

St. Anthony the Great: Commemoration January 17th

Anthony was born in the mid-third century in Egypt. When his parents died, he gave his inheritance to the poor and at around the age of twenty moved to the company of monks near his village. Even though he was illiterate, he learned & memorized passages of the Bible from listening. He moved into the desert y the shores of the Red Sea and lived there for 20 years in complete isolation, prayer and contemplation. He withstood unheard-of temptations & physical demonic attacks. Later, as his fame spread, he attracted many disciples; He perfected himself, and then he helped perfect others. Emperor Constantine the Great would even write him letters. At the age of 75, he travelled to the 1st Ecumenical Council of Nicaea to speak against the Arians. When he returned, he worked to further define the rules of monasticism, and he began several other monasteries. He lived to 105 years old and he died peacefully .

St. George Orthodox Church
6300 Bowden Road
Jacksonville, FL 32216
(www.JaxOrthodox.com)
Address Service Requested



The Faith

The Newsletter of St. George

January 17, 2021

6300 Bowden Road, Jacksonville, FL 32216

♦ (W) 904-448-1855 * (Fax) 904-448-1866

stgeorgejax@comcast.net

V. Rev. Fr. Kamal Al-Rahil; Pastor

Anthony the Great

Tone 7

Eothinon 10

Epistle: Heb.13:17-21

Gospel: Luke 17:12-19

Sunday Services

Matins ~ 9:00 AM

Divine Liturgy ~ 10:00 AM

Office Hrs.:

Monday - Friday

9:00 AM - 1:00 PM

Confession by appointment

Church Banquet Hall

Capacity: 160 people seated

NO Hall Rental during COVID-19 Pandemic

Church Hall is Closed until further notice....

Servers for Sunday January 17, 2021

Epistle Readers:

English: Sbdn. Nadeem Tannous

Arabic: George Baghdan

Chanters:

George Baghdan

Tarek Kishek

Nadeem Tannous

Ushers:

Issa Odeh and Robert Elias

Altar Servers:

Ameen Hakim, Jamil and Jean Fayad; Nicholas and Anthony Odeh

2021 January Church Attendance Chart

♦ Sunday January 17th : **K-Z** families

♦ Sunday January 24th : **A-J** families

♦ Sunday January 31st : **K-Z** families

During the COVID-19 crisis, attendance at the Divine Liturgy **is limited up to eighty (80) people each Sunday**. Because of this, **you must sign up each week**. Please call the church office or **text Kh. Ranwa**.

Walk-ins will not be allowed. The church will be maintaining a list of those who signed up, and names will be checked at the door as well.

As always, St. George services will continue to **be live-streamed**.



Newly Engaged

We would like to congratulate the newly engaged couple;

Kelly George Salameh

&

Timothy Patrick Bee

Happy Parents

George and Delilah Salameh

Mrs. Valita Bee and the Late Patrick Bee

May the Lord God bless them and direct their steps to fulfill their future plans!

We would like to congratulate the newly engaged couple;

Dr. Daniella Sousou

&

Dr. Ralph Rizk

Happy Parents

Michael and Sawsan Sousou

Dr. Bassam and Zeina Rizk

May the Lord God bless them and direct their steps to fulfill their future.





2021 DOMSE Virtual Winter Retreat

*"Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation,
be constant in prayer" ..*

January 29-31, 2021

3 separate retreat event tracks!

Track#1 –Clergy

Track #2– Teens

Track #3 AMEN, Antiochian Women, and Young Adults.

Join us online for a weekend of fellowship!

NEW BORN BABY BOY!

Congratulations *Mr. Romey and Dr. Laura (Bateh) Zaid*
on the birth of your new baby Boy;



"James Romey Zaid"

Who was born on November 28th, 2020



*May the Lord God shower the newborn
Babyboy and his Loving parents with good
health, prosperity, and long life.*

"Virtual" Annual General Assembly Sunday February 14th, 2021

The Parish Council is made up of **12 members** (elected for **3 years** by the General Assembly), **3 members appointed for one year** by the Pastor, and all of the Organizations' Presidents.

Every year the council elects from within its ranks, a chairperson and executive officers. In addition, committees are appointed to run the affairs of the parish.

The Pastor, as the appointed representative of the Metropolitan, has the ultimate responsibility for our church. For a synergistic and effective arrangement of our church, the priest, the council, and every parishioner has to work in harmony, much like the Holy Trinity is three persons in one, so must this relationship be.

Qualification Requirements

A candidate must:

A– He/ She must be twenty years of age or older.

B– He/ She has been a voting member of the parish for a period of the past two consecutive years, and has met his/her financial pledge to the church.

C– He/ She has fulfilled the Communicant's requirements of the Orthodox faith; (meaning in good standing spiritually).

A nominating committee is appointed every year to search for the candidates that can best serve the needs of our church.

If you are interested please **Call ONE** of the Nominating Committee members below:

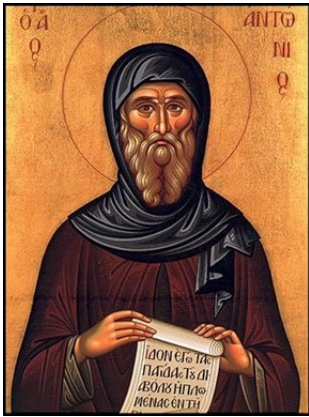
Fr. Kamal Al-Rahil, Pastor @ **904-448-1855**

Mr. Jonathan Essa , Parish Council Chairman@ **904-891-4088**

Mrs. Diana Farhat *Nominating Committee Chairman* @ **904-318-7535**

Miss Karina Cadora @ **904-705-6643**

Mr. Sam Kalil @ **904 607-5957**



Adapted from Thomas Merton's book
The Wisdom of the Desert

In the 4th century AD the deserts of Egypt, Palestine, Arabia and Persia were settled by people who left behind them a strange reputation. They were the first Christian hermits, who abandoned the cities of the ancient Roman world to live in the solitude and silence of the desert. Why did they do this? The reasons were many and various, but they can all be summed up in one brief phrase: the quest for salvation. Among these men (and women!) the life and witness of St. Anthony the

Great is unique.

St. Anthony, called “the father of monasticism”, was born in central Egypt about 251 AD, the son of peasant farmers who were Christian. Sometime in 269, he heard the Gospel being read in Church and applied to himself the words of Jesus to the rich man: “Go, sell all that you have, give it to the poor and come, follow Me” (*Mark 10:21*). He sold everything he owned, gave the proceeds to the poor and devoted himself to a life of asceticism under the guidance of a recluse living on the outskirts of his village. Around 285 AD he went alone into the desert to live in complete solitude. It was in this solitude and silence that Anthony heard clearly the Word of God for his life. After 20 years in solitude, Anthony emerged “as one initiated into the mysteries of God and inspired by the Holy Spirit (he became) a physician given by God to Egypt through whom the Lord healed many people” as his friend and biographer, St. Athanasios of Alexandria wrote in his book, *The Life of Anthony*. This book, one of the earliest Christian biographies, became an immediate literary and theological sensation in the ancient Roman world and a prototype for all later writing about the lives and witness of the saints. As a result, Anthony’s fame spread and people who thirsted for authentic Christian spirituality sought his counsel in greater and greater numbers, populating the deserts of Egypt.

St. Anthony died at the age of 105 in 356 AD and his memory in the life of the Church is celebrated on January 17th

What can we, more than 1500 years later, learn from Anthony’s witness? What is the meaning of his flight from society into the desert? First, society—which meant classical Roman pagan society, limited by the horizons and prospects of life “in this world” – was regarded by Anthony and the many other desert fathers and mothers as a shipwreck from which each had to swim for their lives. These were men and women who believed that to let oneself drift along, passively accepting the non-Christian tenets of what they knew as society, was purely and simply a disaster. These Coptic hermits—for Anthony, like so many of his brothers and sisters, was Coptic and spoke no Greek or Latin—who left the world as though escaping from a shipwreck, did not merely intend to save themselves. They knew that they were helpless to do any good for others as long as they floundered about in the wreckage. But once they got a foothold on solid ground, things were different. Then they had not only the ability but even the obligation to pull the world to safety after them. Perhaps we cannot do exactly what Anthony did and seek God in the deserts of Egypt. But we must be as thorough and as ruthless in our determination to break our spiritual chains, cast off the domination of alien compulsions and find our true selves in Christ Jesus in order to share His salvation with the world.

Sayings of St. Anthony the Great

Abba Anthony said: “This is the work of a great man: always to take responsibility for his own sins before God and to expect temptations until his last breath.”

Abba Anthony said: “A time is coming when people will go mad and when they see someone who is not mad, they will attack him, saying, “You are mad, you are not like us.”

He also said: “Whoever you may be, always have God before your eyes; whatever you do, do it in accordance with the testimony of the Holy Scriptures; in whatever place you live, do not easily leave it. Keep these three precepts and you will be saved.”

He also said: “From our neighbor is life and death. For if we gain our neighbor, we gain God; and if we scandalize our neighbor we have sinned against Christ.”

He also said: “Always have the fear of God before your eyes. Control your tongue and your stomach. Test yourselves to see if you are worthy of God.”

— **SAINT OF GOD, PRAY FOR US!** —