

St. Anthony's Scroll

A publication of
St. Anthony the Great Orthodox Church

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Lucia, A Light to Shine in Our Hearts Forever

Kh. Ramia Baba

A dear family member recently told us of a saying that she heard: "There is a word for one who loses a spouse, and that is 'widow'. There is also a word for a child that loses a parent - 'orphan'. However, there is no word in the English language for a parent who loses their child." Maybe that is because they remain a parent [and we will always be Lucia's parents, and she, always and forever, will be our daughter]. Perhaps there is also no word because it is one of the most unnatural things that can ever happen in this life. It's not "supposed to" happen, and yet, here we are confronted with the passing of our most precious and sweet daughter, Lucia - a child of the Light.

We are in the midst of our grieving, and as her Godfather (and our brother-in-law), Fr. James Shadid, so eloquently pointed out at her funeral, we grieve for ourselves, and not for Lucia. There is no doubt in our minds that she is sinless and now rejoices in the company of our dear Lord, His Mother, the Saints and the angels. There is comfort in this, and also comfort in knowing that she no longer suffers because of her illness. However, these things do not remove the pain of separation, of missing her, of wanting to hear her cry, of watching the funny ways she sleeps and moves her hands....I could go on for hours. In the midst of the pain, we are truly grateful to our St. Anthony's family for the kindness and love you've all shown, and also for your care and understanding.



I can boldly say that we are proud parents. Our daughter got people to pray. There is something about a sweet little baby with a terminal illness that just tugs so hard at people's heart strings in ways that many of us cannot even hope to do. Lucia has done just that. She fought an incredibly tough battle and demonstrated resilient strength, without ever compromising her sweetness. She is a blessing, and as Fr. James urged us, our goal is now to take that light that Lucia shone - the Light of Christ - and preserve it. May we preserve in our hearts whatever meaningful lesson that Lucia taught us, and may we spread that Light of Christ's love to all people.

Reverend Anthony Baba ~ St. Anthony the Great Orthodox Church

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The Parish Council of Our Church

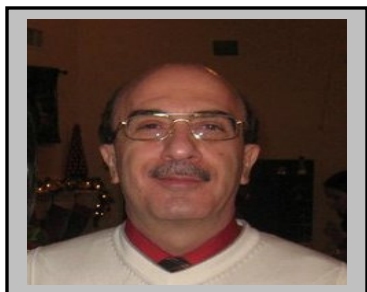
So what exactly does a Parish Council do besides meet once a month? It's a question that puzzled me growing up in the Church. Every so often the priest would announce to the parish there was meeting coming up and then would more often than not, make some kind of reference of how long they last. The Parish Council is a necessary ministry organization for every church, and the term "ministry" is exactly what it is.

A priest cannot serve a parish alone and neither can a parish serve alone. For this 2010-2011 year, you, the parish of St. Anthony have elected these members to be your leaders. If you ever have any questions, ideas, suggestions – whatever you would like to share – the priest is here for you as well as the members of our Parish Council. Get to know them...



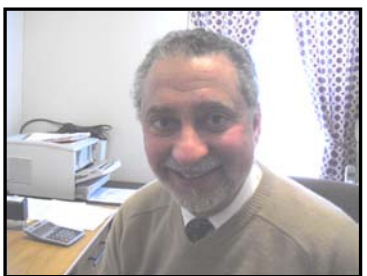
Stuart Lapp – *President*

Stuart, whose father and maternal grandfather were Methodist ministers, was introduced to Orthodox Christianity by his wife Eve, who was raised in the Romanian Orthodox Church. Stuart and Eve began attending St. Anthony in November 2003 and Stuart received the Sacrament of Holy Chrismation in February 2005. He was elected as a member of the Parish Council in October 2007, was reelected for a second term in 2010 and has served as President of the Council since his election in 2007.



Wadiah Nassif – *Vice President*

Wadiah is the current vice president of the Parish Council and has gladly served for 12 years. He has been a dedicated member of the church since 1992, and finds joy watching St. Anthony continue to grow. He is also a member of the order of St. Ignatius since 2002. Wadiah is the husband of his wonderful wife, Randa, and the proud father of two young ladies, Deanne and Natalie.



Chip Galagaza - *Treasurer*

Chip has been married to the choir director – Missy – for coming on 22 years in March. They have two adorable children, Filip (a college freshman) and Katarina (a high school sophomore), and they will have been members of St. Anthony for 16 years as of Palm Sunday next year. This is Chip's second stint on parish council, having served in the late 90s when the parish was still located on Mirror Lake.



Wade Goldston – *Secretary*

Wade joined the Orthodox Church almost three years ago after reading "The Art of Prayer". He believes the Orthodox Church is the most wonderful and fruitful expression of Christian life. He and his wife Camille have six children and three grandchildren. He is a buyer for Daniel Measurement and Control.



Lyne Bloomer - *Member*

Lyne Bloomer nee Hanania was born in Jerusalem, Palestine when it was under British Protectorate, of Orthodox Christian parents. The family moved to Jordan after the 1948 war with Israel. Lyne studied Education & Mathematics at the American University of Beirut. She later married Gail Bloomer and came to the USA. Gail & Lyne have two daughters: Dina & Carolyn. Lyne has been a Realtor in Houston since 1987.



Panayota Boyd – *Member*

Panayota (Pat) Boyd is a Greek American of fifty years plus, and has been an Orthodox Christian all her life. Her greatest beliefs are to "love thy neighbor", respect all people, and do all you can to promote Christianity and citizen commitments and live up to them.



Jonathan Companik – *Member*

Jonathan is a fire investigator from the Conroe area north of Houston and Spring, with a keen interest in theology. He is married to Rachael, and their three lovely daughters are Evelyn (5 yo), Sophia (2 1/2 yo) and Katherine (5 mo.). They were received into the Orthodox faith as a family on Holy Saturday, 2008 and have been members of St. Anthony's ever since. Jonathan is also the Sunday School assistant teacher for the 4th-6th graders of our parish.



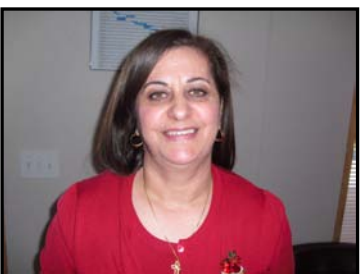
John Hamauei – *Member*

John was born and raised in New Orleans, LA and was baptized at Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church. He and his family were founding members of St. Basil Antiochian Orthodox Church in Metairie, LA. John and his wife, Rae Lynn, moved to Houston, TX in 1988 and attended St. George Orthodox Church until 2007 when they became members of our Church. They were blessed in 1998 when their son, Nicholas, was born into their family.



Sheree Khoury – *Member*

She has been Orthodox and a part of St. Anthony since 2005. Sheree is married with two beautiful children as well as being Board Certified in Nursing. The most important things in her life are health, her loving, devoted family and friends, and being a part of a wonderful congregation at St. Anthony. She feels very blessed to be a part of the Parish Council and hopes to serve for a long time to come.



Victoria Tannous – *Member*

Victoria was born into an Orthodox family in Amman, Jordan where she was also married. She has six children, two sons and four daughters; the youngest of which was born in the states. Recently, one of her daughters had a son and now Victoria is a grandmother to a beautiful boy. In 2008, her family moved to Cypress, Texas and became members of St. Anthony Orthodox Church.

A Season of Bright Sadness *written by Aaron Taylor*

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/belief/2010/feb/13/lent-orthodox-christianity>

Many Christians in the west, Catholic and Protestant, are familiar with the penitential season preceding Easter that is known as Lent. But the observance of this season is unusually elaborate among the Orthodox Christians of the east, and unfamiliar to most outsiders.

In the Orthodox church, Lent is first and foremost a liturgical period. In other words, its most important components are the liturgical texts and services that are sung throughout the season. The collection of Lenten liturgical material is known as the Triodion, and it is actually first brought out and used three weeks prior to Lent proper. Having completed these three weeks of preparation, Orthodox Lent begins not on Ash Wednesday but on Clean Monday. On this day, observant Orthodox Christians begin the most obvious part of the Lenten season – fasting. An Orthodox fast consists of abstinence from meat, eggs, dairy products, fish, wine and oil. It is a diet that the Orthodox should be accustomed to, as it is also kept on most Wednesdays and Fridays throughout the year, and during Advent and other liturgical seasons.

The Lenten fast, however, must never become a source of pride on the one hand, or something oppressive on the other. It is a measuring stick for our individual practice. If we keep it faithfully, we must say: "We are unprofitable servants: we have done that which was our duty to do" (Luke 17:10). If we fall short of the standard for any reason, we must reproach ourselves and try to do better. Fasting is primarily about obedience, and thus humility. But it also creates a sense of need and sobriety. It teaches us to seek our consolation in things of the spirit rather than of the flesh.



For fasting, even undertaken in the right spirit of humility, is merely a physical accompaniment to the real heart and joy of Lent: the prayer and worship that are intensified during this season, with some churches holding several services throughout the week. The centuries-old texts of the Triodion, full of poetry, meditation, and profound truth, are among the greatest treasures of the Orthodox church. It is here that we

encounter what the influential theologian Fr Alexander Schmemmann has called the "atmosphere", the "state of mind, soul, and spirit" which is to permeate our lives and which he calls "bright sadness" – a poetic translation of the "joy-making mourning" recommended by Saint John Climacus in his Ladder of Divine Ascent.

The Triodion reminds us that we have fallen short, that we are not the people we should be, that we have become entirely focused on aggrandising and satiating ourselves, and as a result these ancient services engender a sense of sorrow. But the sense of freedom we experience as

we relinquish this terrible self-centredness produces joy in our hearts. If we do not to some extent attain to this joy-through-mourning, we have entirely missed the point of Lent.

The Orthodox have not only this truth to offer their fellow men, but a concrete – indeed a beautiful – means of actualising it in our lives. But even if not all are able to come and participate in the enacting of the "bright sadness" of Orthodox Lent, it's still possible for others to ponder its wisdom. As long as there is evil in the world, we can be sure that some of it still lies hidden in our hearts. And as long as we are able to shed tears over our condition, there remains hope that we will one day see the glorious day of resurrection.

The Divine Services for Lent

Fr. Anthony Baba

Because this newsletter is published quarterly, the service schedule for Lent will not be in the next issue. The article written by Aaron Taylor on the previous page rightly expresses the mind-frame of what this season means for us as Orthodox Christians. The divine services throughout Lent are beautiful and there are many! I understand it might be difficult to attend every service, especially if you're a student who spends hours after school every week in extra-curricular activities, or if you're a professional which requires overtime work, or a parent who is busy 24-7 raising children. We all can have reasons why we don't have time to come, but I encourage you to review this calendar and schedule times that will allow you to participate in as many of these services as you can.

MARCH 2011

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
		1	2	3	4	5 5:30p - Confession 6:00p - <i>Great Vespers</i>
6 Lent begins at Sundown 6:00p - <i>Forgiveness Vespers</i>	7 CLEAN MONDAY 7:00p - <i>Compline & Great Canon</i>	8 7:00p - <i>Compline & Great Canon</i>	9 7:00p - <i>Presanctified Liturgy</i>	10 7:00p - <i>Compline & Great Canon</i>	11 7:00p - <i>Akathist "Madayeh"</i>	12 5:30p - Confession 6:00p - <i>Great Vespers</i>
13 5:00p - <i>Vespers at St. Basil Church</i>	14 7:00p - <i>Great Compline</i>	15	16 7:00p - <i>Presanctified Liturgy</i>	17	18 7:00p - <i>Akathist "Madayeh"</i>	19 5:30p - Confession 6:00p - <i>Great Vespers</i>
20	21 7:00p - <i>Great Compline</i>	22	23 7:00p - <i>Presanctified Liturgy</i>	24 7:00p - <i>Great Vespers</i>	25 Annunciation 9:00a - <i>Divine Liturgy</i>	26 5:30p - Confession 6:00p - <i>Great Vespers</i>
27	28 7:00p - <i>Great Compline</i>	29	30 7:00p - <i>Presanctified Liturgy</i>	31		



For more photos, including this newsletter, visit our website at www.StAnthonyTheGreat.org

Teen SOYO CHRISTMAS CAROLING



It was a cold, but not so snowy night when the teens of St. Anthony came together for a fun and exciting evening! On Sunday, December 19th, the teens were hosted at the Ashrawi's for a beautiful Christmas gathering. The evening started with fun and games and would continue with the "Secret Santa" gift exchange before we'd all hop in our cars and sing our hearts out! It was a fantastic evening and it is surely an event we will plan to do again next year, God-willing.



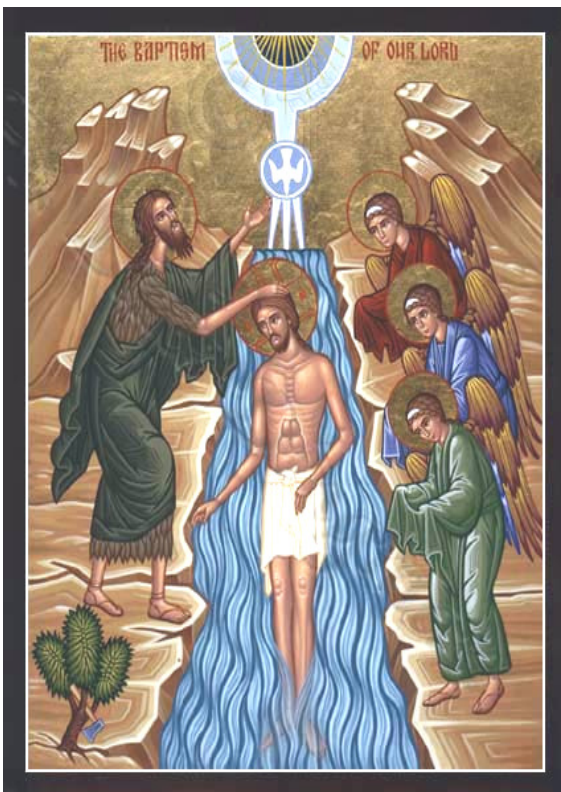
From Left to Right: Fr. Anthony, Natalie Nassif, Raneem Ashrawi, Rachel Moussa, Nicole Fakes, Katherine Frangos, Natalie Kobersi, Sophie Baroudi, Sarah Frangos, Stephanie Fakes, Rammy Ghanem, Rawan Ashrawi, Michael Ghanem, Jab Tannous, Filip Galagaza, Matthew Frangos, Tamer Ghanem, Amy Kobersi, Katarina Galagaza, Serene Ghanem

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Theophany Home Blessings

If you would like Fr. Anthony to bless your home during this Theophany

season, please e-mail him

FrAnthonyBaba@gmail.com

or call the office at

281-251-6000

to schedule a time and date.