

A WORTHY CHAMPION OF OUR ORTHODOX FAITH

Saint Athanasius the Great was born in Alexandria, Egypt, about the year 297. His childhood was spent during the years that Christians were persecuted for their faith. He lived among people who suffered, and he was taught by teachers who suffered for Christ. But by 313, peace came to the Christians, for Constantine the Great granted religious freedom after his famed vision of the Cross.

Now, however, a different enemy arose, one from within the Church. The heresy of Arius infected the Church and caused great troubles. It was young Athanasius, now an archdeacon and secretary to the aged Patriarch of Alexandria, who arose to defend the faith. He relentlessly challenged Arians on the real issue: *"Either admit that the Son is of the same substance with the Father, or say openly that He is a creature, in which case He cannot be worshipped . . ."*

The controversy resulted in the calling by the Emperor of the Great Council, held in 318 at Nicea. It was Athanasius who led the struggle against the heresy. The Patriarch died shortly after the council, and Athanasius was elected to succeed him. He had a stormy career as Archbishop. The Arian troubles did not fade away but persisted for years. Five times Athanasius was banished; five times he returned in triumph, to the joy of the people.

Athanasius was archbishop of some 46 years, and he was 77 years old when death came in 373. This warrior for Christ finally received his crown of glory.

The Orthodox Weekly Bulletin

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St. Athanasius the Great

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Welcome our Visitors! We invite you to venerate the cross at the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy. However, only Orthodox Christians who are in good standing and who have prepared by prayer, fasting, and Confession may receive Holy Communion.

A Gift of Blessing
Visit the Church Gift Shop.
See the Beautiful Icons, Crosses & Home Censers

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SAINT GEORGE ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CHURCH

The Very Rev. Father Gabriel Karam, Pastor

Saturday Great Vespers 6:00 p.m. - Sunday Orthros 9:15 a.m.

Divine Liturgy 10:30 a.m. - Confessions: By Appointment

DIVINE LITURGY VARIABLES ON SUNDAY, JANUARY 18, 2026 TONE 7 / EOTHINON 10

ATHANASIUS AND CYRIL, PATRIARCHS OF ALEXANDRIA

RESURRECTIONAL APOLYTIKION IN TONE SEVEN

Thou didst shatter death by Thy Cross, Thou didst open paradise to the thief, Thou didst turn the sadness of the ointment-bearing women into joy. And didst bid Thine Apostles proclaim a warning, that Thou hast risen O Christ, granting to the world the Great Mercy.

APOLYTIKION OF SS. ATHANASIUS AND CYRIL IN TONE THREE

Shining forth with works of Orthodoxy, * ye quenched every false belief and teaching * and became trophy-bearers and conquerors. * And since ye made all things rich with true piety, * greatly adorning the Church with magnificence, * Athanasius and wise Cyril, ye justly found Christ God, * Who through your prayers doth grant Great Mercy unto all.

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.

We Celebrate Today

On January 18 in the Holy Orthodox Church, we commemorate our Fathers among the Saints Athanasius and Cyril, Patriarchs of Alexandria.

Athanasius hath died, yet I call him living, for the righteous live, though by death they be taken.

Today the memorial of the exile of Cyril, but not his ever-memorable death, creation keepeth.

On the eighteenth buried they Athanasius' dead body.

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 (homousios) 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.

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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

+Healing & Recovery Fr. Paul Yerger. Fr. Leo . Deacon Terry. Kh. Janet Henderson. Joy Logue. Sue Thomas. Dolores Nosser. Rick Collins. George Michael Nasif. Lynne Abraham. Pam Smith. Irene Tzotzolas. Maha Habeeb. Michael Farris. Athena. Georgia. Andrea Simon. Chuck Abraham. Timmie Fedell. Alan Evans. Janice Strickland. Drew Anderson. Jackson ballinger. Carla Leese.

+Birthdays & Anniversaries Jan. Rickey Mitchell (25), Frank Mousa II (30).

+Keep in your prayers Our Catechumens, Cole Gary, Jacob Milliken & John Morgan Mcright. Who are preparing themselves for the Holy Sacrament of Baptism & Chrismation.

+House Blessing Make your arrangement with Fr. Gabriel to bless your home.

+Holy Bread & Coffee Hour 2026 If you would like to reserve a Sunday, please call Mrs. Paula Shaw 601-218- 9448

+Installation of the Parish Council is today Sunday January 18th.

Council Members are: Gregory Thomas, Brian Strickland, Lester Tzotzolas, Rhonda Wright, Dani Kay Thoma, Stacey Mahoney, Suzanne Hull, Paula Shaw, Vera Ann Fedell, Sheley Nosser, Donna Hardy and Janice Strickland.

+Antiochian Men A-Men. The president is Richard Martin. Election of new officers will be held at the meeting of May 18, 2026.

+Antiochian Women. The president is Lori West. Election of new officers will be held at the meeting of May 12, 2026.

+Sunday School Director. Rachel Thomas Anderton.

+Parish Council Meeting Tuesday January 20th @ 5:30 pm.

+The Annual Lebanese Dinner Monday February 02 2026. Work and preparation will start on January 8. Tickets are available. Save the date, come and help during these days which bring many memories back and continue the legacy of St. George family in Vicksburg community.

The Church Fathers Teach

The Church is holy, although there are sinners within her. Those who sin, but who cleanse themselves with true repentance, do not keep the Church from being holy. But unrepentant sinners are cut off, whether visibly by Church authority, or invisible by the judgement of God, from the body of the Church. And so in this regard the Church

remains holy.

(St. Philaret of Moscow, Catechesis)

DIVINE LITURGY JANUARY 18, 2026

DIVINE LITURGY OF ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM

ATHANASIUS AND CYRIL, PATRIARCHS OF ALEXANDRIA

THE EPISTLE

(For Ss. Athanasius and Cyril)

*Blessed art Thou, O Lord, the God of our Fathers.
For Thou are justified in all that Thou hast done for us.*

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.]

THE GOSPEL

((For the Twelfth Sunday of Luke)

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."