

On behalf of the Parish Council, Fr. Michael, and the entire family of St. Demetrios, we would like to welcome our Visitors for joining us today in our sacred worship service. If you need any assistance please notify any of the Parish Council members. God Bless our Visitors and may your stay here be pleasant and memorable. Please don't hesitate to come again.

**SPONSORING COFFEE HOUR:**

If anyone is interested in sponsoring the coffee hour please contact the Church Philoptochos. Please contact Dina Bilios (609) 675-8786 or Bessie Giouros at (609) 602-8545.

**STEWARDSHIP NEWS:**

All our local and seasonal members and visitors are invited to register and enroll in our parish for the 2024 membership and join in weekly worship and to support of our parish "Stewardship Program" and ministries. The annual minimum enrollment offering is \$750 per family, and \$500 for single people. Please complete the parish membership registry forms that are available in the Narthex. Families that are in arrears are invited to reinstate their membership and participation in our parish life and ministries.

**GREEK SCHOOL:** Classes are every Friday night 4:30 pm – 7:30 pm.

**SUNDAY SCHOOL:** On behalf of the Parish Council, Fr. Michael, and the entire family of St. Demetrios, we would like to notify parents that Sunday school has already started! We would like all parents to have their children at the church by 9:45 am. Every Sunday after the Gospel reading the children will go to their Sunday school classroom and then come back to receive their Holy Communion.

**OUR NEW ST DEMETRIOS WEBSITE:** Attention everyone: We have a new website! Please add [www.stdemetriosnewjersey.com](http://www.stdemetriosnewjersey.com) as a favorite on your devices. Be advised that the new website is now LIVE. Please review and enjoy. Donations are able to process on our website via the DONATIONS tab where you will find the VANCO QR Code (shown below).

**LITURGICAL WINTER SCHEDULE:**

*(For Sunday Hours -9:00 am Orthos and 10:00 am Divine Liturgy)*

*(For Weekday Services -9:00 am Orthos and 9:30 am Divine Liturgy)*

*(For Vesper Services-6:00 pm)*

**LITURGICAL PROGRAM FOR THE MONTH OF JANUARY:**

Sunday, January 14<sup>th</sup>: Leavetaking of the Theophany of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.  
Orthros- 9:00 am Divine Liturgy 10:00 am

Sunday, January 21<sup>st</sup>: 12<sup>th</sup> Sunday of St. Luke. Orthros – 9:00 am Divine Liturgy 10:00am.

Sunday, January 28<sup>th</sup>: 15<sup>th</sup> Sunday of St. Luke: Orthros- 9:00 am Divine Liturgy 10:00am.

**TRISAGION SERVICE:**

A Trisagion service will be chanted today in memory of Harry Karavangelos. May his soul rest in peace and may his memory be eternal.

**UPCOMING MEMORIALS:**

Sunday, January 21<sup>st</sup>: A 3 year Memorial service in memory of Peter Daglis.

**GREEK SCHOOL NEWS:**

**2024 GREEK LETTERS DAY CELEBRATION:** Honoring the Three Hierarchs of our Orthodox Church. Sunday, January 28, at 4:00pm at the Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church 808 N. Broom Street, Wilmington, Delaware 19806

**VASILOPITA SUNDAY:** The Cutting of the Traditional Vasilopita will take place today after the Divine Liturgy in the Church Hall.

**BLESSING YOUR HOME:**

In the month of January, we celebrate a Great Feast within the Orthodox Church. Epiphany, the baptism of our Lord Jesus Christ, on January 6<sup>th</sup>. It is the season of the blessing of the Holy Waters, when also the parish priest through his very rich custom brings the Blessed Holy Water to the faithful in their homes and business establishments. This enables everyone to receive the Great Blessing of our Lord for the New Year of 2024.

I feel as your priest, that this is a beautiful custom, bringing the Blessed Holy Water of Epiphany to you, my parishioners, allows me to remain close to you and your family. Fr. Michael requests that you please contact him at his cell phone # 1-(667)-328-1083, to make arrangements for the blessing of your home/business.

**HOLY TRINITY/ST. ANTHONY IN VINELAND 50<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY:**

Upcoming festivities for the feast day of St. Anthony the Great: On the evening of Tuesday, January 16<sup>th</sup>, 2024, at 6:00 pm, there will be Great Vespers and Artoklasia in the chapel of Holy Trinity. The next day, Wednesday, January 17<sup>th</sup>, 2024, at 8:45 am Orthros and Divine Liturgy will be duly celebrated. Your presence will greatly enhance our fifty-year celebrations and affirm the unity of our communities. Reception will follow.

**PLEASE NOTE:** There will be a second tray in honor of St. Basil the Great this Sunday. The proceeds will go to St. Basil's Academy in New York. Please give generously. Thank you!



Ἐκ τοῦ κατὰ Ματθαῖον ἀγίου Εὐαγγελίου  
τὸ ἀνάγνωσμα.

ΙΕΡΕΥΣ

Πρόσχωμεν.

( Δόξα σοι, Κύριε, δόξα σοι. )

ΔΙΑΚΟΝΟΣ

Ματ 4:12-17

Τῷ καιρῷ ἐκείνῳ, ἀκούσας δὲ ὁ Ἰησοῦς  
ὅτι Ἰωάννης παρεδόθη, ἀνεχώρησεν εἰς τὴν  
Γαλιλαίαν, καὶ καταλιπὼν τὴν Ναζαρέτ  
ἐλθὼν κατῴκησεν εἰς Καπερναοὺμ τὴν  
παραθαλασσίαν ἐν ὁρίοις Ζαβουλὼν καὶ  
Νεφθαλείμ, ἵνα πληρωθῇ τὸ ῥηθὲν διὰ Ἡσαΐου  
τοῦ προφήτου λέγοντος· Γῆ Ζαβουλὼν καὶ  
γῆ Νεφθαλείμ, ὁδὸν θαλάσσης, πέραν τοῦ  
Ὑπορδάνου, Γαλιλαία τῶν ἐθνῶν, ὁ λαὸς ὁ  
καθήμενος ἐν σκότει εἶδε φῶς μέγα, καὶ τοῖς  
καθημένοις ἐν χώρα καὶ σκιᾷ θανάτου φῶς  
ἀνέτειλεν αὐτοῖς. Ἀπὸ τότε ἤρξατο ὁ Ἰησοῦς  
κηρύσσειν καὶ λέγειν· Μετανοεῖτε· ἤγγικε γάρ  
ἡ βασιλεία τῶν οὐρανῶν.

The reading is from the holy Gospel  
according to Matthew.

PRIEST

Let us be attentive.

( Glory to You, O Lord, glory to You. )

DEACON

Mt. 4:12-17

At that time, Jesus heard that John had  
been arrested, He withdrew into Galilee;  
and leaving Nazareth He went and dwelt  
in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of  
Zebulun and Naphtali, that what was spoken  
by the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled: "The  
land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali,  
toward the sea, across the Jordan, Galilee of  
the Gentiles, the people who sat in darkness  
have seen a great light, and for those who  
sat in the region and shadow of death light  
has dawned." From that time Jesus began to  
preach, saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of  
heaven is at hand." [RSV]

# The Children's Word

"Let the little children come to me, and do not forbid them, for to such is the Kingdom of Heaven." Mark 10:14

Sunday, January 14, 2024

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A Ministry of the  
Orthodox Christian Network



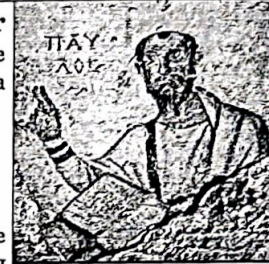
## Giving away our gifts

Have you ever given one of your  
presents away? Maybe you didn't like it in the  
first place, or maybe you thought a friend or a  
family member would like it even more than  
you did.

In the epistle today, we hear what Saint Paul  
says about giving away our gifts. Should we  
do it? Of course! That is exactly why God gave  
these gifts to us. The gifts Saint Paul is talking  
about are our spiritual gifts. We know that  
God let some people be "apostles, some  
prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers."

Those gifts—teaching or preaching, helping others in some way or an-  
other—are not for us! God wants us to give those gifts away, so that we can  
"build up the body of Christ." That means that we can use our gifts to help  
others and to help the Christian church grow.

Our beloved Saint John Chrysostom once said that very thing! When we  
get one gift and another person gets another gift, we can't be jealous and  
we can't think we're better than somebody else. God wants us to give  
these spiritual gifts away—to help others! Can you think of something you  
are good at, and can you think of a way you can give that gift away?



Saint Paul had a gift for preach-  
ing—and he gave it away!

## THE CHAINS OF SAINT PETER AND THE POWER OF GOD!

Have you celebrated a saint's  
day? Your nameday, or a friend's? Did you  
know that sometimes we celebrate feastdays  
for events, things that happened in our  
Church's long history?

Have you heard the story of St. Peter's  
chains? St. Peter was busy in Rome, telling  
people all about Christ—and lots of people  
were becoming Christians. Lots of people  
were learning to believe in Jesus Christ and  
getting baptized, too.

The king did not like this, and so he threw St. Peter into prison. He  
was chained up, with a prison guard on each side of him. Did he have  
any chance of escaping? Not at all! But during the night, an angel  
told St. Peter to get up. The chains fell from him, and St. Peter left the  
prison cell!

But what happened to the chains? Christians knew that these chains  
were special because they had once touched St. Peter. They were all a  
part of this big miracle that God had let happen. So they brought sick  
people to touch the chains, and they were healed!

You can still find these chains at a church in Rome, Italy. Don't miss  
them! If you see them one day, you'll remember this wonderful mira-  
cle. And you'll remember that nobody can stop the power of God!

We celebrate this miracle on Tues., January 16th (OC: January 29th).



You can still pray in front of  
the chains of St. Peter if you  
go to a church in Rome, Italy.

## WORD SEARCH

Can you find these  
words in the jum-  
ble?

Angel  
Apostles  
Chains  
Evangelists  
Gifts  
Miracle  
Pastors  
Peter  
Prayer  
Prophets  
Rome  
Talents

Z Y S A I F L G P H R P U L O  
E D E X M E P S J R X R W H G  
X S C W G L W E T K T O V T T  
P U X N F K F Z U N V P S S G  
E V A N G E L I S T S H Y I R  
S B C P I I B Z Y A Q E F S V  
L N P Y A I R E T E P T W S U  
L P I I C S P R Y N S S E R T  
J I C A U E T W E I X L B Q W  
N Z X W H L O O G Y T S G E V  
I F S Y C C Q K R S A R D M L  
L B B H W A P O O S Z R J O O  
Y A C V R R L P O L N E P R N  
S Y F T E I A S T N E L A T X  
T H K N S M D P F Q J W A R A

Saint Peter, pray for us!

## WHAT'S IN THE ICON?

Can you find the chains of Saint Peter in  
this icon?

Do you see who is helping him escape?  
An angel!





Απολυτίκιον Αναστάσιμον.

Ἦχος βαρύς.

Κατέλυσας τῷ Σταυρῷ σου τὸν θάνατον·  
ἠνέωξας τῷ ληστῇ τὸν Παράδεισον· τῶν  
Μυροφόρων τὸν θρήνον μετέβαλες, καὶ τοῖς  
σοῖς Αποστόλοις κηρύττειν ἐπέταξας, ὅτι  
ἀνέστης Χριστὲ ὁ Θεός, παρέχων τῷ κόσμῳ τὸ  
μέγα ἔλεος.

Απολυτίκιον τῆς Ἑορτῆς.

Τοῦ Μηναίου ---

Ἦχος α΄.

Ἐν Ἰορδάνῃ βαπτιζομένου σου Κύριε, ἡ  
τῆς Τριάδος ἐφανερώθη προσκύνησις· τοῦ  
γὰρ Γεννήτορος ἡ φωνὴ προσεμαρτύρει σοι,  
ἀγαπητόν σε Υἱὸν ὀνομάζουσα· καὶ τὸ Πνεῦμα  
ἐν εἵδει περιστερᾶς, ἐβεβαίοντο τοῦ λόγου τὸ  
ἀσφαλές. Ὁ ἐπιφανείς Χριστὲ ὁ Θεός, καὶ τὸν  
κόσμον φωτίσας δόξα σοι.

Κοντάκιον.

Ἦχος δ΄. Αὐτόμελον.

Ἐπεφάνης σήμερον τῇ οἰκουμένῃ, καὶ  
τὸ φῶς σου Κύριε, ἐσημειώθη ἐφ' ἡμᾶς, ἐν  
ἐπιγνώσει ὑμνοῦντάς σε. Ἦλθες ἐφάνης τὸ  
Φῶς τὸ ἀπρόσιτον.

Resurrectional Apolytikion.

Grave Mode.

You destroyed death by Your Cross, You  
opened Paradise to the Robber. You turned the  
Myrrh-bearing Women's lament into joy, and  
You commanded Your Apostles to preach that  
You rose, O Christ God, granting the world the  
great mercy. (GOASD)

Apolytikion of the Feast.

From Menaion ---

Mode 1.

As You were baptized in the Jordan, O  
Lord, then the worship of the Trinity became  
manifest, for the voice of the Father bore  
witness to You, naming You the Beloved Son;  
and the Spirit, in the form of a dove, confirmed  
the certainty of the word. O Christ God, who  
appeared and illumined the world, glory to  
You. (SD)

Kontakion.

Mode 4. Automelon.

Ἐπεφάνης σήμερον.

You appeared today to us \* on earth,  
O Master, \* and Your light was signed on  
us \* who cry aloud to You and say \* with  
understanding, O Christ our God: You came  
and shone forth, O Light unapproachable. (SD)

Πρὸς Ἐφεσίους Ἐπιστολῆς Παύλου τὸ  
ἀνάγνωσμα.

ΔΙΑΚΟΝΟΣ

Πρόσχωμεν.

ΑΝΑΓΝΩΣΤΗΣ

Eph 4:7-13

Ἀδελφοί, ἐνὶ ἐκάστῳ ἡμῶν ἐδόθη ἡ χάρις  
κατὰ τὸ μέτρον τῆς δωρεᾶς τοῦ Χριστοῦ.  
Διὸ λέγει, Ἀναβάς εἰς ὕψος ἠχμαλώτευσεν  
αἰχμαλωσίαν, καὶ ἔδωκεν δόματα τοῖς  
ἀνθρώποις. Τὸ δέ, Ἀνέβη, τί ἐστὶν εἰ μὴ ὅτι καὶ  
κατέβη πρῶτον εἰς τὰ κατώτερα μέρη τῆς γῆς;  
Ὁ καταβάς, αὐτός ἐστιν καὶ ὁ ἀναβάς ὑπεράνω  
πάντων τῶν οὐρανῶν, ἵνα πληρώσῃ τὰ πάντα.

Καὶ αὐτὸς ἔδωκεν τοὺς μὲν ἀποστόλους,  
τοὺς δὲ προφήτας, τοὺς δὲ εὐαγγελιστάς,  
τοὺς δὲ ποιμένας καὶ διδασκάλους, πρὸς τὸν  
καταρτισμὸν τῶν ἁγίων, εἰς ἔργον διακονίας,  
εἰς οἰκοδομὴν τοῦ σώματος τοῦ Χριστοῦ·  
μέχρι καταντήσωμεν οἱ πάντες εἰς τὴν ἐνότητα  
τῆς πίστεως καὶ τῆς ἐπιγνώσεως τοῦ υἱοῦ τοῦ  
θεοῦ, εἰς ἄνδρα τέλειον, εἰς μέτρον ἡλικίας τοῦ  
πληρώματος τοῦ Χριστοῦ.

Ἦχος γ΄. Θείας πίστεως.

Μέγαν εὗρατο ἐν τοῖς  
κινδύνοις, σὲ ὑπέρμαχον ἡ  
οἰκουμένη, ἀθλοφόρε τᾶ  
ἔθνη τροποῦμενον. Ὡς οὖν  
Λυαίου καθεῖλες τὴν  
ἐπάροις, ἐν τῷ σταδίῳ  
θαρρῦνας τὸν Νέστορα,  
οὕτως ἅγιε μεγαλομάρτυς  
Δημήτριε, Χριστὸν τὸν  
Θεὸν ἱκέτευε, δωρήσασθαι  
ἡμῖν τὸ μέγα ἔλεος.

The reading is from Paul's Letter to the  
Ephesians.

DEACON

Let us be attentive.

READER

Eph. 4:7-13

Brethren, grace was given to each of  
us according to the measure of Christ's gift.  
Therefore it is said, "When he ascended on  
high he led a host of captives, and he gave gifts  
to men." (in saying, "He ascended," what does  
it mean but that he had also descended into the  
lower parts of the earth? He who descended  
is he who also ascended far above all the  
heavens, that he might fill all things.) And his  
gifts were that some should be apostles, some  
prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and  
teachers, to equip the saints for the work of  
ministry, for building up the body of Christ,  
until we all attain to the unity of the faith and  
of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature  
manhood, to the measure of the stature of the  
fullness of Christ. (RSV)

Third tone

You have proved to be for all  
the world the great champion  
in time of peril, as the victor  
in routing the barbarians.  
Thus as you put down the  
boasting of Lyaïos, imparting  
courage to Nestor in the  
stadium, so, O holy One,  
great Martyr Demetrios,  
beseech Christ our God for  
us that we may know the gift  
of His great mercy.