



# ST. ANTHONY THE GREAT ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

223 E New Haven Ave; Melbourne, FL 32901-4571 Phone: (321) 345-5165

Fr. Dimitri Leussis, Priest Phone: (904) 463-4266

E-mail: [dleusicons@aol.com](mailto:dleusicons@aol.com)

V. Rev. Father Elia Shalhoub, Dean

Home Phone: (561) 616-8215; Cell: (305) 812-4940

E-mail: [elia\\_shalhoub@yahoo.com](mailto:elia_shalhoub@yahoo.com)

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**SEPTEMBER 16, 2012**

**Sunday After the Elevation of the Cross**

## WELCOME GUESTS

We at St. Anthony's Antiochian Orthodox Church welcome all who are with us in prayer this morning. If you are a first time visitor, please sign the guest book located on the literature table in the church narthex. Following services, please join us for sharing of fellowship, coffee, and food. St. Anthony's is a pan-nationality Orthodox community, under the omophorion of Metropolitan PHILIP within the Self-ruled Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America.

## VARIATIONS IN THE DIVINE LITURGY (ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM)

**On this day, we commemorate:** Great-martyr Euphemia the all-praised; Martin the bishop; Newmartyrs Isaac and Joseph of Georgia; Martyr Ludmilla, grandmother of Wenceslaus prince of the Czechs; Venerable Prokopios of Sazava in Bohemia.

### **Troparion (Tone 6)**

When Mary stood at thy grave looking for thy sacred body, angelic powers shone above thy revered tomb, and the soldiers who were to keep guard became as dead men. Thou led Hades captive and was not tempted thereby. Thou didst meet the Virgin and didst give life to the world. Thou who art risen from the dead, O Lord, glory to Thee.

### **Troparion of the Cross (Tone 1)**

O Lord, save thy people and bless thine inheritance, granting victory to the Orthodox Christians over their adversaries, and by virtue of thy Cross preserve thy habitation.

### **Troparion of St. Euphemia (Tone 4)**

Thy ewe, O Jesus, doth cry unto thee with a loud voice, saying, Nay bride, I long for thee and in struggles seek thee. I am crucified and buried with thee in thy Baptism. and for thee I do suffer until I reign with thee. I die for thee that I may live in thee. Then as a sacrifice without blemish receive her who for thy sake was slain. Through her intercessions, therefore, since thou art merciful, save our souls.

### **Kontakion of the Theotokos (Tone 4)**

Do thou, who of thine own good will wast lifted up upon the Cross, O Christ our God, bestow thy bounties upon the new nation which is called by Thy Name. Make glad in thy might those who lawfully govern, that with them we may be led to victory over our adversaries, having in thine aid a weapon of peace and a trophy invincible.

## A WORD ON COMMUNION

*We are happy that you have joined us today. Indeed, we pray for the "unity of the Faith" for the day when all of Christianity are united as ONE and can share a common Chalice. However, this is not the case as yet. The Sacrament of the Holy Eucharist (Holy Communion) is offered only to Orthodox Christians who are in complete harmony with the Faith and prepared themselves through fasting and prayer. We hope that you do understand and if you have questions or wish to embrace the Orthodox Christian Faith, please talk with Father Dimitri.*

## **The Prokeimenon**

How magnified are Thy works, O Lord!

In Wisdom hast Thou made them all.

Bless the Lord, O my soul!

## **The Apostle**

The Reading is from St. Paul's  
Epistle to the Galatians (2:16-20)

BRETHREN, knowing that a person is not justified by the works of the Law, but through faith in Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Jesus Christ, that we might be justified by faith in Christ, and not by the works of the Law: for by the works of the Law shall no flesh be justified. But if, while we sought to be justified in Christ, we ourselves also were found sinners, is Christ than a minister of sin? God Forbid! For if I build up again those things which I destroyed, I prove myself a transgressor. For I through the law died to the law, that I might live to God. I have been crucified with Christ, nevertheless I live, yet not I, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave Himself up for me.

## **The Gospel**

The Reading is from the Holy Gospel  
according to St. Mark (8:34-9:1)

The Lord Said, "If any man would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it; and whoever loses his life for my sake and the gospel's will save it. For what does it profit a man, to gain the whole world and forfeit his soul? For what can a man give in return for his soul? For whoever is ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him will the Son of man also be ashamed, when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels." And he said to them, "Truly, I say to you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the Kingdom of God come with power.



## The Cross, Preserver of the Universe (Sept 14)

by St. John Maximovitch of San Francisco & Shanghai

By the Cross, the Son of God having become man, accomplished our salvation. He humbled Himself and became obedient unto death, even the death of the Cross (Phil. 2:8). Having stretched out His hands upon the Cross, the Saviour with them, as it were, embraced the world, and by His blood shed on it, like a king with red ink, He signed the forgiveness of the human race.

The Cross of the Lord was the instrument by which He saved the world after the fall into sin. Through the Cross, He descended with His soul into hell so as to raise up from it the souls who were awaiting Him. By the Cross, Christ opened the doors of paradise which had been closed after our first ancestors had been banished from it. The Cross was sanctified by the Body of Christ which was nailed to it when He gave Himself over to torments and death for the salvation of the world, and it itself was then filled with life-giving power. By the Cross on Golgotha, the prince of this world was cast out (John 12:31) and an end was put to his authority. The weapon by which he was crushed became the sign of Christ's victory.

One cannot enumerate all the separate examples of the manifestation of the power of the Cross in various incidents. Invisibly and unceasingly there gushes from it the Divine grace that saves the world.

The Sign of the Cross is made at all the Mysteries and prayers of the Church. With the making of the Sign of the Cross over the bread and wine, they become the Body and Blood of Christ. With the immersion of the Cross, the waters are sanctified. The Sign of the Cross looses us from sins. "When we are guarded by the Cross, we oppose the enemy, not fearing his nets and barking." Just as the flaming sword in the hands of the Cherubim barred the entrance into paradise of old, so the Cross now acts invisibly in the world, guarding it from perdition.

When legions of demons appeared to St. Anthony the Great and other desert-dwellers, they guarded themselves with the Sign of the Cross, and the demons vanished.

But those who hated the Cross of the Lord and did not engrave the Cross in their soul will perish forever. For "the Cross is the preserver of the whole universe, the Cross is the beauty of the Church, the Cross is the might of kings, the Cross is the confirmation of the faithful, the Cross is the glory of angels and the scourge of demons" (Monday Matins).

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

- ✠ Birthday: Diogo Penas—Sept 20. May God grant him many years!
- ✠ Our Annual Christmas Cookie Walk bake sale will take place on Dec. 8. The Antiochian Women will be coordinating, but we need volunteers for chairperson, people to serve on the planning committee, workers for promotion, setup and the sale, and bakers—as many as possible. Baking in groups is more fun and it goes faster. We need to inventory our supplies (decorations, containers, and promotional) and order more as required.
- ✠ This year, it was suggested we talk to businesses about pre-ordering platters they may want to give as holiday gifts to their customers.
- ✠ Fr. Dimitri will be on vacation with Presbytera Kiki during the week of **October 14** for their anniversary. **Fr. Cassian from St. Petersburg will be celebrating Liturgy that Sunday.**
- ✠ If you would like your business spotlighted in the weekly church bulletin (examples below), please talk to one of the Council members. This is not a fund-raising effort, rather a way to get to know one another while promoting each other's endeavors. We can use existing artwork or create something original.
- ✠ Church School today after communion (and each Sunday) in the Church School Room. Please bring your children and help grow your church!
- ✠ It appears that the infamous "Nigerian bank account" scam has reared its head again, this time in an appeal to help spend millions of dollars "for the Lord's work". This is nothing more than a "phishing scam" designed to obtain personal information from you. If you receive one of these e-mails, please disregard, and do not respond no matter how tempting. There are two examples with annotations posted on the bulletin board.

*\*\* If you have any announcements, anniversaries, birthdays, name days, feast days, etc. to be added to the Sunday bulletin, please contact Dan Karas by email at [news@stanthonyorthodox.org](mailto:news@stanthonyorthodox.org) before Friday evening \*\**

**Please support the businesses of your fellow parishioners!**



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4250 N. Wickham Road, Ste #103  
Melbourne, FL 32935

Ph: 407-504-7374 Fax: 321-254-8365

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Website: [www.PeriSellsBrevard.com](http://www.PeriSellsBrevard.com)  
E-Mail: [perikiros@gmail.com](mailto:perikiros@gmail.com)

E-Mail: [info@stanthonyorthodox.org](mailto:info@stanthonyorthodox.org)



*John Shampo, Hair Artist By Appointment only*  
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**321-752-3964**

**3410 N Harbor City Blvd, Suite A, Melbourne, FL 32935**

Website <http://www.stanthonyorthodox.org>



## THE FEAST OF THE ELEVATION OF THE HOLY CROSS

After the Emperor Constantine had a vision of a cross in the sky on the eve of a decisive battle, the terrible era of persecution of Christians came to a close. Inspired by this divine sign, the Emperor took to heart the words that surrounded the cross in his vision: **“BY THIS SIGN YOU WILL CONQUER.”** Constantine placed his empire under the protection of the Cross, and was determined to find this greatest of all Christian relics.

In 326 A.D., an expedition set out for Jerusalem, headed by St. Helen, the mother of Constantine, to fulfill the Emperor's dream. After conversing with an elderly Jewish man named Judas, it seemed evident that the Holy Cross had been buried with debris in a cave, with a pagan temple built over it. Helen ordered the temple to be destroyed and the site excavated. Three crosses were found, along with the discarded inscription: **“Jesus of Nazareth, King of the Jews.”** According to tradition, a funeral procession was passing by. A dead man was placed on each of the crosses — when he was placed upon the third one he immediately came back to life! The Cross of Christ had been found!

By now, a great crowd had gathered. In order for everyone to have the opportunity to see the Holy Cross, it is said that Patriarch Makarios took it to a high place, where he “elevated” it, making it visible to all. It is no wonder that the faithful instantly fell to their knees and humbly exclaimed: **LORD HAVE MERCY!** A great church was then built over the sacred spot, forever honoring the place where Christ gave his Life for us upon the Cross.

*Let all the trees of the wood, planted from the beginning of time, rejoice; for their nature hath been sanctified by the stretching of Christ on the Tree. Wherefore, now, we worship Him, lifted up, and magnify Him.*

*+ Orthros of the Feast, Tone 8*

*By the mere planting of thy Cross, O Christ, the foundation of death did shake; for him whom Hades did swallow eagerly, it delivered up with trembling; for verily, thou didst reveal to us thy salvation, O holy One. Wherefore, do we glorify thee, O Son of God. Have mercy upon us.*

*+ Orthros of the Feast, Tone 6*

