



San Antonio Byzantine Catholic Community

Meeting at St. Alphonsus Catholic Church
1202 S. Zarzamora St., San Antonio, TX
December 17, 2017
2nd Sunday Before the Nativity

Welcome guests. Please sign the guest book in the back of the church. If you would like to be added to our mailing list leave your email address. Please stay and visit after Liturgy. Visit www.stanastasiasa.org. Also please leave your email in the guest book so you can be added to the mailing list.

Please join us for hospitality in the church after Divine Liturgy. Always good conversation and a variety of treats.

.St. Alphonsus Parish has registered with Amazon Smile. When you buy something on Amazon, log on to Amazon Smile instead of Amazon, select St. Alphonsus San Antonio and 0.5% of what you spend will be donated to the Church. It costs you nothing and the prices etc. are the same as when you log into the regular Amazon site.

Please keep in mind that December 22 is the feast of our patron saint, St. Anastasia of Rome. We will celebrate our patronal feast day with Vespers on Thursday December 21 at 7:00 pm in the church. Please try to attend. Vespers is a very important form of liturgy in our tradition as well as a beautiful experience.

Because of conflicts with the Christmas mass schedule at St. Alphonsus Church, we will celebrate a Nativity Divine Liturgy on Tuesday December 26 at 7:00 pm in the Church.

Divine Liturgy for Feast of Circumcision will be served by Fr. John on Monday, January 1, 9:00 a.m. Please note the time. Because St. Alphonsus has a mass at 11:00 we will not have any refreshments after the Liturgy as we usually do.

If you love Byzantine Chant you may want to visit the site Byzantine Ark <http://www.byzantineark.com/> This site is created by two Orthodox chanters, one from Greece and one from the U.S. who produce recordings of Byzantine liturgical chants in the Greek tradition.

Jesus Christ, Son of God, pray for me a sinner.

e always need help. If you are interested in being a reader or altar server or singing in the choir please see Fr. Ramon.

Please put the books on the table by the entrance door. Drop your donation in the basket on the counter.

Dec 10			
Attendance		43	
Collection		\$145	
None			

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Readings for the 31st Week After Pentecost

12/18	Hebrews 3:5-11, 17-19	Mark 9:42-10:1
12/19	Hebrews 4:1-13	Mark 10:2-12
12/20	Hebrews 5:11-6:8	Mark 10:11-16
12/21	Hebrews 7:1-6	Mark 10:17-27
12/22	Hebrews 7:18-25	Mark 10:23-32
12/23	Ephesians 2:11-13	Luke 16:10-15

February 20-Mar.3, 2018, Fr. Elias will lead a pilgrimage to the Holy Land and Petra to visit the sites of our Lord's life, death and resurrection. If you are interested contact Fr. Elias at St. John Chrysostom.

Please keep Nancy Sandrock in your prayers as she continues her medical treatments. Also keep the entire Sandrock family in your prayers.

Martyr Anastasia the Roman



The Martyr Anastasia the Roman lost her parents in infancy, and was then taken to be reared by the abbess of a women's monastery, named Sophia. She raised Anastasia in fervent faith, in the fear of God and obedience.

The persecution against Christians by the emperor Decius (249-251) began at that time. The city administrator, Probus, on the orders of the emperor commanded that Anastasia be brought to him. Blessed by her abbess to suffer for Christ, the young martyr Anastasia humbly came out to meet the armed soldiers. Seeing her youth and beauty, Probus first attempted flattery to make her deny Christ.

“Why waste your youth, deprived of pleasure? What is there to gain by enduring tortures and death for the Crucified? Worship our gods, marry a handsome husband, and live in glory and honor.”

The saint steadfastly replied, “My spouse, my riches, my life and my happiness are my Lord Jesus Christ, and you will not turn me away from Him by your deceit!”

Probus subjected Anastasia to fierce tortures. The holy martyr bravely endured them, glorifying and praising the Lord. In anger the torturers cut out her tongue.

The people, seeing the inhuman and disgusting treatment of the saint, became indignant, and the ruler was compelled to end the tortures by beheading the martyr. In this manner, Saint Anastasia received the crown of martyrdom.

The body of the saint was thrown out beyond the city to be eaten by wild animals, but the Lord did not permit her holy relics to be dishonored. At the command of a holy angel, Abbess Sophia went to find Saint Anastasia's mutilated body. With the help of two Christians, she buried it in the earth.

Troparion — Tone 4

Your lamb Anastasia, calls out to You, O Jesus, in a loud voice: / “I love You, my Bridegroom, and in seeking You I endure suffering. / In baptism I was crucified so that I might reign in You, / and I died so that I might live with You. / Accept me as a pure sacrifice, / for I have offered myself in love.” / Through her prayers save our souls, since You are merciful.

Kontakion — Tone 3

Purified by the waters of virginity, / righteous Anastasia, you were crowned by the blood of martyrdom. / You grant healing and salvation to those in need, / and who call on you from their hearts, / for Christ gives you strength, pouring out on you ever-flowing grace!