

أهلا بكم!

نرحب بجميع زوارنا الذين يصلون معنا اليوم ونحرص على مشاركتكم في كنوزنا الروحية، وندعوكم للانضمام إلينا لتناول القهوة معنا في قاعة الكنيسة بعد القداس الإلهي. إذا كانت هذه أول زيارة لكم، يرجىأخذ القليل من الوقت لتوقيع سجل الزوار واستكمال بطاقة معلومات الزوار البيضاء والتي توجد في صحن الكنيسة، وإعادتها إلى أحد مرشدي الكنيسة. وكتنير ودي، يُسمح فقط للمسيحيين الأرثوذكس الذين أعدوا أنفسهم بشكل صحيح من خلال الصوم والصلوة واعتراف من زمن قريب بالاقتراب من الكأس المقدسة لتناول القربان المقدس. ولكن يُسمح للجميع الاقتراب في نهاية القداس لاستلام الخبز المقدس المبارك. ونحن نتطلع للقائكم والترحيب بكم شخصياً في كنيسة مار الياس. يرجى توجيه الأسئلة إلى الأب مايكل مباشرةً.

#### PRAYER ON LEAVING THE CHURCH

Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, according to thy word: for mine eyes have seen thy salvation, which thou hast prepared before the face of all people: a light to lighten the Gentiles, and the glory of thy people Israel.

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS

- The Holy Bread of Oblations today is being offered by the Ladies Officers.** Please pray for the spiritual and physical well-being of the Officers of the Antiochian Women of St. Elias. **Also being offered in loving memory of** the departed Officers of the Antiochian Women of St. Elias. **May their memory be eternal.**
- Please pray for all the sick** and suffering, hospitalized and shut-ins of our community, especially Gary (Chip) George, Janet Saba, Salwa Makhlof, Elias Shamieh, Nada and Rima Tadros, Evelyn Gabriel.
- Please pray for all those** who have suffered and lost loved ones in Palestine and the Middle East.

*St. Elias Antiochian Orthodox Christian Church*

*Rev. Fr. Michael Ibrahim*

*Deacon Nicholas Mahshie*

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**For Liturgy Names & Coffee Hour** email the above

**Saturday:** Vespers at 5:00 PM followed by confession

**Sunday:** Orthros at 9:30 AM & Divine Liturgy at 10:30 AM

**Check out our website @ [www.sainteliasny.com](http://www.sainteliasny.com)**



Welcome to St. Elias  
Antiochian Orthodox Church

#### ST. ELIAS ANTIOCHIAN CHRISTIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

JANUARY 18, 2026

His Eminence Metropolitan SABA, Archbishop of New York and  
Metropolitan of All North America

His Grace Bishop ALEXANDER, Auxiliary Bishop of the Diocese of  
OTTAWA, UPSTATE NEW YORK AND EASTERN CANADA

REV. FR. MICHAEL IBRAHIM  
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'DISCIPLES FIRST CALLED THEMSELVES CHRISTIANS IN ANTIOCH.' ACTS 11:26

# ATHANASIUS AND CYRIL, PATRIARCHS OF ALEXANDRIA

## & TWELFTH SUNDAY OF LUKE

MARTYR THEODOULA OF ANAZARBUS AND HER COMPANIONS;  
MAXIMOS, SERBIAN RULER

**TONE 7/ EOTHINON 10**

### PRAYER ON ENTERING THE CHURCH

I WILL COME INTO THY HOUSE IN THE MULTITUDE OF THY MERCY: AND IN THY FEAR I WILL WORSHIP TOWARD THY HOLY TEMPLE. Lead me, O Lord, in thy righteousness because of mine enemies; make thy way straight before me, that with a clear mind I may glorify thee forever, One Divine Power worshipped in three Persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.

### CHURCH ETIQUETTE

**O Lord, sanctify those who love the beauty of your house.**

When you enter the church, please remember that the church is a place of worship. Please do not disturb others as they worship God.

### PLEASE TURN OFF ALL CELL PHONES.

### **TROPARION OF THE PATRON SAINT OF THE CHURCH TONE 4:**

O Angelic of body the founder and corner stone of the prophets, the second forerunner of the advent of Christ, O Elias, venerable and glorious, thou didst send grace from heaven to thy disciple Elisha to dispel diseases and to purify lepers wherefore he abounds with healing to all those who honor him.

أيها الملائكة قاعدة الأنبياء وركنهم، السابق الثاني لحضور المسيح، إلياس المجيد الموقر، لقد أرسلت النعمة من العلي لأليشع ليطرد الأسقام ويطهر البرص، لذلك يُفيض الأسفية بمكرمي دائمًا"

### **THE SYNAKARION (Plain Reading)**

On January 18 in the Holy Orthodox Church, we commemorate our Fathers among the Saints Athanasius and Cyril, Patriarchs 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. 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 illuminated the Orthodox faithful with his words for a little while, and then reposed in 373. 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. Cyril presided at the Third Ecumenical Council in 431, which censured the Nestorian blasphemy against the Most Holy Theotokos. His wise words demonstrated the error of their false doctrine. Cyril departed to the Lord in 444.

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.

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### **WELCOME!**

We welcome all of our visitors who are praying with us today. We are eager to share with you our spiritual treasures, and invite you to join us for coffee-hour in the Fellowship Hall following the Divine Liturgy. If you are a first-time visitor, please take a few minutes to sign our Guest Registry book and complete the white VISITORS INFORMATION CARD which may be found in the Narthex, and return it to an usher. As a friendly reminder, **only Orthodox Christians who have properly prepared themselves through fasting, prayer and recent Confession may approach the Holy Chalice to receive Holy Communion. However all may come forward at end of Liturgy and receive blessed Holy Bread.** We look forward to meeting you and welcoming you personally to St. Elias. If you have any questions, please see Fr. Michael.

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

On this day, we also commemorate the Martyr Theodoula of Anazarbus and her companions; and Maximos, the Serbian ruler. By the intercessions of Thy saints, O Christ God, have mercy upon us. Amen.

## THE EPISTLE

**Priest: Let us attend.**

**Reader: Blessed art Thou, O Lord, the God of our Fathers.**

**For Thou are justified in all that Thou hast done for us.**

**Reader: The Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Hebrews. (13:7-16)**

Brethren, remember your leaders, those who spoke to you the Word of God; consider the outcome of their life, and imitate their faith. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever. Do not be led away by diverse and strange teachings; for it is well that the heart be strengthened by grace, not by foods, which have not benefited their adherents. We have an altar from which those who serve the tent have no right to eat. For the bodies of those animals whose blood is brought into the sanctuary by the high priest as a sacrifice for sin are burned outside the camp. So Jesus also suffered outside the gate in order to sanctify the people through His own blood. Therefore, let us go forth to Him outside the camp and bear the abuse He endured. For here we have no lasting city, but we seek the city, which is to come. Through Him then let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that acknowledge His Name. Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.

مُبَارَكٌ أَنْتَ يَا رَبُّ إِلَهَ آبائِنَا.

لَأَنَّكَ عَدْلٌ فِي كُلِّ مَا صنَعْتَ بِنَا.

فَصَلِّ مِنْ رِسَالَةِ الْقِدِيسِ بُولُسَ الرَّسُولِ إِلَى الْعَبْرَانِيِّينَ. (16-13:7)

يَا إِخْوَةُ، اذْكُرُوا مُدَبِّرِكُمُ الَّذِينَ كَلَمُوكُمْ بِكَلِمَةِ اللَّهِ. تَأَمَّلُوا فِي عَاقِبَةِ تَصَرُّفِهِمْ وَاقْتَدُوا بِإِيمَانِهِمْ. إِنَّ

يَسُوعَ الْمَسِيحَ هُوَ هُوَ، أَمْسٌ وَالْيَوْمُ وَإِلَى مَدِيَ الدَّهْرِ. لَا تَتَقَادُوا لِتَعَالِيمِ مُتَّوْعَةٍ غَرِيبَةٍ. فَإِنَّهُ يَحْسُنُ أَنْ يُبَثِّبَ الْقَلْبَ بِالْتَّعْمَةِ لَا بِالْأَطْعَمَةِ الَّتِي لَمْ يَنْتَعِذُ الَّذِينَ تَعَاطُوْهَا. إِنَّ لَنَا مُذْبَحًا، لَا سُلْطَانًا لِلَّذِينَ يَخْدُمُونَ الْمَسْكِنَ أَنْ يُأْكُلُوْهُنَّ. لِأَنَّ الْحَيَّانَاتِ الَّتِي يُدْخِلُ بِدَمِهَا عَنِ الْخَطِيَّةِ إِلَى الْأَقْدَاسِ بِيَدِ رَبِّيْسِ الْكَهْنَةِ،

تُخْرِقُ أَجْسَامُهَا خَارِجَ الْمَحَلَّةِ. فَلِذَلِكَ يَسُوعُ أَيْضًا تَأَلَّمَ خَارِجَ الْبَابِ لِيُقَدِّسَ الشَّعْبَ بِدَمِ نَفْسِهِ. فَلَنْخُرْجُ إِذْنَ إِلَيْهِ، إِلَى خَارِجِ الْمَحَلَّةِ، حَامِلِينَ عَارَةً. لِأَنَّهُ لَيْسَ لَنَا هُنَّا مَدِيَّةً بِاقِيَّةً، بَلْ نَطْلُبُ الْأَتِيَّةَ. فَلَقْرَبَ بِهِ إِذْنَ دَبِيَّحَةِ التَّسْبِيْحِ كُلَّ حِينٍ، وَهِيَ ثَمَرُ شِفَاهٍ مُعْتَرِفَةٍ لِاسْمِهِ. لَا تَنْسَا إِلَّا حَسَانَ وَالْمَؤْسَأَةَ، فَإِنَّ اللَّهَ يَرْتَضِي مِثْلَ هَذِهِ الْذَّبَائِحِ.

## GOSPEL

**Priest: The reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Luke. (17:12-19)**

At that time, as Jesus entered a village, He was met by ten lepers, who stood at a distance and lifted up their voices and said, "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us." When He saw them He said to them, "Go and show yourselves to the priests." And as they

went they were cleansed. Then one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, praising God with a loud voice; and he fell on his face at Jesus' feet, giving Him thanks. Now he was a Samaritan. Then Jesus said, "Were not ten cleansed? Where are the nine? Was no one found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner?" And He said to him, "Rise and go your way; your faith has made you well."

فَصَلَ شَرِيفٌ مِنْ بِشَارَةِ الْقِدِيسِ لُوقَّا الْبَشِيرِ التَّلَمِيذِ الطَّاهِرِ . (19-12:17)

فِي ذَلِكَ الزَّمَانِ، فِيمَا يَسْوُعُ دَاخِلٌ إِلَى قَرِيَّةٍ اسْتَقْبَلَهُ عَشَرَةُ رِجَالٍ بُرْصٍ وَوَقَفُوا مِنْ بَعْدِهِ، وَرَفَعُوا أَصْوَاتَهُمْ قَائِلِينَ: يَا يَسُوعُ الْمُعَلَّمُ ارْحَمْنَا. فَلَمَّا رَأَهُمْ قَالَ لَهُمْ امْضُوا وَأَرُوا الْكَهْنَةَ أَنْفُسَكُمْ. وَفِيمَا هُمْ مُنْتَلَقُونَ طَهَرُوا. وَإِنْ وَاحِدًا مِنْهُمْ، لَمَّا رَأَى أَنَّهُ قَدْ بَرِيَّ، رَجَعَ يُمْحَدُ اللَّهُ بِصَوْتٍ عَظِيمٍ. وَحَرَّ عَلَى وَجْهِهِ عِنْدَ قَدْمَيْهِ شَاكِرًا لَهُ وَكَانَ سَامِرِيًّا، فَأَجَابَ يَسُوعُ وَقَالَ، أَلَيْسَ الْعَشَرَةُ قَدْ طَهَرُوا فَأَيْنَ التِسْعَةُ؟ أَلَمْ يُوجَدْ مَنْ يَرْجِعُ لِيُمْحَدَّ

اللَّهُ إِلَّا هَذَا الْأَجْنَبِيُّ؟ وَقَالَ لَهُ، قُمْ وَامْضِ، إِيمَانُكَ قَدْ خَلَصَكَ.

#### **KONTAKION OF THE PRESENTATION OF CHRIST IN TONE ONE**

Thou, O Christ God, Who by Thy Birth, didst sanctify the Virgin's womb, and, as is meet, didst bless Simeon's arms, and didst also come to save us; preserve Thy fold in wars, and confirm them whom Thou didst love, for Thou alone art the Lover of mankind.

قِنْدَاقُ دُخُولِ السَّيِّدِ إِلَى الْهَيْكِلِ بِاللَّحْنِ الْأُولِ

أَيُّهَا الْمَسِيحُ الْإِلَهُ، يَا مَنْ بِمَوْلِدِهِ قَدَّسَ الْمُسْتَوْدَعَ الْبَتْوَلِيَّ، وَبَارَكَ يَدَيْ سِمْعَانَ كَمَا لَاقَ، وَأَدْرَكَنَا الْآنَ وَخَلَصَنَا؛ إِحْفَظْ رَعِيَّتَكَ بِسَلَامٍ فِي الْحُرُوبِ، وَأَيْدِي الْمُلُوكِ الَّذِينَ أَحْبَبْتَهُمْ، بِمَا أَنْتَ وَحْدَكَ مُحِبٌّ لِلْبَشَرِ.

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

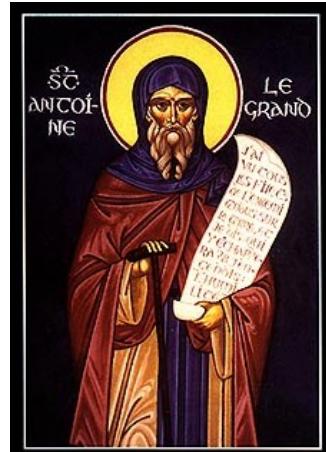
Commemorated on January 17

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 small dark figure, 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