

*Ecumenical Patriarchate*  
*Greek Orthodox Metropolis of New Jersey*

## **ASCENSION**

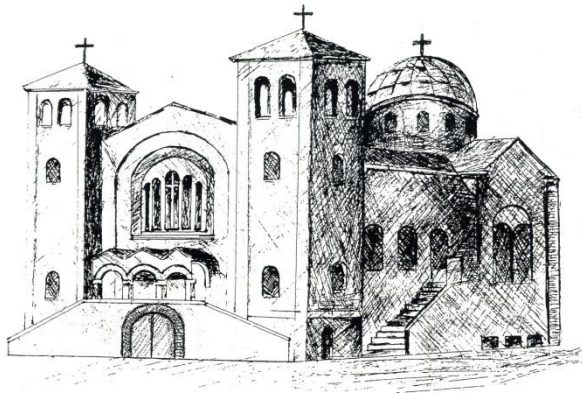
Greek Orthodox Church

FAIRVIEW - NEW JERSEY

## **Weekly Bulletin**

**Sunday, January 12, 2020**

**Sunday after Theophany**



Οικουμενικόν Πατριαρχεῖον  
Ιερά Μητρόπολις Νέας Ιερσέης  
Ελληνική Ορθόδοξη Εκκλησία  
**ΘΕΙΑΣ ΑΝΑΛΗΨΕΩΣ**  
ΦΕΡΒΙΟΥ ΝΕΑΣ ΙΕΡΣΕΗΣ  
**ΕΒΔΟΜΑΔΙΑΙΟ ΔΕΛΤΙΟ**  
**ΕΝΗΜΕΡΩΣΗΣ**  
Rev. Christos L. Pappas, Protopresbyter

## ΠΡΟΓΡΑΜΜΑ ΑΚΟΛΟΥΘΙΩΝ & ΕΚΔΗΛΩΣΕΩΝ

Κυριακή, 12 Ιανουαρίου, 2020

Μετά τα Θεοφάνεια

9 π.μ. – 12:30 μ.μ., Όρθρος Θεία Λειτουργία

Ο καφές σερβίρεται από το ΠΤΟ

Τρίτη, 14 Ιανουαρίου, 2020

6:00 μ.μ. – Παράκληση

7:30 μ.μ. Γενική Συνεδρίαση της Φιλοπτώχου

Τετάρτη, 15 Ιανουαρίου, 2020

4:30 μ.μ. - 6:15 μ.μ. Ελληνικό Σχολείο

Παρασκευή, 17 Ιανουαρίου, 2020

Αντώνιος ο Μέγας

9:00 π.μ. - Όρθρος, Θεία Λειτουργία

4:30 μ.μ. - 6:30 μ.μ. Ελληνικό Σχολείο

7:00 μ.μ. Εσπερινός στον Ναό Αγίου Αθανασίου

Σάββατο, 18 Ιανουαρίου, 2020

Αθανάσιος & Κύριλλος

9:00 π.μ. - Όρθρος, Θεία Λειτουργία

Κυριακή, 19 Ιανουαρίου, 2020

ΙΒ' Λουκά

9:00 π.μ. – 12:30 μ.μ., Όρθρος Θεία Λειτουργία

Ο καφές προσφέρεται από την GOYA

## SCHEDULE OF SERVICES AND EVENTS

Sunday, January 12, 2020

Sunday after Theophany

9:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. *Orthros, D. Liturgy*

Coffee is served by the PTO

Tuesday, January 14, 2020

6:00 p.m. - Paraklisis

7:30 p.m. Philoptochos General Meeting

Wednesday, January 15, 2020

4:30 p.m. - 6:15 p.m. *Greek School – Agiasmos*

Friday, January 17, 2020

Anthony the Great

9:00 a.m. - Orthros, Divine Liturgy

4:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. *Greek School*

7:00 *Vespers at Agios Athanasios*

Saturday, January 18, 2020

Athanasios & Cyril

9:00 a.m. - Orthros, Divine Liturgy

Sunday, January 19, 2020

12th Sunday of Luke

9:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. *Orthros, D. Liturgy*

Coffee is offered by GOYA

Προκείμενον. Ἦχος α'.  
ΨΑΛΜΟΙ 32.22,1

Γένοιτο, Κύριε, τὸ ἔλεός σου ἐφ' ἡμᾶς.  
Στίχ. Ἀγαλλιᾶσθε δίκαιοι ἐν Κυρίῳ

### Πρὸς Ἐφεσίους 4:7-13 τὸ ἀνάγνωσμα

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 καταστήσωμεν οἱ πάντες εἰς τὴν ἐνότητα τῆς πίστεως καὶ τῆς ἐπιγνώσεως τοῦ υἱοῦ τοῦ θεοῦ, εἰς ἄνδρα τέλειον, εἰς μέτρον ἡλικίας τοῦ πληρώματος τοῦ Χριστοῦ.

Prokeimenon. Mode 1.  
Psalm 32.22,1

Let your mercy, O Lord, be upon us.  
Verse: Rejoice in the Lord, O ye righteous.

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

### Ἐκ τοῦ Κατὰ Ματθαῖον 4:12-17 Εὐαγγελίου τὸ Ἀνάγνωσμα

Τῷ καιρῷ ἐκείνῳ, ἀκούσας δὲ ὁ Ἰησοῦς ὅτι Ἰωάννης παρεδόθη, ἀνεχώρησεν εἰς τὴν Γαλιλαίαν, καὶ καταλιπὼν τὴν Ναζαρέτ ἐλθὼν κατώκησεν εἰς Καπερναοὺμ τὴν παραθαλασσίαν ἐν ὁρίοις Ζαβουλῶν καὶ Νεφθαλείμ, ἵνα πληρωθῇ τὸ ῥηθὲν διὰ Ἡσαΐου τοῦ προφήτου λέγοντος· γῆ Ζαβουλῶν καὶ γῆ Νεφθαλείμ, ὁδὸν θαλάσσης, πέραν τοῦ Ἰορδάνου, Γαλιλαία τῶν ἐθνῶν, ὁ λαὸς ὁ καθήμενος ἐν σκότειϊδε φῶς μέγα, καὶ τοῖς καθημένοις ἐν χώρᾳ καὶ σκιᾷ θανάτου φῶς ἀνέτειλεν αὐτοῖς. Ἀπὸ τότε ἤρξατο ὁ Ἰησοῦς κηρῦσσειν καὶ λέγειν· μετανοεῖτε· ἤγγικε γὰρ ἡ βασιλεία τῶν οὐρανῶν.

### The Gospel According to Matthew 4:12-17

At that time, when 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."

### **Venerable and God-bearing Father Anthony the Great**

Saint Anthony the Great is known as the Father of monasticism, and the long ascetical sermon in *The Life of Saint Anthony* by Saint Athanasius (Sections 16-34), could be called the first monastic Rule.

He was born in Egypt in the village of Coma, near the desert of the Thebaid, in the year 251. His parents were pious Christians of illustrious lineage. Anthony was a serious child and was respectful and obedient to his parents. He loved to attend church services, and he listened to the Holy Scripture so attentively, that he remembered what he heard all his life.

When Saint Anthony was about twenty years old, he lost his parents, but he was responsible for the care of his younger sister. Going to church about six months later, the youth reflected on how the faithful, in the Acts of the Apostles (4:35), sold their possessions and gave the proceeds to the Apostles for the needy. Then he entered the church and heard the Gospel passage where Christ speaks to the rich young man: "If you would be perfect, go, sell what you possess and give it to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come follow Me" (Mt.19:21). Anthony felt that these words applied to him. Therefore, he sold the property that he received after the death of his parents, then distributed the money to the poor, and left his sister in the care of pious virgins in a convent.

Leaving his parental home, Saint Anthony began his ascetical life in a hut not far from his village. By working with his hands, he was able to earn his livelihood and also alms for the poor. Sometimes, the holy youth also visited other ascetics living in the area, and from each he sought direction and benefit. He turned to one particular ascetic for guidance in the spiritual life.

In this period of his life Saint Anthony endured terrible temptations from the devil. The Enemy of the race of man troubled the young ascetic with thoughts of his former life, doubts about his chosen path, concern for his sister, and he tempted Anthony with lewd thoughts and carnal feelings. But the saint

extinguished that fire by meditating on Christ and by thinking of eternal punishment, thereby overcoming the devil.

Realizing that the devil would undoubtedly attack him in another manner, Saint Anthony prayed and intensified his efforts. Anthony prayed that the Lord would show him the path of salvation. And he was granted a vision. The ascetic beheld a man, who by turns alternately finished a prayer, and then began to work. This was an angel, which the Lord had sent to instruct His chosen one. Saint Anthony tried to accustom himself to a stricter way of life. He partook of food only after sunset, he spent all night praying until dawn. Soon he slept only every third day. But the devil would not cease his tricks, and trying to scare the monk, he appeared under the guise of monstrous phantoms. The saint however protected himself with the Life-Creating Cross. Finally the Enemy appeared to him in the guise of a frightful looking black child, and hypocritically declaring himself beaten, he thought he could tempt the saint into vanity and pride. The saint, however, vanquished the Enemy with prayer.

For even greater solitude, Saint Anthony moved farther away from the village, into a graveyard. He asked a friend to bring him a little bread on designated days, then shut himself in a tomb. Then the devils pounced upon the saint intending to kill him, and inflicted terrible wounds upon him. By the providence of the Lord, Anthony's friend arrived the next day to bring him his food. Seeing him lying on the ground as if dead, he took him back to the village. They thought the saint was dead and prepared for his burial. At midnight, Saint Anthony regained consciousness and told his friend to carry him back to the tombs. Saint Anthony's staunchness was greater than the wiles of the Enemy. Taking the form of ferocious beasts, the devils tried to force the saint to leave that place, but he defeated them by trusting in the Lord. Looking up, the saint saw the roof opening, as it were, and a ray of light coming down toward him. The demons disappeared and he cried out, "Where have You been, O Merciful Jesus? Why didn't You appear from the very beginning to end my pain?"

The Lord replied, “I was here, Anthony, but wanted to see your struggle. Now, since you have not yielded, I shall always help you and make your name known throughout all the world.” After this vision Saint Anthony was healed of his wounds and felt stronger than before. He was then thirty-five years of age. Having gained spiritual experience in his struggle with the devil, Saint Anthony considered going into the Thebaid desert to serve the Lord. He asked the Elder (to whom he had turned for guidance at the beginning of his monastic journey) to go into the desert with him. The Elder, while blessing him in the then as yet unheard of exploit of being a hermit, decided not to accompany him because of his age. Saint Anthony went into the desert alone. The devil tried to hinder him, by placing a large silver disc in his path, then gold, but the saint ignored it and passed by. He found an abandoned fort on the other side of the river and settled there, barricading the entrance with stones. His faithful friend brought him bread twice a year, and there was water inside the fort. Saint Anthony spent twenty years in complete isolation and constant struggle with the demons, and he finally achieved perfect calm. The saint’s friends removed the stones from the entrance, and they went to Saint Anthony and besought him to take them under his guidance. Soon Saint Anthony’s cell was surrounded by several monasteries, and the saint acted as a father and guide to their inhabitants, giving spiritual instruction to all who came into the desert seeking salvation. He increased the zeal of those who were already monks, and inspired others with a love for the ascetical life. He told them to strive to please the Lord, and not to become faint-hearted in their labors. He also urged them not to fear demonic assaults, but to repel the Enemy by the power of the Life-Creating Cross of the Lord. In the year 311 there was a fierce persecution against Christians, in the reign of the emperor Maximian. Wishing to suffer with the holy martyrs, Saint Anthony left the desert and went to Alexandria. He openly ministered to those in prison, he was present at the trial and interrogations of the confessors, and accompanying the martyrs to the place of execution. It pleased the Lord to preserve him, however, for the benefit of Christians.

At the close of the persecution, the saint returned to the desert and continued his exploits. The Lord granted the saint the gift of wonderworking, casting out demons and healing the sick by the power of his prayer. The great crowds of people coming to him disrupted his solitude, and he went off still farther, into the inner desert where he settled atop a high elevation. But the brethren of the monasteries sought him out and asked him to visit their communities.

Another time Saint Anthony left the desert and arrived in Alexandria to defend the Orthodox Faith against the Manichaean and Arian heresies. Knowing that the name of Saint Anthony was venerated by all the Church, the Arians said that he adhered to their heretical teaching. But Saint Anthony publicly denounced Arianism in front of everyone and in the presence of the bishop. During his brief stay at Alexandria, he converted a great multitude of pagans to Christ.

People from all walks of life loved the saint and sought his advice. Pagan philosophers once came to Abba Anthony intending to mock him for his lack of education, but by his words he reduced them to silence. Emperor Constantine the Great (May 21) and his sons wrote to Saint Anthony and asked him for a reply. He praised the emperor for his belief in Christ, and advised him to remember the future judgment, and to know that Christ is the true King.

Saint Anthony spent eighty-five years in the solitary desert. Shortly before his death, he told the brethren that soon he would be taken from them. He instructed them to preserve the Orthodox Faith in its purity, to avoid any association with heretics, and not to be negligent in their monastic struggles. “Strive to be united first with the Lord, and then with the saints, so that after death they may receive you as familiar friends into the everlasting dwellings.”

The saint instructed two of his disciples, who had attended him in the final fifteen years of his life, to bury him in the desert and not in Alexandria. He left one of his monastic mantles to Saint Athanasius of Alexandria (January 18), and the other to Saint Serapion of Thmuis (March 21). Saint Anthony died peacefully

in the year 356, at age 105, and he was buried in the desert by his disciples. The Life of the famed ascetic Saint Anthony the Great was written by Saint Athanasius of Alexandria. This is the first biography of a saint who was not a martyr, and is considered to be one of the finest of Saint Athanasius' writings. Saint John Chrysostom recommends that this Life be read by every Christian. "These things are insignificant compared with Anthony's virtues," writes Saint Athanasius, "but judge from them what the man of God Anthony was like. From his youth until his old age, he kept his zeal for asceticism, he did not give in to the desire for costly foods because of his age, nor did he alter his clothing because of the infirmity of his body. He did not even wash his feet with water. He remained very healthy, and he could see well because his eyes were sound and undimmed. Not one of his teeth fell out, but near the gums they had become worn due to his advanced age. He remained strong in his hands and feet.... He was spoken of everywhere, and was admired by everyone, and was sought even by those who had not seen him, which is evidence of his virtue and of a soul dear to God."

The following works of Saint Anthony have come down to us: Twenty Sermons on the virtues, primarily monastic (probably spurious).

Seven Letters to various Egyptian monasteries concerning moral perfection, and the monastic life as a spiritual struggle.

A Rule for monastics (not regarded as an authentic work of Saint Anthony).

In the year 544 the relics of Saint Anthony the Great were transferred to Alexandria, and after the conquest of Egypt by the Saracens in the seventh century, they were transferred to Constantinople. The holy relics were transferred from Constantinople in the tenth-eleventh centuries to a diocese outside Vienna. In the fifteenth century they were brought to Arles (in France), to the church of Saint Julian.

## Άγιος Αντώνιος ο Μέγας

Ο Μέγας Αντώνιος γεννήθηκε το 251 μ.Χ. στην Άνω Αίγυπτο από πλούσιους και ενάρετους γονείς, τους οποίους έχασε σε νεαρή ηλικία. Συγκεντρώνει όμως την προσοχή του στην μυστική θεωρία των μοναχών της ερήμου και στην φροντίδα της μικρής αδελφής του. Γρήγορα αποφασίζει να εγκαταλείψει τα εγκόσμια και αναχωρεί για την έρημο, αφού πρώτα τακτοποίησε την μικρότερη αδελφή του και μοίρασε την μεγάλη πατρική περιουσία στους φτωχούς της περιοχής του.

Στην έρημο παίδευσε την ψυχή του και τιθάσευσε τα πάθη του φθάνοντας στα ανώτατα όρια της άσκησης ώστε η ψυχή του αγίου μπορούσε να εξέρχεται του σώματός του ενώ βρισκόταν ακόμη εν ζωή. Γίνεται το πρότυπο των ασκητών. Πολλοί εξ αυτών έφθαναν στην έρημο για να τον ακούσουν και να τον συμβουλευθούν. Παρέδωσε την μακάρια ψυχή του στον μισθαποδότη Θεό σε ηλικία 105 ετών.

Αν και, όπως λέγει ο Μέγας Αθανάσιος, μία από τις τελευταίες επιθυμίες του Οσίου Αντωνίου ήταν να μείνει κρυφός ο τόπος της ταφής του, οι μοναχοί που μόναζαν κοντά του έλεγαν ότι κατείχαν το ιερό λείψανό του, το οποίο επί Ιουστινιανού (561 μ.Χ.), κατατέθηκε στην Εκκλησία του Αγίου Ιωάννου του Προδρόμου στην Αλεξάνδρεια και από εκεί αργότερα, το 635 μ.Χ., μεταφέρθηκε στην Κωνσταντινούπολη.

Η Σύναξή του ετελείτο στη Μεγάλη Εκκλησία.

## Άγιοι Αθανάσιος ο Μέγας και Κύριλλος

### Πατριάρχες Αλεξανδρείας

Ο Μέγας Αθανάσιος γεννήθηκε το 295 μ.Χ. από φτωχούς αλλά ενάρετους γονείς, γεγονός που του στέρησε τη δυνατότητα για ανώτερες σπουδές. Όμως ο πανάγαθος Θεός τον προίκισε με πλούσια πνευματικά προσόντα. Λαμβάνει τη στοιχειώδη εκπαίδευση και στη συνέχεια μελετά μόνος του για να φθάσει σε υψηλότατα επίπεδα γνώσης και σοφίας. Από πολύ νέος έδειξε την κλίση του προς την Εκκλησία. 25 ετών χειροτονείται διάκονος από τον πατριάρχη Αλεξανδρείας Αλέξανδρο, τον οποίο ακολουθεί στην Α΄ Οικουμενική Σύνοδο το 325 μ.Χ., στη Νίκαια της Βιθυνίας. Αναδεικνύεται πρωτεργάτης στην καταδίκη της αιρετικής διδασκαλίας του Αρείου. Το 328 μ.Χ. και σε ηλικία 33 ετών εκλέγεται πανηγυρικά πατριάρχης Αλεξανδρείας. Από τη θέση αυτή αντιμετωπίζει ένα φοβερό πόλεμο εκ μέρους των αιρετικών οπαδών του Αρείου. Όμως ο άγιος, χάρη στην μεγάλη πνευματικότητά του και τη ζέουσα πίστη στο Θεό, κατορθώνει να βγει νικητής απ' όλες αυτές τις δοκιμασίες ακόμη και από τις πέντε εξορίες που του επιβλήθηκαν, καθώς ο αυτοκράτορας Κωνσταντίνος ο Β΄ ήταν οπαδός του Αρειανισμού. Εκοιμήθη εν ειρήνη το 373 μ.Χ. Ο Άγιος Κύριλλος έζησε επί βασιλείας Θεοδοσίου του Μικρού και γεννήθηκε στην Αλεξάνδρεια το 370 μ.Χ. από εύπορους γονείς της ελληνικής κοινωνίας της πόλεως. Ανεψιός του αρχιεπισκόπου Αλεξανδρείας Θεοφίλου ο Κύριλλος, έλαβε μεγάλη θεολογική μόρφωση, ώστε έγινε κατόπιν διάδοχος του θείου του, στον αρχιεπισκοπικό θρόνο Αλεξανδρείας.

## Sts. Athanasios and Cyril, Patriarchs of Alexandria

Saints Athanasius and Cyril were Archbishops of Alexandria. These wise teachers of truth and defenders of Christ's Church share a joint Feast in recognition of their dogmatic writings which affirm the truth of the Orthodox Faith, correctly interpret the Holy Scripture, and censure the delusions of the heretics.

St Athanasius took part in the First Ecumenical Council when he was still a deacon. He surpassed everyone there in his zeal to uphold the teaching that Christ is consubstantial (homoousios) with the Father, and not merely a creature, as the Arians proclaimed. This radiant beacon of Orthodoxy spent most of his life in exile from his See, because of the plotting of his enemies. He returned to his flock as he was approaching the end of his life. Like an evening star, he illumined the Orthodox faithful with his words for a little while, then reposed in 373. He is also commemorated on May 2 (the transfer of his holy relics).

St Cyril was the nephew of Patriarch Theophilus of Alexandria, who educated him from his youth. He succeeded to his uncle's position in 412, but was deposed through the intrigues of the Nestorian heretics. He later resumed his See, however. St Cyril presided at the Third Ecumenical Council in 441, which censured the Nestorian blasphemy against the Most Holy Theotokos. His wise words demonstrated the error of their false doctrine. St Cyril departed to the Lord in the year 444, and is also commemorated on June 9 (the day of his repose).

PTO of Ascension's 16<sup>th</sup> Annual

# TAVERNA Night



With Yannis Papastefanou & Orchestra

## SAVE THE DATE 2020

**Godparents Sunday**

**January 26, 2020**

**P.T.O. Taverna Night**

**February 1, 2020**

**Philoptochos Apokriatiko Glendi**

**February 22, 2020**

Save the Date:

February 1, 2020

\$55 advanced tickets • \$75 at the door • Kids \$30 advanced tickets (12-18) • Greek School Kids **FREE**

Contact Any PTO Member or text Christina Papas, 201-658-2766 or email [ascensionfairviewpto@gmail.com](mailto:ascensionfairviewpto@gmail.com)

(More Info to follow)



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***THE WEEKLY BULLETIN***  
***YEAR 2020 ISSUE 1,2***

**SUNDAY, January 12, 2020**  
**Sunday after Theophany**

**KYPIAKH, 12 Ιανουαρίου, 2020**  
**Κυριακή μετά τα Θεοφάνεια**

**MEMORIAL SERVICES –ΜΝΗΜΟΣΥΝΑ**

**1 χρόνος: Ευάγγελος Παπαϊωάννου**  
**1 year: Evangelos Papaioannou**

**2 χρόνια: Χρήστος Πετρίδης**  
**2 years: Christos Petrides**

*Ο καφές προσφέρεται από την οικογένεια Πετρίδη  
που τελεί τα μνημόσυνα  
εις μνήμη των κεκοιμημένων*

*The coffee is offered by the Petrides family  
that has the Memorial Services*